

The sharpshooter



**Edited and Published by: Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association,
Sharpshooter House, ARC Mitcham Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 3RU.
www.sharpshooters.org.uk email@sharpshooters.org.uk**



Incorporating 18th, 21st & 23rd Bns (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry, 3rd County of London (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry,
3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), 23rd London Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters), 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters),
3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), The Kent and County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry.
www.ksymuseum.org.uk



Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association

(REGISTERED CHARITY No. 803784)

Sharpshooter House, ARC Mitcham Road, CROYDON, Surrey CR0 3RU
www.sharps shooters.org.uk contact@sharps shooters.org.uk

Trustee and Committee Members

PRESIDENT: G.J.O. Farage Esq.

Email: president@ksya.org.uk

CHAIRMAN and Trustee: Lt Colonel M. Hodson TD

Email: chairman@ksya.org.uk

VICE CHAIRMAN and Trustee: Colonel P. Acda TD DL

Email: Vicechairman@ksya.org.uk

EDITOR IN CHIEF and Trustee: Lt Colonel S. Malik TD

editor@ksya.org.uk

HON. SECRETARY, Sub Editor and Trustee: T. Rayson Esq.

Email: secretary@ksya.org.uk

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: S. Shelley Esq

Email: AsstSec@ksya.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: C. Moden Esq

Email: membershipsec@ksya.org.uk

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Major P. Malik

editor@ksya.org.uk

HON. TREASURER and Trustee: A. F. J. Bentley Esq.

Email: treasurer@ksya.org.uk

WELFARE AND SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS:

Mrs P. O'Hare, Mr A. O'Hare

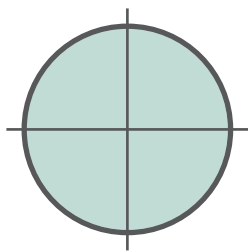
VICE PRESIDENTS

Brigadier Sir A.B.S.H. Gooch Bt DL, B.F.G. Mulcock Esq, BEM, Captain A. J. Jewell TD,
Major D.A. Hannam TD, Mrs M. Hannam, Lt General Sir BWB White-Spunner KCB, CBE,
Colonel JGY Radcliffe OBE, QVRSM, TD P. Crowley Esq,
Major Brenda Traylen MBE, TD, W P Lovell Esq.

Front cover: Sgt Harries – 265 (Support Squadron) deployed to
Kenya to provide G6 support for Exercise Askari Storm.

INDEX

Chairman's Report	2
Secretary's Report	5
The Sharpshooter Journal cover photograph competition	8
Forecast of Events	9
Treasurer's Report	11
Welfare Report	13
Empty Saddles	15
George Cook	16
Ian Bone	19
Lt Colonel HSL (Ben) Tottenham	21
Remembrance of Ernest Day and Frank Wrighton	26
James (Mick (Crocodile) Dundee) Dunsby	30
Pte Frank Henry Norman Wrighton	34
265 (KCLY (Sharpshooters)) Support Squadron OC Report	38
C(KSY) Sqn RY Report	44
Exercise Allenby Communicator and 265 Honorary Colonel's Presentation	47
Operation Cabrit – My Story	49
Commanding Officer, Royal Yeomanry	52
Sailing Yeoman	54
Kenya – Ex Askari Storm	57
Museum Trust – Chairman's Report 2021	60
Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum Trust – Curator's Report	62
KSY Museum Black Gang Report 2021	66
Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association Standard Bearer Report	69
Membership Secretary's Report 2020	72
Royal West Kent Yeomanry images from the Great War	74
Field of Remembrance 2021	76
The 74th El Gubi Dinner (80th Anniversary)	78
The Army Benevolent Fund – Cateran Yomp 2020(1!)	81
An 1800-mile Journey on Scooters and a Viking wedding	86
Henry Denne and the East Kent Yeomanry	90
875 Private Samuel Charles Holden	92
The loss of the Royal Mail Ship Leinster and the 2nd/3rd County of London (Sharpshooters)	94
Major Arthur Davison	98
The Blowers Brothers	100
The Story of Doug Coppard	104
110 years of Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanry Fine Dining.Part 2	118
The Deserter	124
The Yeomanry Benevolent Fund	126
KSYA Donations 2021	128



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Lt Colonel Mark Hodson TD

A very warm welcome to the 2021 edition of the Sharpshooter journal. As you receive this we will be in the third year of this covid era and let us hope that indeed 2022 is the year that we find a way to “live” with it. I am pleased to report that whilst several Sharpshooters have caught covid, some quite severely, everyone has survived the virus.

Thankfully this year a number of events that did not happen last year were able to take place and it has been a genuine pleasure to actually meet one another again face to face.

Support to Operations continued during 2021, and whilst Sharpshooters supporting OP CABRIT wound down, Sharpshooters have been mobilised for other operations and tasks, and we maintain close contact with the squadrons to ensure that we support each and every soldier when mobilised, as well as supporting their family and loved ones at home.

We are ever grateful that our affiliated livery company, the Worshipful Company of Insurers (WCI) provided generous financial support again to the Association for the benefit of all Sharpshooters. Particularly pleasing has been that the Master, our long-time friend, David Sales, has been elected for a second tour as Master. David is keen that he and other liverymen and liverywomen attend Sharpshooter events whenever possible now that many of the restrictions of last year have been eased.

The El Gubi dinner was an immense success. Some 82 Sharpshooters dined at the Cavalry & Guards Club, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the battle, and celebrating the 74th such event that the Association has held. Increasing numbers of family members are now attending the El Gubi dinner and enjoying the Sharpshooter spirit that is felt at all our events. Every guest and Sharpshooter was very welcome and I would just like to mention that we were especially pleased that the Master Insurer and his wife Karen were able to join us, along with Gordon and Jane Jones of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Association.

On behalf of the WCI, David presented WCI cufflinks and a WCI brooch to a Sharpshooter from each of the serving squadrons to recognise the contribution to their squadron that may not have been recognised in other ways. Sadly neither recipient was able to attend the dinner, however please join me in congratulating Miss Beverley (Bev) Simmons the Admin Officer at 265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) Support Squadron 71 SIGS and Sergeant Richard “Rich” Dunning of C (Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron RY for being recipients this year and for all that they have done to support their respective squadrons and their fellow soldiers and members of staff.

Gordon and Jane joined our El Gubi dinner forfeiting the opportunity to attend the RGHA El Gubi dinner in order to maintain the links between 2nd Royal

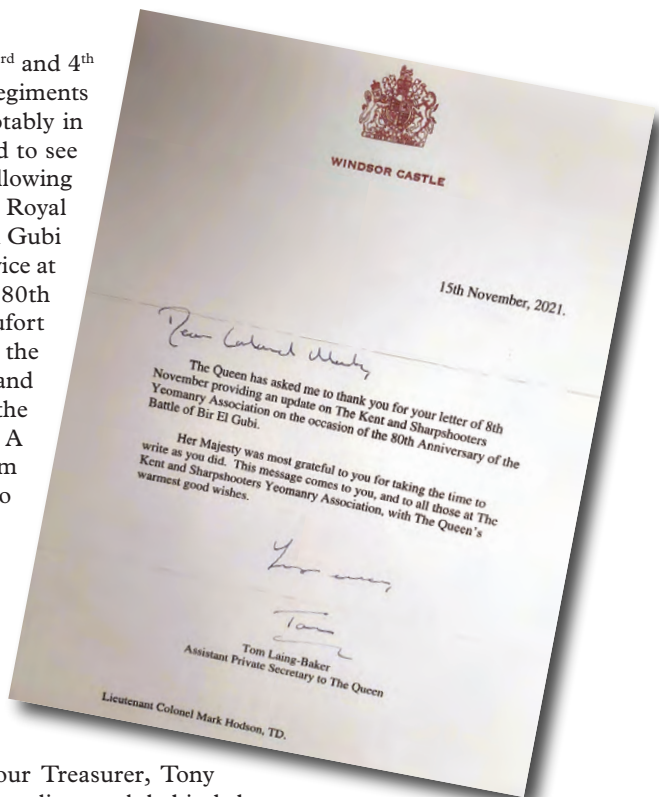
Gloucestershire Hussars and 3rd and 4th County of London Yeomanry regiments formed during the war and notably in the El Gubi. I was very pleased to see Gordon and Jane again the following weekend for the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Bir El Gubi 80th anniversary memorial service at Badminton. To recognise the 80th anniversary, the Duke of Beaufort provided refreshments before the service and we enjoyed drinks and canapes after the service in the Great Hall at Badminton. A really lovely event that Tim Connell and I were fortunate to attend.

As is tradition I wrote to Her Majesty the Queen offering our Loyal Greetings in advance of our dinner and you will find a copy of the reply from the Palace further on in the journal.

I must make mention of our Treasurer, Tony Bentley. Tony has been doing sterling work behind the scenes to enhance our financial reporting and notably has ensured that Gift Aid is collected on all donations wherever possible - an administrative process that Tony has turned into a very slick and efficient process for the KSYA. Most importantly for us, this ensures that the generous donations we receive work even harder by gathering the tax already paid back into the Association. Please join me in thanking Tony for all that he is doing for us.

Whilst mentioning finances, whilst we rigorously manage every pound and penny we receive, there is inevitably always a need for more. Whether the funds go towards supporting operations, running the website, helping the museum, providing places at dinners and events, funding welfare support or small grants to those in need, we are always seeking more! If you are able to make a donation, however small or large, or set up a regular donation, I'll be enormously grateful for you doing so. The details are printed further into the journal. Thank you.

We are again indebted to our journal editors, Lt Col Simon Malik and Tim Rayson (also our very 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 previous years and it is always a thrill when the journal arrives and one gets to see how everyone's contributions and photos have been masterfully put together. Thank you.



I'd 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.

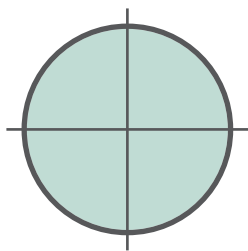
If you come across or know of any Sharpshooters who are not in contact with us please do ask them to get in touch (via our facebook page -search @TheKentandSharpshootersYeomanry, or via secretary@sharpshooters.org.uk). Please remember we are here to assist the entire Sharpshooter family - those serving, those who have served, and Sharpshooter families too; please get in touch if there is anything we may be able to do for you.

With very best wishes for 2022

Mark Hodson

Lt Col Mark Hodson TD





THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Tim Rayson

The year 2021 has to put it mildly been something of a disaster as the Covid19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc with people's lives and putting paid to the usual events that start off the year. As many of you will know I caught Covid and having spoken at some length with doctors and others I am on reflection lucky to be here.

However following some false starts a semblance of normality has returned and despite the appearance of Omicron the *Association* has not sat still and has undertaken range of work including providing S2O for *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* from RY in the second part of a difficult tour on Op CABRIT. Although CABRIT finished in March there have been other calls for volunteers for Kenya and even Mali where there is an insurgency underway. And it is worth mentioning that the reorganisation/reduction of the Army will only increase the number of those on deployment.

Although the last of the World War 2 Sharpshooters passed away last year I was delighted to meet James Mitchell (aged 100) who is the last of the Kent Yeomenry. David Hannam and I travelled to Scotland to meet and record his stories and whilst we were there his birthday card arrived from The Queen. His story – and myself for some reason – appeared in the local press in Glasgow and as a result Jim was invited to appear by the BBC on its coverage of Remembrance Sunday which he did with great style wearing his Association tie and a lapel badge. If you did not catch it then you should try and watch it.

On the historical front we finally managed to get the memorial to Ernest Dray dedicated and we helped (organised) the commemorations for Sgt Frank Wrighton 2nd/3rd CLY from WW1. Brenda Traylen has provided excellent accounts of both events and Wrighton's fascinating story is in the Empty Saddles section. The memorial for Cpl James Dunsby was also finally unveiled on Remembrance Sunday with Adam Honeysett reading an excellent tribute which is also published in the Empty Saddles section.

This year we managed a real El Gubi Dinner on what was the 80th Anniversary of the dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club. A diary clash meant that the Croydon sqn could not be there as they were busy winning the RY Troop Cup on Salisbury Plain. However 82 members of the Association sat down for dinner together with representatives of 265 Sqn and both the Australian Army Attache and his deputy Attache. In 2022 we will be celebrating the 75th dinner since 1947 and I do hope that as many of you as possible will attend.

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 which is inevitably going to increase.

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 everyone to contribute and not just the usual few. Please donate £20 per year either by standing order or direct debit or even an annual cheque. 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. If you complete a gift aid declaration – and tell your tax office - then that £20 is increased by 25% to £25.00.

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

Sort code: 30-11-75

Account no: 00593399

Reference: Your name

If you have not completed a Gift Aid form before please do so as it is a force multiplier. 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 finally as you all know I am a serving member of the ACF and in 2016 was forcibly aged out. That did not stop me delivering exciting training abroad for cadets in faraway places such as South Africa and Australia where we now have an established international exchange with the Australian Army cadets and latterly those from New Zealand. In the meantime I found myself with Ian Liscoe of 265 Sqn and Robin Rowe SSM of C&S Sqn at an RFCA awards ceremony at the end of September followed by the good news that I could be re-join the ACF as a 'properly' commissioned officer – an offer that I accepted with some alacrity. My commissioning warrant was presented in December at a nice little ceremony at White City ARC.



And what of the future?

Covid 19 continues to have an impact on all of our lives and whilst last year saw many events cancelled the outlook for 2022 seems to be better. It is well to remember that the reorganisation of the Army will undoubtedly lead to a higher call on the reserve to round out deploying forces. With RY now part of the 1st (Strike/Recce) brigade it will be supporting all three regular cavalry components that form part of it: QDG, Royal Lancers and Household Cavalry with C as well as C&S Sqn supporting the latter. There will therefore be a greater call on our capability and experience to support RY when troops are deployed in other words more Cabrit style work which will include



Robin Rowe, Ian Liscoe and Hon Secretary at the RFCA Awards.

family support. I would also point out that 71 (City of London) SR is also in the throes of re-rolling which will see the expansion of 265 Sqn from a support role to delivering signals capability to 3rd (UK) Div. Those serving at Bexleyheath can therefore look forward to getting exactly the same level of support as those at Croydon.

There will be a Cavalry Sunday parade on 8th May at Hyde Park and there will be an El Gubi dinner on Saturday 19th November at the Cavalry and Guards club. This will be the 81st Anniversary of the Battle and the 75th dinner in an unbroken line since the first in 1947 at Shoreditch Town Hall. 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 in the FOE as possible and wish you all the best for 2022.

Tim Rayson
Hon Secretary



The Sharpshooter

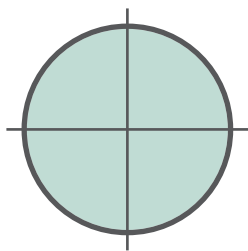
THE SHARPSHOOTER JOURNAL 2022 COVER PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

The editorial team invite those serving in both Squadrons to take part in a competition to provide the cover photograph for the Journal. The image must be in colour, High Resolution (min 1Mb). Black and white images will be considered if it adds to the composition.

The prize for the winning entry will be one ticket to attend the Association's annual Bir El Gubi dinner which will take place on 19th November 2022. There will be no cash or equivalent prize.

Entries must be sent to the Secretary by no later than 1st November together with a suitable caption and accompanying story. The editorial team and Chairman will select the winning image and their decision will be final.





FORECAST OF EVENTS 2022

February

- 1st** **106th Anniversary** of the amalgamation of the West Kent Yeo (Queens Own) with the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (Duke of Connaught's Own) to form the 10th (Royal East and West Kent Yeomanry) Bn. East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) in 1916.
- 6th** Accession Day and the start of HM The Queens Platinum Jubilee year.
- 22nd** Worshipful Company of Insurers briefing visit ARC Bexleyheath.

April

- 7th** **104th Anniversary** of the amalgamation of 3rd CLY (Sharpshooters) and City of London Yeomanry (Roughriders) to form 'E' Bn Machine Gun Corps subsequently re-titled 103rd Bn Machine Gun Corps in August 1918.
- 8th** **228th Anniversary** of the raising of independent troops of Yeomanry in Kent in 1794 that subsequently formed the basis of both the East and West Kent Yeomanry regiments.
- 21st** HM The Queen's Birthday

May

- 8th** Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association Parade and Service Hyde Park. Sponsor Regiment: The Royal Wessex Yeomanry followed by lunch (tbc) at The Athenium. Please contact the Hon Secretary on 15th March for further details.
- 19th** Desert Rats Association visit to Orwell Park School. Subject to Covid 19.
- 31st** **120th Anniversary** of the end of End of the Second Boer War.

June

- 2nd-5th** The Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend
- 6th** **78th Anniversary** of the D Day Landings.
- 11th/12th** Hever Castle Home Front
- 13th** **78th Anniversary** of the Battle of Villers Bocage in 1944
- 25th** **Armed Forces Day 2022**

July

- 3rd** Desert Rats Memorial Day. High Ash Camp, Thetford.

- 10th** **79th Anniversary** of the invasion of Sicily (3rd CLY) in 1943
- 23rd** ***Founders Day. 121st Anniversary of the 3rd CLY being formally established in the London Gazette in 1901.***
- 26th** **113th Anniversary** of the First annual dinner of the Brigade of Sharpshooters OCA in 1909.

August

- 12th/14th** 265 Sqn BFS to Belgium. The Tunnelling War.
- 15th** **77th Anniversary** of the end of the war against Japan.
- 30th** **80th Anniversary** of the Battle of Alam El Halfa (1st Alamein) (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1942

September

- 22nd** **79th Anniversary** of 3rd CLY landing in Italy at Taranto in 1943
- 79th Anniversary** of 4th CLY landing at Salerno in 1943

October

- 22nd** Unveiling and dedication of the Desert Rats Memorial at the National Arboretum. (tbc)
- 22nd(tbc)** Combined Cavalry Church Service and lunch RH Chelsea. All are welcome. Please contact the Hon Secretary in April for further details.
- 23rd** **80th Anniversary** of El Alamein (2nd Alamein) (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1942 and 97th Field Regt (Kent Yeo) in 1942.

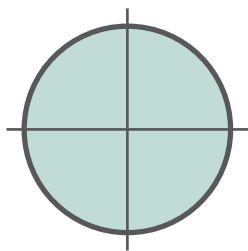
November

- 10th (tbc)** Opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey. Please apply to the Hon Secretary for tickets in July. Limited tickets available
- 12th (tbc)** The Lord Mayors Show.
- 13th (tbc)** Remembrance Sunday.
- 19th** **81st Anniversary** of the Battle of Bir El Gubi (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1941.
- 19th** **The 75th All Ranks Bir El Gubi dinner. To be held at The Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly. See flyer for further details.**
- 24th (tbc)** 2 RGH Bir El Gubi service at Badminton.

December

Inputs for the 2022 Journal are required before the end of December

- 10th** C(KSY) Sqn Winter Ball
- 14th (tbc)** RY Carol Concert. Further details to be published.
- 20th** **121st Anniversary** of the Battle of Tafel Kop, South Africa (23rd Bn Imperial Yeomanry – the original Sharpshooters) in 1901.
- 31st** ***123rd Anniversary of the Founding of the Sharpshooters in 1899.***



TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31st March 2021 by Tony Bentley, Hon Treasurer

This year completes my first full year as Treasurer and at last I have been able to advance beyond the learning stage and catching up, making the role less time consuming.

Using current (31st March 2021) valuations of investments, the Association had net assets of £86k compared with £67k at the end of the last financial year. The increase in net assets was attributable to the recovery of the markets since the peak of the Covid 19 pandemic, which affected our M&G Charifund investment. At the time of writing the Charifund units have stabilised at around the £15.25 per unit value mark, having previously peaked at the beginning of 2020 at approximately £16.50 per unit value. Despite the effect of the pandemic on market prices, the M&G investment distributions have remained at a reasonably constant level with receipts for the year totalling £3k, very similar to the previous year.

We have this year disposed of the residual £1.9k of our NS&I investment, after NS&I dropped their interest rates to effectively 0% early in 2021. The proceeds have since been held in the Associations bank account, to be reinvested when investment rates improve.

Income in the period significantly increased, particularly with the very generous continuing support of the Worshipful Company of Insurers and the excellent responses we have had to the crowdfunding appeals. In all, nearly 100 individuals have very generously contributed to the general fund and the cost of the annual journal, which allows the Association to continue to produce the annual journal and fulfil its charitable obligations. Total income this year was £19k.

Our biggest expenditure (£4.3k) continues to be the production and distribution of the annual journal. At a similar level of expenditure this year have been the crowdfunded purchases of the Sgt Stone's Military Medal group (£4.1k), the Earnest Dray headstone / memorial (£2.4k) and the memorial plaque for Cpl James Dunsby (£0.8k), which now hangs in the Croydon drill hall. In addition, £1.0k for soldiers welfare was granted to the Royal Yeomanry as part of a larger crowdfunding of all the Royal Yeomanry Associations, to support mobilised Royal Yeoman on operation Cabrit in Eastern Europe, during the last quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. Total expenditure this year was £12k.

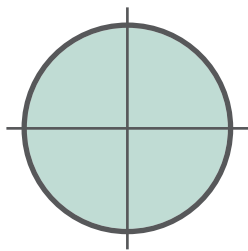
A new initiative this financial year was the decision to directly support three charities that we as an Association turn to for assistance and support, they being the Yeomanry Benevolent Fund (YBF), SSAFA (Kent) and the Royal British Legion. We also elected to directly support the KSY Museum Trust. All four charities benefitted from the decision to backdate the initial grants to be included in this financial year, grants to them totalling £1.4k.

We can advise that the Association is now set up for claiming gift aid in respect of donations. Where we are in possession of a valid gift aid form completed by a donor, HMRC currently contributes a further 25% to the donation. With HMRC allowing us to claim back to 1st April 2016 this year, it enabled us to claim £2.8k in total, a not insignificant sum.

Finally a list of all individuals and organisations that have most generously donated to the Association this year, can be viewed elsewhere in the journal.

Tony Bentley, Hon Treasurer

Balance sheet for the financial year ended 31st March 2021					
	Current Year		Previous Year		
	31st March 2021		31st March 2020		
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 4,101.437 units	39,727.00	See Note A below
Current Assets	31st March 2021		31st March 2020		
NSI Investment Account	0.00		1,941.00		NSI Investment Account closed on 25/3/21 as interest rate reduced to 0.01% per annum
Cash at bank accounts	25,905.00		16,455.00		The financial year end 31/3/21 balance includes £1,954.95 proceeds from the closure of the NSI investment Account for future investment.
Sundry debtors	0.00		0.00		
Total	25,905.00	Total	18,396.00		
Less Sundry Creditors	0.00		0.00		
		0.00		0.00	
Total			Total	18,396.00	
	Total 65,632.00			58,123.00	
Accumulated Funds					
Represented by	31st March 2021		31st March 2020		
Balance brought forward		58,123.00		54,007.00	
Plus / minus surplus / deficit		7,509.00		1,317.00	
Other adjustments - refer to comments		0.00		2,799.00	Cumulative total of five adjustments made in previous year 31st March 2020 accounts
		Total 65,632.00		58,123.00	
Accumulated Funds					
	31st March 2021		31st March 2020		
Note A Market value of Charifund investment at financial year end	4,101.437 Units at unit price £14.7241	60,390.00	4,101.437 Units at unit price £11.9547	49,031.00	Increase in 31/3/21 unit price attributable to the recovery of the investment markets following the 2020 Covid 19 epidemic market fluctuations.
		60,390.00		49,031.00	
Further information pertaining to the income and expenditure and balance sheets for financial year ended 31st March 2021, is included in the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association Committee Members Annual Report for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. An electronic copy can be obtained upon request either from the Treasurer or the Secretary.					



WELFARE REPORT

by Penny O'Hare

It has been a quiet year compared to last year. The boys and girls all returned from Poland by the middle of April. It was lovely having them back, what with the covid restrictions we could not have the home coming parade that was organised. But the families made up for it by putting banners outside their homes to welcome their loved ones back.



In June/July two of C Squadron (LCPL Mike Hall and LCPL Taz Salamut) were deployed to Kenya for six months, so the parcels started again but in a smaller quantity this time!!! They were very much appreciated and if restrictions allow hopefully they will be home for Christmas. They have been extended to June 2022, so more parcels to get ready!!!

At the beginning of December LCPL Michael Takacs was deployed to Mali (Op Newcombe) for six months. A parcel is on its way to him.

At the end of September, we lost a very good friend and comrade Matty Relf. On behalf of Croydon Sharpshooters, we donated £150 to a charity chosen by his family. The funeral and wake were well attended by serving soldiers and former comrades.

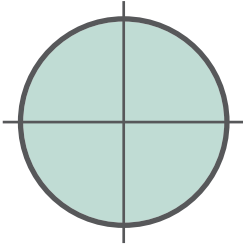
This year using the skills of Moonpig we sent Christmas hampers to some of our members who we know have faced difficulties this year to wish them both a Merry Christmas and to let them know we are thinking of them. These were a nice surprise for the recipients and very much appreciated by them:

“Thank you so much for the lovely hamper it was so kind of you to think of us”

“Thank you for the parcel which was such a lovely surprise”

It will be nice to be able to have a meetup and face to face contact with each other in the future once Covid 19 subsides and the government allow us to do so. Please remember that we are here for anyone that needs to chat or support. Contact details are: pennyohare@hotmail.com 07703254009 (Penny)





EMPTY SADDLES 2021

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.

Cpl George Cook late KCLY and C(KCLY) Sqn

SSgt Ian Bone late C(KCLY) Sqn

Lt Colonel Ben Tottenham late 3rd/4th CLY and KCLY

Tpr Matt Relf late C(KSY) Sqn

Remembered by the rededication of their graves

Pte Ernest Dray late REKMR and RIC

L/Sgt Frank Wrighton late 2/3rd CLY

Remembered by the unveiling of a Memorial plaque

Cpl James Dunsby C(KSY) Sqn

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVER MORE LEST WE FORGET

GEORGE COOK

7th August 1944 – 15th March 2021



1970 Brecon Beacons.

George Cook served with C(KCLY) Sqn twice the first time being in 1961 as a boy soldier for three years and then secondly in 1969 when he re-joined in time to go to annual camp which that year was at Bellerby in North Yorkshire. As soon as George was old enough he volunteered and joined C Sqn on 5th April 1961 (age 16) and served for four years being discharged on 4th April 1965 due to termination of engagement on 4th April 1965 (age 20).

He clearly loved the TA because he re-enlisted on 8th January 1969 (age 24) and served for a further three years. He was discharged from a second (and final time) on 7th January 1972 (age 27).

It was during this second term of service that he participated in a certain Support Tp exercise that took part in Snowdonia over Easter 1970 and which suffered a number of casualties. One member of his section was injured at the top of Pen y Fan which is the highest peak in south Wales. George had to climb back down (he had only just finished climbing up it) by himself to get the emergency services to turn out to rescue his team member. George loved the TA and was very proud that he been able to effect the rescue.

George also was involved in his sons Chris's football team - Brookside FC. He gave up so much time to run the boy under 10's and this has left so many lasting memories on so many, with comments like, he was a giant of a man, a legend, a true character and how the hell did he fit so many of us in the back of his ford Capri for away games.

Over the last 20 years George had suffered multiple heart-attacks and was also later diagnosed with leukaemia. He had a quadruple by-pass and was fitted with a pioneering



Ron Jones (L) and George Cook (R)

pacemaker and defibrillator. Despite all of this he always had a smile on his face, and normally a cheeky joke to tell. He later suffered from kidney disease too and, despite surviving COVID, passed away in hospital after suffering a stroke, surrounded by his family on 15th March 2021.

Ron Snowball writes:

I first got to know George well when he and Ron Jones joined 6Tp which had just been formed for annual camp in Bellerby.

Initially we had three Long Wheel Base Land rovers which we modified to meet our own requirements. George designed and made mountings so that we could fit our .30 browning MGs to the vehicles and use them. When the Land Rovers were replaced by Saracen APCs these mountings were modified to fit onto the AA bren gun mounting on the rear of the vehicle. This then gave us an armament of x2 .30 Brownings and the mounting could also be used to fit a Carl Gustaf 84mm A/Tk weapon.

George, together with Ron Jones and I all worked together in the same company in Penge which is where the Troop pub called 'the Retreat' was also located. Not everyone was employed, wages were low and there were occasions when individuals could not afford to buy a round of beers. George started off the tradition of the Troop Fiver which was loaned to a needy individual on the condition that he passed it on to the next person in need. Woe betide anyone that did not!

George was a good friend, loyal to his friends and an excellent soldier. I am proud that he was my friend and comrade.



George Cook posing on the right.

Tim Rayson writes:

When I joined C Sqn on 3rd December 69 and was introduced to 6Troop the first person I met was Ron Snowball my Troop Sgt and the second was George who was the Troop Cpl. I'll always remember the Easter 1970 exercise where we kept on going as the weather had deteriorated and casualties had started mount until we were pulled off the area. We remained good friends even after I had defected to 1st Troop in 1971 and although I lost track of him when he left we were reunited at Ron Jones funeral (he and Ron joined the scouts together) and the opening of the Museum at Hever Castle in 2016.



IAN BONE



Ian Bone centre row, second in from the left.

Ian Bone joined the Royal Scots as a boy soldier and then served with the Queens Royal Irish Hussars from 1958 until 1970. He joined C (KSY) Sqn at Croydon from HQ (WDGNS) Sqn who were then based in the drill hall in Catford. He was the Signals PSI when based at Catford and carried that on when he transferred to C Sqn. He left the Squadron in 1976 having served as SQMS. He then joined the British Frontier Service in Germany, and served there for 20 years until it was disbanded in 1991 and he returned to the UK.

Ian suffered a serious stroke in 2008/09 that left him more or less paralysed and unable to talk. Over the intervening years his physical and mental health deteriorated and the Association working with the YBF and SSAFA together with the Civil Service Fund, RBL and local council provided financial support to his wife thus enabling her – and indeed Ian – to have respite care breaks at the Star and Garter home in Richmond. Sadly Ian suffered a series of strokes and passed away peacefully on 12th June shortly followed by his wife Anne.

Ron Snowball writes:

When I met Ian in the Sgts Mess we found a common interest in WW1 history and together on our motorcycles we visited many of the battlefields in France, Belgium and indeed in Germany.

Ian's tour at C Sqn was unfortunately brief which meant that the Sqn failed to take advantage of the invaluable knowledge that he had. Ian left to return to Germany and served with the British Frontier Force which patrolled the Inner German Border during the Cold War until the Berlin Wall came down and Germany was reunified. We remained good friends even after he had suffered his stroke until he passed away.

Tim Rayson writes:

I met Ian as a very young trooper when I joined in December 69 were his accent was broad and his laugh was infectious. His presence on the net was also noticeable – with that broad accent we all knew that SHQ was going down the Charlie Lima – as did the world and his wife. Ian was a good friend and full of knowledge and I was proud to be able to help support both him and his wife during his illness by fighting the paper war to ensure that they were both supported. That I was successful was due in no small part to SSAFA, the YBF and the then Benevolent Officer John Prince.



LT COLONEL HSL (BEN) TOTTENHAM

24 Oct 1922 - 14 June 2021

By Timber



Colonel Ben was interviewed by many people over the years both for his wartime experiences with 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and for his time in the TA with The Sharpshooters.

He died in June at the age of 98 and here are a few of his memories recorded from his time with The Skins (May 1943 to Dec 1946) and with us from 1954 to 1965 during which he commanded the Regiment from 1962-1965. He later became Honorary Colonel.

Ben was the youngest of four children in an ascendancy family with an Ulster and Fermanagh background near Inniskilling. He went to Repton and Oriel College Oxford where he read Classics. In those days all new arrivals at Oxford were interviewed by the Recruiting Sergeant. "I want to join the Inniskillings" said Ben. "Do you wish to walk or ride Sir?" said the Sergeant. 'Ride' said Ben and was directed to the queue for the RAC troop at Oxford OCTU.

Ben went to Sandhurst RAC OCTU on a six month course and passed out in 1943 as Best Cadet. He then joined the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards then based in Yorkshire and was in amongst a lot of battle hardened Officers who were bored that they were being kept in reserve and not out fighting. The regiment were in Cromwell tanks and trained hard and went to France post D-Day. Ben was with A Squadron initially before becoming Recce Squadron Troop Leader as a 21 year old and finishing up with six months as LO at 22nd Armoured Brigade HQ.

Ben spent most of his war service in a Daimler Dingo, which he said was very fast in reverse. This was important as Ben's job was to go forward, get shot at but avoid being hit and then direct the Regiment forward. In his time he did capture a town on his own



by accident by getting so far forward that he arrived before the Brigade. He remembered the dust and extreme heat, the short nights and the battle routine of that 1944 summer. They dug holes under the tank at night to avoid anti-personnel bomb fragments which were fired into the area. The rations and fuel came up at 2am and they were stood to and ready to move at 4am.

Ben was awarded two decorations for action in Belgium – an MID for finding a bridge crossing and later the Belgians sent The Skins two awards which were given to Ben by the CO : The Knights Cross of the Order of Leopold II and the Croix de Guerre both with Mentioned in Dispatches bars. He remembers finishing up the advance on a lake in Hamburg where a Hotel had survived and in the same way that we have POL points, the Hotel was set up as a Champagne point – due to the splendid cellar they found. VE Day was seen in with a fine glass or two. He was also awarded the Legion D'Honneur in October 2016 – a story reported in the 2021 edition of The Sharpshooter.

Post war Ben was recruited into the Sharpshooters by Ian Mackrill (pronounced “Mackerel like the fish”) at the Junior Carlton Club, where they were both members, in 1954. They had first met in 1944 in Normandy when Ben was in the Recce Squadron of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards (the Skins), and Ian was an officer in Phantom (a liaison team, reporting direct at Army level) and he was then on a motorcycle.

His first impression on joining was how different the style of the TA was from the Regulars into which he had been commissioned. The Sharpshooters were full at all ranks with officers and men who had fought in the desert and also in Italy. The Skins had taken their place in 7th Armoured Division, (the Desert Rats) after the



Left to Right: Knight of the Order of Leopold II, Croix de Guerre, Legion D'honneur.

amalgamation of 3rd and 4th CLY following the battle of Villers Bocage. The style of the Sharpshooters was very much more familiar and relaxed given that most officers, except those who had joined post war, had started as troopers and been promoted to commissioned rank.

The Sharpshooters were mounted in Comet Tanks until 1956 when they changed the role to Reconnaissance and were then equipped with Daimler Scout cars. In 1961 The Sharpshooters amalgamated with the Kent Yeomanry who were at that time a Light Anti-Aircraft-Artillery regiment equipped with the Bofors 40mm L60 gun. The amalgamation also brought a number of characters with it from the Kent Yeomanry whose predecessors (The East Kent Mounted Rifles and the West Kent Yeomanry) had considerable seniority back into the 19th C in TA terms as they had escorted the monarch to Dover on a number of occasions. The newly combined Regiment was well capable of putting on the Ritz when it came to camp in tents with mess silver and the exceptionally fine globe silver lamps, candelabra and plenty of other silver including the two gun carriages (Kent Yeomanry silver) serving as port decanters, the band was very proficient.

A regular feature in Ben's diaries as he looked back was the El Gubi parade and memorial service at St Martin in the Fields in November each year with the whole Regiment parading at St. Johns Wood.

On 1 August 1962, Ben assumed command. The drill nights were Monday Bromley and Canterbury, Tuesday Maidstone, Wednesday Croydon and Thursday Albany Street. This involved a fair amount of travelling.



His diary for 1963 recalls “The Guidon parade was described by retired regular soldiers as an outstanding success. If we look at the photographs, press cuttings and letters of appreciation we find pictures of the day which was blessed by perfect weather. Starting with HRH Princess Alexandra’s welcome at the railway station by the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Cornwallis and going on to the programme, the band of the Royals Dragoons, the orders given to the parade and the inspection of all ranks and the parade of the old comrades. Letters were received from Brigadier Jackie D’Avigdor-Goldsmid, General Harry Grimshaw the Divisional Commander and others. The one that I value most is that from Brigadier Hugh Norman, an ex Grenadier who wrote ‘I have never seen a better one by part time soldiers and seldom by regulars. A remarkable performance’.”

Colonel Ben was a much respected member of The Sharpshooters and he said “The Yeomanry was in my Blood”. RIP Colonel.

Sir David Scholey who served in The Sharpshooters in the 1950’s remembers Ben:

I met Ben in 1957 when I was an ex-National Service 9th Queen’s Royal Lancer reservist Queen’s Own Yorkshire Dragoon attached to the 3/4 CLY for Summer Camp at Lulworth.

Ben was B (I think) Squadron Leader with the irrepressible Tigger-like Clive Aston as his 2 i/c and a varied bunch of subalterns internet on enjoying camp as much as permissible. I shared with Clive and another Sharpshooter subaltern, Michael Taylor (an ex-10th Hussar racing driver) a wild passion for fast cars, quite unfamiliar to our revered Squadron Leader who always appeared elegantly accoutred and about to mount an impeccably groomed charger.

We had a wonderful camp under Ben's amusedly tolerant but ever-demanding eagle eye, although we very sadly lost a young trooper who turned over a DSC on a steep Dorset bank. Ben was wonderful in maintaining morale among the shocked and horrified squadron, doubtless reflecting his own battle experience which none of us shared.

I subsequently was delighted to be invited to transfer to the Sharpshooters, based in Allitsen Road, St. John's Wood in London, near to my home, and I thoroughly enjoyed the Thursday evening training and a truly evocative mess run by a retired 22 year regular 'Babs' Bayliss who by coincidence had been a Royals SSM who terrified us all who joined the 67th Training Regiment RAC at Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle in 1953.

For the next 60 years Ben and I retained intermittent regular contact, the respect and affection in which I had always held him growing into a valued friendship. I was not a regular reunionist and my other Sharpshooter connections gradually faded but dear Ben kept the happy memories alive.

We last lunched together at Boodle's about two years ago and a very warm and convivial occasion it was. I asked my trusty chauffeur Phil Tatler of 20 years to take him back to Great Bedwyn, which he had done a few times before. As Ben graciously thanked him, he thrilled him by saying "You would have been just the man to be my Recce Troop Sergeant!"

That was Pure Ben, instinctively creating eternal loyalty in a phrase! I do miss him.



REMEMBRANCE

Brenda Traylen recalls two events from 2021

During 2021, Sharpshooters were privileged to be able to attend dedications to two of our predecessors from the First World War.

The first was for Ernest Dray, whose story was told in detail in the last Sharpshooters Journal. Briefly, Ernest lied about his age to join the Royal East Kent Yeomanry, aged 15, in 1915. He earned a certificate for his gallantry in the Middle East and was released from the Army in 1919. A year later, having joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary, he was shot by the IRA during an ambush. He died two days later on 31 December 1920, and was repatriated to Gillingham, Kent, his home town, where he was buried on 6th January 1921.

His sister and mother were later buried in the same grave, but 100 years later, there was no grave marking left at all. Current KSY Association members and the Association itself contributed towards a new headstone, the rededication of which was held at Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham, Kent on 17th June 2021.

The day had been grey and wet, but then the sun almost managed to break through the gloom and it stayed dry for the duration of the service – maybe the sun does shine on the righteous! We met at the chapel and it was like a mini reunion after so many months of pandemic. As well as those I knew- including Tim Rayson, Mark Hodson, Ron Snowball and standard bearer Kevin Wright, there was a trumpeter from Middlesex and Northwest London ACF who had volunteered his services and another gentleman who I didn't recognise, but later discovered to be Peter Dray, the great, great nephew of Ernest. It was brilliant that he'd been able to be traced and take part on this occasion.

At 3pm we gathered in the chapel. The service was led by Lt Col Canon Paul Wright MA, Sub Dean, HM Chapels Royal. (Tim has great contacts!). He read an introduction and an excerpt from Psalm 27. Tim then read a poem "Before Action" by Lt William Noel Hodgson who was killed in action on the Somme in 1916. Each of the 3 verses ends in a similar line – "Make me a soldier, Lord"; "Make me a man O Lord" and "Help me to die O Lord". Thoughts surely echoing the anxiety felt by most young soldiers before they go into battle. This was followed by the KSY Collect and the Lord's Prayer.



Father Paul leading the service for Ernest Dray and the Blessing.



The Ernest Dray Congregation.

We then moved to the site of the grave itself. This was the first sighting of the new headstone that most of us had contributed towards and it is certainly very impressive, deservedly so. I had been asked to lay the wreath, which I proudly did, during the Act of Remembrance.

Peter Dray then read a poem “One at rest” before the Act of Dedication and the Blessing.

We then made our way back to the area of the Chapel, where final chats were had and tentative arrangements discussed about the dedication the next month. I was then able to cadge a lift back to the station for the homeward journey.

Those present were: Mark Hodson, Tim Rayson, David Whitehouse, Steve Shelley (doubling up as photographer), Matthew Webb, Brenda Traylen, Ron Snowball, Representatives from Medway Council, Peter Dray, Lt Col Canon Paul Wright, Trumpeter Darren Tyler.

The next dedication was for Pte Frank Henry Norman Wrighton, which involved an overnight stay as it was in Torquay, and there was the promise of a sociable dinner!

Frank’s story is told elsewhere in this journal, but basically, he died of pneumonia/TB after exposure to the elements whilst performing outdoor recruiting rallies. He was buried in an unmarked pauper’s grave with four others, in Torquay cemetery in 1917

On 15th July 2021, after much work by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Torquay Cemetery Authorities and Ray Taylor the local historian of the village where Frank was born, Sharpshooters attended the dedication of a special memorial, erected by the CWGC, close to the Chapel in Torquay Cemetery. We were greater in number this time, and a few were from my old squadron, 265(HQ) Squadron at Bexleyheath.



Frank Wrighton paupers grave marker

deteriorating health, as a dedication to his friend Lt Nelson Ellis. After the KSY Regimental Collect and the Lord's Prayer came the Act of Remembrance and the Act of Dedication. Penny Malik then read a beautiful poem by Frank "An Angler's Ode to Norfolk and Country Life". It would appear from the words of the poem, that Frank found peace and contentment in his wife's home county.

Following the service we were then invited by the Cemetery authorities to visit the site of the actual grave, which was a surprise to me, as I'd assumed the whereabouts to be unknown. We walked down to the boundary of the cemetery, where there was just an area of sunken grass, which had a newly placed sign bearing Frank's name. The cemetery managers had taken great care in literally pacing out the ground to derive his location and they had then persuaded a local firm of undertakers to donate the marker that marks the plot. A conversation followed during which it was mentioned that Frank had been the 5th person placed in the grave, so was the top one of five. That practical note somehow made it very real and I found myself extremely moved by this.

We then toured the rest of the cemetery before saying our goodbyes and retiring to our relevant hotels.



Frank Wrighton headstone with wreaths.

On a gloriously hot and sunny afternoon we gathered around the new gravestone for the service, led by Lt Col the Rev Dr Simon Rose, Deputy Priest in Charge to HM the Queen. (Another Rayson contact!). We had the bugle call "Assembly" sounded by Cpl B Smith from the Salamanca Band of the Rifles. After an introductory prayer and Psalm, Tim Rayson read with gusto a poem written by Frank Wrighton during his

Those attending were: Tim Rayson, Kevin Wright, Ron Snowball, Simon and Penny Malik, David and Mrs Lakin (OC 265 Sqn), Brenda Traylen, Dave Whitehouse and representatives from The Rifles and Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Five of us met later at the Rockfish Restaurant on the 'English Riviera' for what I would describe as a super evening, spent with some of my Sharpshooter mates and, yes, alcohol was consumed! Lovely food, good wine and great company.

As I walked back to my hotel later, I was mulling over the chat of the evening, during which comradeship had been discussed, and I just hoped that, despite



war and ill-health, Ernest Dray and Frank Wrighton had had just some of the comradeship that I've had over the years with TA mates, both on and off duty.

I won't go too much into the fact that I was also musing on how well I was doing walking home, when a young couple approached and asked if I was OK! After thanking them and assuring them I was fine, I pointed to my hotel, I found myself asking for, and getting, a group hug!! (Obviously still full of bonhomie!! Long may it continue!)

Brenda Traylen MBE TD



JAMES (Mick (Crocodile) Dundee) DUNSBY

Tribute by Adam Honeysett



On a day where we remember all those that have fallen in past and present conflicts around the world, today, specifically, I have been asked to talk to you all about one person in particular, James Dunsby.

A Yeoman from C Sqn and a friend too of many of us here today. Tragically, James passed away from injuries received, on the 30th July 2013, during selection training for the Special Forces.

But I'm not here to talk to you about the circumstances of his death. Indeed I would like to tell you a little bit about James and the type of bloke he was.

James Dunsby walked through the gates, here at Croydon barracks, in April 2005. Full of confidence and swagger. Basically full of himself. Born in Birmingham, England but raised in Tasmania, having returned to the UK shortly after completing his studies, and taking a job as a teacher in a rather prestigious school in East Grinstead. He had been a part of the Australian reserve forces and his past experience quickly moved him through the recruiting process and into the Sqn and a troop.

As is the way with all arms of the military it is a requirement that everyone is given a nickname. James was no exception and he very quickly acquired the nickname 'Mick Dundee' – from the film Crocodile Dundee for those of you too young to remember that film. Henceforth we all knew him as 'Mick.'

For the next year and a half much fun was had with Mick on drill nights, exercise weekends and of course Sqn socials.

Notably, on drill nights he had a standard entrance to the boys bar. Of course he would wait until everyone was in the bar before announcing himself (for maximum effect), by walking through the door, stopping, placing hands on hips and rather loudly uttering the words "what's going on here men? Let's talk about me!"

A particular weekend exercise is also worthy of sharing. While preparing the vehicles, and ourselves, for the inevitable wet weekend on Salisbury Plain, Mick had decided his troop needed to plan for the usual 'comms aren't working' scenario. For those of you old enough, or who have been in long enough, to remember, we are talking about the days of clansman and BATCO. Basically if there were more than two trees in a six mile radius comms didn't work!

His idea was to invent his own form of semaphore, using the vehicle flags, for his troop to communicate with each other when comms did break down!



James Dunsby plaque unveiling service.

Realistically, probably a good idea, especially as the phone signal was pretty shoddy as well. So he set about creating the ‘Mick’ version of semaphore with the then troop Sgt Phil Bristow (who’s here today). All was good. Actions defined, practised and committed to memory.

Off we all went onto the plain. Surprisingly not wet! Orders received and tasks undertaken. For one particular task it required the troops to split up and individual vehicles take up different positions, which of course required comms to work. I’m sure you’ve guessed by now but yes, there were more than two trees and no amount of antenna extensions could get the clansman radios to work. So before the light faded Mick whipped out the flags and began waving his arms around in line with pre-practised and pre-agreed shapes. Upon seeing this I looked around for the other vehicle locations and saw with great pleasure that Phil Bristow (aka Eric) had done the same and it appeared that he and Mick were communicating.

I now turned my attention to the troop leader’s location. Nothing. Nada! Not a thing to be seen. As a fairly green trooper, at the time, I was slightly bemused at the lack of activity from the troop leader’s waggon (vehicle), but I went with it. After several minutes of the two lunatics waving their arms ever more frantically I eventually saw the troop leader get out of his vehicle and start waving his hands in the air in utter disbelief.

After some quick consultations with those with the flags it turns out that while they had done a great job between themselves in creating this ‘new form’ of semaphore they hadn’t actually briefed the troop leader. So from his point of view they were literally two complete idiots waving flags frantically with absolutely no meaning, resulting in the troop leader breaking cover to find out what the emergency was. The emergency being “shall we put a brew on?” Classic Mick.

In 2007 Mick and I received our papers, with a number of other people from the Sqn and the Regiment, to accompany the Household Cavalry on a six-month tour of Afghanistan.



Mick Dunsby (L), Adam H (R) Prince Harry centre

Off we went to Windsor barracks and pre deployment training with our now parent unit of Csqn HCR.

Typically, the HCR were not quite sure what to do with us so immediately earmarked us as drivers of their CVRT vehicles. It became quickly apparent that Mick was not blessed with the skills required for driving an armoured vehicle, or any vehicle for that matter. Thankfully with his past experience he was able to move into an operator and dismounted role, while the rest of us continued to show the regulars how to drive, and maintain vehicles, properly.

And off we went. Once more into the breach. Young men (mainly young men, some of us were rapidly moving towards middle age), going to a war zone to fulfil our duty as trained soldiers and to uphold the values and virtues of the Yeomanry.

As you can imagine there were some dark days out there but Mick certainly helped me, and others, get through them with some of his antics.

Perhaps some of the best stories from our tour would be once a certain Prince joined us out in the field.

As luck would have it Mick and I were both in support troop together, but in different vehicles. When Prince Harry joined us he was assigned to Mick's vehicle as the vehicle commander. Now this has many connotations. Not only does it mean that a Prince of the realm would be conversing with Mick all day long but they would also be sleeping together in a very small crew shelter attached to the side of the vehicle.

I think we were only a couple of days into Prince Harry being with us when one morning, having completed our morning stand to, we were relaxing into breakfast when Mick came running, no skipping, over to me to tell me that he had spooned Prince Harry.

Another funny Prince Harry story would be the time he had a lengthy discussion, or debate, over lineage. Yes that's right our antipodean friend was debating with a Prince of the realm over who was more 'British.' The outcome of the debate was Mick telling Prince Harry that he (Mick) was more British, as Prince Harry's grandparents were German!

If nothing else Mick was great value and certainly lightened the mood in a tough environment. I mean who else would have the balls to spoon a Prince of this country and then tell him he was not British, but German.

There are many more stories to tell from our deployment but they are for another day.

We returned home in April 2008 and after our hard earned post operational tour leave Mick decided that he missed Afghanistan too much and took a job as a civilian contractor with a fuel company in Afghanistan and then spent the best part of a year being driven around with his own personal bodyguards.

Eventually he came home and decided to get a more sedate job. He joined Military intelligence as a civilian. Now this job was right up his alley! Not only could he quote 'Military Intelligence' as his employer, but the role gave him an equivalent or honorary rank of Colonel. He could now pretend to be an officer! His main role for some time with military intelligence was to write and create the in theatre booklets that are handed out to serving personnel as they arrive in Afghanistan which contained history and background of the country and the conflict itself as well as other useful facts and information.

Perhaps one of the best decisions he ever made was to marry his long term girlfriend, Bryher, and begin the process of becoming an adult! But before settling down properly he made the decision to try for selection with the reserve Special Forces. The rest as they say is history.

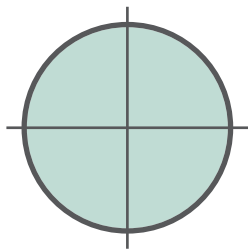
James was as equally comfortable in a room full of officers as he was in the bar with the rank and file. Yes he could wear a pair of pink corduroys as well as the next man! Always the life and soul of any party, a scoundrel and a gentleman. A friend, a colleague, a comrade and a thoroughly nice chap.

He is very sorely missed by so many people. Through this plaque his name and memory will live on in C Sqn history.

For now it is one last Huzzah for James Dunsby.



War memorial with new plaque.



PTE FRANK HENRY NORMAN WRIGHTON

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

**by Tim Rayson, Dave Whitehouse
and Ray Taylor (Historian for
Mattishall village)**



**Recruiter of men – Actor, Author,
Dramatist Playwright,
Poet & Music Hall Artist
The Final Curtain**

27th June 1879 – 2nd November 1917

Frank was born in 27 June 1879 in Cannock, Staffordshire to Thomas Henry Garland Wrighton and Mary Jane Gayford Wrighton nee Abbott. He was baptised at Cannock on 25th July 1879. His early years were spent with his parents at the family home in Stafford Road, Cannock.

On 20th February 1901, Frank, enlisted into the Imperial Yeomanry, presumably seeking see active service in South Africa, where the country had been engaged in fighting a war with the Boer republics since October 1899.

On his enlistment record, Trooper 30299 Frank Henry Wrighton, declared that he was 23 years and 5 months old, was born in Harrow Weald and had resided out of his father's house for 3 years. Additionally, he gave his father's name as Garland Wrighton. It would seem that these facts are not entirely accurate – he would have been 21 years and 7 months old, and would surely have known that he hadn't been born in the place that he had recently moved to. Frank was enlisted into the 42nd Company (Hertfordshire Yeomanry) of 12th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry. It is not clear if Frank reported for duty straight away as his name appears in the 1901 census (which took place on 31st March that year) alongside that of his family at Bamford House, Harrow Weald. At some point he was sent to Aldershot presumably prior to deployment overseas. Frank, however, was destined not to reach South Africa, as on 23rd April 1901, he was discharged "*as not being likely to become an efficient soldier.*"

According to the Register of leavers from the Metropolitan Police¹, a Frank Henry Wrighton, warrant number 88286 joined on 24th February 1902, and left on 15th May 1902. He was last posted to P Division as a Police Constable. On 26th June 1905, Frank was married to Winifred Bernice Norton at the Register Office, Broad Street, Bloomsbury. Winifred was a native of Mattishall, Norfolk and although it is known that he visited the village, it is not clear if he ever made his home there. Nevertheless, he had an affection for this part of the country which he captured in the poem that will be read at the conclusion of the service.

It is not known how and when Frank became interested in acting or theatre but at one point he adopted the stage name of 'Norman Wrighton'. Under this name he is recorded as an actor, author, poet and playwright. Research reveals that an actor of that name was appearing on stage as early as 1903, and his stage name regularly appears in the press throughout the decade

In February 1908, Frank alongside his presumed wife (under the name Bernice Wrighton) starred in a play of his own writing - Britain's Awakening appeared in the West End in London. The following year his sketch 'Wake Up England' was performed at the Empire in Leeds.

After the outbreak of the Great War, Frank enlisted into the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) on 29th August 1914. On his attestation form, he stated that he was a part of the 'National Reserve Class I mid Norfolk Division'.

It is evident from press reporting at this time that he was involved in recruiting for the army, which would have been aided considerably by his celebrity status. On 29th May 1915, the Westminster Gazette reported "A play entitled 'Kultur' is shortly to appear at a London theatre. Its authors are Messrs. Alfred and Norman Wrighton. Mr Norman Wrighton is now a trooper of the 3rd Reserve County of London Yeomanry, and is speaking at various open-air recruiting meetings. The 3rd CLY at that time consisted of 3 battalions: 1st/3rd which was the front line unit, 2nd/3rd who were the reserve and 3rd/3rd also the reserve. The history of the the reserve battalions has been published in a previous edition of the Journal.

There was a particular instance one Saturday, Norman had been recruiting in Trafalgar Square, for the 6th City of London Rifles (also known as the 'Cast Iron 6th – or The Printers Rifles which was my Grandfathers battalion) where as usual he had read his play entitled 'Kultur' to a large crowd several times during the afternoon. He was known for holding nothing back, he had great skill in playing the audience. He thought nothing of putting much emphasis on the atrocities committed to the poor village folk of Mattishall, where the play was set. It is said, after his recital, emotions were left running rather high. This instance had not gone unnoticed as Field Marshal Lord Roberts, wrote to him and told him that he could hardly believe that any invader could be guilty of such atrocities as were outlined in the play, "but," added Trooper Wrighton, "events have proved that these atrocities have been understated rather than exaggerated." One of the officers of the battalion said in a statement that recruits were being obtained faster than their equipment could supply to the 6th City of London Rifles.

Obviously Frank's abilities as an orator had a significant impact on the crowds and they were reported in an article published in the Daily Mirror on 19th June 1916, which

¹ National Archive MEPO 4/342/13

stated “Mr Wrighton secured the services of over 3,800 recruits by his lectures and recitations.”

In about the middle of 1915, Frank appears to have fallen ill with pleurisy and pneumonia, “following wet exposure” according to his service record. It would seem that following this bout of ill health that he was then attached to another unit. On 1st November 1915, Frank was promoted to Acting Sergeant (unpaid). This meant that although he wore sergeant stripes, and enjoyed the privileges of the rank, he was still paid as a trooper. Nevertheless, he continued his recruiting activities, going so far as to dress up in a suit of armour as the picture at the end of this article shows.

In February 1916, Frank fell ill again with another bout of pneumonia. He was transferred back to the 2/3rd County of London Yeomanry on 17th April 1916. His military record then shows that he was admitted into the Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham on 25th May 1916. A medical board convened 4 days later found that he was unfit for further military service. Frank was discharged from hospital on 12th June, and from the army two days later, whereupon he went to a sanatorium near Cromer, Norfolk to recover. Because of his incapacity, Frank was unable to work and so he applied for, and was given an army pension of 20 shillings. This was later increased to 27/6. Despite his deteriorating ill-health, Frank was still able to write and on 27 September 1916, his *Ballad of the Somme – Carry On* was published in *The Era*. This war poem was dedicated to his friend Lieutenant Nelson Ellis and is published at the end of this article.

For his service, Sergeant Wrighton was awarded the Silver War Badge (no 161708) on 4th April 1917.

Frank’s condition must have deteriorated in late 1917 as he was sent to St. Barnabas’ Home for Incurables, Brocket Hall, Torquay, Devon and placed under the care of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist. Frank Henry Wrighton died on November 2nd 1917 aged 38. He was buried in a pauper’s grave with four others on November 6th 1917 in Torquay Cemetery grave number 2303, section K. He has lain there since then unrecognised and lost because the grave had no marker or headstone.

It is thanks to the ever diligent work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Torquay Cemetery authorities and most importantly Mr Ray Taylor of Mattishall Village who started the whole project off to find Frank that we were able to pay our respects to our lost comrade as recounted by Brenda Traylen elsewhere in this journal.



A KNIGHT IN ARMOUR IN THE WEST END.
Sergeant Norman Wrighton, in armour bright, appeals for recruits from the step of Sir Henry Irving's statue.

CARRY ON

A Ballard of the Somme

(read by Tim Rayson)

Somewhere down along the Somme,
Way out there along the West,
There's two magic words that tell,
Even 'midst that worst of Hell, They
are neither very long, But they make
that grim, sweet song. That echoes
by the Somme,

Carry on!

When the corporal strikes a reef, Of
some rag-time bully beef, Which, as
its punctured, sings "loves old sweet
song," Then, without a bit of fuss,
Hurls it to some German cuss, Says
– "He needs it more than us,

Carry on!

When they lay out froze o' night In
some 'ole what's got the blight, And
relief seems 'twill never come along
Lord luv us! Don't they pray For the
blighters who would stay At home till
judgment day.

Carry on!

The officers, all but one, Have gone-
beyond: The sun sets grim and red
above the Somme. Than-that one
shakes hands with death, Tho' with
his last life's breath, To the sergeant
on his left cries:

Carry on!

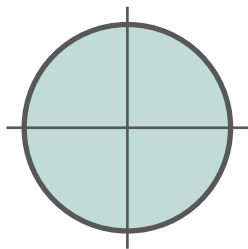
Tho' 'alf of 'ems laid out, There's no
thought-but 'oldin out Amongst the
throng Straight thro' Hell, 'cross "No
mans land" The others need a hand
To bust the German band.

Carry on!

Tho' the earth with craters gape,
Ann all 'ells knocked out of shape,
Where the five-nines roar the burden
of their song, Firm and steady thro'
the breeze, From the orchard where
stood trees, Comes a voice. "Damn
fate's decrees!

Carry on!

A/Sjt Frank Wrighton
3rd CLY (Sharpshooters)
27th September 1916



265 (KCLY (Sharpshooters)) Support Squadron OC Report

OC – Major David Lakin

2IC – Captain Michael Mahoney

SSM – WO2 Simon May

PSAO – Captain Steve Slaney

Trg Officer – vacant

Trp Ldr – Lt Ian Dawes

SQMS – SSgt Rob Marshall

As predicted in last year's OC report Covid 19 continues to be a feature in the way the squadron goes about its business eighteen months on from the first national lockdown. Nonetheless after a fairly low key start to the year many aspects of 'business as normal' have re-appeared including a welcome return of annual camp. Also, after many months of gestation, the outcome of the Integrated Review was announced in November – happily providing good news for the squadron. All in all it has been a good year for the squadron as I hope the highlights below will show.

The first months of the year saw training restricted to online platforms with a series of PHOENIX VIRTUAL events. These were wide-ranging in content and generally felt to be engaging although it would be fair to say that everyone was glad to see the phased return of face to face training in March. The training emphasis during the spring lay with the refreshing and developing of communication skills through the PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR series of exercises. The first of these was small scale, conducted largely at Bexleyheath and designed to knock some of the rust off the skills which had been unused for many months. The next two exercises in the series saw the squadron deploy with the rest of the regiment to Thetford training area. Both exercises saw the squadron provide real life support to the regiment in the form of a Regimental Aid Post (RAP), a field kitchen and a G4 support echelon as well as providing the communications for the Regimental Command Post (RCP). All aspects of the squadron's capability were exercised ranging from the establishment of a regimental rolling replenishment to the defence of the RCP location (ably managed by WO2 May in the face of some cheeky enemy force intrusions).

Communications were a little less prominent in July and August as the regiment conducted its mandatory annual training tests (MATTs) at Pirbright and then brushed up its dismounted close combat skills on Ex PHOENIX WARRIOR. The latter provided a low level patrolling and military skills wrap around a communications core and once again brought the squadron to Thetford. The troops contributed to all aspects of the



Getting ready to ‘enjoy’ the practical side of MATT 4 (CBRN).



Sigs Carrigan, Masikco and Main provide the ‘casualties’ for Ex PHOENIX WARRIOR.

exercise from manning the Regimental Command Post and providing elements of the force protection to contributing simulated casualties for first aid skills to be tested.

Meanwhile throughout the late spring and summer Lt Dawes ably assisted by SSgt Denney had been preparing a regimental squad to compete in two endurance events¹ – Lanyard Trophy and Trailwalker. The preparation was thorough and effective culminating in September with a team competing in Lanyard Trophy over a 40 mile course in Otterburn training area, finishing in a very respectable 16.5 hours. Two weeks later came Trailwalker comprising a 100km route over the South Downs. Needless to say after competing in both events Lt Dawes had very much earned the right to put his feet up.



The 265 Team for Trailwalker (l to r) Sig Majoros, LCpl Wilsher, SSgt Denney and Lt Dawes

Also in September a joint exercise with 31 Squadron – Ex ALLENBY COMMUNICATOR – provided the last opportunity to brush up on communication skills prior to embarking on annual camp. Longmoor training area provided the real estate and the opportunity was taken to run a visit by the Association to see the squadron in the field (see report by Steve Shelley). The Squadron Honorary Colonel, Paul Acda, also took the opportunity afforded by the visit to present the squadron with some silverware to mark his time in post – a magnificent piece which needed two people to carry it.

By now as well prepared as it was ever going to be the squadron went on annual camp in October. The regiment concentrated at St Martin's Plain Camp, Folkestone where the main emphasis lay on shooting, military skills and driving courses the main effort

¹ Having 'volunteered' to lead a team on the Nijmegen March when this was cancelled Lt Dawes found himself the beneficiary of a 'two for the price of one' bargain!



Col Acda's silverware (with bearers).



Presentation to Col Acda.



Marching detachment after the Remembrance parade at Bexleyheath.

however, lay in supporting 3 Division as it carried out Ex FLYING FALCON. This meant that the majority of the Squadron rotated through Salisbury Plain, some however (including Lt Dawes) were flown to Germany to augment 215 Signal Squadron. Just to make sure that the MTWO's transport plan didn't lack complexity a handful of personnel went to Colchester to participate in a Defence Train the Trainer course. Meanwhile Sgt Harries eschewed all of this as far too close to home and flew of to Kenya for four weeks on Ex ASKARI STORM (see separate report).

No sooner had the squadron returned from annual camp and turned around all the kit than Remembrance Sunday was upon us. It was possible once more, after a hiatus in 2020, to hold a parade at Bexleyheath. The marching detachment was led by Lt Dawes in the absence of the OC who was isolating having tested positive for covid-19. In another return to normal activity a curry lunch was held at Bexleyheath after the parade at which the squadron hosted the Mayor of Bexley and a large civic party. The Mayor kindly agreed to take the opportunity to present Captain Slaney, Sgt Crane and LCpl Liscoe with bars to their VRSMs.

The year closed with an equipment care weekend at Bexleyheath which saw the final visit to the squadron by Col Acda who will step off as Honorary Colonel in early 2022. On the Saturday evening a social event was held catered for by Sgt Rai and Sig Gurung who treated the squadron to a genuine (and very tasty) Gurkha curry. The opportunity was taken to make a small presentation to Col Acda in appreciation of his support and encouragement throughout his time in post.

Another sign of a return (of sorts) to normality was the El Gubi Dinner held on 20 November after a pause of two years. This year the squadron was pleased to be able to support the event with a guard composed of Cpl Lovett and LCpl Wilsher and it is hoped that 2022 will see stronger representation from the squadron.

It has been a positive and productive year for the squadron which has seen it refresh its communications skills and get stuck into providing real life support to the regiment. The



Sgt Crane, Cpl Lovett and LCpl Wilsher at the Cavalry and Guards Club for the El Gubi Dinner.

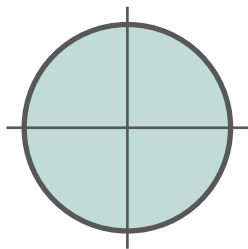


Sig Oldham with his Drapers Medal.

announcement of the outcome of the Integrated Review in November marked the start of a period of re-organisation and re-orientation which will gather pace in 2022.

The value of the work done by members of the squadron has, I am glad to be able to report, been recognised with a number of awards over the course of the year. LCpl Liscoe received a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service at the beginning of the year in recognition of his splendid efforts in mentoring the squadron's recruits. In July Sig Oldham was awarded the Drapers Medal for his efforts across a range of activities.

Finally, it is time for 'hail and farewell!' This year the squadron has bade farewell to Sgt Andy Weight our PSI (T) who has left the Regular Army after a full term of service and joined the Reserves (sadly not 265 Squadron). Sigs Uhl and Gurung also left us this year -in Sig Gurung's case on transfer to MDGS. We have been glad to welcome Sgt Subash Rai who has taken over from Sgt Weight as PSI(T) (and who has already contributed his culinary skills to great effect – surely not part of the job description?). We have also been joined by LCpl Ovenell from the London Regiment who has become a great asset to the recruit mentoring team.



C(KSY) SQN RY REPORT

by Major Julian Moore

Part of the mythology that surrounds C Squadron, the Royal Yeomanry, within the wider Regiment is our fortitude and stomach for pushing on when things get tough. I am sorry to report we have needed that somewhat this year. Like all organisations, the Squadron has had to navigate the vagaries and uncertainties of the pandemic. However, we've also had our fair share of misfortune over recent months, too. As I write, we're on our way up, out of somewhat of a slump in the usual brilliance with which usually shines bright amongst our fellow sub-units.

This is no for fault of the soldiers and officers – they have continued with due commitment, good humour, to soldier with gumption with said brilliance – and style too...

But it is fair to say we've had a tough few months: plentiful G1 'issues' including acute permanent staff shortages putting pressure onto the ever embattled and excellent PSIs; a dilapidated estate with such a leaky roof that large swathes of Sharpshooter House are out of bounds when it rains and it rains in the drill hall; and plenty of other speed bumps that sub-units are blessed with, like the Army's approach to risk complicating our conversion from RWMIK to Jackal vehicles. To date, the Squadron unfortunately has none of the vehicles in our stables either, owing to a combination of poor vehicle serviceably and the slow issuing of them to the Regiment.

But we soldier on.

We've managed five good quality field training exercises this year, albeit dismounted, each with palpable feeling of relief to be back in the field, in green kit, and training. Kudos in particular goes to LCpl New, who planned and executed a punchy dismounted exercise focusing on Patrolling and CTRs on the wilds of Dartmoor, just down the road from Croydon. Also to Cpl Wright and Lt Alistair-Jones for delivering excellent stands on the interestingly named joint C and C&S Sqn exercise, Ex PICCADILLY PLAYAZ (that's C&S Sqn for you). A special shout out too, to Mr Thompson the SSM, for delivering numerous navigation serials on most of the exercises – a focus area for training this year incorporating micro-navigation up to more broad-brush directional skills. 2Lt Sherburne should also get a mention for organising two successful week-long sailing expeditions, much needed and enjoyable Adventure Training.

The C Sqn contingent are back from Operation CABRIT too – which as well as also suffering from the pandemic, significantly impacting freedom of movement in Poland, also suffered from one of the coldest winters of recent times – and they couldn't be more welcome back into the Sqn fold, with them coming the energy, experience, and fresh and numerous qualifications this cohort oozes. This year's operational output for



C Sqn – Remembrance Day.

the army has been well above our small size – sending soldiers on Op CABRIT and Op NEWCOMBE – and numerously to BATUK and to California, too. Many of the Squadron also volunteered for Op RESCRIPT, the Army's support to the national pandemic effort, but in the end were not required.

The timing the return of our soldiers from CABRIT was good – in time for October where, despite all of the woes of the year, a C Sqn troop of mixed experience including one Trooper's first ever exercise, augmented by CABRIT veterans of various tours, won the regimental patrols competition, known as 'Troop Tests'. Taking back to Croydon the coveted Hunt Trophy delivered a much needed morale boost, while reminding the Regiment of the Sqn's standard formidability in the field.

This year we said good bye to a fair few friends and colleagues, who left the Squadron for various reasons. This included LCpl Egleton; quite the personality in the Sqn and a fine soldier, too, who could eat a fistful of Stilton followed by a trophy full of wine quicker than most. Dead to us, though, for defecting to PWRR. Sadly, we also said goodbye to 2Lt Ben Dunn, erstwhile Windsor Troop leader. We thank him for his dedication to both the Squadron and the Regiment – travelling for over four hours every Wednesday to lead his Troop. He'll be missed, though also loses points for joining the PWRR. Congratulations to Tpr, now OCdt, Maitland-Jones for passing the Army Officer Selection Board.

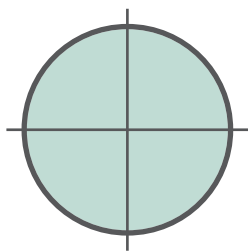
We also welcome fresh blood to our ranks, all twelve of them, so too many to name. Congratulations to Lt Rowland, Sgt Dunning, Cpl Ullah and the other members of the Recruiting Team for delivering. Well done Tpr Turner for winning best recruit, but every recruit during this odd year has made an impact in their own way. More to come in terms of fresh faces too – C Sqn will welcome a new PSAO in January, Capt Ireland, joining us from the Household Cavalry, where he is currently training captain at Knightsbridge.



C Sqn – Remembrance Day.

As the Squadron looks forward to an exciting and action-packed forecast of events for 2022, as our woes concurrently abate, I think all can look back at last year that was with at least some pride and self-congratulation for sticking with it. The Army Reserve offer has to include fun, and there's not been too much of that this year. But we're also here to do our duty – and no one can fault C Sqn for not having done, or standing ready to do, theirs.





EXERCISE ALLENBY COMMUNICATOR AND 265 HONORARY COLONEL'S PRESENTATION

Longmoor Camp

265 (Kent and Country of London Yeomanry) (Sharpshooters) Support Squadron along with 31 (Middlesex Yeomanry and Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron, a sister unit within 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment, hosted a visitors' day at Longmoor Camp in Hampshire in September as part of Exercise Allenby Communicator.

The aim of the weekend was to act as a 'work-up' and pre-cursor to a major exercise led by the units' parent division, 3 (UK) Division supported by 11 Signal Brigade and cascaded down to 71 and 265.

Our Chairman Lt Col Mark Hodson, Vice Chairman and 265 Honorary Colonel Colonel Paul Acda and Assistant Secretary Stephen Shelley were hosted by OC 265 Maj David Lakin, PSAO Capt Steve Slaney and the good men and women of 265.

It was an excellent opportunity to not only brush-up on trade skills and focus on the up-and-coming exercise but also for OC 265 to host the Association and enable them





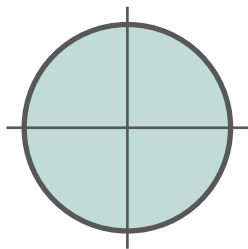
to meet the serving squadron in the field. It also provided via a briefing an update on the role of the Regiment/Squadron, giving the wider picture. Longmoor Camp has been a long-time favourite location offering many happy memories.

The mission of 71 (CofL) Y Sig Regt is to provide Integrated Communications Support to partnered Regular Units and augment the warfighting Division – known as the Iron Division – which provides the core of the Field Army’s warfighting ability on exercise and operations. 71 now includes: 31, 36, 68 and 265 Squadrons; there are some 17 affiliated Army Cadet Force detachments.

The event also provided a suitable occasion for 265’s Honorary Colonel to present a gift of silver to the squadron to mark his five-year term in the appointment. Colonel

Paul Acda joined 265 (KSY) Signal Squadron (as then titled) in 1979 and commanded 890 Troop. He was appointed 2i/c in 1981 and Officer Commanding in 1982, during that time he saw the establishment of Gateway 4 and HQ Squadron which was also badged KCLY, and Regimental 2i/c in 1987. He then took up post as Commanding Officer 38 Signal Regiment in 1988. He was appointed Squadron Honorary Colonel in 2017.

The presentation piece was a magnificent Bresin silver plate 3rd CLY Trooper and his horse circa 1917 and was completed by the renowned silversmiths Mappin and Webb in London. The design of the piece was commissioned by Tim Rayson to mark the end of World War 1 and is based on photographic evidence of an identical one hand carved in wood by WW1 veteran Fred Brownlie. The model featured on a regular basis as the front cover of the 3rd CLY ‘birthday card’ which was sent to all members on 11th November each year and who had served in WW1. The interior of the card often contained some delightful and indeed poignant home spun poetry in which the horses featured prominently as a tribute to them. Unfortunately (as far as we know) the original model has not survived; the full story, however, is in the 2018 edition of *The Sharpshooter* p102 and the story about the cards is in the 2016 *End* p82-85.



OP CABRIT – MY STORY

Tpr Jason Palmer

Hello, my name is TPR Jason Palmer and I'm from Sutton, Surrey. My civilian job is helping the permanent staff around the ARC which includes cleaning weapons and making sure the place is kept clean and tidy. I was deployed on Op Carbrit as a member of Tranche 2.

I was mobilised on the 5th May at Chilwell mobilisation Centre and then few weeks later I went to Bovington camp where I was put into 3rd troop under Sgt Tom Biddlestone and Cpt Reece/ Lt Coombe. Whilst I was there I completed the GPMG, HGM and GMG cadre which meant learning how to fire, clean, and the drills for that. We also did back to basics like cleaning weapons and putting up vehicle scrim to conceal our jacksals.

Following Bovington we moved to the ranges at Warcp in Yorkshire where we completed a PWO Cadre which meant live firing GPMG, HMG and GMG both mounted and dismounted by both day and night shoot; we also undertook dismounted live section shooting again by both day and night to get used to shooting in the night live with night vision goggles.

We then went on to Thetford for basic tactical training followed by an exercise phase on Salisbury Plain to test all of the skills that we had just been taught including Observation posts (OP) and doing sections attacks both mounted and dismounted while getting fire support from the 4th troop section.

I then went to Swanton Morley while the main body went to Poland. I completed the SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) on Otterburn training area where we were hunted by the hunter force jumping over fences and crossing rivers to avoid them. The course was about 50kms long including the checkpoints that we had to go through. My team won by getting to all the checkpoints and I the received a QDG Gerber Knife for winning. There was however more training to do including urban warfare with paint rounds which we started off with section based (four-man fire teams) stuff about how to clear buildings both day and night using HMVGS. It was during one of these simulations that I got shot in the ass and back of the leg and was bruised.

Following all of this I then went on and completed the Anti-Tank course which covered both the Javelin and NLAW. There we learnt all about both weapons and how to fire them from different fire positions which included time on the DCCT where we learnt to fire JAVELIN at different air and land vehicles. This was all very interesting and was combined with battle PT which included a daily tab with the Javelin so that we could get used to its weight and firing positions. Javelin is no lightweight as the missile in its tube weighs around 15Kg whilst the other bits add another 15Kg. With a



Javelin (rear) and NLAW (front) training and the daily Javelin tab.



crew of two that meant we each carried an extra 15Kg on top of our other kit. NLAW was a bit lighter in terms of the individual extra load.

Finally I got deployed to Poland on the 19th of November and then had to isolate for 14 days after a four hour drive from the airport to our isolation camp. To break the boredom we did regular PT runs and a PTI came and gave PT lesson so we not just sitting around doing nothing.

I eventually got released from isolation and I was put into 1st troop under SSgt Rand Faytaren and LT Whiteman. A few days after being released we had to on the cold weather operator's course. Here we learnt how to survive in the cold like getting food, water and making a fire. At the end of the course we had to do a submerging drill where we would have to put our whole bodies under water and answer some questions and saying our details. It was -10°C outside temperature and it was little bit warmer in the water but the cold water and weather were still a shock to the body.

My job in Poland was gunner and radio operator so I got to maintain the weapons as well as fire them. Unfortunately I got a Non Frozen Cold Injury before the Potential NCO (PNCO) course so couldn't do the course. However I did get to do some demolition training so that I could build Battle noise simulation to simulate fire

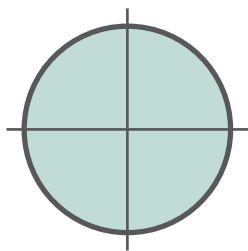


Training Polish and other NATO troops on Battle sim.

including RPG fire mortar and small arms fire. I then got to teach the Polish troops how to build and use small arms battle noise simulations. This was hard especially with the language barrier (I do not speak Polish and they generally did not speak English) but luckily one of the Polish commanders knew English so I was able to explain it to him and he then explained it to his guys.

I actually really enjoyed going to Poland even if it was like -25°C ! I had never been somewhere before where it was so cold. The food was different but I enjoyed it. I got more experience and self confidence in demolitions and better knowledge on how to survive in the cold even with getting a cold injury: I just need to keep my hands warm in the future if I go back again in the future.





COMMANDING OFFICER ROYAL YEOMANRY

LT COLONEL C FIELD

It seems fitting that amongst my first tasks having assumed Command of the Royal Yeomanry is to write this note for the Sharpshooter Journal. It was with C (KSY) Squadron, that my journey with the Royal Yeomanry started in late 2003, and having Squadron Led in Croydon, I have seen first hand the valuable work of the Association, and the important role that this journal plays in keeping the Regimental family updated and informed.

I must start by placing on record my thanks, and those of the entire Regiment, to my predecessor, Lt Col Tom Bragg. Throughout his tenure, Tom has epitomised the very best of servant leadership, tirelessly advocating on behalf of the Regiment, guiding it through the



challenging times of COVID and delivering operational success both at home and overseas. He has set an extremely high bar to follow, and the Royal Yeomanry owes him a tremendous debt for his spirited leadership through challenging and busy times. I am sure that he will continue to be a close friend of the Regiment's as he moves to his new role supporting Deputy Commander Field Army as her personal projects officer.

The one constant that persists in the Army is change. As I took the reins at C Squadron in 2013 we were starting to implement the outcomes of *Future Army 2020*, nine years on, we are again charged with implementing the outcomes of another review. *Future Soldier*, the re-balancing of the British Army to meet the ever-changing array of global threats, has signalled an increased role for the Army Reserve, in homeland resilience and defence (taking the lead on this area with effect from 2025) and in delivering warfighting capability in support of the regular component.

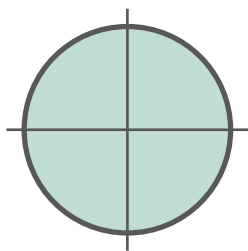
For our part, later in the year we will resubordinate from 7th Infantry Brigade to the newly formed 1st Deep Reconnaissance Strike Brigade Combat Team, part of the 3rd (UK) Division, the British Army's warfighting division. Maintaining our strong paired relationship with the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards, who will also move to 1st Deep Recce Strike BCT, we will also start to forge new links in support of the Household

Cavalry and Royal Lancers, two regiments with whom we have long and close relationships.

Our principal role will be to provide a fourth, Light Cavalry, Squadron to each of our partner regular Regiments to complete their warfighting establishment at point of need. Day-to-day, this requires us to maintain our expertise and proficiency in Mounted Close Combat skills, principally on JACKAL. This new role necessitates some structural changes that we anticipate will commence towards the end of this year. These changes will take time, but must not detract from our core business of training Royal Yeomen for operations at home and overseas.

As the nature of these changes becomes clearer, we will communicate with you all via the Squadron and Regimental Association. The Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association is preparing a number of events that will be open to all that will provide an opportunity to visit your Regiment, get close to the kit and equipment we have, and hear from those who have been deployed on the platforms over the past year. Please look out for more information in due course.

I look forward to catching up with old friends over the course of my Command tenure, but for now, thank you for your continued involvement and support.



SAILING YEOMEN

by Lt Ric Sherbourne

The sun sparkled off the brilliant blue waves, while the glorious green of an English shore hove into view. The gleaming white hull and seagull-like sails of White Knight VII turned to starboard towards the final picturesque harbour of the passage, and five weathered and weary yeomen of C Sqn the Royal Yeomanry begin to stow sails, half-hitch knots and look forwards to a well-earned pint in a seaside establishment. Or something along those lines. This year saw C Sqn lead the charge in a number of daring (well, as much as that can be said for summer off the South Coast) offshore sailing exercises.

At the start of the training year, CO RY directed each squadron to provide Adventure Training to at least 15% of its personnel. Two expeditions went out to fulfil his order... two came back. And as a result, C Sqn now has a cohort of Competent Crew and Day Skipper qualified service people to continue a proud tradition of Adventurous Training in the squadron.

Army Adventure Training makes a significant contribution to military effectiveness, fighting spirit and personal development. AT is on-duty, mandated, military training which, through exposure to challenges and controlled risk, enables Service Personnel to develop the fortitude, rigour, robustness, initiative and leadership necessary to deliver the resilience that military personnel require on operations and during other military tasks.

As directed military training, soldiers are given access to fantastic opportunities at a fraction of the cost of conducting similar training in civilian life, however, these



expeditions are not free. AT guidance requires that central funding only cover a portion of the cost of training. The KSYA kindly supported a portion of the costs of the two sailing expeditions to ensure that all C Sqn soldiers were given the same opportunity, regardless of background or situation.

The Sharpshooters decided to renew their positive relations with the Royal Armoured Corps Yacht Club, and asked them to help provide both yacht and instructor. Cpl Matt Cattell, the boatswain of the RACYC was the intrepid skipper, and White Knight VII the illustrious vessel. All RAC members, past and present are automatically members of the RACYC, and can take advantage of its generous charter rates. As a result, C Sqn was able to determine exactly how and where it wanted to deliver its expeditions, to the best advantage of the prospective crew, at minimal cost to both army and service person.

So, where did the nautically-minded Yeoman sail? The first expedition, Yeoman Gale, sailed in June, and comprised of a series of testing passages along the south coast of England. Departing from the home of White Knight VII at Gosport, and sailing hard for the historic ports of Weymouth, Dartmouth and finally Falmouth. The crew were all inexperienced landlubbers when they stepped on-board, but they worked hard under the keen eye of skipper Cattell, and were soon readily able to tell their bowlines from their boathooks. By the time they undertook their final passage between Plymouth and Falmouth, a testing night sail in inclement weather, the yeomen were a seasoned crew, acting as one to tack and jibe. On finally reaching harbour as dawn broke, the crew were sorry to leave their floating home of the last week, but also glad to no longer have to endure Tpr Egbunike's curious dietary proclivities.

September's expedition had a very different goal. Crewed by a mixture of naval novices and seasoned hands, Yeoman Tempest aimed to qualify two new Day Skippers and two Competent Crew by the end of cruise. The testing tidal currents of the Solent provided the perfect crucible to train these aspiring captains of the sea. The crew concentrated on conducting a series of complex passages around the many ports and rivers around the south coast and the Isle of Wight. Weather varied from glorious sun to stormy seas, giving the crew plenty of opportunity to test themselves across a range of sailing conditions. But as enterprising Yeomen this did not stop them from making



2Lt Dunn. To Jibe or to gybe the answer is in here somewhere.

the most of the lively seaside towns; whether that was gate-crashing the Seaview Sailing Regatta (coming ashore suitably attired for dinner in a high-power RIB), carousing in Cowes or exploring the entertainments of gaudy Gosport.

Wherever the sailing Yeomen went, they upheld the best traditions of both the Sharpshooters and the Royal Yeomanry, working conscientiously to improve as individuals and as a team. They learnt new skills, tested their endurance, but also importantly



enjoyed their experience. At every port the Royal Yeomanry visited they proudly raised the flag of the RY on the masthead for all the harbour to see, and happily fielded questions from many curious passers-by.

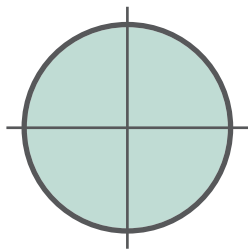
So where next for sailing in C Sqn and the RY? With the newly qualified Day Skippers, the RY can now plan and conduct sailing expeditions independently. And with the cohort of qualified Competent Crew, more ambitious routes can be explored. Another training cruise is planned during the summer season to allow more Yeomen the opportunity to experience the challenges of offshore sailing. And for the experienced sailors, the RY plans to submit a team for the prestigious Three Peaks Yacht Race – a gruelling sailing and running endurance race incorporating the three highest peaks in Wales, Scotland and England. And from there? As far as a sail full of wind will carry them!

Sgt Chris Smith recalls:

I took part in the June cruise - Ex Yeoman Gale and the weather was amazing. The only time it rained was during the night sail, which wasn't too bad at all. We all got to practice knots, navigating, tacking and jibing. On the Wednesday we spotted some Cruise ships anchored offshore and decided to get closer to have a look. The security came out from their sunbathing when they saw us get too close.

I cannot recommend sailing enough. I admit it's not everyone's cup of tea, but nothing ventured nothing gained.

The Royal Armoured Corps Yacht club is open to all serving RAC Officers and Soldiers, both Regular and Reserve. For retired members it currently costs £10 per annum or lifetime for £150.



KENYA – EX ASKARI STORM

by Sgt Harries

265 KCLY (Sharpshooters) Sqn

During 2021 I was given the golden opportunity to deploy outside of the UK for six weeks, destination Kenya (who wouldn't want to do this after being on COVID lockdown for the last two years). This deployment was to provide G6 support for Exercise Askari Storm, a biannual exercise that tests and validates battalion effectiveness prior to deployment.

I received the news that I was successful, and that I would be deploying with 11th Security Force Assistance Brigade, formally 11th Infantry Brigade as part of a HICON set up, my role, Troop Sgt G6.

Medicals, jabs, paper work, anti malaria tablets and extra kit sourced it was now time to play the waiting game. Due to evacuation of Kabul, COVID and strict isolation periods the next month or so was very much on the plane, off the plane with flights being reprioritised and cancelled last minute, finally a firm date was given though all of the G6 team were to be split over a week and four different flights.

6th October finally arrived, a two hour drive to Birmingham to catch a civilian charter plane to Nairobi, once touched down it was a long coach ride north to Nyati Barracks, Nanyuki. Finally arriving at 2am (local time), time for our isolation period, a nice seven





day stay in tents. The weather could have been dryer, with daily 16:00 heavy rainfalls, so accurate you could set your watch to them.

Isolation consisted of sleep, shower, breakfast, sleep/film/read, climatization PT, shower, lunch, read, diner, sleep multiplied by seven days.

The day finally arrived, COVID checks, all clear, you'd be moved to the transit accommodation which was slightly better than the tents in that they had dry concrete floors. Two days later, results back, our tent was clear.

Day eight in Kenya and I finally met with the YofS to better understand our task and the difficulties that may lay ahead. Tasking confirmed, provide data and HF/VHF for a Bde HICON location. The next few days were spent begging and borrowing kit. A brief PACEX and we were ready to deploy, in total we had 2 x FFR and a MDOR (a Bowman platform in cases).

Ten day field deployment - G6 would be broken down, a road move and a air move courtesy of a RAF Puma 2 to Lolldaiga training area (which turned out to be a safari park).

Touch down at Lolldaiga, and wow, one of the most beautiful places I have ever been, not a bad location for a ten-day field ex.

Once in location it was time to set up our comms assets. Due to the location of CSS (Combat Service Support) I had to recce and deploy a VHF and UHF Rebro site. Location identified, now the 45 minute drive to reach the peak - 7,800ft. Unfortunately one of the FFRs didn't make it, having encountered a clutch issue (burnt out) we had to tow to the peak and set up. A quick bearing check we were all up and established a rebro. Unfortunately, as Tp Sgt I was unable to stay on the rebro so had to move back to the main HICON location.



It wasn't long before we received an urgent call from the rebro site, they can hear lions. At the time they had no defence stores/animal packs in place so spent a luxury night, on safari, sleeping in the front of their 110.

Day two, the battle was moving north which meant we had to deploy a second rebro, plans all made and the second was deployed. The following eight days were spent swapping crews and resupplying the two rebro sites, unfortunately I didn't get the chance to stay on one of these rebros, though as a driver I did get the chance to drive and see the amazing sights of Mount Kenya and the wildlife.

The exercise however was far from safe, the terrain provided a challenge to drive on, with altitudes of up to 7,800 ft and sheer drops it wasn't for the light hearted. Then add the wild life aspect, in particular elephants who would literally appear out of nowhere, they are also, as I found out are very protective of their babies (and rightly so), after being charged by an angry Dad with only a landrover 110 for protection.

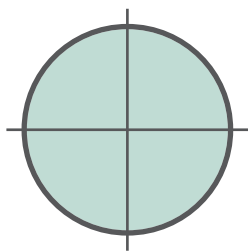
There was also two occasions where the rebro crews encountered animal incursions with only a mini flare to protect them, we later found out these actually encouraged them to advance rather than scare them off, I still wonder if these were Catnip versions. Eight days in, the rebro sites finally received some razor wire.

Before I knew it, endex was called. Unfortunately due to the tight timelines there was no opportunity for adventure training, but I did manage to get out of camp and soak up some of the local food/hospitality.

Unfortunately, due to a military coup in the Sudan all military flights were cancelled, this resulted in a possible two-week delay, however, as my employer wanted me back my unit arranged a civilian flight back to the UK.

Kenya was an amazing experience and one I would encourage others to do (there are not many people who get to sleep under the stars on a safari site in Kenya... and get paid for it), hopefully I will get another opportunity to deploy there again....soon.





MUSEUM TRUST – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

**by Chris Sutton
Chair of Trustees**

I want to start with some highlights of a short speech by Lt Gen Sir Philip Trousdell, the outgoing chairman of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, which acts as an umbrella body for army museums in the UK. The speech was given at the AMOT annual conference in October, and resonates very much with our experiences at the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum Trust.

General Sir Philip addressed two specific topics – the role of army museums as part of our national heritage, and the increasing importance of digital collections to complement our physical collections.

He commented on how, a decade ago, the importance of military museums was very much downplayed by the MOD, who one would have thought would be a key champion of museums, given how museums can reinforce traditions in the minds of serving soldiers and create an appreciation by society at large of the vital role that the military performs, past and present. It took the intervention of the Arts Council, a key champion of the cultural sector, to “remind” the MOD of the irreplaceable contribution of army museums to our national heritage. At least for the time being, the voice of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust is once again respected in Whitehall, which now includes within the MOD’s Army Heritage branch a certain SO1 Lt Col Simon McMenemy. We look forward to hearing great things from you Simon!

General Sir Philip also reflected on how digitisation is helping reach new audiences at home and internationally. Through the Ogilby Muster, a major project funded by LIBOR fines paid by banks, the WW1 records of over 80 museums, including ours, have been scanned and made available online. The access is such that international researchers will pay to study documents in our collection – it is early days, but a potential new source of income for us. He made an analogy with army training exercises using lasers, which many thought would be ineffective training. What people are now seeing is that it is the combination of “lead AND lasers” is highly effective. So with museums, it is the combination of digital AND physical collections that will underpin our future.

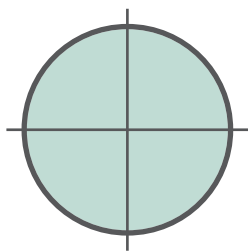
These two themes have resonated in our museum this year. We are not simply a museum of interest to what the late Boris Mollo would call “military nuts”. It is more nuanced than that. We do have such people, including Gordon Bubb, a volunteer from outwith the KSY with a passion for restoring old military vehicles. Through the expertise and generous free time of Gordon and his friends, Sally (our Saladin gate guard) has never looked better. But we are also a key visitor attraction for all visitors to Hever, young and old, and our landlord (Hever Castle Ltd) recognises our value and the rootedness and authenticity that we represent in the culture of Kent and the County of London.

Naturally, part of what attracts people to the museum is fresh exhibits, including the great work that Gordon has done. It doesn't stop there - at the time of writing we have a team of volunteers led by David Whitehouse who are creating brilliantly authentic exhibits within the Anderson shelter that now stands alongside the museum.

We are really pleased to have won three new grants this year, one for something very digital, the other two for something very physical. The Army Museums Ogilby Trust is funding the creation of a virtual video tour of our museum in 2022. This will significantly increase our footprint and hopefully visitor stream. In the other two cases South East Museums Development Fund together with the Arts Council is contributing £600 to funding the conservation of the very physical Elham troop East Kent Yeomanry guidon, a real treasure from the late 18th century, whose condition had left it in danger of saying goodbye to the physical world altogether. The Museum Trust is contributing £400 whilst the KSY Association has contributed £1300 funded by a very successful crowd funding effort from both members of the Association and Trustees to whom we extend our grateful thanks. The second project is also funded by South East Museums is called Project Diversity and will be based on two artefacts. The first is a new portrait of John Morrison BEM who came from Ghana and to be painted by High Beattie. The second artifact is 'Oscar' the silver sikh statue and we will be exploring the linkages with the UK Punjab Historical Association to bring stories to life at Hever during their Home Front weekend in the summer (June) 2022.

I want to close by citing another speech at the AMOT conference, this time from Julian Farrance the Director of the National Army Museum, who has been a great friend and supporter of our museum. He had received more than a few comments that the new NAM had gone a bit off piste in terms of the relevance of its displays. Albeit with a slightly bigger budget than ours, he has now suspended a Lynx helicopter across the lobby and placed a Challenger tank outside the main entrance. He wants to leave no doubt in people's minds that the NAM is an army museum. In the same vein, amidst all the exciting developments, we at the KSY Museum Trust have always felt that it is really important that we remain rooted as your museum, the museum of the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry. Please don't hesitate to share your ideas with us for how you would like to see your museum develop. Financial contributions to help turn ideas into reality would also be most gratefully received.





KENT & SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST

Curator's Report by Dan Taylor

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

Curatorial posts held as of 30th November 2021

Hon Curator: Dan Taylor

Curator (Hever) and Trust Secretary: Huw Jones

Curator (Croydon): Tim Rayson

Curator (Bexleyheath): David Whitehouse

As strange as 2020 was, it had nothing on 2021. The first half of the year beguiled us by perpetuating the frustrating inactivity of the previous year. It proved to be the calm before the storm.

In what has been a roller-coaster ride of furious activity, this has been the year of the Volunteer. Once Covid restrictions started to ease in May we were at last able to get a team together at the museum to freshen everything up for the reopening in June. This was neatly tied in with a planning meeting with our volunteers to attempt to disseminate some of the tasks around the group. There followed a two-week phase where the museum was manned every day in order to ensure a smooth transition for the visitor experience. The period of manned operation coincided with Hever's 'Home Front' event over the last weekend of June, where we had an exceptional time due in no small part to the enthusiasm of the volunteer team.

This was swiftly followed by our (almost) annual Student Volunteer week, where we had five enthusiastic teenagers – Emily, Madelaine, Mark, Eve and Freddie – working on the photographic archive, clearing up the museum store and generally trying some conservation techniques. The highlight of the week was a behind-the-scenes visit to the East of England Military Museum, Norfolk, to see how this rather exceptional organisation approaches conservation of a fleet of running historic military vehicles. Freddie has gone on to make tentative steps in restoring the museum's social media presence, now posting regularly on Instagram and Facebook. Eve has begun the process of transcribing the voices of our volunteers from the Agius collection in order to make the information accessible to a wider audience.

Clearing the store revealed one rather worrying incursion. It appears that moths had discovered our uniform storage facility at Hever. Once identified, we were able to call on our exceptional volunteer network in order to create and implement a solution. In



Renovation Day. The team turn out in all weathers to perform sterling work in keeping the museum in peak condition for our visitors. The faces vary a little from one activity to another but the enthusiasm never wanes.



Cleaning. A variety of tasks are undertaken – in this case jet washing the 25-pounder field gun in preparation for repainting – and a myriad of eager volunteers are on hand for every assignment.



PhotoAlbum. A page from one of the five new albums that have made their way into the collection this year. This one belonged to the medical officer who accompanied 21st Company, Imperial Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) to South Africa in 1900.

Sigs Service Cap. Contributions towards our Cold War collection have continued apace over the last couple of years, and it is great that we can balance out the Regimental family by incorporating 265 Squadron items, such as this beautifully kept Royal Signals Service Cap. A very welcome addition.





The Team. Nine team members who came in for our Volunteer Day in the summer. The group has a variety of skills, which we mercilessly exploit, and seem to be having fun no matter how humdrum the task in which they are engaged.

two weeks, a gang of ten was assembled for a day's worth of checking, bagging and processing the uniforms. A chest freezer was kindly offered as a means of fixing the issue as this kills off both moths and their progeny – thank you Neil. We did lose a couple of pairs of battledress trousers due to the moth attack, though fortunately they were a common pattern for which we have duplicates. As part of the exercise the store got a deep cleanse. At the start of November, we assembled another team and reversed the process, debagging and drying the uniforms before returning them to the store.

Another facet of our volunteer team is our 'Black Gang'. They are a team of mechanically minded enthusiasts who have very kindly taken on responsibility for the external exhibits. Gordon, Oliver, Oren, and John (with a little additional occasional help) have been working on the Saladin and 25-pounder, bringing both to a much healthier state. Astonishingly, they have managed to breath a little life into the Saladin's engine and the turret has been turned under power too. Forgotten escape hatches mean that the much-improved interior can be seen from outside of the vehicle, without the necessity to climb on it, and neither exhibit looks quite as neglected as they once did.

One volunteer-led novelty has been the creation of a Sharpshooters presence at Military shows. To this end we have experimented with our own living history group. In due course, the intention is that we can provide a small unit at such shows as a form of 'advertising hoarding' for visiting the museum. This has proved very helpful in forging contacts with a broad group who are naturally disposed towards our history.

Besides the student group and the Black Gang, we have a dedicated contingent who regularly carry out some of the unsung tasks around the museum – from silver polishing to gardening. It is thanks to this group that the museum looks well-kept and that we



Cromwell. Late in the year we had the opportunity to visit an engineering firm near Milton Keynes that specialises in the restoration of armoured vehicle. The key draw is that a friend of the Regiment owns two Cromwell tanks currently undergoing work there, and one of them (shown here) is set to be marked up as one of 4 CLY's mounts in Normandy. The site was a revelation as they have six Cromwell related tanks undergoing work on site (plus a near relative, the Charioteer), and a number of other Second World War vintage vehicles. The hope is that we can take part in living history events with a Cromwell to set the scene.

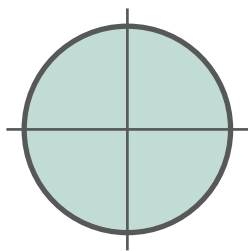


Odyssey. Our first living history event attended as a Sharpshooter contingent was Military Odyssey, held at Detling, Kent, in August. We were fortunate to set up alongside an established group who represent 43 Division's Recce Regiment, on whose Dingo Scout Car we have clearly staked a claim.

can react so quickly when some crisis arises. A shout-out therefore for Peter, Michael, Anne, Lucy, Sheila, Bridie, Connie, Paul, Arthur, Ernie, Graham, Will and (with a special 'mentioned in dispatches') Neil.

Accessioning of new items to the collection has had to take a back seat while conservation and reopening have been the main priority, but we have had some rather exceptional items gifted to the museum. A fuller list will appear next year and pictures are appended here to whet your appetite.

Dan Taylor
December 2021



KSY MUSEUM BLACK GANG REPORT 2021

by Gordon Bubb

This report covers the work carried out on the Saladin armoured car and the 25-pounder field gun during 2021 by museum volunteers. Those involved were Gordon Bubb, Oliver and Oren Boyle and John Shill with occasional help from various others. We have been labelled The Black Gang by the powers-that-be.

The Saladin

During May there was a volunteers' working day in preparation for the summer season, prior to re-opening the museum after the Spring Covid shutdown. At this time it was thought that the Saladin was without an engine. She was looking quite neglected and more than a little sorry for herself, with some external parts missing or incorrect.

The first task was to free up all her seized hatches. With some effort enough were opened, enough to ascertain that in fact the engine was present, as were the transmission elements in the fighting compartment. With this discovery the Black Gang came into being with the long term aim of trying to re-commission the vehicle to running order – not to mention making her look more presentable and photogenic for the public. While the ambition of getting her into running condition is yet to be met, it is hoped that a transition to a cosmetically perfect condition can be achieved in relatively short order.



A large quantity of oak leaves and acorns had wormed their way into the vehicle through various orifices and needed to be removed. The resident mouse was given his marching orders and his access barred against other squatters.

The engine was seized but has now been freed. One exhaust valve remains stuck open, and low compression effects all other cylinders. We are assured by local experts that the engine should still be capable of starting and, once running, the stuck valve may free itself. Amazingly the engine and hydraulic oils were both at the correct level and appeared to be fresh and clean, despite some thirty years spent as a gate guardian. All the numerous belts are serviceable. Five of the tyres were also at the correct pressure.

Interestingly, our research revealed that the registration number was incorrect. The correct number has been ascertained, which was difficult as the military equivalent of the VIN plate is missing. The vehicle record card was obtained from the Tank Museum and this ties in with the engine history record card which is still present on the engine, helping to confirm her true identity.

Inside the turret everything was present with the main exceptions of the breech block, and the two radios that would have been fitted. The wiring harness for them is present which has allowed the type of radios to be ascertained. One has been sourced and we are still looking for the second.

All turret systems are now operational so “tours” are a possibility for those capable of getting climbing aboard.

The offside escape hatch has been freed and was removed for Hever’s Home Front weekend to allow the public to view the car’s interior. When the gang is on site all the crew hatches are opened, generating an agreeable amount of public interest.

In the driving compartment the hand brake lever and minor engine controls are seized, and it is known that there is a problem with the gearbox.

The car is left with all hatches and bins either locked from the inside or padlocked. We will watch with interest next spring to see if the blue tits make a new nest in one of the triangular bins as they did this year. They gained entry via the drain hole underneath the bin. All easily removed items have been secured to the car by various means to prevent theft.

The 25-pdr Field Gun

Following better-than-expected progress with the Saladin, work was started on the 25 pdr with a view to judging the difficulty of recommissioning it. As with the Saladin, initially everything was seized with rust. However like the Saladin most moving parts have now



been freed with no great effort. Currently all the gun controls are operational although some need further exercise to free them fully.

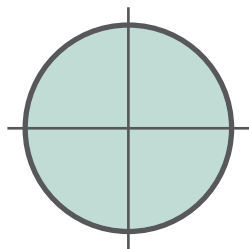


The breech block and associated parts are being de-rusted and painted over the winter. It is hoped that the gun may be restored to a condition where it could be capable of firing blank rounds for salutes and other ceremonial events. The gun is always left with the cradle locked in the travelling position to prevent possible damage both to the gun and also probing fingers. A tool is needed to unlock it.

Our Thanks

Especial thanks must be made to Mrs. Sue Derrington (C13 radio), Mr. Richard Moyles (Larkspur headsets), Mr. Rob Dixon (25 pdr firing mech), Mr. Dom Blanchard of LRSeries amongst others for either making parts available to us at below market prices or by donation.





KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION STANDARD BEARER REPORT

by Kevin Wright

Shortly after taking-up this appointment in 2011 I wrote an introductory article which appeared in the 2011/12 Journal. Now 10-years on the Secretary has pressed me for an update.

Looking back, I have certainly got around on my duties – Standard Blessing services at St James’ Palace, Funerals and Memorial services around the Country, Remembrance Parades in Croydon, Federation of London Old Comrades Association Parades & Reviews at Armoury House London, and Annual Flag Raising for Armed Services Day at City of London Guildhall.



June 2019 The Lord Mayor *Locum Tenens* admiring my side hat.



Under Naval Command at City of London Guildhall.



Dedication of Commonwealth War Graves Commission tablet to Frank Norman Wright at Torquay Cemetery July 2021.



“The Last Huzzah”,

Final Parade of the Federation of London Old Comrades Association on 3rd October 2021.
3rd County of London (Sharpshooters) inscribed under Yeomanry at the top of the memorial.

In response to the latter, I applied to St John Ambulance and after acceptance underwent training before being deployed as a Volunteer Vaccinator.

The route from registration of interest to deployment is mapped-out in the diagram below, courtesy of St John Ambulance. When on duty or “Shift” I subsequently received



training and sign-off by a Health Care Professional (Doctor) to draw-up Vaccines. Additional learning and skills such as this being added to my Learning Passport, which had previously been issued to me at completion of stage 7 at the end of December 2020.

As a fully trained and qualified vaccinator - although a large proportion of my shifts were busily spent administering vaccinations - I also fulfilled other roles essential in the overall functioning of vaccination centres, these being.

As a Patient Advocate – either marshalling large queues of citizens through booking-in procedures at a Vaccination Centre or entering post-vaccination records on the national Pinnacle system.

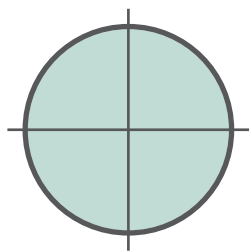
As a Patient Carer, because I am also trained to respond to citizens fainting and in case of anaphylactic shock, I undertook this role in relation to the post-Pfizer vaccination 15-minute observation period.

The process for booking shifts is through a national GRS (Global Rostering System) via PC, or in my case iPad, whereby shifts are posted at the various centres where St John Ambulance operate and vaccinators “Volunteer” by selecting a vacant shift. If allocated the requested shift by central administration, it is transferred to a “My Duties” section on screen – and then you go to work on the allocated day and time. Shifts vary in duration, but average about six-hours.

During the course of this year I have carried out numerous shifts at various vaccination centres, including Bexley Civic Centre in July 2021.



Bexley Civic Centre during a Vaccination Shift – my image reflected in the glass cabinet. Never far from the Kent & Sharpshooters! Our former cap badge on that left hand cushion. I have recently completed further NHS learning modules for the Booster COVID-19 vaccination and winter Flu vaccination programme. Dipping and Jabbing. Well, that’s what your right arm is for!



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2021

Chris Moden

Dear Sharpshooters,

It has been a privilege to serve another year as Membership Secretary. Last year, my report didn't make it into the journal but I promise you there was no conspiracy. I am pleased to report that as of December 2021 the KSYA totalled 421 members including serving soldiers in the two Sharpshooter Squadrons. This is slightly up from the 317 in the previous year and 420 in 2019.

You may recall that in 2019 we undertook a review of the nominal roll and wrote to many members we hadn't heard from for some time. The reduction in membership is due to the removal of those who we couldn't trace, have lost contact with or sadly are no longer with us. In many cases their journals are returned.

The full membership breakdown for 2021.

Membership 2021

Full Member.....	367
Family Member	14
Friend of KSYA	25
Honorary Member	9
Vice President	5
President	1
Total Members	421
Members who are Subscribers	79

For the last three years I have lived in Malta on a posting with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. During this year's Remembrance Day events I went to the Pieta Military Cemetery where I visited the graves of two Royal East Kent Yeoman, 2Lt Frank Noel Tuff and Sgt Hubert Anning.

Tuff aged 26 died on 5 November 1915 of wounds received at Helles Gallipoli. There is some speculation that his wounds from a 'bomb accident' may have been a result of supply shortages which forced the troops to use homemade grenades from old jam jars and tins crammed with bits of metal and explosives. Anning also aged 26, died at St Georges Hospital in Malta on 28 November 1915 from jaundice contracted during service.

There are nearly 10,000 graves of servicemen and women in Malta ranging from pre-WW1 to post WW2. During WW1, Malta became known as the nurse of the Mediterranean and 20 hospitals were established to look after casualties from the



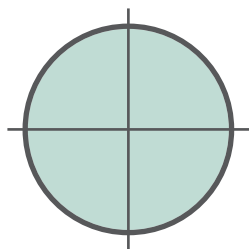
Remembrance 2021 Malta.

Eastern Mediterranean theatre. Tuff and Anning are as a sobering reminder that many of those casualties were not a result of enemy action.

If you are reading this and you're not sure if you are a member of the KSYA and would like to be then please contact me at membershipsec@ksya.org.uk.

Yours aye,
Chris Moden
KSYA Membership Secretary
Cpl, C Sqn RY 2006-2015

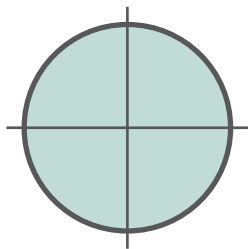




**ROYAL WEST KENT
YEOMANRY IMAGES FROM
THE GREAT WAR**
from the collection of Simon Malik







FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

2021

by Marian Hannam

The 93rd Field of Remembrance was held on Thursday 11th November 2021 on the lawn of St Margaret's Church, Westminster between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. Over 60,000 Remembrance crosses and symbols of all faiths and none, each decorated with a remembrance poppy, were laid out in 308 plots in the names of military associations and other organisations. All proceeds from The Field of Remembrance are donated to The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

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 fallen *Kent Yeomen* or *Sharpshooters* and six individual crosses in memory of those who had passed away since the last Field of Remembrance.

The Service opened with the arrival at the Field of HRH, The Duchess of Cornwall. Prayers were offered by The Very Reverend John Hall, Dean of Westminster Abbey after which Her Royal Highness laid a personal Cross of Remembrance. 'The Last Post' was then sounded by a Bugler from the Band of the Scots Guards.

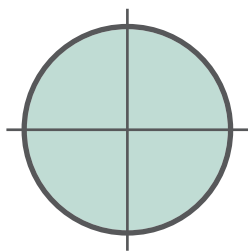
The 'Exhortation to Remembrance' was delivered by Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis, CBE, DL, President of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, after which the two-minute silence was observed followed by 'Reveille'.

Her Royal Highness then undertook a review of the plots. Tim Rayson, Honorary Secretary of the *Association*, was our plot representative on this occasion.

The following members of the *Association* also attended: John Annett, Barrie and Carol Corfield, Marian Hannam, Toby James, Ron Snowball, Stu Tutt, Keith Wrate, Kevin Wright and Will Wright.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"





THE 74th EL GUBI DINNER (80th Anniversary)

Saturday 19th November 2021

**by Steve Shelley,
Assistant Secretary**

With the country continuing to stave-off the plague and restriction rules changing to meet circumstances, a sign that matters are actually getting better, in spite of Omicron, was that we were able to return to the Cavalry and Guards Club to commemorate the battle of Bir El Gubi and host the annual KSYA dinner. In spite of the challenges in organising – Tim Rayson as master co-ordinator – and the ability in attending, there was an impressive turnout by members. It is in times like this that the annual gathering is very much what the doctor ordered.

The Guard were provided by 265 (KCLY) (Sharpshooters) Support Squadron and after pre-dinner drinks the assembled sat down a fine spread of good food and wine. Proceedings followed the traditional format of toasts to the Queen, the Royal Honorary Colonels, Absent Friends, Guests and the Sharpshooters. In his address, the Chairman particularly welcomed the Australian Army Advisors from the High Commission and, once again, David Sale as Master Insurer of the Worshipful Company of Insurers (WCI), our associated City livery company who provide tangible support to the Association which is much appreciated. The Chairman had written to Her Majesty the Queen offering the Association's loyal greetings on the occasion of the El Gubi anniversary and Her Majesty had graciously replied.



Hon Secretary with the Australian Contingent.



The only way is up - to dinner.



The 265 Sqn guard, Crazy Carl Crane and Chris Chadwick.



The Gillmans, Andy Greenwood, Twinge and Dave Trew.



The Chairman's speech.



The Master of the WCI speaking at the dinner.

Each year the WCI, on advice from the Association, make an award to an individual in each serving squadron in recognition of either valuable service or deed above and beyond the normal call of duty. For the 2021 the winners are:

C (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron – Sergeant Richard Dunning.

Sgt Dunning came back from Op CABRIT (a NATO operation supported by both reserve and regular soldiers) with an injury, and as such was unable to demobilise. This meant he spent the last several months day-to-day managing the C Sqn recruitment troop, including the recruits themselves and recruitment processes and activity. His contribution to the Squadron during this time has been significantly meaningful and important – Sgt Dunning has been crucial to delivering trained soldiers to the Squadron at a time when it has been needed the most in recent memory. His hands-on approach, focus on and pastoral support of recruits as individuals, combined with his dedication, has been the drive behind this success.

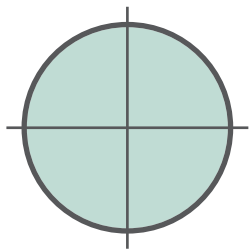
265 (Kent and County of London Yeomanry) (Sharpshooters) Support Squadron - Miss Beverly Simmons - Squadron Administration Officer.

Miss Simmonds is an absolute star and keeps the squadron on an even keel as far as G1 matters are concerned. What marks out her efforts as 'above and beyond' and makes her a deserving recipient of the WCI award is her work in recruiting. The Squadron is not established for a full-time recruiter as other squadrons but she takes on the majority of the tasks which the recruiters would normally carry out – processing applications, undertaking interviews, booking courses, attending recruiting conferences and generally making sure that the recruits' progress through the system is as smooth as possible. All of this is carried out in addition to her mandated tasks and often involves out of hours working. Without her sterling efforts the Squadron would not be in the position it is now with close to 100% recruited and a pipeline of potential squadron members capable of bringing it to 120%.

It is good to record the recognition in support of recruiting which is the new lifeblood of the serving squadrons.

The 'traditional' collection was taken and the Chairman is most grateful for the contribution to the Association funds which has added value when the Gift Aid claim is made totally some £600.

The Chairman concluded the evening by noting that it was good to get back together again, especially for the 80th anniversary of the battle, and that next year would see the 75th anniversary of the first dinner.



THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND – CATERAN YOMP 2020(1!)

**by Lee Sirett
formerly C – Sqn LAD REME**

About six years ago my daughter expressed an interest in joining the Army Cadets and rather than shuttling her there and back I ended up volunteering, completing my training and becoming a Cadet Forces Adult Volunteer with Surrey Army Cadets. I'm not alone in doing this – I'm aware there are a few of you out there who've gone down this road.

Towards the end of 2019 some of my fellow instructors (no-one can quite remember whose bright idea it was) came up with the idea of completing the Cateran Yomp in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. For those not familiar, this is an event the ABF have put on for the last 10 years. There are three levels, bronze (22 miles), silver (36 miles) and gold (54 miles). Of course, we decided to Go for Gold. The route is based around the Cateran trail through the foothills of the Cairngorms. I forgot to mention – the idea is that you complete the course in 24hrs or under. Having previously completed the Great Strides 65Km in aid of Cystic Fibrosis (about 42 miles in old money) with some of the old C Sqn boys (you know who you are!) and really enjoyed it, I was very much up for the challenge of 54 miles.

Of course, COVID delayed things and the event got cancelled for 2020. It was touch and go for 2021 but finally the organisers announced it would run in 2021 but later in the year, September 11th rather than the usual June. This would mean less daylight and more walking in the pitch dark!



Raring to go at the Start author on the left.

There were four of us in the team, none of us youngsters. The youngest is 47, the oldest (me!) is 53.

The plan was to drive up the day before the yomp, stay in a local hostel, do the walk in 24hrs or less, get some sleep and then drive all the way home again. A 1200 mile round trip with a 24hr yomp thrown in the middle then...

The drive up took us 11 hrs with stops and we arrived at the start/finish line at Blairgowrie in time for the compulsory safety brief at 1900 on the Friday evening. It is a very well organised event, plenty of food available, a bar, there is a campsite with showers and facilities too. Many people just stay in this area pre and post their yomp. Once the safety brief was over, we heard from a lady called Brendan Hale the ABF Yomp Ambassador for 2021. She told us the story of how she met her husband Mark, whilst he was serving on tour in Northern Ireland. As a local girl their relationship had been somewhat frowned upon, but they had fallen in love and eventually got married. After 22 years of marriage and with two daughters still at school, Mark was killed while serving with 2Rifles in Afghanistan. Overnight Brenda and her daughters went from having everything to having nothing. The Army had lost Mark's will and the family was effectively destitute. That's when the ABF stepped in to help both financially, emotionally and legally. It was a very poignant moment and there were more than a few dusty eyes. If we weren't already aware of why we were going to put ourselves through this experience, then we surely were after that story.

Our departure time on the Saturday was set for 0630. Weather was said to be overcast and we arrived at the start line with light drizzle. This being Scotland in September we all expected this to get much worse as the day wore on. We were however in high spirits and raring to go. The route is challenging – within half a mile there is a steep climb to 150m that rapidly thins out the cluster of walkers setting off. We were in fine form all the way through to the first water stop (WS) at the six mile mark, the route having flatten out a bit after that initial “up”. Surprisingly the weather had cleared and it was turning into a nice sunny day. Camel baks and water bottles replenished and with half a ton of flapjacks and other “fuel” on board we set off towards the first real check point. The second leg took us through some quite dense woodland as well as across open



On the way to CP 1.



The climb up to the saddle above Spittal of Glenshee.

moorland and again we were surprised by the lack of the other big fear we had coming into all of this...the dreaded midges. There simply didn't appear to be any. Of course, we all had repellent but even then, there was a distinct lack of the biting little b****rs. All in all, it was turning into a very pleasant adventure. The route from the first water stop to the first check point at Kirkmichael follows the river Ardlie. Although up on the valley side, it was quite easy going and we reached Kirkmichael at around 1100.

From Kirkmichael the route veers off the River Ardlie and up into the Cairngorms. By the time we reached the next waterstop at Enochdhu we were up and into some really beautiful countryside. Apart from the Yompers, there was nothing to show that we were in the 21st century at all. With the weather staying fine it was quite amazing. There is quite a bit of "Up" to get to Enochdhu, but nothing compared to the next stage. Although short at only two and a half miles, it is a long climb all the way up to a saddle between a hill called Creag an Dubh Shlulc (your guess is as good as mine!) and another peak, Coire Lairige. It was at this point that one of our team began to struggle. Andy had come into this with a bit of an injury and the long climb took its toll. We all tried to rally round but, in the end, he just wanted to complete it in his own time. There were plenty of other walkers so we left him to it! Once into the saddle one is rewarded with the sight of Spittal of Glenshee, a small village down in the valley where three rivers meet. This was check point 2 and the Bronze finish at 22 miles. We reached this at 1400 – Andy coming in some 15 minutes behind us. This was our lunch stop. We all did sock changes and took stock. The other three of us were in fine state, but Andy needed a bit of time to sort himself out. The rest of us were concerned about his ability to complete the next stage to silver some 14 miles away and across more mountainous countryside. However, he wanted to give it a go so the four of us set off for WS 3 at Glen Beanie...

It was tough going. The route follows the valley out of Spittal of Glenshee for about a mile before turning abruptly up the side and up into the mountains again to a Loch (Loch Beanie). The terrain around here was very boggy. Lots of hopping from one solid patch of grass to another. Predictably this proved really challenging for Andy and we were very slow to reach WS 3. Bizarrely, at one end of Loch Beanie there is a small sand beach! The last thing any of us expected to find up in the mountains!

It had taken us just over three hours to get to WS3 and from there the route drops into another valley and up again to a place called Auchintaple for WS 4. Between three and four it is about two miles and yet it took us an hour and a half. Andy was struggling and it was really affecting our timings. We were all concerned at this point. We'd reached Auchintaple at about 1945. The three of us were doing the maths in our heads and looking at each other with the realisation that it would be dark in around two hours and we hadn't reached the Silver finish, Checkpoint 3 at Glenisla yet. That is at 36 miles... We would still have 18 more miles in the dark to reach Gold. And – what would Andy want to do when we got there? The three of us were quietly in agreement that he should retire at this point but none of us wanted to broach it with him and destroy his resolve at getting there in the first place by being negative.

The route from Auchintaple into Glenisla is somewhat forgiving after the previous seven hours of slogging up hill and down dale across the foothills of the Cairngorms. We covered just under three miles in an hour and a quarter. As we approached the Silver finish and the 36 mile point, Andy announced to the rest of us he would be retiring at this checkpoint. It was the right thing to do. We were all gutted for him, and he was really disappointed in himself. He'd fought through injury to get to 36 miles and it would be foolhardy to try and complete any more of the route in the dark in his condition. He'd done well and we told him so, but we were also relieved that we could now try and make up some time and increase the pace.

We ate dinner at Glenisla and took the opportunity to re-pack our kit, ditching everything but the essentials to reduce the weight we were carrying. Obviously, we had a backup team supporting us who Andy was now with and they took everything we didn't need. It was pitch dark and with head torches on we left Glenisla just before 2200hrs. There were three more waterstops between us and the Gold finish and it would be a case of taking each one, one at a time. The remaining three of us were confident. We were getting tired, we ached a bit, but we were good to go. No blisters, no injuries. Off we went.

And we set a fast pace. We were overtaking other people and other teams. It was pitch black and we were going through forests and across open tussock moorland. We were all kicking tree roots, lumps and bumps. Our toes were bouncing off the front of our boots like crazy! We made WS 5, roughly five miles, in just over two and a half hours. Not a bad pace in the dark on that terrain. We were all starting to really ache now though and my toes were getting a real battering. Still no blisters, but for me it was time to break out the Nurofen!

The next stage was by far the hardest. It was our lowest ebb. We were into the early hours of Sunday and we were almost on our chinstraps. Once again there had been a lot of "up" since we'd left Glenisla and there was a point halfway between WS5 and WS6 where we were going up (again!) the side of a hill along a wood line. It was quite steep, like going up stairs and there were tree roots everywhere. My only thought at this point was not to trip and fall. I really felt that I would not be able to get up again if I did.

We made WS6 in under two hours, some four miles, but we were really feeling it now. I still had no blisters but the other two had sustained some in the last stage and we were all feeling it in our toes. Hips were aching, legs, backs. But we weren't going to stop.

WS7, at Drimmie Wood and the last before the finish, is slightly easier terrain and we covered the roughly five miles to it in another two and a half hours. We had all been

a bit quieter on this stage. Our thoughts to ourselves and just putting one foot in front of the other. Keeping hydrated and munching on trail mix. Anything that could give us a bit more to keep going.

Drimmie Wood was a light show. Quite literally in the middle of the wood it was lit up by coloured lights! We'd encountered a few people really struggling over the last stage and when we got to Drimmie there were a few who had retired and one guy who literally passed out in front of us and fell off his chair.

The last leg to the finish is supposed to be easy by comparison. The route goes back into civilisation, on tarmac roads and following rivers again. And it is mostly downhill! We set off from Drimmie Wood at about 0430. It was still dark and maybe it was the fact the route was easier, I don't know, but I started to fall asleep on my feet walking about half a way into this last stage. We were on a tarmac road and one foot had just been going in front of the other, knowing we were nearly there and I just switched off. Head went and I was stumbling everywhere. Couldn't keep my eyes open. Very bizarre and I've never experienced anything like it before. In the end I had to wake myself up by splashing water in my face! The others found it amusing.

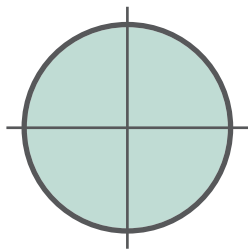
We were back in the town of Blairgowrie now; it was beginning to get light again and we knew we had about a mile and a half to go. Dawn was giving us renewed energy and we put our heads down for the line.

We crossed it at 0605 – 23 hrs and 35 minutes after we'd set off. We'd achieved it. 54 miles in under 24 hrs. We were very tired; we ached all over but we'd finished it and in doing so we'd raised £3,508 for a very worthwhile cause. I have to say a big thank you to many of this readership who sponsored me personally for this event and to the Association who contributed a whopping £250! I'm sure you are all aware of the good the ABF extends to the Army family.

It was an incredible experience. Would I do it again? Yes – in a heartbeat. Anyone want to join me?



The team at the finish minus one.



AN 1800-MILE JOURNEY ON SCOOTERS AND A VIKING WEDDING

by Dave and Kathryn Shrubb

Dave Shrubb, a former C Sqn 6 Tp, currently living in Nottinghamshire.

Background

The Sun Inn scooter club are a small group living around the Eastwood/Hucknall area in Nottinghamshire. The club has been running around 10 years and have raised money for many different charities during that time.

The club has a mixture of classic Lambretta's, Vespa's and Royal Alloy scooters.

In 2021 the club, supported by a local pub, decided to have a charity ride in support of the RBL. The Group of seven undertook a 15 day ride from Nottinghamshire up to the Orkney Isles and back. Whilst in the Orkney Islands the group also took part in a Viking wedding. Below are some photos from their journey.

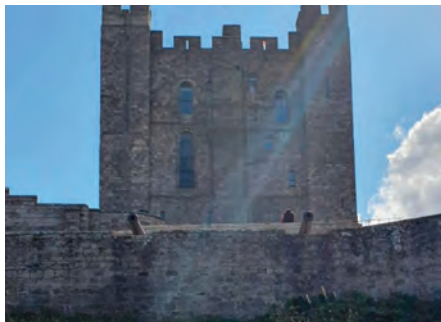


The group

Red Royal Alloy GP300 – Shaun & Debs; Cream Royal Alloy GP200 – Marcus & Maria; Black Royal Alloy GP300 – Dave & Kate; Yamaha FJR 1300 – Glenn.

The group had a sendoff from the local Cenotaph.

The second day saw the group at Lindisfarne Island.



They then had a long ride with more beautiful scenery as they headed towards Nairn and by day 4 had arrived at one of the most northerly towns of mainland Scotland, Wick before making the short journey to John-O-Groats, from where they took the ferry to the Orkney Islands.

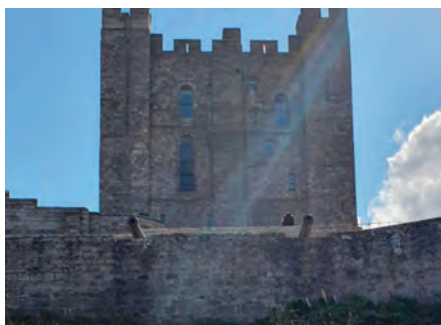
The next four days were spent in the beautiful Orkney Isles. The Orkney Isles are covered in history, from Scapa Flow and the Italian Chapel going right back to stone Circles said to be older than Stone Henge.



The Italian Chapel built by Italian prisoners of war and is very impressive inside and out well worth the visit.



Scapa Flow – Royal Oak memorial.



Dave Shrubbs and his wife had always been interested in Viking history and had also wanted a Viking wedding (or Handfasting). Below is a picture from their handfasting at the Comet Stone with the Ring of Brodgar in the background.



After spending a great time in Orkney the group set off from Kirkwall to Drumnadrochit before heading toward the Royal Marines Memorial at Speen Bridge.

The B&B they visited at Speen Bridge was also run by a veteran with a fantastic family history.

The next two days were spent riding, largely in the rain, back to England via Drymen.

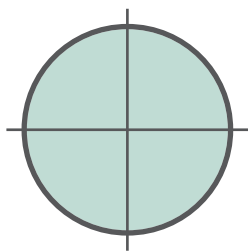
The group returned home via Southport. All feeling a little weary by now and the last few days were also interrupted by having to carry out running repairs on some of the bikes. However, what they loved was that wherever they stopped they came across other veterans who were more than delighted to donate to their cause.



They planned their journey to finish while a local scooter rally was taking place, which was also attended by the RBL.

In total the team raised around £2,800 which is split between the RBL Head Office and our local Branch. The team also made a donation of £100 to KSYA.





HENRY DENNE **(28.8.1830 to 5.1.1908)** **AND THE EAST KENT** **YEOMANRY**

Henry Denne was born in Littlebourne in Kent, the eldest son and fourth child of Denne Denne (né Hollingbery) and Elizabeth Pembroke. He was educated at Canterbury Cathedral School followed by University College, Oxford. His chosen career was the law. On 3rd April 1851 he was accepted as a member of Lincoln's Inn, pursuing his path towards becoming a barrister.

Life was not all work, however. He is recorded in Wisden as being an enthusiastic cricket fan and a good oarsman. Oxbridge records of the Boat Race list Henry as rowing at No 5 oar in the Oxford boat in the 1852 Boat Race. At 12 stone 8 lbs he is, by a slight margin, the heaviest man in the Oxford crew and, yes, they won that race.

On 12th May 1859 Henry was commissioned as Cornet into the East Kent Yeomanry (EKY), D troop, under the command of Captain the Earl of Mount Charles. His main occupation continues to be as a barrister. In line with the EKY remit, part time military service is not a hobby but a part time serious interest. The EKY muster rolls record his presence at several musters (e.g. May 1859 at Thanet, May 1861 at Bridge Gas Works, Half Way House and Dover). They also record his absence without leave at certain others including the end of the Bridge Gas Works muster. These absences may have had something to do with the timing of his legal work. It is not known whether there was any penalty other than not being paid for his absences.

In spite of moving from Kent to Berkshire (1861/2) and then to Sible Hedingham, Essex, Henry continued his East Kent military career. On 24th June 1862 Henry was promoted to Captain and from then until his departure for the continent appeared regularly at the musters. His father's



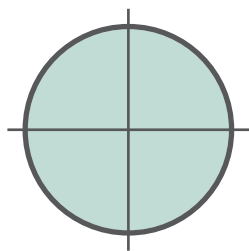
estate, Elbridge, becomes an occasional venue for these, notably in March 1863 and April 1865. This is interesting because Henry appears to have soured relations with his father by marrying Annie Murray Barkley in November 1859 in St Dunstan's, Canterbury rather than the family parish church of St Vincent's, Littlebourne. The Barkley family were well represented at the wedding, but Henry had his friend and fellow soldier, James Wells Armstrong, as his witness, against family custom.

On 7th October 1869, Henry resigned his commission. In 1869/70 Henry, Annie and their six children left England, heading first for Ostend where another son was born and then for Coblenz where two more children joined their family. So far it is not known what took the family overseas. By 1876, the family had returned to the UK but not to Kent. Henry and his wife lived out the remainder of their lives in Gloucestershire, first in the parish of Rodborough and latterly in Minchinhampton. Annie died following the birth of their last (twelfth) child in 1882, Henry in January 1908.

Henry's career as a barrister continued after the family's return from the continent, as did his interest in matters military. Their eldest son, Harry W D Denne, joined the Gordon Highlanders and served in the Anglo-Boer War. Some of Harry's letters keeping his father up to date with his military service still survive.

Erica Carrick Utsi
Great Great Granddaughter of Henry and Annie Denne
20th May 2021





**875 PRIVATE SAMUEL
CHARLES HOLDEN**
**3rd County of London Yeomanry
(Sharpshooters)**
by Penny Malik

During a trip to Ireland in October Simon and I paid our respects at graves of the three Sharpshooters buried in the country. Two were buried in a graveyard in Dublin and their story is told in the article on RMS Leinster. The third was another mystery and once again I researched his background with the assistance of Dave Whitehouse.

Samuel Charles Holden was born in 1872 in Stowmarket, Suffolk. He married Agnes (nee Humphrey) on 18 April 1896 in Paddock Wood, Kent. Aged 24 he was classified as a labourer. By the time of the 1901 census, they had moved to Wandsworth London, where he worked as a horse keeper. By the 1911 census, still a horse keeper, they had moved to 4 Modder Place, Putney. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters.

On 26 February 1913, aged 41 years old, Samuel Holden was enlisted, initially for a period of four years, into the Territorial Force to serve with 3rd CLY. His medical, on joining said his vision and physical development was good and he was considered fit for service.

Just over three years later, on June 13, 1916, Private Holden was downgraded to C1 by a travelling medical board in Chelsea. By the end of October, he was downgraded further to C2.

In July 1917, having been assigned for home service, he was transferred to a division of the Labour Corps - Number 657 Employment Company which, as part of the Irish Command, was based in County Kildare. Employment



Companies were used to house soldiers who had been medically downgraded or those temporarily without a home unit. They were moved between different units, depending on their potential for active service. There is no record of his role within the employment company, however it would have been from a range of occupations such as storeman, tailor, shoemaker etc. At the time of his transfer, he was also given a new service number, however his grave has listed him as a member of 3CLY. This could be because the reason for his transfer was his medical classification and that he passed away only a few months after joining his new unit.

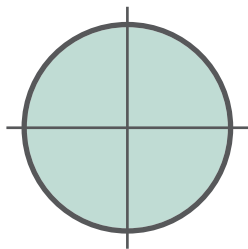
His ill health continued to plague him in Ireland, and he was admitted to hospital three times over the next five months. Initially he spent three weeks in hospital in August before being readmitted with chronic Nephritis in early December. He never recovered and died of a cerebral haemorrhage on the 29 December.

On the 4 January 1918, his wife, Agnes, was sent a note informing her of his death which occurred at the Military Hospital Curragh on 30 December 1917 stating cause not yet known. It appears that Agnes had to chase the authorities to give more details of her husband's death. Finally she was paid a separation allowance of 33/6 on 14 July 1918.

Private Holden was buried at Curragh Military Cemetery, just outside Dublin.

Lest we forget
Penny Malik





THE LOSS OF THE ROYAL MAIL SHIP LEINSTER AND THE 2nd/3rd COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS)

by Penny Malik



Shortly before 9am on 10 October 1918 the Royal Mail Ship (RMS) Leinster left Carlisle Pier, Kingstown, Co Dublin, Ireland. The ship was bound for Holyhead, Anglesey and carried 813 passengers and crew. In addition to the crew of 79, also onboard were postal sorters from the Dublin Post office and 201 civilian passengers (most of them from Ireland and Britain). However, the greatest number of passengers on board were military personnel, from a wide range of countries, including Ireland, Britain, Canada, USA, New Zealand and Australia. Many of them were going or returning from leave. On the Western Front the German Army were being pushed back by the assaults of the Allied armies and on 4 October Germany had asked US President Woodrow Wilson for peace terms.

As the Leinster set sail the weather was fine, but the sea was rough following recent storms. Earlier that morning several Royal Navy ships at sea off Holyhead were forced to return to port due to stormy conditions.

Shortly before 10am about 16 miles from Kingstown a few people on the deck of the Leinster saw a torpedo approaching the port side of the ship. It passed in front of the Leinster. Soon afterwards another torpedo was spotted and this one struck the port side where the postal sorting room was located. The torpedo exploded, blowing a hole in the port side with the explosion travelling across the whole ship and blowing a hole in the starboard side.



This blow was almost fatal because the sorting room ran the whole width of the ship. With the ships watertight integrity severely compromised Leinster reversed course 180 degrees and tried to return to Dublin at greatly reduced speed and, although slowly sinking by the head started launching her lifeboats. The ship was then hit by a



second torpedo this time on her starboard side where the hole from the first hit was and this severely damaged her and she sank by the bow shortly afterwards.

There were a total of 813 passengers and crew on board including the postal workers in the sorting room. Many of those on board were killed in the sinking, in lifeboats or clinging to rafts and flotsam. The survivors had to struggle for survival in the rough sea and many died while awaiting rescue. Eventually a number of destroyers and other ships arrived and took the survivors to Kingstown.

In the days that followed bodies were recovered from the sea. Some bodies were brought to Britain, Canada and the USA for burial. One hundred and forty four military casualties were buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery in Dublin.

There were three members of 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) on board, of which two did not survive.

Private Alfred Ray Horner. Alfred Ray Horner was born in 1888 in London to Joseph Horner and Beatrice Cordelia Winders. He was the youngest of their four children. He enlisted in the 3rd County of London Yeomanry at Stratford, giving his residence as Upper Clapton. He was with the 2nd /3rd County of London Yeomanry which deployed to



Ireland in May 1918. He was believed to be returning home on leave on the RMS Leinster and did not survive the sinking. His body was recovered and is buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery in Dublin (CE New Plot 727). He was only 19 when he died.

Private Frederick William Laws. Frederick William Laws was born in 1882 in Hunstanton, Norfolk to Robert William Laws and Maria Jarrett. He was the fourth child of eleven children and the second eldest of the surviving seven. Robert Laws was the Innkeeper of the Neptune Inn, later a hotel and now a Michelin starred restaurant. Frederick was a carpenter.

In 1911 Frederick Laws married Bertha Christine Umbricht. Frederick and Bertha had three children, with the youngest Peter, born in London in 1917. In 1918 the family address was back in Hunstanton.

Frederick Laws enlisted in the army at King's Lynn and was with 2/3rd County of London Yeomanry when they deployed to Ireland in May 1918. Returning home on the 10th, he did not survive the sinking. His body was recovered and he was buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery in Dublin (CE New Plot 715). He was 36 when he died.



Penny and Simon Malik visited Grangegorman Military Cemetery in Dublin.

The surviving Sharpshooter:

Private Edward Alfred Dane.

Also on board was Edward Alfred Dane. Born in 1879 in Dover, Kent to Edward Thomas Dane and Caroline Peirce. He was their only child as she died, aged twenty-two, in August 1882. In the 1881 census Edward Thomas gave his occupation as 'Coal Merchant and General Dealer' and their address as St James Street in Dover. In 1889 he remarried to Clara Wright but they subsequently divorced and he married Jenny Libby in 1902. He became a Licensed Victualler and Publican. Meanwhile in 1891 Edward Alfred was living with his publican uncle in the Red Lion, still in St James Street. In that same census his cousin William was a Marine Store Dealer, and that was the occupation that Edward Alfred gave in the 1901 census.

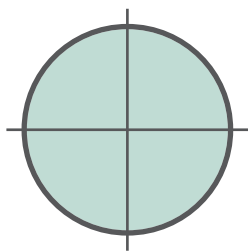
In 1898 he had married Maud Elizabeth Diggins and they had two children, Doris Maud in 1909 and Edward Thomas in 1910 and they also lived in St James Street. In the 1901 census Edward Dane gave his occupation as Marine Store Dealer but in 1903 he took over the Golden Cross Inn on St James Street and became a Publican. He enlisted in the West Kent Yeomanry in December 1915 and in 1917 his brother-in-law Henry Gillett took over the Inn.

It is not known where Edward Dane served but when he was discharged in March 1919 it was due to "surplus to military requirements – having suffered impairment since entry into the service". In October 1918 he was with the 2/3rd. He survived the sinking and it is not known if he was injured then or not.

Again it is not known what Edward's occupation was when he left the army. They were living in Pretoria Terrace in March 1924 when Maud Dane née Diggins died at the age of forty-two. The following year Edward took over the Wheatsheaf Inn in Ladywell Place in Dover but gave it up at the end of 1927. He remarried in 1932 to Dorothy M Harrison and in the 1939 Register they were living in Bournemouth and he gave his occupation as 'Retired Licensed Victualler'. Edward Alfred Dane died in Bournemouth in 1965.

Information courtesy of rmsleinster.com





MAJOR ARTHUR DAVISON

by Penny Malik
and David Whitehouse

As many readers may know your editor, Simon Malik, is also a keen collector of Sharpshooter memorabilia, especially via E-bay!

Last year he came across a glass negative of a Sharpshooter. All he had was the negative and a name and asked for assistance from a small team of research hounds, aka Dave Whitehouse and Penny Malik. The first challenge was interpreting the handwriting as initially we had the name spelt wrong. However, once that hurdle had been overcome the efforts of delving through numerous ancestry websites and with, in particular, Dave's exceptional sleuthing skills we came up with the following profile:

Arthur Pearson Davison was born on 19th January 1866 to John Robert Davison, Barrister and MP for Durham, and Jane Anna Davison nee Wood, daughter of well-known English steam railway pioneer, Nicholas Wood. Young Arthur was christened at Christchurch, Paddington on 11th March that same year.

Arthur grew up at Under-River House, one of his father's properties in Seal, Kent, alongside his siblings and surrounded by a modest household of servants. When he was aged just five years old, his father died suddenly, and Arthur found himself the inheritor of the house and land in Seal and the residue of his father's estate.

Little is known of Arthur's childhood but an entry in the Naval and Military Gazette dated 15th April 1885 states that, Arthur Pearson Davison was to be a Lieutenant in the 3/4th Battalion the Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) as of 25th March 1885. So, at 19 years old, his military has begun.

By 1888, Arthur appears to be living in Oxford. It was here that he seems to have fallen foul of the law. On 22nd February 1888, the Oxfordshire Weekly News reported:

Arthur Pearson Davidson [sic], described as a gentleman of Keen's Lodgings, Alfred Street, was charged with assaulting Constables Skelcher and Trinder, in the execution of their duty in High-street at 10.10p.m. on Monday. Pleaded guilty. PC Skelcher said about 10 o'clock he heard a disturbance in Alfred street, and there saw several under-graduates and the prisoner with them. One extinguished a public lamp. He followed them in company of PC Trinder, onto the High street, where they met the proctor. While they assisted the proctor to take the names of the gentlemen, the prisoner said he was not a member of the University, he was very disorderly, and pushed the constables about. When the proctor had gone, the gentlemen, including the prisoner, pushed PCs Fundell and Trinder against the shutters, and when he (witness) went to their assistance, he pushed him back, and told him he would knock him down. He was sober, but a little excited. PC Fundell stated that the prisoner said it had been his ambition all the evening to be taken to the station (laughter). PC Skelcher added that the gentlemen had been to a wine party and were a little excited. Fine 40s and costs 6s.

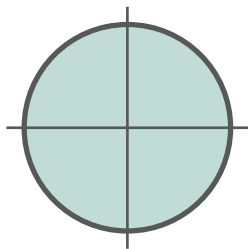


It was probably whilst in Oxford that he met his future wife Dorothy Georgina Mary Norris, two years his junior. On 2nd July 1888, they were married in Chacombe, near Banbury, Oxfordshire. Over successive years the couple were blessed with several daughters and a son, as the family moved between their home in Seal and another property in Broughton, Banbury.

On 2nd July 1892, Arthur was commissioned into the West Kent (Queens Own) Yeomanry. The following year he was initiated at Grafton Lodge as a Freemason. In March 1897 Arthur was promoted to Lieutenant.

When war broke out in South Africa two years later, it appears that Arthur did not volunteer for active service overseas. He did however attend a dinner on 29th January 1900 to say farewell to comrades who were joining the 36th (West Kent) Company Imperial Yeomanry to fight the Boers. On 1st May 1901, Arthur gained his Captaincy in the West Kent Yeomanry.

Arthur received a further promotion, from the retired list, on 21st September, 1914, where he was listed in the London Gazette as Captain and Honorary Major, to be promoted to Major.



THE BLOWERS BROTHERS

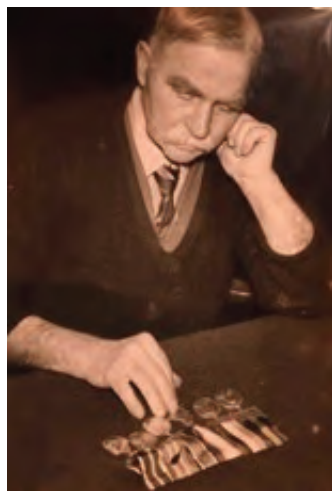
by David Whitehouse

Previous articles in the journal have highlighted instances where sons from the same family have joined the Kent Yeomanry and have served together, particularly in the run up to, and during, the First World War. At the same time a number of examples have been found of recruits joining underage. However, such cases are not confined to the First World War and can be found in the years leading up to the Second World War. A notable example is that of the Blowers Brothers.

A search of the museum's extensive database of those who have served in the Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry and its forebears, has identified four Kent Yeoman who not only share the same surname of Blowers, but also gave the same address on their enlistment, strongly suggesting they are siblings.

The eldest, and first to enlist was 745488 Gunner George William Henry Blowers, who was born on 3rd February 1905, and enlisted on 30th March 1922, not long after the Kent Yeomanry were converted to artillery to become 97th (Kent Yeomanry) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Next to enlist was Dennis James A. Blowers on 28th October 1925 aged 17. He gave his date of birth as 6th September 1907 (making him 18 at the time of enlistment) but further research has revealed that his actual birth date was exactly a year later.



Father – George Blowers
(photo courtesy of Stephen Louch)

The last to enlist were Stephen Frederick Ernest Blowers and Andrew Thomas Albert Blowers who both joined on the same day - 30th November 1927 (as have consecutive service numbers 778033 and 778034). Stephen gave his date of birth as 15th April 1908, but we now know that he was actually born on the same day two years later. Likewise, Andrew gave his date of birth as 16th October 1909, when in fact his real birth date was four years later – 10th October 1913!

The four men listed above, were indeed brothers. Together with a fifth brother, Charles, who did not join up, they were the sons of George and Winifred Blowers. The census of 1911 confirms that George, Dennis, Stephen and Charles (Andrew not being born yet) were living with their parents at 4 Granville Terrace, Walmer, Kent. Their father was originally from Norfolk but came to Walmer in 1905 as a coachman to a General Lloyd.

So, what prompted the brothers to join the territorials under-age? A common motivating factor noted amongst those enlisting under-age into the armed forces, is the presence of older siblings who are already serving. Whilst this is probably true of the Blowers, there is another significant motivating factor – their father.

According to an obituary that appeared in a local newspaper when he died, George was one of seven brothers who had previously joined the Royal Artillery and had seen service in South Africa. Bizarrely, the obituary fails to mention their father's distinguished service during WWI.

George Blowers (Snr)

Medal index cards reveal that 8067 WOII (Battery Sergeant Major) George Blowers was awarded, in addition to the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal. He was also mentioned in despatches which was published in the London Gazette on 18th May 1917. All in all, George's sons had a tough act to follow.

So, returning to the eldest son George William, he enlisted into the Kent Yeomanry shortly after his 17th birthday. According to the enlistment book of the 97th Brigade, held in the museum archives, George William's home address was given as Chilham Lane, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent and he was posted to 385 Battery in Canterbury. It would make perfect sense for George to join his local territorial unit.

There are no further references to 745488 Gunner G Blowers in the museum's archives. It is not until he is promoted to Sergeant, some 15 years after joining, that he gets another mention. This record indicates that he was promoted on 20th April 1937 and this was published in Part II Orders on 26th of that month.

By this time, as we have already noted, three of George's brothers had joined the Kent Yeomanry. Dennis, who had joined in 1925, was also promoted to Sergeant on the same day as his older brother. Stephen and Andrew joined together in 1927 but the latter only served for five years before being discharged towards the end of 1933.

A photograph in the archives (KSY:1982-10-13), which according the accompanying caption indicates that it was taken on Coronation Day 1937, apparently shows "B"



Sub-Section of 385 Field Battery under Sgt Blowers, firing the Royal Salute at Canterbury. Rather unhelpfully, Sgt Blowers initials have been omitted, making it difficult to determine which of the brothers is referred to.

Of course, two short years after this photograph was taken, all three brothers would have expected to have been embodied and mobilised for war. Some members of the Kent Yeomanry were embodied as early as 14th August 1939 with the remainder reporting to their respective Drill Halls over successive days and weeks. Soon after the Declaration of War on 3rd September, the regiment proceeded to Mote Park near Maidstone, where it was mobilised.

On 25th September 1939 the regiment along with its 25-pounder guns, embarked aboard S.S. Daffodil at Southampton for France and became one of the first Territorial Army regiments to go overseas to join the B.E.F. Whilst the archives do not contain details of all those who were mobilised at this time, we can assume that at least one of three brothers, Stephen, had proceeded overseas with the regiment.

It is unclear, however, if George and Dennis did so, as records of those registering for identity cards on 29th September 1939 (the so-called 1939 Register), just four days after the regiment sailed for France, show that they were both still in the UK. George was on sick leave at his home at Fir Tree House, East Ashford. Entries in his pay book (which is still in the possession of the Blowers family) indicate that in 1940, George was medically graded as 'C' and so not fit for active service. Therefore, it is likely that he remained in the UK for duration of the war. At the same time, Dennis (also a Sergeant having being promoted at the start of 1939), was recorded in the 1939 Register as being a patient in the Kent & Canterbury Hospital. It is not known why he had been admitted, and it is possible that he re-joined the regiment later on, although there are no records in the archives to confirm this. Equally, he could have been posted to another unit as he was not discharged until 9th November 1945.

Meanwhile back in France, the Kent Yeomanry joined the BEF and after seeing some action during the withdrawal to the coast, would eventually be evacuated from Dunkirk and St Valery in May and June 1940.

By this time, it would seem that Andrew who had been discharged back in 1933, was not to be out done by his brothers and re-enlisted into the Royal Corps of Signals on 11th January 1940. However, I have been unable to discover any further details of his service.

Returning to the Kent Yeomanry, after spending just over a year in the UK on Home Defence duties, the regiment once again embarked for service overseas. At the end of August 1941, the regiment sailed for the Middle East, and after a short stop in Capetown, South Africa, arrived at Basra in Iraq, two months later. Three weeks later the regiment finally arrived at Habbaniya Camp outside of Baghdad where it joined the 10th Indian Division. Desert training commenced almost immediately and would continue for the next six months. Thereafter, the regiment moved to the main Theatre of War and by early June 1942 found itself on the Egyptian border with Libya. A few days later the regiment occupied defensive positions at Belhamed, Ed Duda and Sidi Rezegh. The later position was subsequently overrun by the enemy and during the ensuing action (in which the Sharpshooters also took part), Sgt Stephen Blowers, along with many others from the regiment, was wounded.

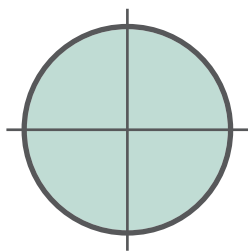
Wounded in Action.

	Capt	DAWES	C.A.W.	MC.	1. 11.42.
	Capt	WIX	H.M.	MC.	3. 7. 42.
	Lieut	WALKER	W.E.		5. 11.42.
	S/Lt	LOVERIDGE	J.C.		11.11.42.
823865	WO.II	PATTENDEN	E.C.		1. 11.42.
779034	Sgt	BLOWERS	S.F.E.		13. 6.42.
867948	Sgt	HAWKES	A.J.		1. 11.42.
857187	Sgt	MILLS	C.W.R.		2. 7. 42.
894504	Sgt	STOCKER	H.J.		13. 6.42.

This is the only mention in the museum archives of any of the Blowers brothers during the war. Thus, we can only assume that Stephen, having recovered from his wounds remained with the regiment throughout the desert campaign, and then after garrison duties in Cyprus, took part in the Italian campaign that followed. Sgt Stephen Blowers was finally discharged on 4th June 1945, after 18 years service.

Returning to George Blowers, original documents still in possession of the family indicate that during the war years, he underwent a number of medical examinations and on 2nd March 1941 was re-classified as 'B2' and remained so until 15th October 1946 when this changed to A(X)2. George was finally discharged from the Royal Artillery on 11th November 1946 after 24 years and 227 days service as "his services being no longer required". He was granted a certificate for good service.





THE STORY OF DOUG COPPARD

by David Whitehouse

Introduction

In late 2011, I received an enquiry (via email from Boris Mollo) from a very unexpected quarter. A Kent Yeomanry veteran from WWII, now living in Australia, was seeking to obtain an Australian veteran's 'Gold Card' which apparently entitled the holder to certain benefits. However, in order to obtain said card, the veteran had to prove that he served or fought alongside Australian forces during the war. As he was uncertain if he had done so, he was enquiring if the museum trust could assist in providing any evidence that could assist his case. The veteran in question was Douglas Coppard, or as he referred to himself in his emails, Doug or 'Tinker'. For, the next few years, almost up to his passing away in 2017, I was privileged to exchange dozens of emails with this remarkable man. I learned that he lived alone in a 10-acre plot in a old goldmining area of the Australian 'outback' but was still driving, and at 92 was busy trying to open up an old mining road to his house! Over the years Doug shared numerous and vivid snippets of his life and



wartime experiences. Sadly, I was never able to provide the evidence Doug sought, but thought his reminiscences worthy of preservation. Thus, having had time to sort out our correspondence and structure it within a narrative, I present Doug's story, much of it in his own words (sometimes with some light editing to preserve the narrative but otherwise verbatim as I received it).

Douglas Arthur Coppard was born on 16th April 1920 to Frank and Ethel Coppard. At the age of five he went to boarding school at Colonel Colley's School for young gentlemen where he left two years later for Abbey School, Beckenham in Kent. In 1931, Douglas decided to go to Seaford College in Sussex before moving on to Pitman's College four years later. There he was taught to write shorthand at 120 words per minute, and learnt French. When he left in 1937, Douglas joined his father's company selling fish at Billingsgate Fish Markets.

He recalled *"Selling fish was a disgusting smelly job, and you had to be quick on your toes. You had to take cash, calculate pounds and stones, weigh the fish and a whole lot of other things...It was absolutely frantic..."*

Joining Up 1939



Getting up at 3.45am each morning and working six days a week, it was a wonder he ever had time to even consider being a part-time soldier. Nevertheless, with the deteriorating situation in Europe, Douglas decided to join the territorials. On 18th April 1939 he enlisted into the 97th (Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment Royal Artillery to become 896257 Gunner Coppard. He apparently joined up at the same time as Douglas Battle (officially enlisted the week after on 25th) and the two were attested together and became firm friends. Both Douglas's were posted to 387 Battery at Bromley.

Doug recalls those early days:

"The Bromley Gunners Mess was the highlight of the Unit. The younger officers hung around the door whilst Cyril and Benny Tatham¹ took the piano apart with total brilliance changing places at top speed "Tiger Rag". I believe Cyril² plus Jack Smith³, Doug Rintoul⁴, and "A N Other" were

members of Major Dave Warner's family group. The Major had a gunner's uniform and used to drink with his 'family' and the other ranks. We always respected, ignored and loved him for it!"

With the outbreak of war looming, some members of the Kent Yeomanry were embodied as early as 14th August 1939. They reported to their respective Drill Halls (together with elements of a 2nd line regiment – 143rd (Kent Yeomanry) Regiment R.A). Soon after the Declaration of War on 3rd September, the regiment proceeded to Mote Park near Maidstone, where it was mobilised. The regiment was now organised into two batteries, 385 and 387, each of three troops.

Doug's adventures started almost immediately.

"On one parade it was stated that the first line were going to France and there were some vacancies and volunteers were called for. I hated waiting around not knowing anything positive and this sounded as if someone knew what they were doing! So I stepped forward and I had confidence that the best of officers and WO's would be in charge! We were allocated to move to Maidstone and I was to drive a Guy 1-tonner canvas top. The day was Sunday and all main roads were closed to all but the military. I tried to keep up with the Morris commercials but got left behind despite pressing the accelerator flat down. Too hard and it bent sideways and got stuck behind the stop. I didn't know what to do! I didn't think about switching off the ignition but I undid the canvas driver's door got out on the running board, holding the steering wheel central, poked my head under the dash board and wrestled with the accelerator and it popped out again. The engine slowed quickly and I swung out of the door. My left hand was on the steering wheel (left side) and luckily the wheel didn't turn and the truck kept a straight course. There was someone waiting to direct us to the cricket ground and that was the end of that. We were allocated to a gun sub (section) under Sgt Mercer nicknamed Kosh (and same by nature)."

¹ Possibly a reference to 861897 Gnr WBS Tatum

² Doug was not sure if this Cyril Smith or Cyril Wenham. More likely to be the latter.

³ Possibly 895216 Sgt John Eric Smith died 20/05/1942 Iraq.

⁴ 895904 Bdr Douglas Forgan RINTOUL 387 Bty Bromley died 26/02/1944 Italy.

⁵ 885590 Bdr K Mercer enlisted 1938 HQ Bty

France and Dunkirk 1939-1940

On 25th September 1939, the regiment along with its 18/25-pounder guns (25-pounder gun on an 18-pounder carriage), embarked aboard S.S. Daffodil at Southampton for France and became one of the first Territorial Army regiments to go overseas to join the B.E.F. The following day the regiment landed at Cherbourg where it entrained for La Hutte. From there the regiment made its way to Piace, about 20 miles north of Le Mans. By 29th September the guns, which had come by a different route, had arrived and the next few days were spent checking all the regiments equipment, preparatory to moving up to the Belgian Border. Five days later the regiment began its move, in utmost secrecy, to the line. For the first leg of some 100 miles the Kent Yeomen joined two other field regiments as well as Royal Army Service Corps and a Field Ambulance unit. A further three moves over the next few days saw the regiment pass through Louviers, Behen, Moncheaux finally the Auchy area on 9th October. The regiment now became part of the I Corps Artillery under the command of Brigadier Pratt.

Whilst the B.E.F settled down in what became known as the 'phoney war', the regiment began digging gun pits and carrying out individual training. Where duties permitted, occasional sporting events were arranged. On 12th November an inter-battery rugby match was organized in which Gunner Coppard took part.

"... during a rugby match between Bty's, we shared the cow's territory. During a tussle, I and Major Alfrey fell just short of a cowpat and I could see that if he wasn't careful, he could fall again and right into it. I am ashamed to say that I didn't exactly do the decent thing..."

A cowpat was destined to be the least of Major (or Lt. as he was then) Alfrey's problems for he ended the match with a broken leg. On 1st December, Lt-Col. H.W. Lucy became sick and was invalided back to the UK. Command of the regiment was now assumed by Lt-Col. Franklin Lushington. Doug remembered him well. *"The colonel was of 1914-18 vintage and always wore riding breeches. He was a tall man and this earned him the nickname of 'sparrow legs'."*

On 25th April 385 Battery were ordered south to join 1st R.H.A. by which time RHQ and 387 Battery had moved to Perenchies near Lille. Soon after, Hitler had marched into the Low Countries and the 'phoney war' was over. But even this didn't stop Doug having a bit of fun.

"In Perenchies, I bought some small fireworks called "throwdowns" about the size of a walnut. When exploded there was nothing left. The Battery Office was across the road from our first storey billet. I opened the bottom window a bit and with a catapult got them really disturbed and peeping out of the door and windows! I did this for quite a while. I never shared my many pranks with anyone."

After the Germans broke through the French line in mid-May, the B.E.F was ordered to withdraw and the 5th Division to hold a line of the Brussels-Charleroi canal. Thus, the Kent Yeomanry found itself moving forward, only to be told a day or so later to move back. The following days, the Kent Yeomanry spent moving south-westwards across the border into France only to have to retrace their steps back into Belgium, as the Germans advanced to encircle the BEF.

Doug's recollections of this time are vivid, but somewhat muddled, as remembering the chronology of events after 70 odd years, was by no means infallible. Nevertheless,

his jocular and often irreverent anecdotes, give a unique insight to proceedings as 387 Battery, co-operating with the Guards, near the French/Belgium border, went into action.

"We advanced following the infantry trying to stop the Germans from crossing the Meuse and establishing a defence line there. We had a Guards regiment with the Black Watch to support. We arrived early morning and soon had a fire mission against German Infantry. A Guards officer visited our position and described the target as a number of Hitler Youth who wanted to die for the Fatherland. They appeared to advance with arms linked and singing. Our fire was effective and they fled back to the wood from where they came. The wood then became the target and they ran out again and were killed by the infantry. Later two youths, quite small were taken by two Black Watch soldiers who said "we're taking them back "past our guns and into a wood. Later the soldiers walked past us again and were asked if they had taken them back? The senior of them drew his bayonet and wiped it on his leg. The other seemed to be in a state of shock. We then stood by until told to Limber Up. The tractors arrived and we pulled out."

"During an action in Belgium, we were laid out on SOS lines. All took a turn to man the gun and fire as expected. Our driver, Perce Latter, had last watch and was concerned for a cow that hadn't been milked. So, he caught it and tied it to the trail with a drag rope and was milking it into a petrol can. We were all asleep under the tarp'. The order came to fire so he let one go and let the cow go too. Then someone noticed that our gun was out of alignment with the others. The gun was quickly re-laid! Then came an irate message from Guards HQ that they had a near miss! Section commanders checked all the guns and reported "All on line Sir!" "Not a word from us! We then had tea which was foul! The cow had donated a dollop!"

Onn 28th May the regiment received orders for a further withdrawal, and the Kent Yeomanry proceeded northwards towards the River Yser.

"We then joined the long lines of refugees who blocked the highway and were held up making very slow progress. I then noticed two very large fat nuns standing side by side. Close by was a family group with a very small and pale faced old lady in a two-wheeled barrow who was obviously dying and the nuns were not interested. We eventually got a clear road which ran along side of a canal, with a wide drain on the other side. By this time, we were told that we were retreating and there was a German fifth column somewhere with some of them dressed as nuns."

"As we approached a town there was a Stuka attack on it just as we reached it. We were not hit and stopped short of the carnage. Our sergeant-major arrived and said "drive on!" Our driver, Mike Baker⁶, said "We can't drive on through that!" The sergeant-major then drew his revolver and put it to the driver's head and said "put it in low gear and close your eyes and do as I say." As we went through the mess the screams were awful and when we got to the centre of the town, we noted that there was a crossing of two canals and we proceeded on in a seemingly north-east direction. I then became very tired and at dusk came up to what I now know as the Menin Gate. There was a tunnel with a cloud of white smoke to one side of it. We thought it could have been a gas shell so we all put on gas masks. I fell asleep for a long time and my mask was full of dribble and bubbling on awakening!"

"Then we were told to get out and destroy the guns with sledge hammers and wreck the tractor. Leave everything and walk spread out to avoid making a target for German planes.

⁶ 890161 Bdr MA Baker 387 Bty Bromley?

As we were doing this a bomber roared overhead and emptied its bombs. There were four huge craters either side of the road. One soldier started calling out for his mate who wasn't to be seen. After a few moments in one crater about 40 metres away an arm appeared then a head. We all formed a chain holding hands and managed to get one of us down into the crater and pull the chap out. He was bleeding from mouth and ears and completely shocked."

"We then started walking and I had decided to carry my kit with the little radio I had recently bought. I got rid of my large valise and put my side pack on my shoulders with the radio on top. I had my second pair of boots on (the 1st was for guard duty and kept well shone). I tripped on a cobble in the road and the sole of the right boot came unattached from the front and down to the instep. I couldn't walk. I tried to tear it off but it was impossible. So, I took it off and tried to walk that way but it was hopeless. Then I saw a new pair of Belgian officer's boots in the ditch. I had to wear them but they were too small. I crammed my feet in and hobbled along expecting the Germans to catch me up! I then saw a horse in a field and made friends with it. It only had a rope round its neck but no saddle. So, I led it to a well and standing on the wall, I pulled the horse in front of me. Now the horse was very lame and took the weight off its well side leg which leaned its rump towards the well. My feet were knocked into the well but because I had my heavy pack on my shoulders I fell forwards over the horse's back and onto my head to the ground. I was okay, so I tied my pack to the horse's back (can't remember how) and led it towards the sea which I could tell was not far away. I set the horse free and walked on as best as I could and came across a huge gun tractor unattended. I had reached the dunes at La Panne. I started the truck up and felt something cold on my temple. There was an officer who told me to get out and onto the beach. Ships were lying off the shore and boats were coming to the shore. Men were wading out chest deep into the sea and were being pulled in to the boats. I started wading but was told "No more!"

"I could see Dunkirk harbour several miles along the beach to the west and started walking. No planes were strafing at that time so I got to the pier and joined a queue. Next to me was a man who said it was the second time he had tried to get on a ship. He said "There were two lines, the other line started moving quickly so he joined that and as he got to a truck he was given two bandoleers of bullets, a rifle, a bag of hand grenades and told to get up into a truck which took off in a hurry. It stopped at a cross road and he was told to get off and stop any Germans coming that way and drove off. After a while he heard a tank coming so he got into the drain under the road. It was German and they stopped over the drain so he had a quick look. One was looking through binoculars. They stayed there for half an hour looking, then turned and went back. He started running back to tell the officers at the pier. He could scarcely run at all, so he threw all his rifle bombs etc. over a fence and sprinted back to the pier. He saw the Sergeant Major and told him. He said:

"Where's your rifle and bombs?"

"I chucked them sir!"

"Stout fellow. What's your name and number? I'll recommend you for a medal!"

"He didn't have a pencil so told him to join the queue again. As the destroyer (HMS Express) came alongside, sailors were there to pull us on and told us to drop the rifles into the harbour. I kept my kit and radio. We packed tightly into the ship and when it had as many as it could take it sailed back to Dover. Next trip it was sunk! We got onto a train and were given sandwiches and a cup of tea. I woke up and looked out of the train window. It was near London Bridge Station. I fell asleep again and woke up when we got to Cardiff. We walked

(shambled!) to the barracks of the Welch Regiment where we were given blankets some food and slept for a long time. After a day's rest, one of our officers came and asked for the Kent Yeomanry members. He said the general morale was at low ebb and said he wanted us on parade after lunch, with clean boots and shining brass to set an example to the others who sullenly joined the parade."



Doug Coppard (centre) on leave from the BEF 1940. On the left is Ron Goldup of the London Scottish who contracted a spinal disease in Burma and suffered difficulty most of his life. On the right is Alexander Phillip Gain of 7 RTR. Became a Major 1942.

On 12th June, 387 Battery's sister battery, 385, made a miraculous escape from St Valery, and five days later, the Kent Yeomanry was finally reunited at Abergele in North Wales. For the next 14 months, the regiment was destined to carry out anti-tank defence duties in various parts of

the country, in expectation of a German invasion. It was whilst based in Essex that the Kent Yeomanry re-organised from two batteries of three troops into three batteries of two troops, preparatory for deployment overseas. A troop was taken from each of the existing batteries to form the new 470 Battery, to be commanded by Major K. Miller. A newly promoted Lance-Bombardier Coppard now found himself in the new battery.

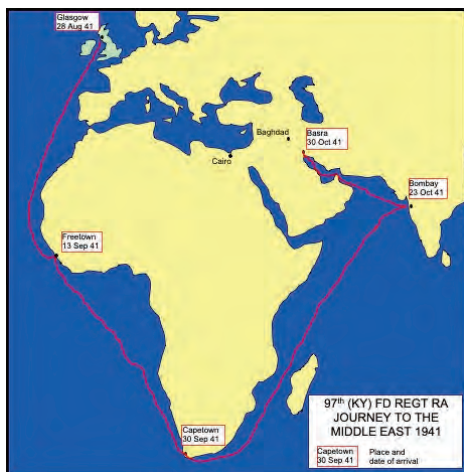
"I was with the newly formed 470 Battery (from 387 & 385) No 1 Sergeant Neaves⁷. He got a bad nervous attack and his face broke out in massive rash. It was ok in a week or so."

Middle East 1941-42

At the end of August 1941, the regiment was embarked upon S.S. Orontes which was to transport the Kent Yeomen to the Middle East. For the next few weeks the men of the Kent Yeomanry experienced the pleasures (being few) and the discomforts (being many) of life aboard a troopship. Conditions were somewhat cramped, and as the ship sailed further south, and the weather grew warmer, so the heat and stench below decks at night, where all ranks were compelled to sleep, became more and more unbearable.

"There were 3,000 of us on the troopship. The holds were filled with stanchions to which three-tier hammocks could be tied. The tying of the knots was of utmost importance as in rough weather they could slip and descend. Once this happens the language gets a bit tetchy! After leaving Cape Town we had a steady following wind and the crew fixed up a huge screen and showed a film. The screen was fairly steady and it was most enjoyable. When running on a wave there was an acceleration and a roll but we got used to that. Suddenly there was an

⁷ Sgt Lewis Neaves, Enlisted April 1939, Wounded 29/06/1942

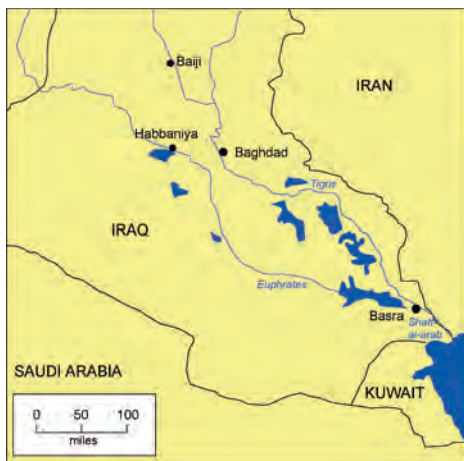


extremely strong wind, which whisked the screen overboard. Can you guess the name of the classic old film? When nearing the equator there were lessons laying of mine fields. Everyone was affected by the rolling seas, heat and had great difficulty in keeping one's eyes open let alone understand what the lecturer was saying above the swish of the sea and the hum of wind in rigging. One by one we were required to prime and unprime a drill mine. It took three seconds. This was enough to enter my record as being 'capable of laying or lifting minefields' (more of that later)!"

Towards the end of October, the Kent Yeomanry finally arrived at Basra,

Iraq having only learned of their destination the previous week. After a short stay at Zubair, the regiment replete with guns and transport, proceeded in convoy towards Baghdad, some three hundred miles distant.

On 21st November, the regiment moved into tented camp by the name of Habbaniya, situated by the side of a lake. This and the desert were to become the regiment's temporary home, whilst undergoing desert warfare training.



"We were in Iraq, camped on the shores of Lake Habbaniya. We were some distance from the RAF base that also had the Flying Boat service to Australia to look after! We knew the nights were going to be cold (and they were! Ten men to a tent yet the water in my bottle had the cork sitting on top of a column of ice!) So being resourceful our Officers negotiated with the RAF that we were to be able to draw building supplies from RAF stores, provided there was a signed indent for our requirements. So, we dug in teams and in a couple of weeks has excavated a mess hall. Drawn timber and corrugated iron and made a roof and we covered it up with

soil again. We made doors and as we had a professional bricklayer of great skill, we had wonderful fireplaces that would sit quite a few of us in it. Then for wood there were empty cases of plane parts. We got everything we wanted because the guards and storemen were Iraqi and couldn't read anyway. We were set up for the hot weather too! All was well until a wooden case very suitable for a very large table for our Mess was opened and a tail fin for an Anson Bomber was in it. This had to go back but they were unable to smuggle it back in and got rumbled."

"The tents were 50 metres apart (in case of air attack). We took it in turns to mount guard each to his tent. The next tent (uphill a bit) and ours used to talk midway for a while. One night

after a chat the other tent was in uproar. The Arabs had taken the opportunity to strip it. Even got the rifles which were inside one's blankets. They even got one chap's trousers that he was lying on to give them a crease as he was going to Baghdad on short vacation. So, the Major sent out a force to bring in the local village headman and put on an example of fire power and explained that all guns were laid on his village and any more trouble would bring a few salvos on them."

"The next night we were put on the dune tops supposedly hidden to surprise infiltrators. We saw nothing but there were jackal cries coming from all around us. We'd never heard them before, so I guess they knew all about us! One night whilst on guard I heard a wind come up and a strange noise and loaded my rifle and got into the slit trench. It was as dark as hell and as it got louder the sand began to blow. Suddenly a large round bush rolled over my head and disappeared. It couldn't be seen next morning at all."



"When we were in Bagdad for a few days, three of us took a room. We spent quite a time in King Feisal's Memorial tomb and exhibition. When we were walking through the streets, a well-dressed (European style) man of business, beckoned us to follow him. We went through a labyrinth of passageways where there were all sorts of shops and crafts working, especially silversmiths. I bought an Arabic belt clasp with curved dagger pin which I sent to my mother. He said to be quiet and still and pulled back a curtain and

let us see, one-by-one, a cloth and costume maker where a very rich Arab seated on raised dias with all his wives and women folk, unveiled and being shown various cloths by a big group of attendants. It was a most colourful and privileged sight. The women were of all ages and excited at the attention. There was a cinema across the street blaring out Arab music - a tremendous racket. Everywhere people got off the pathways and let us pass. As Brits we were very welcome and respected. One morning when descending our apartment stairs, a door was open and a girl with practically nothing on was combing her hair and I noticed a tattooed snake going from under her chin to God knows where! We averted our popped eyes (a little bit)!"

"When in Iraq we were sometimes on night driving exercises, following a white painted differential housing of the vehicle in front. This was led by Lt Rae⁸. The Major and GPO had other things to attend to and didn't take part."

Desert training was interrupted over Christmas, when fearing the enemy might strike at the Iraqi oilfields, the military hierarchy issued orders that defences be dug. Training did not resume until February 1942, and on 1st March, commenced a divisional exercise near Ramadi. This was followed by combined arms training, when the regiment joined 20th Indian Infantry Brigade at Baji.

"I do remember a driver Emery⁹. We were with two 3-tonners trucks at Baji I think - taking us for a swim in the River Tigris. No Sergeant was available to supervise and the drivers were

⁸ 912907 Maj JEK Rae. Enlisted as Gnr 1939.

⁹ 954825 Gnr GFS Emery died 29/04/1942 Iraq buried Mosul.

told to go independently. There was a challenge to see who could dive into the river first. Emery won and drove close to the river. He jumped out, ran and dived in first and didn't come up. Others pulled him from the river with a broken neck. He didn't die there but the other truck went back to the camp for the medics. They got him on a stretcher and he was screaming and passing out. They attempted to drive to Baghdad (I don't know if the MO was with them but the driver came back and said it was a terrible trip and he didn't make it)."

On 18th May, the regiment, now part of the 20th Indian Brigade Group, received orders to move to Egypt, and the following day found itself at Taji on the outskirts of Baghdad. It was here on 20th May, that Doug witnessed a tragic accident.

"I was with Sergeant Jack Smith¹⁰ when he was killed. I think it was Tiffy (Artificer) S/Sgt Pidduck¹¹ was having trouble with Jack's gun - the buffer and recuperator. He let out the air and the gauge registered zero. He had great trouble removing the large pressure gland with the 'tell-tale rod' through it. He had a ring spanner and a lump hammer and was slowly moving it. Jack was horrified and was giving him all sorts of abuse. He continued ignoring the tirade from Jack. I was standing two paces behind Jack but didn't like the language he was using and took four paces to the right. It was at that moment that the front gland with tell-tale rod blew out and killed Jack instantly knocking him at least 20 feet. I was first to Jack (or what was left of his head)! I turned away and said to myself 'Nothing I can do, got to expect lots of stuff like this'. We took Jack to Mosul, eight of us in the firing salute. We lowered him wrapped in a blanket and pulled up the ropes. We then 'presented arms'. Gunner (Ticker) Tew¹² had the unfortunate mishap that the foresight of his rifle touched the peak of his helmet. The helmet went up into the air with two somersaults and settled on Jack amidsthips. Ticker had to get in the grave and we helped him out. Another member of the party said to me "Oh My God! That's shocking bad luck!"

Western Desert 1942

A few days later, the Kent Yeomanry started on its long journey to Cairo.

"We had orders to move to Egypt, but just as we were heading off it rained. The ground was a carpet of bountiful and beautiful flowers; it was a very pretty sight. There were no roads to go by so the major got out his compass and lead us through the flowers. We traveled in a diamond formation. As we trundled on, we saw the hills of the Hittites. We had to travel through a narrow pass and there were hundreds of little caves dotted around us. The 'Hits' were hiding from us at first but as we got further they came out to greet us. The screaming and the slapping the Hits did sounded quite eerie."

"We drove down near the Dead Sea but I never saw it. I was sitting on top of one of the gun tractors when a small boy tossed a large grapefruit to me.

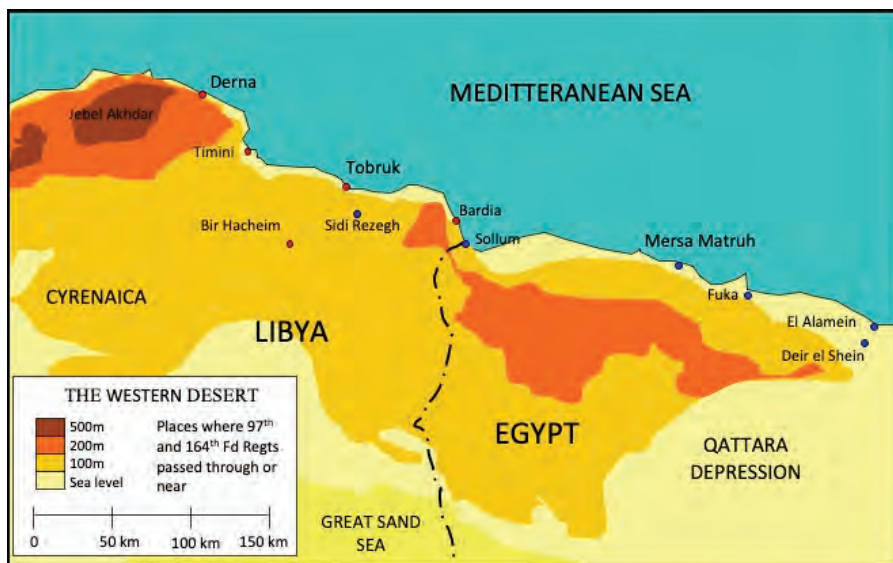


"Tinker" in the Middle East c1942.

¹⁰ 895216 Sgt John Eric Smith died 20/05/1942 Iraq.

¹¹ 894451 Gnr HJ Pidduck enlisted 1939 387 Bty Bromley

¹² 1075217 Gnr George Tew died 28/09/1942



We were traveling quite fast at the time, and the impact of the grapefruit knocked me off the roof. Luckily, I grabbed out and managed to hold onto some gear. I was nearly killed by a grapefruit on that day, I am a lucky man.”

“We travelled to the coast of Nathan then camped the night and travelled onto Sinai. The next day we drove on to Cairo [arriving 1st June]. We drove on to the artillery depot and parked our car. We had the goats and chickens that we had bought and they ran around wild on the parade ground. Suddenly there was an angry scream from the Sergeant Major; he was horrified that the sanctity of the parade ground had been turned into a farm yard. We never saw our chickens and pet goat again. We never really got on with that Sergeant Major after that.”

It was at this point that 470 Battery, left the Kent Yeomanry and joined 164th Field Regiment. The 164th remained with the 10th Indian Division, but was allocated to the 25th Indian Infantry Brigade. Presumably Gunner Coppard (he had given up his stripe in Iraq) remained in Cairo for a while with 470 Battery, while the Kent Yeomanry carried on westwards.

“In Egypt to get to the tram we had to run the gauntlet. Shoe cleaners stretched either side of the road, calling to us. If you tried to dodge them you would get blacking on your uniform. Once on the tram, the people would ask you to buy today’s paper. As you would buy it and have a look at it the seller would jump off the tram, then you would figure out that the paper is in French and weeks old.”

“One day, when some chaps and I were walking through Cairo we all remembered our chance of survival was minimal, and there were five virgins in our team. So General Clayton guided us to a large stone building there was an open door and a long bench outside. Clayton strode in first, full of confidence. It wasn’t long before he walked out the door, wide eyed and red faced. One by one the other five virgins went in each coming out the same. I was alone and thinking if I had a better opt for virginity when suddenly a huge Nubian woman came out starkers! I was scared, so I put my tail between my legs and took to my heels to catch the others.”

Eventually, 470 Battery was sent to join the rest of the division as it was pushed westwards into Libya to take part in the closing stages of the Battle of Gazala.

“Soon we were ready to go to the midam (desert) and as we passed through Amriya west of Alexandria, we moved through an RAF Field Bomber Squadron. I had the side seat near the window and suddenly I saw my brother’s face for a second. I thought that’s stupid he’s working in dad’s firm in the fish market in London! After the war ended, I mentioned this to him and he said ‘our tents were dispersed and ours was over the road from our Wellington so it probably was me!’ He then told me of the fate of his tent mates. Their Wellington had auto pilot adjustment and was going on a test flight. The plane came over to the tent and asked if they would like to go for a flight? All said ‘Yes’ and climbed aboard. Geoff was last and being shirtless asked how high they would be flying. It was too high and asked them to wait while he got his shirt. They didn’t and took off in a series of circuits. Suddenly it took a nose dive and went straight into the ground! Geoff took his gear into another tent and did some serious thinking!”

The two regiments crossed into Libya at Sollum, a place the Kent Yeomanry would have been familiar with from the First World War.

“We went up the Sollum Pass and shelled a concentration of Ita’ (Italian) transports with great effect. We tried to dig in but there was only about four inches of sandy stuff and the rock bent the points of the Indian made picks. The GPO needed to get closer, so our battery captain found a depression that would enable us to get in range the other side of the minefield, but how does one get across? They were stationary and a lieutenant came up the column and stopped by our tractor. ‘Gunner Coppard, according to Battery records you are fully conversant with the laying and lifting of minefields.’ How was I fully trained in the laying and lifting minefields? This is where I expleted my whole vocabulary to him. He seemed shocked and went back. Nothing was done and we turned back.”

Once the German and Italian forces under Rommel broke through the line at Gazala, British forces were pursued across the border into Egypt. The 10th Indian Division took up defensive positions in Mersa Matruh whilst the newly arrived 2nd New Zealand Division took up positions at Minqar Qaim. Rommel began his attack in earnest on 27th June 1942.

“We were in the desert somewhere south of Mersa Matruh, hidden in wadi. We had been in action bombarding an Italian assembly point awaiting refueling. We heard a distant roar of engines and asked permission to load. It was refused! There was nothing to see over the desert. Suddenly we saw a biplane fly around the corner of the wadi and head for us. We were too surprised to do anything. Then another, followed by two more. The first flew on a vertical bank within 20 feet of us. I could see the pilots open mouth and teeth, and we noted the ‘sticks and axe’ insignia of the fascist Italian Airforce. Sergeant-Major Penny¹³ arrived with boots loosened (permitted when off duty). He took off a boot and threw it at the second plane but missed and let go at the fourth and missed too. He asked if anyone would go down the wadi and get them for him. No-one volunteered!”

“We were shelled by two rounds within 10 minutes. The first hit the wadi wall 6 feet below my ammunition bay and covered us in soil. The shells started to slide so I threw myself over them and the crew managed to stop them falling. The second landed in what turned out to be an old and rotten latrine site in an alcove in the rock face. This was spread over the cookhouse

¹³ 749406 WO1 J Penny, wounded 29/06/1942.

area! Brilliant shooting and so quick! We were told to limber up and prepare to evacuate. We hid elsewhere until dark. We understood that Maori infantry would guide us clear of the enemy. At 2am the convoy stopped. It seemed to start again and we descended, sliding a bit to the right (Quatara Depression I presume) and came to a halt. We heard out Lieutenant calling out 'Can you tell me where the 97th Field Regiment is please!' No answer but suddenly the quad doors were opened and machine guns aimed inside. Our driver Charley Smy¹⁴ wasn't thinking correctly and went for his rifle. There was a shot and we got out 'Hands up'. Charlie was shot at point blank range and the round was so hot that it passed through his calf and cauterised as it went. It was sore for a few days but needed no treatment (so I believe!)."

Prisoner of War

"At 2.00am 29th June, I parted company with 470 Battery and temporarily had the pleasure of being a guest of Regimento Bersaglieri before being conveyed sardine-wise and un-luxuriously via a Fiat 10-ton truck. The truck followed a tank that spewed dirt and dust into the air and continually landed on us for two days. We had no water for almost three days."

"We went via Bardia where we were put in a barbed wire enclosure with no facilities at all. An Italian officer, looking just like Mussolini, came to look at us. We had a difficult time for six months at a camp west of Benghazi Libya. They caught 7,000 of us when the Germans sent two forces down into the desert and came up behind us."

However, they didn't remain in Libya and plans were made to transport them to Italy.

"We were being shipped in a three-hold ship each holding 500 prisoners of war. As we were leaving the camp, I was in the last group of 100. I was also last of the last 100. As I walked slowly out through the gates (wooden framed with multiple strands of barbed wire and 10 feet high), I had a tremendous sense of foreboding and needed to get back into the camp. I noticed in the corner of my eye that the guard on my right shouldered his rifle and turned his back to go and shut the gates. A quick look to the other one and he too had his back turned. Suddenly Geoff Greenbank¹⁵ took over. I looked at the gates and did a GO GO GO! I noticed the guards stop when they saw me and loaded their rifles and aimed at me but GO GO GO! was in charge and I kept going because I knew we were all dead anyway! They hesitated and decided not to shoot maybe because they didn't want to have more trouble on their hands and ran to shut the gates. I only saw the gates shutting and made a final effort and jumped sideways just nicking my forearm on the wire but I was in! I ran into the crowd of onlookers turned and saw the crowd of skeletal, almost black, figures walking away. Last amongst these was a seemingly obese figure with fat legs burned red with the sun, walking away. I heaved a sigh of relief."

Nearly 800 Prisoners of War including a large number of Kent Yeomen, subsequently lost their lives, when the ship SS Scillin on which they were being transported, was unwittingly torpedoed by the Royal Navy on 14th November 1942.

"After the war I saw the names of those I knew were on that ship listed as 'Missing -Believed Drowned'. I've had several instances of remarkable foresight in my life for which I have been extremely grateful."

"I was put on the next ship and arrived in Italy safe and sound (except being a starving prisoner). Now it really was the struggle for food, I did get a mail from my younger sister

¹⁴ 902752 Gnr Charles Alfred Smy enlisted 26/04/1939, wounded 29/06/1942

¹⁵ Geoffrey Greenbank, originally from Christchurch, New Zealand, was a maths teacher at Doug's school who also taught rugby, noted for his speed.

Pauline. I received some Red Cross parcels full of food. One of these parcels contained some tinned cheese which I ate quickly. I had a huge reaction in which I was sent to the camps hospital and near death. The Italians were cruel and hard people and treated the prisoners in a hard way. We were given inadequate food resources but it was all Italy could afford to give us because the food was running out. When the Italians joined the Allies, I was set free, only to be caught again by the Germans. Great! “

Doug was sent to Saxony in Germany and would end up on a working ‘Kommando’ at the ‘Papieren Fabrik zu Penig’ (paper mill) at Wilischthal until the end of the war.

“We were prisoners in the Ertzgebirger (Straw Mountains) Saxony. There were twenty of us in two rooms. (There were 3-tiered bunks and a three-seater toilet over a trough with a pipe diverted from permanent spring. Brilliant German engineering, saving a lot of energy having to pull a chain. British planes roared overhead for hours. We couldn’t see anything but in the middle of the raid the guards came and told us that Kurt Lange’s cottage was on fire and could we help? Kurt was prisoner of war in France during WW1 and did what he could for us with eggs and his veggies. His favourite saying was ‘Kreig ist ein grosse shieser mist!’ (war is a big shit turd). All of us immediately jumped up but the guard said ‘zehn ist genug’ (ten is enough). They put it out but it was too damaged and Kurt had to go to his daughter’s place. Never saw him again.”

“Two days later the guard came to let us out to work. There was not much to do but we could walk about and talk to the German workers. There was no point of escaping - the food was regular and enough. The guard said ‘No work until 9am’. We waited and were let out and lined up. Out came the Fabrik Meister Herr Koehler followed by a man dressed in semi ceremonial clothes with a gold chain around his neck. He said in German ‘It is nice to know that where ordinary people are concerned, in these terrible times there is still human kindness’. As he walked away he was weeping. We as Brits were always aware of a link as we are ‘Anglo-Saxon’. Few people were Nazi’s there, as they were predominately Communists.”

“As the war was coming to a close, I could hear bombers overhead and the sound of the towns being destroyed. I realized that the Germans were human too and felt the pain of each bomb destroying their country. I felt compassion and forgiveness to these poor souls.”

“The war was nearly over and the American Army was storming into Germany. We listened to an illegal radio that was given to us by the Factory Engineer by the name of Herr Boetcher. We had a clue the war was about over because the German anthem was being played less. Finally, when it ended, we were told to stay in the camp because the Hungarian troops were still around, they were fearful of anyone and trigger happy.”

“Before we left we took some of the Nazi’s pigs, we shot one of them and had a delicious pork meal which we shared with our German guards. We were given a farewell speech and waved goodbye. The next morning, we had some kind of brekky of coffee and roasted acorns called ezatz Kaffee. We divided each loaf into seven then balloted numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 the person who got one had to cut the loaf into seven and was the last to choose. He got the first piece the next day a loaf was cut. It was as I was saying good bye to the villagers that I realized that there was a shed full of black-market food so I went down and broke the window and gave food to my comrades and the left the rest for the villagers to eat.”

“Then our former guards threw their rifles into a river. We waved goodbye and walked through to Zschopau. While I was there a small blond girl came up to me. She beckoned me to



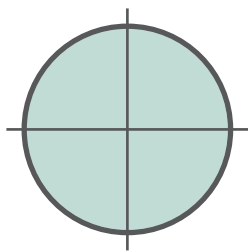
come to a bombed-out house but I couldn't so I asked where her parents were, she said "Keller" but I didn't understand her but it sounded like "cellar". I wanted to find out more about her but I got caught up among the crowd and had my hat pinched off my head. I liked that hat."

"As we walked north and into the country side I noticed a bus that was unattended and asked a Yank if I could use it. The Yank said yes so I got in the driver's seat and my mates got in the back. I hadn't driven for 6 years so I went slowly. We got out and found a Mini Fiat, we used that to drive through the Harz Mountains. On the way we saw lots of caves and holes, quite a few held real missiles that were to be unleashed on London. Any way as we were going, I forgot to check the oil and to help it all a bearing broke! So I noticed a dump and drove in we were invited to stay the night by a nice lady. It was weird I hadn't talked to a female for 4½ years except Pauline in mail.

"The next day we meet up with the American infantry regiment, who said we could stay with them for a bit. We had a meal with them and then drove jeeps through vast wheat fields on patrol (the wheat was higher than the Jeep!). We travelled a bit until we got close to Hildesheim and that was where we were stopped by the British. Then we left the car and were put in a coach which left for the air-field where we waited. Then suddenly a cloud of DC2's landed in a line on the tarmac. We all jumped on quite happily, we landed at Dunsfold Airfield (only a temporary airfield) in England. We were asked to give our service number then we had a shower, a good feed and I phoned my father who was speechless at my return. After that we got our pay and travel warrant and trucked to the station."

"After that I saw two phones one with a long line the other with no one. I decided to try my luck on the one without the line. But it stole all my money; I wasn't very happy at that so I kicked it, then I used my tin hat on it. Wooooooooowww!! Money started to pour out and half-filled the tin hat. I caught the usual train to Beckenham Junction then a 226 bus. When I arrived home, the door was open and as soon as I went up the stairs my dad ran down the stairs. He said Happy 21st son, then my mother came down the stairs and we had a trio of hug!"





110 YEARS OF KENT AND SHARPSHOOTER YEOMANRY FINE DINING

Part 2 (1910 – 1939)

by Tim Rayson

Following on from last year's article this part will address the period 1910-1939 and so the content overlaps Part 1 but before we get there some extra information has appeared in the archives to support Part 1.



The 21st Bn Imperial Yeomanry (Sharpshooters also known as the 2nd Sharpshooters) sailed from the Albert Dock in London on 15th March 1901 with a strength of 23 Officers and 442 men. The ship was called the Avondale Castle. During the summer last year the Museum Trusts student volunteers were scanning some photo albums and came across two menus – one for breakfast and one for lunch which are shown below. There sadly is no

dinner menu to make up the set of meals but they do offer an insight into the scope of what was available on the menu. These menus belonged to a photo album owned by the MO Captain Edmund Currey so it is likely that this is what The Officers would have eaten but not necessarily the men.

In last year's article I referred to the dinner given by the Sharpshooters Committee on 26th July 1901 on the return of the 18th Battalion from South Africa and which led to a large number re-joining the Sharpshooters. I have now discovered that the dinner was held in St James's Hall which was located in the area bounded by Regent Street and Piccadilly, and Vine Street and George Court. There was a frontage on Regent Street, and another in Piccadilly.

St James's Hall was a concert hall in London that had opened in March 1858, and was designed by architect and artist Owen Jones, who had decorated the interior of the Crystal Palace. The Hall was decorated in the 'Florentine' style, with features imitating the great Moorish Palace of the Alhambra. The hall contained a complex of two restaurants and three halls and on occasion dinners were held in the open for the public to view. Was this dinner one of those? Certainly the numbers sitting down in their battered service uniforms would have made quite a sight.

The Hall continued in use until February 1905 when it was demolished and the Piccadilly Hotel was afterwards built on the site. There are sadly no images of the interior but it must have been pretty colourful.



there is a photograph of an A Sqn 3rd CLY Dinner and Bohemian Night at the Monico restaurant in January 1912. As you can see there was an interesting mix of dress and also ways of wearing medals especially for those wearing a three piece suit!



Now onto the *meat* of this part.



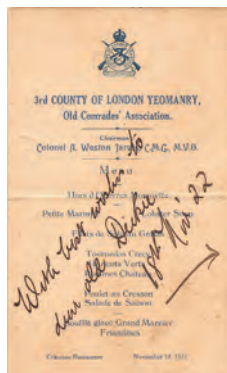
By 1914 dinners had started to reduce in the number of courses from 8 or 9 to 7 or 8 and it might be assumed that this trend continued during the war years as rationing and the U Boat campaign progressed. With all three regiments deployed on operations in Gallipoli, Egypt, Salonika and Palestine not to mention the Western Front there were probably few if any opportunities to dine formally. We do however have menus for two dinners held by the REKMR one in 1914 and the other in 1915. The Folkestone Troop of the REKMR held a dinner at the Trocadero in March 1914 with 8 courses.

This was followed by a regimental dinner held before embarking for operations on 25th September 1915 and as you can see the menu has not reduced in size from pre-war years. There were 7 courses again including two dessert courses. The menu is signed but as yet no one has deciphered the signatures that would allow us to perhaps track their war service. There is at present no evidence to suggest that any of the other predecessor regiments (QOWKY or 3rd CLY) held dinners at home or abroad but it would be a fair assumption that they probably did.

Also in last year's article I mentioned the First Sharpshooters OCA Brigade dinner held in 1909 and its extensive menu. In the late 1940's there was a determined drive to get members of the 3rd CLY Association from WW1 to come to the dinners. In the Journal for 1949 there was a copy of a photograph of the 1909 dinner. Thanks to the efforts of the Editor we now have a colourised version of the picture which is absolutely amazing which also featured on the menu card for this year's El Gubi dinner. In addition in the archive

Finally there is a programme for a similar event hosted by C Sqn (whose nickname was 'The Brashers') at the same location – Monicos. How the nickname came about is lost in the mists of time sadly but below is an extract from the programme of music and note that there is a march called Sharpshooters which clearly predates the current march which was composed in the 1950's! No evidence of the music exists – well not that's been found as yet.

signatures but there is one that might belong to the mysterious FE who sent out the 'Birthday' cards to all the WW1 survivors at the end of the war and continued to do so until 1968. These cards featured a hand carved wooden model of a Sharpshooter with horse in the desert. None of the models survived but it has now been immortalised in a silver model.



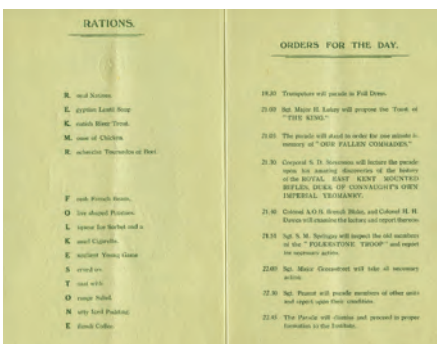
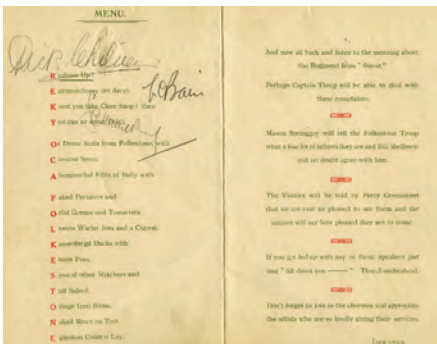
Between 1922 and 1939 The Sharpshooters held a number of regimental dinners and it would be reasonable to assume that these were on an annual basis. However as the Great Depression hit maybe the frequency reduced. The three I have selected to include are for the 1936 Silver Jubilee, 1937 Coronation and the April 1939 when 3rd CLY had become a full strength regiment- it is the pre-mobilisation dinner and before 4th CLY were established that summer. The

1935 and 1937 menus are special in that they featured some artwork and amusing plays on the words of the dishes whilst the number of courses seemed to stand steady at either 6 or 7. The Jubilee menu is especially worth reading carefully to spot the little comments against each dish playing on the fact that is the Silver Jubilee.



By contrast the Kent Yeomanry despite being a single regiment seemed to hold battery dinners: 385 Battery (Duke of Connaughts Own) were Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles and are the only Kent Yeomanry records that we have of the era. We have no records for 386 battery (Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles) nor for 387 and 388 batteries which were West Kent Yeomanry (QO) Yeomanry or even The Kent Yeomanry as a regiment. Interestingly the Folkestone Troop of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry started to hold their own annual dinners starting in 1930. The first recorded Kent Yeomanry dinner took place in 1947 at Shoreditch Town Hall (the same place that The Sharpshooters held their first dinner) and then there is nothing until the 1990's but these are for future instalments.

The image of the Folkestone Troop 5th Annual Dinner menu below bears close scrutiny as the first letters of their title have been used to create the names of the dishes in order using an extraordinary version of the English language. I'm not sure if it is

[illegible][illegible]

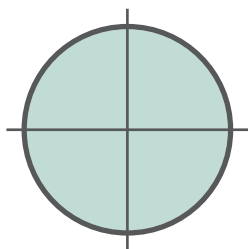
122



supported the deployed regiments. We do not have much evidence of Home Front events – save the Sharpshooters ‘Gin and Tears’ the deployed regiments managed to hold dinners whilst on operations and in some remote places as well. These and more will form the backbone of the chapter to be published in 2023.

In the meantime the 75th All Ranks Annual dinner will be held on 19th November 2022 at the Cavalry and Guards club.





THE DESERTER

by David Whitehouse

The middle-aged man stood in the Braintree courtroom facing the magistrate as Police Constable Carroll of Essex County Constabulary approached the witness box. The man looked on nonchalantly as the constable began to speak. The PC stated that on Wednesday 18th March 1936 at 9.30p.m. he had been in Banyan Road, Bocking when he saw a man carrying something bulky. When called upon to stop, the man dropped a bundle and ran away. Another witness caught the man who was subsequently identified as Frederick George Lanham, the defendant now stood in the dock.

The magistrate's gavel came down as he announced that the defendant was to be remanded on bail to the Petty Sessions on 1st April. Lanham shrugged. This wasn't the first time he had appeared in the dock, and it wouldn't be the last.

During his police interview, Lanham had disclosed that he joined the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment in 1907 and served as Private 8953. He apparently transferred to the 7th Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment in 1914 and served as a Private until 1917.

It was only when the police made enquiries with the War Office about his army character for the information of the magistrates, that they discovered that Lanham had

Name.		Corps.		Rank.	No.
LANHAM		QUEEN'S R.		PLG	G. 6540
F. G.		W. Kent 120			58548
Medal	Vol.	Page.	Clasp.	Remarks.	
STAR					
BRITISH	} A658 -	5413	} 22nd	27/6/36	
VICTORY					
GEN. S.					
EFFICIENCY					
<i>Reserves.</i> <i>Deserted - joined Navy Marine</i> <i>to M. B. B.</i>					
<small>(1709) Wt. 20317 sm. 137 9/35 Gp. 619 C&S. J. 2829</small>				File No. <i>110/L/433</i>	

been somewhat economic with the truth. Correspondence between the War Office and the police show that he did indeed serve with the Essex Regiment between 1907 and 1911 and his character was assessed as 'bad'. He re-enlisted on 3rd August 1915 into the Royal Horse Artillery but a month later was transferred to the Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment.

Nothing has survived of Lanham's service records, but an F G Lanham of the 'Queens Regiment' appears on a register of Courts Martial for 1st September 1916. On the 4th December 1917 Lanham was again transferred, this time to 2/1st West Kent Yeomanry as Private 58548. On 2nd July 1918, he deserted – a fact he failed to mention to the police!

Now that the War Office had been alerted to Lanham's whereabouts by the police, almost twenty years after his desertion, the 'missing' soldier was 'invited' to make a full confession or otherwise face a trial by court martial. In a letter sent to Lanham at 112 Rayne Road, Braintree on 28th April 1936, the War Office explained *"It must be clearly understood that the act of confessing must be a purely voluntary one on your part and that, if your trial for desertion be dispensed with, you will be liable to suffer the same forfeitures as if convicted by a Court-Martial."*

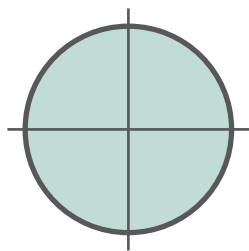
In Lanham's written reply, he explained the reason for his desertion as follows;

"After serving in France the whole of the war with the 7th Battn Queens Royal West Surreys until July 31st 1917 when I was gassed & sent home blind to Sittingbourne where after not seeing for 6 months I got wounded in the head by shrapnel in an air raid & passed unfit for further service. I never got my papers so had to go to Ireland with my unit [2/1 WKY were sent to Dublin in April 1918]. There I got fed up with the way I was treated & being offered the work on board ships (still serving my country) I took my departure & started on the SS ROYAL PRINCE and several other ships on his majesties service."

Lanham later clarified that when joining the mercantile marine service he used the alias 'George Butcher', a fact later confirmed by the Board of Trade.

In June 1936, the War Office agreed to dispensation from trial under section 73 of the Army Act and discharge under paragraph 383 (xviii(a)), Kings Regulations 1935. On 27th June 1936 Frederick George Lanham was finally issued with his British War Medal and Victory Medal.





THE YEOMANRY BENEVOLENT FUND

by Tim Rayson and the YBF

The Yeomanry Benevolent Fund had its origin in the Boer War of 1899-1902 in South Africa. At the beginning of the war the British Government decided that the Yeomanry (hitherto a home defence force) could only be accepted for overseas service on a voluntary basis. Volunteers (and there were many) from each Yeomanry regiment were formed into companies, to fight as mounted infantry, and were styled "Imperial Yeomanry".

The Government provided a small fixed sum per mounted man and therefore the bulk of the cost of equipping the volunteers and providing passage to South Africa had to be provided independently. Two funds were formed, a Yeomanry Fund and a Hospital Fund, and sufficient monies were raised by public subscription to meet the volunteers' needs and to maintain the Yeomanry Hospital established at Dielfontein.

At the end of the war in 1902, substantial funds remained and in 1903 a trust was established with these funds to provide benefits for members of the Imperial Yeomanry and the Hospital staff. The Trust established a school at Hoddesden in Hertfordshire for the education of members' daughters, but by 1930 the supply of pupils had dwindled and the school was closed.



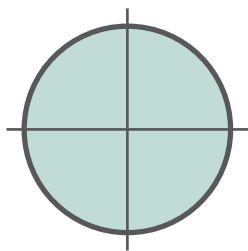
Imp Yeo Hospital, Dielfontein.

Under a scheme approved by the Courts, the school was sold and the proceeds were used to endow a new fund, the Imperial Yeomanry Benevolent Fund, which had the objective of relieving distress amongst those who had served in the Yeomanry or their relatives and dependants. In 1966 the name of the fund was changed to the Yeomanry Benevolent Fund.

Today the YBF continues to support Yeomen in distress and during the last financial year) dispensed grants and allowances amounting to £17,538. This figure might appear low but the YBF usually acts in concert with SSAFA (who are the case officers), the RBL and regimental charities such as ourselves and therefore together with these other charities assistance to our beneficiaries totalled £61,508. The KSYA supports the YBF with an annual donation of £200.

If an individual is aware of a former Kent and Sharpshooter Yeoman (and that includes female members) who are experiencing hardship, the most effective method of providing support is to contact the Association's S20 and Welfare team in the first instance who will talk to the YBF and then onto SSAFA or the RBL. These associations will assign a caseworker to the individual. The caseworkers not only have access to charities like the YBF that can provide funds, but the caseworker also is able to call on specialist support providers, for example, occupational health assessors.





KSYA DONATIONS 2021

List of Association members who have contributed to the Association funds in the financial year 2020/21, covering individual donations, specific donations towards the journal and to the Association funds in general.

Messrs

Paul Acda, Les Adams, Allen RJ, Mrs Carole Amitrano, John Annett, Barber, Jaimie Barr, Barrow S, Tony Bentley, Sian Birtwistle, Bishop J, Godfrey Bloom, Terry Bodman, Ivo Bondy, Guy Bonsor, Bowles RA, Graham Browning, Browning D, Browning G, Terry Burton, Chris Chadwick, Paul Coxon, Peter Crowley, Dodds S, Michael Donnelly, Ray Dunkley, Guy Farage, Rand Faytaren, William Fernie, Anthony Gethin, John Gillman, Jason Grais, Green NJ, Micky Hall, David Hannam, Harrison P, Cate Hawkins, David Hewer, Richard Hewitt, Boyd Holmes, Roy Houghton, Nigel Hubbard, Tony James, Simon Jenkins, Andy Johnson, Gordon Jones, Huw Jones, Dominic Rucke-Keene, Kenney A, David Lakin, Mike Last, Robin Laurence, Leon Le Besque, Lee JP, Bill Lovell, James McNamara, Simon and Penny Malik, Wolfgang Mann, Matthews, Ian McRobbie, Russell Mellor, Chris Moden, Pat Moore, Newitt A, Ralf Ortman, Mrs Gladys Ping, John Prince, Stuart Pritchard, The PDC Trust, Tim Rayson, Selleck P, Dave Shardlow, Steve Shelley, Sherburne R, Dave Shrubbs, Lee Sirett, Ray Smith, David Stalder, William Stancombe, Stephens AN, Piers Storie-Pugh, Chris Sutton, Trevor Tew, Alan Thompson, Maurice Tomlin, P J Tustin, John Warde, Ewen Watt, The Worshipful Company of Insurers, Andrew Wingfield, Dave Whitehouse, Dave Wilson, Wilson PA, Keith Wrate, Kevin Wright, C Sqn RY and 265 (KCLY Support Squadron).

In addition to the above names, the following have contributed in this financial year (21/22) and to date (16 Dec 21).

Messrs

Christopher Cook, Nicola Cook (both in memoriam George Cook), Danny Farmer, J Henderson, S Ridgwell, Paul Rogers, Abu Sesay and Mrs Megan Timbrell (in memoriam Clifford Bliss 3rd/4th CLY).

List of Association members who donated towards the Ernest Dray Memorial headstone, but were not recorded in the 2020 Journal, having donated after the Journal articles submission date deadline.

Messrs

Brenda Traylen, Phil Mason, Julian Radcliffe, Guy Farage, A Gillman, A Atkinson and, P Dray

List of Association members who have contributed to the conservation of the East Kent Yeomanry Elham Troop guidon.

Messrs

Paul Acda, Andrew Wingfield, Tim Rayson, Boyd Holmes, Edward Barham, Huw Jones, Tony Bentley, David Lakin, Simon Malik, Thornton S, Michael Donnelly, Nigel (Plum) Pearson, Chris Smith, Matthew Webb, Stuart Pritchard, Guy Farage, Chris Sutton, Brenda Traylen, Neil Hubbard, Steve Shelley, Mike Swan, Terry Burton, David Turner and David Whitehouse.



The consummate Sharpshooter. Captain Pat Dyas CdG (Croix de Guerre), 3/4 CLY's Regimental Adjutant, shows how to wear the Spring fashions of 1945. He sports the 4 CLY beret ribbon and badge, 3 CLY Collar Dogs on his classic '38 pattern battledress blouse, a fleece-lined Mackinaw 'Jeep' jacket, and corduroy trousers. He cuts quite a dash. (CSYM-SAL-22-112)

Photograph colourised by Simon Malik.