

# The sharpshooter



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

(REGISTERED CHARITY No. 803784)

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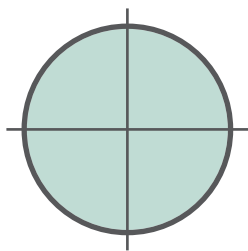
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Front cover: Raymond Whitwell, a 103 year old WWII veteran with Pte Rebecca Bowles, C(KSY) Sqn.  
Mr Whitwell served in the Royal Army Service Corps (No3 Petrol Company).

# INDEX

Chairman's Report .....	2
Secretary's Report .....	5
Membership Secretary's Report 2022.....	9
Forecast of Events .....	10
The Sharpshooter Journal cover photograph competition .....	12
Treasurer's Report.....	13
Welfare Report .....	15
Empty Saddles .....	16
William Johnson.....	17
William (Bill) Fernie .....	17
Derek 'Duke' Baker .....	17
Robin James Woods.....	18
C(KSY) Sqn OC's Report .....	19
265 (KCLY (Sharpshooters)) Support Squadron OC's Report .....	25
Operation FIRCIC Falkland Island Deployment.....	36
Op London Bridge .....	49
Captain Steve Slaney .....	51
71st (CoL) Yeomanry Signal Regiment Report.....	54
The Desert Rats Association Memorial Project – Dedication Ceremony.....	56
Museum Trust – Chairman's Report 2022 .....	59
Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum Trust – Curator's Report .....	61
KSY Museum's 'Black-Gang'.....	68
Sharpshooters in Normandy Then & Now .....	72
The mystery of Lance Cpl. Herbert Crandall, West Kent Yeomanry (QO), the loss of SS Ivernia and The Albert Medal.....	79
Field of Remembrance 2022 .....	84
El Gubi Dinner 2022 .....	86
The saving of the Elham Troop Guidon .....	90
Fred Hewer.....	92
Regimental Ephemera through printed paper.....	96
Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanry Fine Dining Part 3 (1939-1948).....	97
The Little Green Book.....	103
TE308 – A Spitfire made fro two – February 2022 .....	105
Surrey Army Cadet Force. The Maydwell Cadet and Best Student on the Three Star Cadre .....	111
Messing about on the river 1916.....	114
Rectory Place .....	115
The Sharpshooters Regimental March.....	118
The ships that transported Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen to war and brought them home again. Part 1 – The Boer War .....	123



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**by Lt Colonel Mark Hodson TD**

A very warm welcome to the 2022 edition of the Sharpshooter journal. As you receive this, we thankfully appear to have pushed covid largely behind us and perhaps have a period of stability ahead of us after the political turmoil of the summer and autumn that we have endured.

Our support to Operations continued during 2022, and, as you will read further into the journal, the variety of military operations that Sharpshooters are mobilised for continues to increase, not least in support to the civilian authorities; and we endeavour to support everyone who is mobilised and their families 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. David Sales, our linkman to the WCI has stepped down from his successful tenure as Master Insurer. Unusually, David had a two-year tour at the head of the livery – David took a second year in office to compensate for having spent most of his first year, like the rest of us, in lockdown. I am pleased that David will continue to be our link to the WCI and am also pleased that the new Master, Nick Dunlop, is equally enthusiastic as David is, about all Sharpshooter matters.

Following the sad passing of our late Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Emma and I laid flowers on behalf of the Association at the gates of Buckingham Palace. Later, for the occasion of our El Gubi dinner, I wrote to the Palace offering our continued loyal support to our new monarch, King Charles the Third.

The El Gubi dinner was an immense success – 88 Sharpshooters dined at the Cavalry & Guards Club, celebrating the 75th such event that the Association has held and commemorating the 81st anniversary of the battle. Once again it was heartening to see the increased numbers of younger Sharpshooters at the dinner, and the large numbers of family members who joined us. All guests and Sharpshooter are very welcome at the dinner, and it was wonderful that we had guests from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and Germany. We were delighted that the Master Insurer, Nick Dunlop and his wife Geraldine were able to join us, along with Gordon and Jane Jones of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Association (RGHA).

Gordon and Jane joined our El Gubi dinner forfeiting the opportunity to attend the RGHA El Gubi service the following day. Chris Sutton, Chairman of the Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum Trust did manage to get to Badminton the morning after the dinner and kindly represented the Association and the Museum Trust at this lovely service, supporting the continuing links between 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanry regiments. The service is held



every year in November – if you have never had the opportunity to attend, please do try to go one year, it is always a lovely service, with kind hospitality from the Duke of Beaufort and the Royal Wessex yeomanry, and we always receive a very warm welcome.

During our El Gubi dinner, the Master Insurer, on behalf of the WCI presented a set of WCI cufflinks to Corporal Michael Greenwood of C Squadron for his enduring support to recruiting and the training of new recruits, and his support to Operation LONDON BRIDGE, for our late Majesty's state funeral. Corporal Ian Liscoe of 265 Squadron was equally recognised for his support to recruiting for 265 – sadly Ian was not present at the dinner to receive the cufflinks personally, they have subsequently been presented to him during a squadron training evening, by Colonel Simon Malik, Honorary Colonel 265. The citations for both Michael and Ian can be found at the end of this report.

A sad duty befell me during the course of the dinner and that was to share with everyone that Guy Farage was stepping down from his role of being our President. Guy's mobility has been deteriorating – getting to/from events is ever more challenging and frustrating; hence Guy's decision. Guy has been our President since 2005 and has been involved with the Association and the Museum Trust for numerous years. Whilst Guy will inevitably keep in touch, we will all miss his valuable wisdom, useful insights, keen intelligence and great sense of humour at our meetings and occasions. Guy regaled us with some of his thoughts and memories of his life with the Sharpshooters, and we were much entertained by Guy's speech. We presented Carole with a bouquet of flowers and Guy with a set of El Gubi 75 port glasses as small tokens to recognise the occasion, and will be looking to arrange a proper dining out for Guy and Carole, near to their home, sometime during 2023.

During the year Tony Bentley stepped down as our Treasurer. Tony moved our financial administration forward significantly, especially in terms of governance and with HMRC. Please let me use this forum to publicly thank Tony for all he did for us as treasurer. At the same time, please allow me to welcome another former Sharpshooter, Lt Col David Palmer (ret'd) into the role. David has already engaged with the task of being Treasurer with great energy and rigour.

Whilst on the subject of finances, we must continue to look for ways to raise income and our capital base. Whether our current 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, of any size, 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.

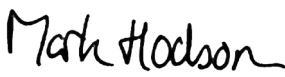
As always, we are indebted to our journal editors, Colonel Simon Malik and Tim Rayson who devote many long hours to creating our journal each year. With every edition they manage to find ways to improve on previous years and it is always a thrill when the journal arrives and one gets to see how everyone's contributions and photos have been masterfully put together. And in Tim's case, this is in addition to the energy he puts into being our Honorary Secretary. Thank you both.

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

Sharpshooter family. 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 to you and your families for 2023.

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Lt Col Mark Hodson TD

## **EL GUBI DINNER 2022 – WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF INSURERS AWARD CITATIONS\***

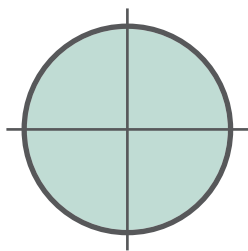
### **Corporal Michael Greenwood – C (KSY) Squadron RY**

Cpl Michael Greenwood's has steadily yet significantly delivered effect for C Sqn this year. Fulfilling a role one rank up – as a Troop Sgt – he quietly but diligently manages his Troop – 1st Troop – to a high standard. He's an omni-present personality in C Sqn, giving well beyond the formal role. As a Sqn PTI, he helps drive the physical fitness of the squadron and recruits, including through running extra PT sessions in his own time. He is a key part of the culture – helping to organise and run social events. He is always keen to volunteer where he can – including this year supporting Operation LONDON BRIDGE – the State Funeral – where he was cited as “critical” to supporting the Gentleman-at-Arms.

### **Corporal Ian Liscoe – 265 (KCLY) Support Squadron 71 Yeomanry Signal Regiment**

Cpl Ian Liscoe was appointed to Squadron Recruiting in January 2020 and immediately set about redesigning the training programme. Although restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic, he adapted his plans to weekly virtual presentations, online training and remained in regular contact with all the recruits. As a result, recruit numbers were far higher than before as he had retained their interest during those difficult times. He has been instrumental in monitoring and mentoring the whole process from their preparation for and, a year later, gaining feedback on return from the Army Training Centre at Pirbright.

Cpl Liscoe is a completely committed individual, one of the first to arrive each drill night and one of the last to leave. His aim is to provide interesting, enjoyable lessons that increase a recruit's military knowledge. He is a long serving member of the Sqn, who has utilised his skills and experience to ensure the Sqn has increased and retained its recruits over the last three years.



## THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Tim Rayson

The year just gone has been a year of ups/downs and significant change and as I write this it's not over yet. In the early part of the year we were on the road to the sunny uplands of a world that was Covid19 free and then came the tragedy that was and remains the war in Ukraine. It beggars belief that a so-called civilised nation could wreak such havoc on an unsuspecting civilian population and get away with it by denying it took place or blaming someone else. Clearly the rule of the big lie in diplomatic relations still works for the Russian Federation with some absolutely outrageous stories coming from Moscow denying events such as the loss of the MOSKVA carrier had taken place or that the destruction of the opera house in Mariupol along with some 600 women and children was not down to them. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ukrainian armed forces and people as they battle to overcome both the weather and the Russians.

In March just as the Russians were grinding to a halt outside Kiev I travelled on the steam train Flying Scotsman with Ron Snowball – our third hand (John Annett) being taken ill the night before. The early departure from Paddington was enlivened by the appearance of an ebullient Piers Storie-Pugh pointing out that we had all served together at Croydon and been friends for some 50 years – how time flies when you are enjoying yourself!

It was a great day out and we squeezed in lunch with Dave and Frankie Carter when it came to the lunch break. Sadly the return journey was marred by wet coal (allegedly Russian) which meant the engine was losing power and possibly its firebox as well so we had to bail out early to get a more modern train to Paddington.

This year the Association management committee decided to improve and modernise its engagement with both of the serving squadrons and approved a number of measures that included:

An annual inter sqn competition for the cover photograph of the Journal. The prize is a free ticket to the El Gubi dinner. This year's winning entry came from C(KSY) Sqn at Croydon.



The publication and issue to all members of an updated 'Little Green Book' which not only states the objectives of the Association but provides a pocket history of our predecessor regiments. The book is included with this Journal and is downloadable from the KSYA web site – see the Little Green Book article for more details.

A sum of money for each sqn to use to support attendance of serving members at the El Gubi dinner. This grant is focussed on the junior members of each Sqn and is managed by the SSgt Crane at Bexleyheath and WO2(SSM Faytaren at Croydon respectively.

The presentation of a KSY Association tie to serving members on completion of basic training plus a copy of the Little Green Book.

There was a Combined Cavalry parade last year for which the Royal Wessex Yeomanry were the lead regiment. The sun shone on a glorious day in Hyde Park with HRH The Earl of Wessex taking the salute followed by a splendid if expensive lunch at The Atheneum Club. There were not many Association members on parade and I hope that the 2023 parade and its successor in 2024 are well supported as they will be the 99th and 100th anniversary parades respectively.

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations were a continuous theme in the year starting on 7th February (Accession Day) and culminating in the Jubilee weekend crowned with what turned out to be Her Majesty's final public appearance on the balcony at Buckingham Palace. The summer turned out to be ferocious in terms of weather although some old sweats will also remember the Summer of '76 with similar temperatures and the five-wheel Saracen that successfully completed an unplanned 360 roll at Annual Camp.

The Association was represented by myself at the RY Freedom Parade at Shrewsbury rail strikes notwithstanding and a jolly good time was had meeting the squadron detachment as well Grenville Turner and some of the other former members of the RY who had managed the trek north. The RY Champagne was excellent and the buffet fabulous as well. In early August I led a BFS for 71st Signal Regt to Ypres where we covered the Battle of Messines in some detail with a look at Passchendaele. The weather was kind although extremely hot and we took the coach up some narrow roads and tracks where perhaps we ought not to. It was however very satisfying to work with the Regiment to deliver the programme and I enjoyed it very much.

In early September very sadly Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth passed away. I received the news whilst travelling on Her Majesty's barge 'Gloriana' on the River Thames on a day out organised by the office. As soon as we landed I returned to the office in St James's Palace to get the Ops Room up and running for what was now The Kings Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. What followed was 10 long days and nights whilst we prepared, rehearsed and started our duties leading up to the day of the funeral and committal service at Windsor. There was no time for grieving only a relentless focus of making sure that we did our duty to Her Late Majesty and indeed when we eventually got back from Windsor after the committal service there was only a sense of emptiness and the question 'what have I been doing for the last 10 days?

As reported in OC C Sqn's report the Kings Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms were supported by a small team of 4 from RY for the duration





A classic Hon Colonel type photo with C Sqn but with The Hon Secretary 'front and centre'.

of Operation London Bridge. C Sqn was represented by Cpl Michael Greenwood and the support that he and they provided to the Honourable Corps was fundamental to the completion of our mission and very much appreciated.

As reported elsewhere an excellent Bir El Gubi dinner was held on 19th November commemorating both the 75th Sharpshooter dinner and 81st anniversary of the battle. As you will see in the fine dining article this was also the 75th anniversary of the first Kent Yeomanry dinner which was also held at Shoreditch Town Hall. It is a tribute to the founder members of both Associations that their spirit of comradeship forged through 6 years of war has by some strange process of osmosis survived the numerous changes and amalgamations over the same period. Our history is littered with stories of events in both war and peace and it is only right in today's 'instant' information age that there should be space in this journal to share them with not only the older members of the Association but the younger serving soldiers. However this Journal is not just about our past but it is also about the here and now and the future so in short we would like more articles!

In his report the Chairman mentions subscriptions and I echo his call to arms – again as we seem to bang on every year about this - but then my predecessors from 1945 onwards did the same for not only voluntary subscriptions but also articles for this august publication!! The Association has and will continue to support Kent and Sharpshooters yeomen on the many small and individual deployments that take place whether it is the Falkland Islands, Mal or Poland on Cabrit. We also support other military charities (RBL, SSAFA and the Yeomanry Benevolent Fund) who provide us with much needed free expertise and advice and we also support our more senior

members who maybe in need of some cheering up at Christmas – but we also do this as a matter of course during the year. Finally we also step up to support RY when there are regimental level deployments and we will do the same for our friends at Bexleyheath.

Membership of the Association is voluntary and it has since its formation in 1947 always relied upon a voluntary subscription which in those early days was 10/6d per annum which equates to around £22.00 in 2021. We still rely on voluntary subscriptions to deliver all of the above – and indeed more. If you are not donating to the Association then I would ask you to do so at whatever amount that you can afford and at whatever frequency that suits you: there are many members who donate with a monthly standing order of £3.00 per month.

Membership forms (and the all important Gift Aid Form) are available on line at the following link:

*Membership - The Sharpshooters ([ksymuseum.org.uk](http://ksymuseum.org.uk))*

Once completed they should be sent by email to the membership secretary. If you wish to make a voluntary donation by way of a standing order then the Association's account details are as follows:

Lloyds Bank  
30-11-75  
00593399  
Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association  
Reference: Subs/your name

The government still run the Gift Aid scheme which adds 25% to the value of your donation. The Treasurer claims it back annually from the tax man and to do that you will need to fill in a Gift Aid form which is available to down load from the KSY web site.

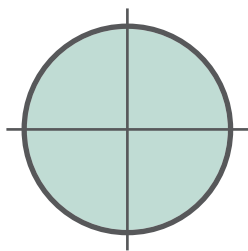
Finally the above account is the Association sole account. If you are donating and your name does not appear in the list of people that do then you should check that you are donating to the above account. If you are paying to anything else then you are not donating to the charity that the Association is.

This year will see the Coronation of HM King Charles III on 6TH May and whilst there are few details at the time of writing the Association hopes to mark the occasion with some sort of event that we and the serving squadrons can join together in. Hopefully we will see you at that event or any of the others in the Forecast of Events.

Watch this space as they say.

Tim Rayson  
Hon Secretary





## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022

Dear Sharpshooters,

I am pleased to report that as of November 2022 the KSY Association membership totalled 423 members including serving soldiers in the two Sharpshooter Squadrons. This is slightly up from 421 from last year.

Details of the membership for 2022 are as follows.

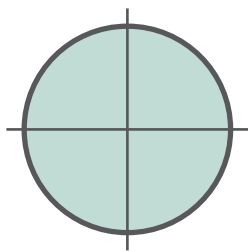
### **Membership 2022**

Full Member .....	370
Family Member .....	14
Friend of KSYA .....	24
Honorary Member .....	9
Vice President .....	5
President .....	1
<b>Total Members .....</b>	<b>426</b>
<b>Members who are Subscribers .....</b>	<b>77</b>

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

Yours aye,

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



## FORECAST OF EVENTS 2023

### April

- 7th** **105th 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** **229th 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.

### May

- 6th** Coronation of HM King Charles IIIrd and HM The Queen Consort
- 8th** KSY Association and serving squadrons Coronation BBQ at Hever Castle (Details tbc).
- 14th** Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association Parade and Service Hyde Park. This the 99th parade. Sponsor Regiment: The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards followed by lunch (venue tbc). Please contact the Hon Secretary on 15th March for further details.
- 18th (tbc)** Desert Rats Association visit to Orwell Park School.
- 31st** **121st Anniversary** of the end of End of the Second Boer War in 1902.

### June

- 6th** **79th Anniversary** of the D Day Landings.
- 13th** **79th Anniversary** of the Battle of Villers Bocage in 1944.

### July

- 10th** **80th Anniversary** of the invasion of Sicily (3rd CLY) in 1943.
- 16th** Desert Rats memorial service, High Ash Camp, Thetford.
- 23rd** ***Founders Day. 122nd Anniversary of the 3rd ,CLY being formally established in the London Gazette in 1901.***
- 26th** **114th Anniversary** of the First annual dinner of the Brigade of Sharpshooters OCA in 1909.

### August

- 15th** **78th Anniversary** of the end of the war against Japan.
- 30th** **81st Anniversary** of the Battle of Alam El Halfa (1st Alamein) (3rd and 4th CLY) and 97th Field Regt (Kent Yeo) in 1942.



## September

- 22nd**      **80th Anniversary** of 3rd CLY landing in Italy at Taranto in 1943.  
**80th Anniversary** of 4th CLY landing at Salerno in 1943.

## October

- 22nd (tbc)**    Combined Cavalry Church Service and lunch RH Chelsea. All are welcome. Please contact the Hon Secretary in April for further details.  
**23rd**          **81st Anniversary** of Battle of El Alamein (2nd Alamein) (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1942 and 97th Field Regt (Kent Yeo) in 1942.

## November

- 9th (tbc)**      Opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey. Please apply to the Hon Secretary for tickets in July. Limited tickets available.  
**11th (tbc)**    The Lord Mayors Show.  
**12th (tbc)**    Remembrance Sunday.  
**19th**          **82nd Anniversary** of the Battle of Bir El Gubi (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1941.  
**19th**          **The 76th 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 2023 Journal are required before the end of Dec.**

- 11th (tbc)**    RY Carol Concert. Further details to be published.  
**20th**          **122nd Anniversary** of the Battle of Tafel Kop, South Africa (23rd Bn Imperial Yeomanry – the original Sharpshooters) in 1901.  
**25th**          **122nd Anniversary** of the Battle of Tweefontein (Groenkop) South Africa. Royal East Kent Yeomanry (33rd and 53rd Coys) who were part of 11th Bn Imperial Yeomanry.  
**31st**          ***124th Anniversary of the Founding of the Sharpshooters in 1899.***

## 2024 Notable Anniversaries

- March**      Kent Yeomanry 230th Anniversary  
**May**        Combined Cavalry Parade 100th Anniversary  
**June**        D Day 80 and Villers Bocage 80  
**December** Sharpshooter 124th Anniversary





# The Sharpshooter

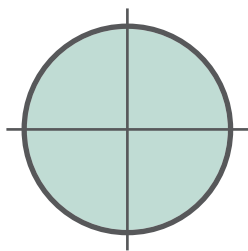
## THE SHARPSHOOTER JOURNAL 2023 COVER PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

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 5Mb). 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 2023. 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.





## **TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31st March 2022 by Tony Bentley, Hon Treasurer**

Using current (31st March 2022) valuations of investments, the Association had net assets of £107k compared with £86k at the end of the Associations last financial year. The increase in net assets can be attributed to the continuing recovery of the financial markets since the peak of the Covid 19 pandemic, and a recovery of the M&G Charifund investment unit rate. Unfortunately, just before and in the 9 months since the Associations financial year end, both the outbreak of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and the influence of Liz Truss's Chancellors mini budget, caused the markets to suffer significant disruption downwards. However, since Rishi Sunak's Chancellors autumn statement, the financial markets have started to stabilise and investments are starting to see some recovery. At the time of writing the Charifund units are listing at around the £14.50 per unit mark (~£59.5K) compared with a value of £15.80 per unit (~£65.8K) at the Association's financial year end. M&G investment distributions remained steady in the period.

In December 2021, the Association invested £12k of funds in a two-year fixed rate bond with the Cambridge and Counties Bank. This investment decision was taken to diversify the Associations portfolio away from a strategy of 100% of the Associations investments being in M&G Charifund units. This will reduce the Associations exposure to the markets, albeit the return is less.

Income this financial year has fallen overall by £3k, attributable mainly to fewer crowdfunding appeals this financial year. Income from gift aid recovery also fell by £1k, due to the bulk of back recovery of gift aid the Association is likely to achieve, having now been substantially achieved. Going forward the bulk of gift aid recovery will be for current year income. Again the Association has benefitted from the very generous and continuing support of The Worshipful Company of Insurers, the excellent responses to two crowdfunding appeals and a legacy of £1k in memory of Clifford Bliss (3rd/4th CLY), received from Mrs Megan Trimbell. Approximately 90 individuals have generously contributed to the funds and the cost of the annual journal. The level of income receipts has allowed the Association to continue to publish the annual journal and fulfil its charitable obligations at a level similar to last year.

Our largest expense continues to be the production and distribution of the annual journal at £4k. Expenditure this year in respect of crowdfunded activities, was a donation towards the Desert Rats Association memorial of £0.8k and an initial grant to The KSY Museum Trust of £1.3k towards the restoration of the EKY Guidon. Also, a grant of £250 to the Royal Yeomanry towards Post Operations (Op Cabritt) Adventure Training (Sailing). The Association continues to support four charities, they being The Yeomanry Benevolent Fund (YBF), SSAFA (Kent), the Royal British Legion and the

KSY Museum Trust which have benefitted from a grant of £1.5k, divided between them. The KSYA Museum Trust has also received a £0.5k share of the legacy, received from Mrs Megan Trimbell. El Gubi transactions this year resulted in a net expenditure of £1.9k. Total expenditure this financial year was £11k.

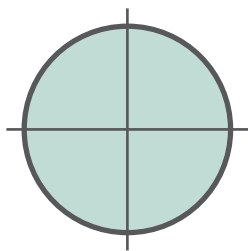
The Association takes this opportunity to remind members and donors, that those of you who are both able to and wish to do so, please consider completing and forwarding a gift aid form to the Secretary, if you have not already done so. HMRC currently contributes a further 25% to gift aided donations. Please contact the Secretary (secretary@ksya.org.uk) for further information.

I decided to step down at the end of the last financial year. Since then, David Palmer has kindly accepted an invitation to take up the position and role of Treasurer.

Tony Bentley, Hon Treasurer to Financial Year End 31st March 2022

Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 31st March 2022						
		Current Year		Previous Year		
		31st March 2022		31st March 2021		
		£	£	£	£	Comments
<b>Investments at cost</b>		<b>Total for 4101.437 units</b>	<b>39,727.00</b>	<b>Total for 4101.437 units</b>	<b>39,727.00</b>	See Note A below
M&G Charifund Units purchased 1/3/88, 21/8/89, 20/8/05, 30/4/08, 1/5/19 and 31/10/19						
<b>Assets @ 31/3/22</b>		<b>31st March 2022</b>		<b>31st March 2021</b>		
Cambridge & Counties Bank 2 Year Fixed Rate Bond Issue 28 @ 1.50% Interest		11,915.00		0.00		Purchased 22/12/2021 Maturity Date 22/12/2023
Cash at bank accounts		18,870.00		25,905.00		
Sundry debtors		0.00		0.00		
<b>Total</b>			<b>30,785.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>25,905.00</b>	
<b>Less Sundry Creditors</b>		<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>		
<b>Total</b>			<b>0.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>			<b>70,512.00</b>		<b>65,632.00</b>	
<b>Represented by</b>		<b>31st March 2022</b>		<b>31st March 2021</b>		
Balance brought forward			65,632.00		58,123.00	
Plus / minus surplus / deficit			4,880.00		7,509.00	
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>			<b>70,512.00</b>	<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>65,632.00</b>	
		<b>31st March 2022</b>		<b>31st March 2021</b>		
Note A	Market value of M&G Charifund investment at financial year end	4,101.437 Units at unit price £15.7971	65,791.00	4,101.437 Units at unit price £14.7241	60,390.00	Increase in 31/3/22 unit price attributable to the continued recovery of the investment markets during this financial year, following the 2020 Covid 19 epidemic market fluctuations.
			<b>65,791.00</b>		<b>60,390.00</b>	
Further information pertaining to the income and expenditure and balance sheets for financial year ended 31st March 2022, is included in the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association Committee Members Annual Report for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. 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.

In June/July 2021 two members 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! The boys came home at the end of June 2022 although LCPL Salamut managed to extend his stay and returned at the beginning of December 22.

At the beginning of December 2021 LCPL Michael Takacs was deployed to Mali (Op Newcombe) for six months. Parcels were sent out to him on behalf of KSYA. Yet again much appreciated. The parcels are made up of everyday things but also lots of fun things too. We must keep up their morale in their down times. In addition Tpr Jason Palmer and Tpr Joe Vithayathil deployed to the Falkland Islands on (OP Firic) as part of 4PWRR.

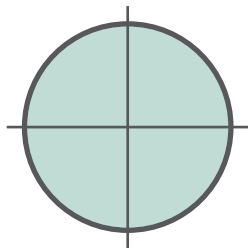
We have two of C Squadron being deployed to Poland in March/April 2023 and of course parcels will be going out to them as well. As you can see sending parcels to *Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomen* never stops and this is all funded by your donations to the Association. As the Chairman says in his report we can always do with more donations so if you are a recipient of the Journal and you are not donating then please do so.

We also had one potential hardship case towards the end of the year but that was resolved with the help of our partners at SSAFA. Finally Christmas hampers were again sent out in December to those members of the Association who have faced difficulties this year to wish them both a Merry Christmas and to let them know we are thinking of them. They were very much appreciated and a nice surprise.

Please remember that we are here for anyone that is in need of help however small. If we can't help we have contacts in outside agencies that can help and give advice where needed. If anyone can think of someone who would appreciate a little gift from us at Christmas – or indeed at any other time of the year - so they don't feel alone please forward their details on to me at the email address below.

Please remember that we are here for anyone that needs to chat or needs support. Contact details are pennyohare@hotmail.com or 07703-254009 (Penny) mobile on 24hrs a day.





## EMPTY SADDLES 2022

### 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.

LCpl William Johnson	Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> CLY and Scots Greys
Lt William (Bill) Fernie	Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> CLY (Post WW2)
Tpr Derek John (Duke) Baker	C (KSY) Sqn RY
WO2 (SSM) Robin Wood	HQ (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, 71 <sup>st</sup> Signal Yeomanry Regt

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVER MORE  
LEST WE FORGET

## **L/Cpl WILLIAM JOHNSON**



L/Cpl William Johnson 6153685, 3CLY D-Day veteran passed away peacefully on Thurs 19th Jan 2023, aged 99. He landed on the beaches as part of 3CLY and at some stage - probably post the amalgamation at Carpiquet - he transferred to the Royal Scots Greys where he was the driver of a Churchill Crocodile flame thrower tank.

## **Lt WILLIAM (BILL) FERNIE**

Bill Fernie who died on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 joined the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> CLY in the 1950's as a National Service subaltern along with a number of other Sharpshooters such as Guy Farage.

## **Tpr DEREK 'DUKE' BAKER**

Derek Baker (more commonly called "Duke" by his friends) served in C(KSY) Sqn from 1967 to 1970 having been posted in from the Westminster Dragoons on the formation of the Royal Yeomanry. He had previously served eight years with them. Derek had for the last twenty years courageously fought a battle with cancer and sadly succumbed to pneumonia induced by long Covid on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the age of 78.



## WO2 (SSM) ROBIN JAMES WOODS



Robin or more usually Bob or “Chippy” Woods was a career soldier, joining the army as a boy soldier on 4th May 1953. After his apprenticeship with 6 (Boys) Training Regiment at Beverley he joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1955 with 1 Training Regiment at Catterick. Postings then followed to 10 Wireless Training Squadron (Loughborough) and 2 Wireless Regiment (Famagusta, Cyprus) where he was promoted to Corporal. From Cyprus he moved in 1959 to El Adem, Libya (a location for 104th during the war) and then in 1960 to 28 Signal Regiment at St Tonis, near Krefeld, where he was promoted Sergeant.

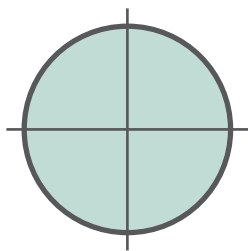
After five years in Germany Bob returned to the UK with a posting to Bournemouth and then in 1968 to 7 Signal Regiment at Hereford. 1972 saw a further posting (261 (Air Support) Signal Squadron at RAF Episkopi and promotion to Staff Sergeant. From there he returned to Germany and a posting to 7 Signal Regiment until 1977 when he spent the final six months of his regular service with 71 (Y) Signal Regiment.

On leaving the army he was living in the Corringham area and immediately joined the territorials with the Essex Yeomanry, serving variously as Troop 2i/c for D Troop, with the Recruit Training Team and (1980 – 1986) as Squadron Sergeant Major. From the Essex Yeomanry he then served as SSM with HQ (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Signal Squadron from 1987 – 1992.

In civilian life he was an Asset Manager for a national leisure company. After retirement he moved to Canvey Island and would regularly attend annual Remembrance parades until ill health made that impossible. He loved a game of golf, a pint of beer and a good joke, and was good company to all. His wife of forty years predeceased him in 2002 but he leaves a daughter Sharon to whom we extend our sympathy and condolences.







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

**by Major Julian Moore**

Sqn Ldr - Maj Julian Moore  
2IC - Capt Richard Darlington  
PSAO - Capt Paddy Ireland  
Trg Captain - Capt Robin Rowe  
Trg Officer - Capt Callum Ritchie  
Trg Officer - Lt Ric Sherburne  
1 Tp - Lt Calum Alister-Jones  
2 Tp - 2Lt Maitland-Jones  
Recruit Tp - Lt Dan Rowland  
SSM - WO2 Faytaren

### *Foreword, by Maj Moore*

This year we have continued on our journey to reform post pandemic. For me, it certainly feels like the squadron's heart is beating strongly, once again. If last year was about fixing things that were broken, this year has been about building on that foundation and advancing forward. It has been a seminal year for the Royal Yeomanry: we re-subordinated into 1 Deep Recce Strike Brigade Combat Team (1 DRS), part of 3rd (UK) Division, and as such we are the only light cavalry Yeomanry that retains a primary war fighting role, rather than being part of the all-reserve brigade (19th), with a likely focus on Homeland Ops, as the others are.

With our new Brigade comes new responsibilities. Our current liability is to provide a formed sub unit to 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards, and individual replacements as required to The Household Cavalry Regiment and Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeth's Own). There's renewed focus on readiness, innovation, and a move to become vehicle agnostic. While Jackal remains available to us, we will train on a range of wheeled light vehicles. This will hugely help with the training burden created by Jackal, and enable us to exponentially increase our qualifications and ability to train for, and be at, readiness.

While we continue to struggle with numbers in Croydon mostly due to the practicalities of the recruiting system (though we need help getting people in the door too, so if you are reading this and think you can help with our recruiting efforts, please do put your hand up), C Sqn continues to punch above our weight in contributions to support to operations. This year we have had:

- Soldiers to Mali, on Op NEWCOMBE
- Soldiers to the Falklands, on Op FIRIC
- Soldiers on Operation London Bridge, the funeral for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- Soldiers supporting training in Kenya

For 2023 we have lots to look forward to. More soldiers on Operations. Increased training at a Regimental level. A battlefield study to Sicily (if the army approves). Greater resource and integration from/with 1DRS. And a Divisional level exercise as annual camp in September. We go into the new year with the bit between our teeth, on a strong trajectory, and relish the task of playing our part within the Royal Yeomanry as we become integral to our new Brigade.

*First Term, by Lt Alister-Jones*

The first half of the year saw challenging field exercises which tied together an array of core Light Cavalry skills. Amongst other taskings in the January FTX, C Sqn troops carried out vehicle check points (which culminated in them responding to an enemy callsign mounted in a TCV attack their position at speed); a frosty night time close target reconnaissance; and a final, rapid assault through the enemy's built up positions at first light.

A regimental run exercises called Renders Return in May was innovative and designed to enable troops and leaders to practice their mounted combat skills. Land Rovers GS were used to allow even those without mounted qualifications to carry out force on force combat, from which all involved were able to derive significant experience and understanding of mounted warfare.

These were interspersed by the Squadron range weekend at the colourfully titled Fingringhoe ranges near Colchester. C Sqn troops, joined by some fellow Yeoman from across the Regiment, conducted its first foray into the new Role Fitness Test (comprised of a set of six representative military tasks) with great success. This RFT effort was then matched on the ranges by an impressive standard of marksmanship across the Squadron.

*Second Term, by 2Lt Maitland-Jones*

In September, the Sqn welcomed back Tprs Palmer and Vithayathil from Op FIRIC in the Falklands, although Tpr Palmer is shortly mobilising for a Op CABRIT as well. The Sqn remains highly operationally focused.

In early October the regiment ran an Overseas Deployment Exercise (ODX) in Gibraltar, which was well attended by C Sqn personnel. Concurrently running a Potential Non-Commissioned Officer course with regular Army attendees as part of the serials injected some novelty into proceedings, as if control measures aimed at preventing macaque kit theft wasn't enough!

Utilising the live training environment of the Rock and the Town the enemy - the Gorgas Freedom Fighters - were driven back to their stronghold in the southern tip of the peninsula and destroyed. The regiment made extensive use of the tunnel networks running through the Rock to get thoroughly acquainted with subterranean combat - something with a particularly disorienting flavour.

The chance was also taken to put in an Observation Post on top of the Rock itself, in one of the abandoned batteries. The views and Mediterranean sun put many in mind of the dreary conditions at home. On the culminative attack Capt Darlington (C Sqn 2IC) was OC for the attack, representing C Sqn in fine fashion in command.

C Sqn personnel were also present at the Army's inaugural Dronex22, which aimed to explore the impact and use of uncrewed air systems - or drones - on the Army, held



C Sqn contingent on Ex BARBARY STAR in Gibraltar.

at the Land Warfare Centre Warminster. 2Lt Maitland-Jones and Cpl Wright formed this deputation for the Regiment, and it is heartening to see the Sqn representing the Regiment at what is cutting-edge innovation for the Army Reserve.

C Sqn in particular has a degree of exposure to civilian drone use and interest in military applications which would allow us to lead the regiment in this, as well as ensuring that wider Army efforts are Reserve-compatible and that we are not left behind from this step change in modern sensor capability, especially given our move to the Warfighting Division and 1 Deep Reconnaissance Strike Brigade.

The culmination of the training year was Ex Urban Sharpshooter, on Longmoor. Despite being a small area, the varied terrain threw up plenty of challenges. Troops undertook a complex series of tasks in both urban and rural terrain primarily operating at night. The use of the Marker Round Training System – a high powered paintball kit – added a high degree of realism that everyone relished, and the Sqn was thoroughly tested from the OC down to the newest troopers. Developing an operational picture from a live enemy, provided courtesy of Exeter UOTC, was a greatly educational challenge, and of course fantastic fun.

The El Alamein Ball was the perfect end to the working year. The Sqn and its guests were well provided for, with both a hog roast and turkey on offer. Tpr Pendered's rendition of his self-authored grace set the evening off to a good start, and Mess Games went on well into the small hours.

It's my firm view that C Sqn remains a place where troops can develop from new, freshly off of civvie street recruits, into capable soldiers with the entire Army world before them on both the social and professional fronts.



Wednesday after an exercise the Squadron does roll back, equipment care and then dines together.



The OC, 2IC and SCMS (SCpl Ware) receive that Regimental Equipment Care Trophy from the Quartermaster at the Freedom of Shrewsbury parade.





Eyes on the Objective via C Sqn's Drone, on Ex URBAN SHARPSHOOTER.



SSM gives Combat Service Support Orders in a hangar before deployment on Ex URBAN SHARPSHOOTER

## **Dedication of the Desert Rats memorial Desert Rats memorial.**

### **Iron – Stone – Sand – Blood.**

Sunday 23rd October 2022 saw service personnel from all over the UK, past and present attended the Desert Rat memorial at The National Arboretum Staffordshire. Personal from 7th Armoured Division, 4th Armoured Brigade and the 7th Armoured Brigade as well as many veterans including the Chelsea Pensioners and the true inspiration Raymond Whitwell 103 year old WW2 veteran, all came together to celebrate and commemorate the lives of those who have served, fought and died.

The Jerboa represents the history and spirit of the Desert Rat. The iron of the Rat represents the iron and steel from the armoured vehicles used by the division. The stone symbolises the sand dunes and the rust represents the blood of the fallen. The Desert rat memorial was carved by more recent veterans.

It was an honour to meet all the veterans and The Chelsea Pensioners but the one man that really stood out was Mr Raymond Whitwell. Raymond Whitwell is a 103 year old WWII veteran. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps (No3 Petrol company from the beginning of the war escaping from Cherbourg following Dunkirk. He was then posted to another unit that converted to the Parachute role and served in 250 Coy Airborne RASC in North Africa, with the 1st Army, Sicily and then Italy, as far as Foggia, on the East coast. By 1944 he was serving in the Headquarters, RASC at 1st Airborne Division HQ and he took part in Op MARKET GARDEN landing at Arnhem on 18th September 1944. He managed to escape across the River Rhine and got back to Nijmegen. He definitely lived a charmed life – driving a petrol resupply truck was not for the faint hearted.

After fighting his way across Europe, from Sicily to Holland, he married his wife Iris and became a greengrocer!

*“I was lucky all the way through, I look back on it with pride”* Mr Whitwell said adding that:

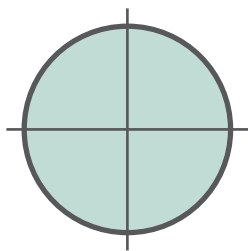
*“There aren’t many of us left now you know”*

It really was a real honour to meet all the veterans and Chelsea Pensioners but most of all Mr Raymond Whitwell.

Pte Rebecca Bowles  
C(KSY) Sqn







## **265 (KCLY (SHARPSHOOTERS)) SUPPORT SQUADRON OC'S REPORT**

OC – Major Craig Sumner  
2IC - Captain Jason Rainsford  
SSM – WO2 Jim Denney  
PSAO – Captain Tul Ale  
Tp Commander – 2Lt Phoebe Lewis  
SQMS – SSgt Rob Marshall

The New Year of 2022 started off pretty much as the old one had finished – with a weekend of equipment care to get the squadron's kit ready for the communication exercises planned for the early spring. Interest sessions on siting rebro stations and other handy tips were run by Sgt Harries adding a bit of spice to a weekend which would otherwise have been entirely devoted to checking lists, cleaning and testing. The last weekend in January saw Tim Rayson come to Bexleyheath to give a presentation on Sharpshooter history to the squadron who then made their way to the museum at Hever for a look at the collection there.

The next stage of the preparation for the forthcoming communications exercises came in February when the squadron deployed with the rest of the regiment to St Martin's Plain camp for Ex PHOENIX LINK. This was the second iteration of the LINK series intended to enhance data communication skills within the regiment – much needed after many years of neglect but already starting to bear fruit as would be seen later in the year.

March and April were a busy time with three events occurring between mid-March and mid-April. Ex SHARPSHOOTER CRAWL, a squadron level detachment deployment exercise, saw detachments deploy to Mereworth Woods training area near Sevenoaks. This provided an ideal opportunity for some of the newer members of the squadron to get an introduction to their role. This was followed, for the officers and senior NCOs, by the Royal Signals reserve conference, HORSESHOE KNOWLEDGE, held in Stafford. This not only gave an update on current issues and concerns in the corps but provided some of us with an opportunity to meet the inbound new CO of 71 Signal Regiment, Lt Col Emma Bruce. The busy period was rounded off by the first COMMUNICATOR exercise of the year held at a very chilly Bramley training area over the first weekend of April. Notwithstanding the slightly challenging weather it was an excellent opportunity to practice the squadron's role in supporting regimental activities in a relatively benign tactical scenario (the tempo was definitely upped as the COMMUNICATOR exercises developed).

The first opportunity to up the tempo came in May as the regiment deployed to STANTA for the second exercise in the series. This time the tactical scenario was less



ITR weekend (L-R Cpl Lovett, Sgt Harries, Sig Hickson and Lcpl Wilsher.

benign, and the squadron found itself defending the FOB in which the regimental headquarters was located as well as providing its communications and life support. It was definitely a case of all hands to the pumps with even the OC doing a stint on sentry duty.

After a series of communication exercises which saw the vehicles and radio kit getting plenty of use June was time for another spot of maintenance. June also saw another innovation – the first ITR weekend. Mandatory Annual Training Tests are no more and a more holistic approach to assessing military skills and fitness is now the order of the day. Incorporating the required tests into a tactical scenario was certainly a more engaging and effective way of facilitating assessment.

July saw some arrivals and departures with Captain Tul Ale arrived at the beginning of the month to take over as PSAO following the retirement of Captain Steve Slaney earlier in the year. At the end of the month Major David Lakin handed over command on retirement although not before taking the opportunity to visit the squadron at Fulford Barracks, York, as it practiced its long-distance communication skills on Ex PHOENIX REACH.

We say goodbye to and regards for a well-deserved retirement to previous OC Maj (Retd) David Lakin. His service saw the Sqn through the challenges of Covid, deploying a number of personnel into the field in support of civil authorities. His time saw personnel deploy across the globe, Africa, Canada, Sweden, Estonia and the US. Latterly, understanding the integrated review and the impact on 265 as we step into the future. David left the Sqn in a great place, with recruitment up, a vision for the future and above all, a squadron which actively engaged its members, and a place to be proud of. David will maintain close ties with the Sqn and Sharpshooters going forwards, and we welcome him back any time for a brew.

At the beginning of August SSgt Crane took the opportunity afforded by having everyone gathered at Bexleyheath to run the first of what has become a regular series



El Gubi Dinner. 265 representatives: Sgt Brett Harries, LCpl Danny Wilsher, Sig Henry Afful and SSgt Carl Crane.



Remembrance Sunday.

of social events intended to provide the opportunity for serving and former squadron members to get together. SSgt Crane was also instrumental with the organisation of EX PHOENIX KNOWLEDGE, a Regimental (initially Squadron level) battlefield study of the Ieper Salient over the period 12-14 August 22, with Mr Tim Rayson, as the very experienced Sharpshooter Battlefield Study guide.

In September, the Sqn deployed on Ex PHOENIX FOCUS, the Regimental Annual Continuous Training (ACT), which further tested the Sqn's abilities and communication skills in the field. Lesson learned were later put into practice during Ex PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR 3, in October and in November the Sharpshooter family came together for the Sqn's annual Remembrance Sunday Parade at Bexleyheath. In December, the Sqn's final maintenance weekend, included a Sharpshooter Reunion and a Squadron Christmas Social.

We say goodbye and thank you for one of our longest serving Squadron members, WO2 (SSM) Simon May, who moves across into the previously gapped SSM 31 Sig Sqn role. SSM May's impact of 265 cannot be understated. I first came across SSM May in my time as Regimental Adjutant, he stood out as a truly genuine and caring SSM, putting the needs of the Sqn members above his own and becoming a trusted advisor and confidant to the OC. We thank SSM May for his time, and of course wish him all the best as he now lends his experience and skill set to support 31 Sig Sqn.

We also say goodbye to Lt Ian Dawes, who also moves over to the RHQ. Lt Dawes has been instrumental as the Sqn's Tp Cdr and for the excellent work he has achieved during the four years with the Squadron. In June he was awarded the Draper's Medal in recognition of his outstanding efforts for his contribution to training and leading the regimental teams for Lanyard Trophy and Trailwalker in 2021. He will be missed by all within the Sqn; we wish him well for the future.

Looking to the future, we welcome WO2 (SSM) Jim Denney into the fold and newly commissioned 2Lt Phoebe Lewis, winner of the RMAS Sword of Honour. A superb achievement. It is an exciting time for the Sqn, new personnel and the trickle-down from the integrated review.

Organizational change takes time. 71SR and 265 need to be on the front foot, understand and communicate what this actually means. This is an exciting place to be; supported by the experienced past and empowered future Sqn members, we have already started to adapt.

265 Support Squadron - the name itself is a debate. Previous equipment alignments and capability shifts have rendered 265 in a position to support administratively but lack the resources of a traditional support squadron. These are constraints, and with constraints come opportunity; we can focus our efforts and avoid wastage debating and working towards unrealistic targets. 265 is the HQ Squadron; we deliver the capability for command by creating the Staff Working Environment (SWE). Additionally, providing real-life support and a staff training effect.

Our vision is achievable, and we have some of the most talented and driven signallers in the Corps. It is with excitement that we look forward to reporting in Dec 2023 to the successes and shapeshifts accomplished in the coming year. Not forgetting, of course, the adventurous training and other valuable developmental events. The calendar is filling up fast; let's see where this takes us.

Major Craig Sumner



## Exercise Phoenix Knowledge 12 - 14 August 2022

Exercise Phoenix Knowledge saw 71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment conduct a Battlefield Study tour of the Ypres (Iepers) Salient over the weekend of the 12th to 14th August, with the primary aim of broadening understanding of First World War trench warfare, analysing how these events shaped future wars and advancement of tactics and weaponry in the coming years.

Having been briefed by our experienced battlefield study guide, Mr Tim Rayson at Bexleyheath ARC, we set off on Friday 12th, arriving first at the Hooze Museum, which was built directly on top of the vast Hooze crater, just outside Ypres. This museum contained extensive collections of weaponry, uniforms and a striking replica plane flown by the Red Baron Manfred von Richthofen. Following this, we walked to Frezenburg, which marked the setting for the Second Battle of Ypres, and was the first-time mustard, chlorine and phosgene gases were unleashed by the Germans on the Allies, with devastating consequences. The day complete, we made our way into the historic town of Ypres located our accommodation and the restaurant for our evening meal, before a well deserved sleep.

The following day saw us visit Langemark Cemetery, where more than 44,000 German soldiers, as well as two British, were buried. Immediately this was poignant from its simplicity, with its location very much hidden from main view, the vast numbers buried in a mass grave overlooked by a bronze statue of four mourners, and the tribute to 3,000 students who also volunteered and were killed as part of the war effort.



Memorial to commemorate the football match during the Christmas Truce 1914.



Tim Rayson briefing at Tyne Cot NZ Memorial.

We then visited the Zonnebeke museum, which focused heavily on the devastating Battle of Passchendaele in 1917, which saw over 200,000 casualties from each of the Germans and Allied forces, and due to the sheer scale could arguably be described as a war in its own right. The collections here were remarkable, with visitors able to try on German body armour a highlight, however of particular significance was the replicated trenches and shelters upon exit, which really did provide a sense of what troops had to contend with, combined with the horrendous weather conditions endured.

After the museum, we visited Hill 60, which also was the setting for the breath-taking Caterpillar Crater, and Messines, whose battle the Allies comprehensively came out victorious, provided the setting for Passchendaele. We concluded Saturday evening with a service at the Menin Gate, paying our respects and laying down wreaths on behalf of each Squadron within the Regiment.

The final morning saw us visit Tyne Cot cemetery and visitor centre, where vast numbers of British and allied forces were buried. Of poignancy was the sheer number of unidentified troops, as well as the tributes paid to Australian and New Zealand troops, the latter seeing the greatest number of casualties in a day during the battle at





Passchendaele Memorial 1917.



Passchendaele. We concluded our visit with a short service and laid a Regimental wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice before personnel each located a grave and planted a small wooden cross at the headstone, in memory of those commemorated in the cemetery.

We then headed on to Poperinghe to visit Talbot House, still a guesthouse to this day, as well as the execution cells, where men would be detained for desertion or cowardice, inscriptions within the walls of these cells particularly moving. This also rounded off the exercise and a thoroughly revealing, yet educational Battlefield Study.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Tim Rayson for sharing his knowledge and expertise as our Battlefield Study guide.

## London Marathon 2022

by SSgt Carl Crane

On Sunday 02 October 2022, 265 (KCLY) Sp Sqn personnel volunteered to assist with the security and marshalling of this year's London Marathon, which had been postponed from April due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19 restrictions.

At 07:30 we arrived at Wellington Barracks, where over 50 Service personnel, who were to act as marshals throughout the day, were briefed. We then moved off to our allocated locations, our main responsibility to provide crowd control, information about the London Marathon and directions to local landmarks to the public. Through the day we watched runners from elite athletes to those raising money for charity complete the 26.2 mile course.



London Marathon 2022 – (L to R) LCpl Sylvia Akarbil, Sig Jason Hickson, Sig Janos Majoros and SSgt Carl Crane.

We also had the possible excitement of an appearance from Extinction Rebellion, who had apparently started to gather at Paddington station and their plan was to block the London Marathon route! We therefore cleared an alternative route through Horse Guards parade square and managed to keep it open, even though many thousands of runners and families were meeting there! Eventually, with no appearance of Extinction Rebellion, the decision was made not to use the alternative route and we returned to our previous locations.

Overall the atmosphere and crowds were amazing, supported by good weather, it was one of the first times in recent years that we experienced the return of a national event in London.

## Ex (ITR) B1 (20-22 May 2022)

On 20-22 May, 71 (Y) Sig Regt took part in their first ITR weekend, which replaces the MATT syllabus in order for Reservists to achieve their Certificate of Efficiency. The format of the course was a radical change from the old format, and was entirely based in field conditions.

There was a good deal of uncertainty regarding what to expect from the new ITR format but the troops remained professional, adaptable and worked as a close knit unit to remind and revise the skills which they were assessed on. The weekend covered core infanteering skills which many troops had not practiced for a significant length of time,





265 (KCLY) Sp Sqn patrolling.



(L to R) – Front rank (with flag) Sig Oldman and Sig Chalk. (L to R) Rear rank – Sgt Harries, LCpl Ovenell, Sig Majoros, Cpl Lovett, Sig Hickson, LCpl Wilsher and Sig Masiko.

such as camouflage and concealment, sentry duties, Six Section Battle Drills and Counter IED drills. There were also more assessments for more familiar skills which were covered under the MATTs system, such as CBRN and BCDT, albeit within a more practical battlefield context. The overall package was rigorous and unrelenting, emphasising troops' physical fitness as they carried loads and moved at pace which was designed to represent the rigours of operations.

One particular highlight was a confirmation exercise on the Sunday morning, during which troops were required to patrol to two areas of interest and to respond to an IED threat, and to then counter an enemy attack by laying suppressing fire and then assaulting the enemy position. These two challenges were overcome by Cpl Lovett's leadership as the designated Section Commander, supported by the experience and wisdom of Sgt Harries.

The quality of teaching and coaching from the regular DS staff throughout the weekend was of a very high standard, and the DS relayed their congratulations at Regt's performance under significant pressure from the high temperatures and brisk pace of the package. The Regt now has a solid baseline from which to prepare for the second segment of ITR training later in 2022, which will include the new and more advanced Role Fitness Test.

Sig Chris Oldham, 265 (KCLY) Sp Sqn, 71 (Y) Sig Regt

### **Shotgun Skills Course**

Six Army Reservists from 265 Sig Sqn took a Wednesday off from their regular jobs to attend a shotgun skills course, a well worth-while and recommended use of annual leave!

The team left the Army Reserve Centre early in the morning on the 30th of March and made the journey to Pirbright. Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA) ran the excellent course, starting with a couple of hours covering the theoretical aspects and then three hours of shooting.

On the range, two-barrel "over-and-under" shotguns were used, although only using one barrel for single shots to keep things straight-forward. Each team member was given 25 cartridges to use across different targets. The first few targets, including one side-to-side, were relatively simple and predictable, albeit a couple of the further traps were quite tricky to judge the clay's trajectory. The penultimate shoot was in pairs, where one clay launches and the first of two people to aim and hit the clay is the winner - the race definitely made for more excitement. Finally, the range time ended after a "rabbit" target where a clay rolls along the ground, simulating a running rabbit - the most challenging shot of the day but undoubtedly the most rewarding to hit.

This course was the first time shooting a shotgun for some folks, yet they all managed some great shooting. The team, along with others in the Squadron who missed out on this day, are looking forward to doing more shotgun skills in the future.

## Exercise Sharpshooter Crawl, 18-20 May 2022

Exercise Sharpshooter Crawl was the last event for 265 (KCLY) Support Squadron, in the training calendar, but my first weekend away with the Squadron, since joining back in November 2021. The purpose of the weekend was to deploy to Mereworth Woods Training Area in Kent, establish comms, and practice cam and concealment of the Dets in both rural and urban settings. Whilst the more seasoned of the squadron made light work of establishing tactical comms and quickly fixing any technical issues, it was my first chance to use the Bowman radio equipment and see first-hand the work which constitutes the bread-and-butter of the Corps. As the squadron were running various comms scenarios, I had the opportunity to practice fieldwork skills learnt during basic training, including tactical concealment, setting up a basha and cooking in the field. Back at the ARC in Bexleyheath on the Saturday evening, I was able to see the more relaxed, social side of the Squadron, enjoying a Chinese and a couple of beers in town, before spending the Sunday morning unloading, cleaning, and maintaining the equipment. All-in-all, a great first weekend away and another step closer to becoming a fully-fledged member of 265 (KCLY) Support Squadron.

Sig Richard Lamb,  
265 (KCLY) Support Squadron

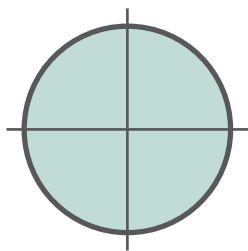


Det training - camouflage and concealment.



Sig Richard Lamb.





# **OPERATION FIRIC FALKLAND ISLAND DEPLOYMENT**

**by Trooper Joe Vithayathil  
C Sqn**

## **Introduction**

My name is Trooper Joe Vithayathil and from April to early August 2022 I trained for and deployed to the Falkland Islands for Op FIRIC as part of Roulement Infantry Company (RIC) with the role of “Deterring any Military aggression against the South Atlantic Islands and Reassure the local population”. The RIC was composed of three Platoons (each made of three sections of seven to eight soldiers), the RIC mixed with both regulars and reserves. The leading unit for this deployment was my previous regiment 4th Battalion Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (4PWRR).

I myself was part of 2 platoon 1 section serving as an infanteer as part of the section. I also served on this deployment as my secondary role as a Physical Training Instructor both on pre-deployment and during the deployment, so you could say I did a dual role throughout.

In this account I go through what we did each month (as the RIC), what roles we carried out and how we spent our down time as well. While we did depart for the Falklands at the start of May at the start of summer in England, we as the RIC were about to enter the Falklands during their winter (seeing as Falkland Islands is in the South Hemisphere). And what a cold winter it was which we were all going to find out.

## **April: Pre-deployment training**

We started off with each reserve soldier deploying on FIRIC going up to Basingbourne barracks in order to mobilise as regular soldiers, fill out and sign the required documentation and collect issued warm kit mainly like the gortex boots and winter socks etc. It was this one night stay at Basingbourne all of us got to know each other a bit better. I found that there was four people including myself from the Royal Yeomanry. I also got to meet the other soldiers from various Infantry regiments and other units like Fusiliers, Royal Anglian, and 4PWRR, Royal Mercian, RAMC, AGC and Rifles.

After the first night in Basingbourne, we completed all required documentation, attended a PTSD and trauma (TRiM) brief and other briefings and signed as mobilised. Once this was done, we were then transported to Longmoor for Pre-deployment training (PDT). Transport was arranged by 4PWRR to get everyone and their kit down. We got to Longmoor late night and found our rooms. A lot of the soldiers used this time to socialise such as by playing poker using Haribos as betting chips! We were then informed of tomorrow's activities which was a brief with the 4PWRR CO, RSM, OC and CSM of the RIC. All the briefs centralised around the role of the RIC in the

Falkland Islands. This was then followed by an inappropriate behaviours lesson by a member of RMP. After those briefs we were told what will happen tomorrow which was and Role Fitness Test (RFT) (There were mobilised soldiers that were in Longmoor while myself and others were in Bassingbourne) and later on a Soldier Conditioning Review (SCR). As I was one of three PTIs present in Longmoor, my job was to liaise with the QMSI and the other PTI on the running of both SCR and RFT that day in order to set up etc. Throughout PDT, I would where needed help set up and run PT sessions. In the first week, I was one of the pace setters for two consecutive days of RFTs! Most people did well on both SCR and RFTs, with some non-GCC achieving the required standards of GCC when it came to the 2KM run. That said, it was evident who prepared well physically for both the RFT and SCRs and those that needed more work (if there was one element that most people struggled on it was the 110kg casualty drag over 20m). There was one injury during the 2km run of one of the WO2s who still completed the run and in good time but did so with a very deep cut to his knee. As the PT team, safety comes first so it was decided that he will be sent to a hospital (much to his protest) rather than finish the rest of the RFT.

As well as SCRs and RFTs there was also other training required to complete such as Basic Casualty Drills, Signals and radios, navigation training, weapons handling and all other ITRs. This is as expected for a month of PDT. More often than not, I had to be taken away from my section to carry out PTI duties. I explained this to my Section Commander who understood completely the role I had to carry out. Much of this training was carried out in Oakhampton camp, where we travelled to after our week in Longmoor.

When I wasn't carrying out PT training and setting up, I did work with and interacted with my section on skills and drills and catch up with any lessons I missed as a result of carrying other duties. One such time was the 4PWRR Patrol competition weekend for the reserves that was integrated with PDT. We had our eight-man section that started this patrol competition with six due to couple of injuries from both the section 2IC and another soldier in the section. We started the patrol competition with a kit check with points being deducted for every member missing kit. Luckily no one failed the kit check so we got full points on that stand. We then set off as our six-man section on the Saturday, with one of us carrying the medical Bergen (which had to be moved around the section so as to spread the load evenly through the tab). During the patrol comp we would be assessed on time to stands and navigating was always assessed throughout by our navigation on route to the assessment stands. The stands assessed various individual military skills such as medical, section attack, CBRN, signals, military knowledge test, team and leadership tasks and finishing with a team stretcher run. Throughout the competition, we would cover roughly 20km of some very steep ground, some of it jaggedly rocky. Our section would lose two soldiers during the comp. due to injuries (one twisted ankle and one with a back spasm) which left our section down to four so basically a fire team! When it came to the stretcher run, I was carrying the medical Bergen so was tasked with being point man from the stretcher. That left three soldiers on the stretcher so one of the PTIs who ran the stand jumped in with the stretcher run. When crossing the finish line, we heard "Eye of the tiger" blaring through the stereos as a final motivation and were greeted with hot dogs at the end. The next day we would find out that our section came fifth out of eight teams which considering



the 50% injury attrition of our section compared to other sections, wasn't too bad. All things considered we were still trying to get to know each other and how we worked as a section. A week later of training and kit preparation we also had a validation exercise as a platoon designed to simulate a patrol that would be carried out in the Falklands, being that the Falklands is a more desolate (and very cold) set of islands that spans for miles of tabbing between civilised population areas. The validation exercise would take two days in which the first day we would tab to the farm house and meet with the farmer for the tasking required. We would at various checkpoints conduct a radio check and report to the Ops Room throughout the tab and report our location. Some locations required some moving around to get the signal in order to transmit and receive messages. As the saying goes "fight for comms". Once we got to the farm house we set our kit on the bunk beds in the farm and shown where the wash rooms and showers were and shown around the area. The section commanders and 2ics of each section would then be in a brief with the Platoon commander on the next tasking. Our section was tasked with a Recce patrol in CEPO to check out an area for a helicopter landing 9km from the farmhouse while 2 section were tasked with the repair of pipes near the farmland. Once the tasks were completed we would then stay at the farmhouse where we ate and rested. There was as always though, a stag conducted throughout the night into the morning.

The second day we set off back to Oakhampton camp as a platoon and then separating as two sections at a checkpoint for our section to conduct a Recce on a bridge enroute to the camp. We would cover approximately 22km plus the 9km on the Recce patrol throughout the two days. After the validation exercise we were to set course for Longmoor to leave our kit there for the remainder of the PDT (after the required post admin of course). We would then be cleared to return back the next day for three days with families before returning back for more training and sweep up of ITRs. Those in the advance party will have their kit set for a flight to the Falklands during this time. Most of the remaining training was cold weather brief and use of cold weather kit. This only took the last week of April for which after we had stand down for four days before returning to Longmoor to pack our kit and prepare for our flight from Brize to Falklands Islands.

### **May: The first month**

We arrive at Mount Pleasant Complex (MPC) to meet with the advance party to unload kit and find our designated rooms. The rooms were three man rooms for which we will share for the first two months. We were then given briefing from the OC, 2IC and CSM of the RIC. The briefing covered the rules and regulations of our stay at MPC, and safety rules to follow such as wearing luminous belts when walking around camp due to safety precautions with crossing the roads etc. walking outside of camp without a lumi belt would have resulted in a disciplinary action, which shows how seriously the British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI) Commander took safety of the servicemen and service women of MPC and the Falkland Islands. We would also be briefed on the operation rotation of the three platoons (3PLT arriving the next week). It was two week rotations of Patrols, QRF and Training down at Onion range, in which each platoon will participate in for two weeks before moving to the next rotation. After

every week the RIC would either get together for Company PT and/or Battlefield tour or some sightseeing of the island (if you weren't on QRF 30 minutes Notice to Move.) the intention was to have OCs PT every Saturday but by the end of the tour due to events happening and change of plans, OCs PT only ran twice throughout the tour. That said, on the first Monday I was tasked with running the first PT session at Longdon gym , which was VERY well equipped and we had a nice spot to conduct circuit/Conditioning sessions that was open to the RIC Mondays to Fridays 0900-1000. This would be our first week where we familiarised ourselves with the Complex such as the bars, oasis cafe, library, cinema, bowling alley and games room. With the subject of bars, MPC had Wetherspoon style bars named The Gull and Penguin and The Dolphin. There was also Party areas on weekends for morale such as the Crab and Sprocket on camp. Where alcohol is concerned, we were allowed on Sunday and weekdays four alcoholic drinks maximum and Fridays and Saturdays six alcoholic drinks if you were working on MPC (both Civil and Military). This was one of the safety measures dictated and enforced by the BFSAI chain of command. To keep track, before buying any alcoholic drink you had to possess a beer card (which we would collect from 12 FAC in the MPC complex) and present to the barman or barmaid.

On the start of the second week of the tour we would be doing bayonet training in CEMO and rifle with bayonet attached on the rugby pitches. This would be for two hours of sprinting from target to target, getting on your belt buckle on the warning of 'Grenade'! And taking in various instructions on the advance to contact with bayonets followed by carrying out the joyful task of stabbing sandbags. As with all bayonet training, maximum aggression was to be displayed throughout. Once finished, weapons were returned to the Armoury at RIC lines (where 30 min NTM QRF would be stationed) before we went back to the accommodation blocks to shower. It will then be this week I would be conducting PT at Longdon gym for the RIC before we entered the rotation, which would start as 1 Platoon on QRF, 2 Platoon on Patrols and 3 Platoon (YORKS) on Training. Our first patrol originally was to helicopter transport to Crooked Inlet Farm in Roy Cove, on the West Falklands. Our sections mission would then be to recce a bridge, a comm site and a bridge going east and returning back. This would've been in total depending on whether we were allowed to stay at the farm 15-30km tab. Due to covid at the farm however, this mission would be cancelled and we would then be told to assist 2 and 3 section with the farms down in Goose Green, where the historic battle happened 40 years ago. We would again insert via helicopter to the farm and tab to the barn that held Argentine PoWs four decades ago after their surrender at Goose Green. We would be greeted by the farmers and be shown around the area. Our platoon set up our radios and stag rotations for the night, as well as carry out the tasking of assisting the farmer to clear the sheep barn of sheep faeces. I would be struggling one night with the cold night in the barn in which the Section commander and 2ic told me to sleep in the smaller (but much warmer) room for the night. We would do section rotations of this shovelling faeces task during the day (two hour rotations). Within two days, this task was completed among 18 soldiers. This made the farmer extremely happy as he said it usually takes him two weeks to accomplish the same thing! Generally, the locals of the Falklands have a positive outlook towards our forces and I was glad we cemented this with our help. To thank us, the farmer gave us freshly cooked potatoes and a freshly slaughtered and cooked lamb and beer. That night would





conclude with three soldiers representing each section participating in a ration eating competition of which the rule was to consume every ration of the 24 hour ration pack. Our section's representative would be the winner of this, of which his prize was a lovely cardboard trophy. The next day we would conduct a recce patrol towards Darwin Hill for a communication site. Also, we got to see the burial site near Darwin Hill in which all of us paid our respects. We would then return to the farm and visit the museum on Goose Green Farm and the local shop to buy snacks and other toiletries. We would then be informed that we couldn't get a helicopter pick up so we would have a Troop Carrier Vehicle (TCV) pick us up at Goose Green to take us back to MPC.

After our Patrol at Goose Green, we were then told that there was a slight change in the rotation so 2 platoon was to go on QRF so we would take over from 1 Platoon. On QRF, the role was to respond to any issues that could happen on base such as unidentified aircraft landing on the run way, internal and external conflict resolution, responding to bomb threats, and where necessary put in vehicle check points on the base. QRF we're also responsible for maintaining communications to soldiers on the ground and the Joint Operations Command (JOC) in order to check status of the roads especially during the winter months which we were in. The Platoon Sections would rotate through various Notices to Move such as six hours, two hours and 30 minutes, spending about two days on each rotation throughout the two weeks. On QRF you were not allowed alcohol on the rotation and the section on six hours NTM was the only section allowed to leave camp for sightseeing or visiting Stanley city. It was during this time some of us visited York Bay and saw some penguins and went swimming in the ice cold water (it was below four degrees centigrade!) and with strong winds! We then went to Stanley to a really good diner and socialised until it was time to get back to the barracks.

## **June: The second month**

The winter blizzard came strong this month. Sometimes so much so that the road to Onion range closed as it wasn't gritted and too icy to transport a platoon of soldiers up and over hills on the road. This meant that most training rotations were cut back by a few days per week. The winter also affected Search Air And Rescue (SAAR) helicopters from deploying, a requirement for if the training team wanted to conduct Live fire training as it was BFAI commanders policy that SAAR is to be deployable when Live Fire training is to take place. That said, we still this month managed to do blank firing from individual, pairs and up to section level on the boggy ground of a wet onion ranges. For me there was a lot of work on points doing this training but I worked hard to correct any mistakes made and shortcomings in my skills and was still willing to endure the wet weather and boggy ground.

This month is when we realised how much measures the UK has in order to conduct training exercises safely compared to the Falklands where A and E treatment at Stanley hospital is insufficient for major injuries so SAAR is needed to transport a casualty to 'aero-med' to the UK (Aero-meds to the UK costs approximately £150,000!). I guess at this point I was grateful we have an NHS in the UK. And with harsh weather conditions in the Falklands there are no road gritting vehicles that can clear the roads in heavy snow so if you were out of camp and the blizzard hit you were practically



stranded. Sometimes vehicles did drive but it had to be officially cleared to move outside of camp and on a case by case basis. One such time, I and two other soldiers did a Battlefield Tour of Mount Harriet to see the historic battle site that 42 Commando won over all those years ago. There are a number of items such as Argentine mortars and old rusty equipment such as old cooking equipment.

On June 14th, it was the 40th anniversary celebration of the Falklands Islands liberation from the Argentine forces. A lot of service personnel available from the British forces and Falkland Island Defence Force (FIDF) were in attendance at Stanley for the parade. After the parade again many personnel visited more pubs and had a drink to celebrate the occasion.









Towards the end of June we started to focus on the build-up of the EXERCISE CAPE BAYONET. I still ran morning PT throughout June, even sometimes after a graveyard shift on QRF, but also with a number of build-up tabs going up on Onion range road. We were also briefed on CAPE BAYONET and what was to occur with the Exercise which would be two weeks at the beginning of July, the first week being exercising platoon as QRF followed by an attack on Mount Pleasant. The second week is a four-day exercise that involves marching towards Onion ranges and then taking over Onion Ranges from the enemy. The whole exercise was to be a blank fire exercise.

### **July: The Final month**

In the first week of July we had kit prepped for the two weeks of Cape Bayonet. My bergen was definitely filled up with the much needed extra warm kit for the second week. As mentioned the first week was on QRF where we started as six hours NTM on Monday and Tuesday then moved to two hours on Wednesday and Thursday. On Wednesday we had the section on 30 mins NTM crashed out on a simulated unidentified aircraft landing on the runway. This meant that our section moved from two hours NTM to 30 mins NTM and we had our CEFO kit ready to go.

By Saturday we had been transported to Mount Pleasant to repel an enemy mounting an attack on MPC. This would be done by three different platoon attacks (which were all individually assessed) to repel the enemy. 1 section was originally meant to serve as fire support but ended up assaulting three different positions over very mountainous terrain. I definitely found use for rock climbing skills when traversing the mountain to different enemy positions! For a good few hours it was arduous and confusing at times as fighting in mountainous areas. However we managed to take over three of the four enemy positions (The enemy of the fourth fled). We would then return to MPC for debriefing and repack for the second week of CAPE BAYONET, which would start and continue with heavy snow and some strong winds! From RIC lines we had taken the TCV through the snow on to Onion Range road (yes I like others around me



questioned why some of our training rotations were cut down due to bad weather when we're now conducting four days worth of attacks to advance to Onion Ranges now) in any case, we all cracked on with the rest of the exercise and did the first company attack. Upon its success we took over the camp which was high up looking over a road. While we were in the harbour area, the snow hit us consistently and cold hit worse when I stood still or was waking up from sleep. My water bottle had ice inside within 20 minutes of it being filled up, and any warm drink turned cold in that time! We would resupply with batteries, rations and water though the jerry cans of water froze on our first night in the harbour! The Harbour was approximately 8km from Onion Ranges, but over the three more days we were to take on enemies in areas before we got to the ranges. I remember wearing layers and that being just enough when you are moving but you needed to layer up inside your one-man bivvie tent (which was claustrophobic for most people and found I had to wrestle my doss bag every night in it because it's such a tight space) and when you're on stag you'd be brave to do so without your roll mat under you! For me, and for others the cold weather was a real struggle. Hour by hour there would be soldiers going down with cold injuries before the training team decided one night we would be getting hot soup and hot drinks as well as 'oven mitts' warm gloves for those that didn't have them. I myself made sure I took any and every warm drink and soup I could as calories are used up significantly to keep you warm in really cold temperatures. We would then head back and admin ourselves before the next morning on the third day. We had a 0500 Reveille to move at 0600. Bergen's were put on vehicles and we would tab to the quarry as a company. Come 0700 we would get contacted and 1 platoon would lead with an attack while my platoon were in fire support with 3 platoon in reserve. In the extreme cold it wasn't an issue to keep tabbing and moving but when you're standing or laying still that's when the cold hits you very quickly especially if you've been grafting like everyone on the exercise had. Our company attack concluded with the takeover of the stone quarry with an icy reservoir in the middle. We would then get another attack from the enemy where a lot of us will be ducking, diving and firing in the snow. When doing so we would throw our daysacks onto the ground and lay on it. This is to keep ourselves off the ground from the snow so we don't get excessively wet. Once we repelled the enemy attack, we then went around the quarry for a good company harbour area. The ground underneath didn't have much give to pin down ponchos and one man tents. We would also graft to create stag positions building them with huge rocks and pieces of earth. More soldiers would go down with cold injuries and another blizzard comes in when suddenly we hear the words 'END EX!' To be perfectly candid, nearly every soldier in the company breathing the collective sigh of relief and euphoria (if you made it to End Ex) We would later find out that the call for End Ex was because the new CO for 4PWRR made the call due to increasing cold injuries but regardless he was extremely impressed that many cap badges formed the RIC worked extremely well and endured the extreme cold of -20 degrees C with the wind chill and still managed to get into 18 successful contacts on the exercise. We would be transported back to RIC lines where we would debrief and de-kit and some would be receiving wards from the CO and the visiting Brigadier.

We would then spend the remainder of the month on Handover Takeover to Irish Guards and packing our kit. We would also spend our time visiting Stanley and any other places we may not have had the chance to and socialise at the bars in camp. Oh

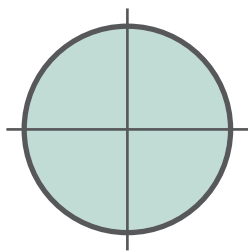




and I finished the Falklands challenge on camp which was to complete either 574km (Distance around the Falklands) Total of either running, tabbing, cycling, cross trainer, and ski erg or 64km (the distance of the water between east and west Falklands) of rowing or swimming (though the pool was closed for most of the tour). I did the 574 distance over the three months, and spent one weekend doing 200km of the 574km to achieve the coveted white Falklands Challenge T-shirt

Take aways from this tour:

1. Keep your head clear even in the chaos. Far easier said than done.
2. Make sure you follow the cold weather lessons from the Arctic experts. There were those that went down with FCIs and NFCIs because they didn't do the correct drills. Enduring the harsh weather is part willpower and part good admin drills.
3. Think about how you can help your section and others.
4. Always keep learning.



## **Op LONDON BRIDGE**

**by Cpl Michael Greenwood**  
**C (KSY) Squadron,**  
**Royal Yeomanry**

On the 8th September 2022 at around 1830, it was announced that Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II had passed away.

When the news broke I was at a work event being held at Armoury House, home of another Army Reserve regiment in London. The work event was brought to an abrupt stop and we were all asked to leave the building as it would be required for immediate ceremonial preparations.

The next day a call for volunteers went out, for the expected curveball taskings that would be needed. The first trawl was for coach drivers, a qualification C Squadron appears to be lacking. The next trawl was for NCOs to assist The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. I jumped at the chance to be involved in any way with the Funeral. So after a quick discussion with my partner Jen, organising additional childcare help with grandparents and phoning work to say I was going to be assisting with the state funeral, I made my way up to St James Palace just a couple of hours after that call for help was sent, along with two volunteers from E (LDY) Squadron and one from C&S (WD) Squadron, Royal Yeomanry.

We were met by the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association's Honorary Secretary Mr Tim Rayson who is also the Axekeeper of the Gentlemen at Arms and it became a lot clearer as to how the Royal Yeomanry had been lucky enough to secure such a role! Also present in the Gentlemen at Arms mess was the military tailor from Gieves and Hawkes and her assistant, who briefed us up on what our job would be for the next seven days. While Guardsmen Lee from the Household







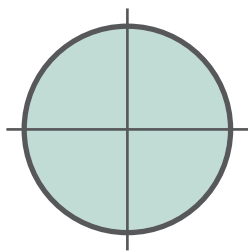
Division gave a quick lesson in how to polish boots to impress the Garrison Sergeant Major.

The Gentlemen at Arms were providing a vigil at the catafalque in Westminster Hall (Operation MARQUEE), consisting of a two-hour practice at Hyde Park Barracks and then a six hour shift - which was a constant change of 20 minutes on duty in the Hall followed by 40 minutes downtime. The volunteers from the Royal Yeomanry were tasked with ensuring the Gentlemen at Arms were dressed correctly before they left St James Palace and afterwards helping them remove the quite heavy coattee with gold aiguillettes before readying their kit and polishing up their boots ready for their next shift, which was invariably 12 hours later.

We organised ourselves into shifts so there was always someone present in the mess to assist in anyway. One of my random taskings was to try and find a cobbler at 0500 to repair a Wellington Boot that had the heel ripped off (pictured) during a practice of 'The Long Walk' from Westminster Abbey to Marble Arch. Another highlight was when a hat was given to the tailor from Gieves and Hawkes, which turned out to be the Kings hat (pictured), that required a touch of TLC on the peak.

Working closely with the Gentlemen at Arms, who were playing a highly visible and central role in the State Funeral, afforded each of us opportunities that were not open to all. We had the chance to view the lying in State of Her Late Majesty, as well as attend either the Funeral Service at Westminster Abbey or the Committal at St. Georges Chapel, Windsor. I was lucky enough to attend the Committal, a very moving service with around 800 guests present. The most poignant moment for me was when the Late Queen's coffin was lowered as the Pipers Lament played and slowly faded out of the Chapel.

It was a great honour to assist in the State Funeral, a story I have been retelling ever since. I was also kindly recognised for these efforts by The Worshipful Company of Insurers at the El Gubi Dinner. The whole experience is one that will stay with me for a long time, and I look forward to assisting at the Coronation!



## CAPTAIN STEPHEN SLANEY



Captain Steve Slaney retired in March 2022 after 44 years of service, including the last 22 at Bexleyheath, initially as RQMS and then as Permanent Staff Administration Officer (PSAO) to HQ and 265 Squadrons.

Captain Slaney enlisted into the Regular Army as a Radio Telegraphist in the Royal Corps of Signals at the Army Apprentice College Harrogate in September 1978. His subsequent postings included: 249 Signal Squadron (Allied Command Europe Mobile Force) in Bulford; 14 Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) in Germany; 210 (24 Airmobile Brigade) Headquarters and Signal Squadron in Catterick; 1st Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders/3rd Battalion, The

Royal Anglian Regiment in Colchester; 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment; 220 Signal Squadron (21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)) and then 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, both in Germany, the latter included an operational tour under Op GRAPPLE in the Former Yugoslavia; a tri-service unit in the UK and thence to 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment as RQMS in 2000.

In 2002 he assumed the appointment of Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) of Headquarters (Kent & County of London Yeomanry (SHARPSHOOTERS)) Squadron and in April 2006 after the reformation of the Squadron assumed the appointment PSAO for 265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry (SHARPSHOOTERS)) Support Squadron.

In his position as PSAO, Steve had to perform a number of key front-of-house roles as well as providing all round support for the OC. It seemed that his natural place was always with the soldiers, especially the newer recruits: encouraging them, supporting

them, moulding them into team-players and subtly imbuing them with the army's values and standards. Recruiting and retention were always very important to him and that's where his humour, approachability and communication skills came into their own. But the role of PSAO also includes a lot of back-room work, documentation, correspondence, good old form-filling, bean counting and so on. This kind of work came naturally to Steve, helped by his RQMS background – although some might proffer that too much knowledge and experience can occasionally have its detractors - and of course an excellent clerical team.



Some of his former colleagues from Bexleyheath at Steve's farewell (March 2022): Steve Turner, Ian Lapidge, Ian Liscoe, John Lynch, Barry Morse, Stephen Shelley, Steve Slaney, Cassandra Murray-Gosling, Jackie Morse, Nick Castro, Norma Lynch, Michael Mustoe, David Whitehouse and Tracy Horan.

The role of a Reserve Army PSAO is not confined to barracks and Steve Slaney was equally at home with the external side of his responsibilities. In order to maintain a high squadron profile in the local community and within the army as a whole and to foster recruiting, he was often out there courting publicity and blowing the bugle for 265. This involved liaising with stake-holders (and sometimes steak-houses), communicating with local organizations, keeping in touch with old comrades and doing a host of other activities requiring imagination and skill. These days maintaining a professional presence on line is as important as being out there on the streets – probably more so – and this is another task to which Steve was fully committed.

He organised recruiting events with enthusiasm, mainly at weekends. It included the local Danson Show setting-up an assault course for the children with the able assistance of the omni-present Squadron Administration Officer, Bev Simmons, giving certificates out over the two days. The Squadron also did a Help for Heroes (H4H) charity row-athon in Bexleyheath town centre, which was great fun, starting on Friday at noon and ending on Sunday morning. It raised funds from collection boxes spread out all along the high street and included help from the British Army Association and family members. He has been heavily involved in numerous charitable activities which, amongst others, have included: SSAFA, Royal British Legion (including Big Curry events in London and Walk of Honour), Mayor of LBB local charity; assisting the Normandy Veterans Association and British Army Association (Bexleyheath).

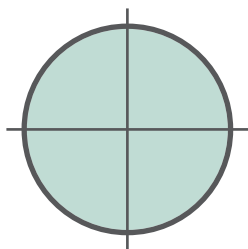
Steve was also keen to foster links with the Cadets, particularly of course with 107 R Signals Det and 359 ATC on the Bexleyheath site. In addition, he assisted in numerous local activities including Look at Life participation with local schools and colleges; a local veterans and London R Signals Association fun/awareness/update day at the ARC also with the local MP and Mayor; planning the Freedom of LBB of Bexley; 'Pit Stop' at the Lord Mayors Show on behalf of the Regiment and he was instrumental in the organisation of the Royal Visit to LBB at Danson Park.

Animal interests were never far away, he had a cat called Pepsi who followed him around like a dog, her safe place being a box on top of a cupboard in RHQ. There were some weekends when returning staff approached the office with caution, as they may have to encounter an assortment of cats/dogs/budgies/fish/cockatiels with a message that said 'Steve said you would look after for the week - thanks'. There was also Operation Nemo which was the rescue of goldfish plus tank from another unit where the caretaker had left, it was a case of 'we can't let them suffer' so a new home was found at 265.

A larger than life 'cheeky chappy' character, he had a ready and keen sense of humour, which in the world of a PSAO was a key attribute. He is one of those people who can make you laugh at the drop of a hat and before now had been known to reduce a command post full of exhausted watch-keepers to tears of laughter by his antics. Just the sort of guy you need when morale is beginning to slide.







## **71st (CoL) YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT REPORT**

**by Lt Col Emma Bruce**

Having taken command of 71<sup>st</sup> (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment in April this year, it is my pleasure to be able to write this note and reach a wide audience concerning the future of the Regiment and 265 KCLY(Sharpshooters) Sig Sqn under the Integrated Review 2021.

Moreover, it provides an excellent opportunity to express my gratitude to the Association for the vital work it undertakes in bringing the Regimental family together, informing both serving and Veteran members on current and future activities. I would also like to extend my thanks to those within the Regiment who help make the fantastic moments that we see in this journal happen. I have no doubt of the late-night planning meetings, lateral thinking, and sheer determination required to enable what we see here in print.

This summer, we sadly said goodbye to Maj Lakin on retirement after many loyal years in the Army Reserve. I am delighted to announce Major Craig Sumner has assumed the appointment as the new Officer Commanding 265 Signal Squadron. Craig



Lt Col Emma Bruce, CO 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment.



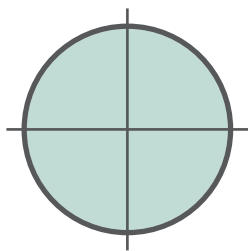
is a former Adjutant of the Regiment and will bring a wealth of experience, expertise and zeal and I anticipate a very positive trajectory for the Squadron during his tenure.

Holistic change is afoot across the Army and 71<sup>st</sup> Yeomanry Signal Regiment is no exception. The Integrated Review 2021 is changing the Army's structure and how it fights, with a greater emphasis on Reserve forces providing crucial equipment, technical and personnel requirements to existing and newly formed formations. As you may know, the Regiment now forms part of the 7th Signal Group directly supporting the Warfighting Establishment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UK (Iron) Division, the United Kingdom's only warfighting division. This will see us train with our paired and partnered Regular units more regularly as part of the Whole Force, and our skills will be fully tested as we integrate in Exercise FLYING FALCON, the Iron Division's keystone confirmatory communications exercise in autumn 2023.

Looking ahead, much work has been ongoing within the Royal Corps of Signals to review how the Reserve element of the Corps is used to maximum effect as a credible, reliable asset. My team has been integrally involved in the shaping of this new Concept of Operations (CONOP), and we must now focus on a smooth transition out to 2025. More immediately, our Forecast of Events for 2023 has been confirmed to ensure that we are fully prepared for our Mission and Tasks in addition to facilitating the new Individual Training Requirements that replaced our Mandatory Annual Training Tests (MATTs). The Sharpshooters will play a pivotal role in all of this, and I am sure that will be illustrated within this journal for many issues to come

I am looking forward to personally meeting everyone involved in the Association as I continue my tenure, but for now, thank you for your ongoing support. It is my privilege to command a Regiment consisting of Squadrons with such unique identities, which combine collectively to keep the people of the United Kingdom and their interests safe in a more competitive age.





## **THE DESERT RATS ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL PROJECT – DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**by Ian Paterson**

**Treasurer – Desert Rats Association**

As 23rd October 2023 (80th Anniversary of the Second Battle of Alamein) fast approached we put the final touches to the event. Confirming the dedication service developed by the Association Padre Reverend David Hanwell, along with Reverend Peter King MBE (Padre to 7th Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team) and Reverend David Anderson (Padre to 4th Infantry Brigade), the Band of the Royal Yeomanry and the guest list of all the donators, fundraisers, Association members and dignitaries. The event was supported by the staff of the National Memorial Arboretum, who provided the buffet lunch, the seating, sound system and much more to help the day run smoothly and to plan.

The Desert Rats Association also had the support of a platoon of soldiers from 7th Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team, who would help with registration, usher and escort duties, among other key responsibilities to help the flow of people, ensure veterans had support and those last minute fastballs were dealt with accordingly.

The only real risk we could not plan for was the weather, though we did purchase 30 umbrellas and blankets, just in case.

The weekend arrived and the Association President Maj Gen (Retd) Paul Nanson CB CBE, the padres and the Association committee conducted a rehearsal on the 22nd Oct under a sunny, but bearably chill autumn sky, perfect we all thought. Though that night the heavens opened and it threw it down for the next 12 hours, which gave us all a sleepless night, praying for the rain to stop. The 23rd arrived and the rain continued well into the late morning as the guests and dignitaries arrived. Miraculously at 1100hrs the rain stopped and the sun started to peer through the stormy clouds, as if the weather was giving us a sign that all would go well.

The service started with a fitting address from the Association President, about the memorial – **Iron – Stone – Sand – Blood** and a thank you to all who had helped fund and create such a fitting and magnificent tribute to the 'Desert Rats' past, present and future. The dedication service was then led by the Association Padre Reverend David Hanwell, supported by Reverend Peter King MBE (Padre to 7th Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team) and Reverend David Anderson (Padre to 4th Infantry Brigade), with the Band of the Royal Yeomanry playing the music, Last Post/Reveille and the wreaths were laid to a Pipers Lament.

The first wreath was laid by Lady Sally Bradshaw on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen Consort, followed by General Sir Adrian J Bradshaw KCB OBE DL as the guest of honour and senior officer present. Subsequent wreaths were laid to commemorate the major campaigns the Desert Rats fought in starting with Dickie Forrester a World War two Desert Rat and ending with representatives from 4 and 7 Brigades.



General Sir Adrian J Bradshaw KCB OBE DL



Desert Rat Memorial made from steel.



Close-up of the Steel Desert Rat.

and did not make the Start line although I can report that he is fully recovered. We also met up with the representatives from C (KSY) Sqn who were representing RY and spent a great lunchtime with them.

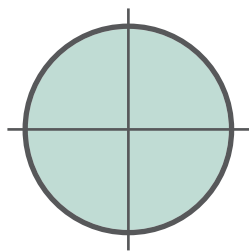
As the dedication service closed, everyone was invited to view the memorial at close hand. Afterwards a buffet reception was held in Aspects (National Memorial Arboretum reception hall) and General Sir Adrian J Bradshaw KCB OBE DL delivered a rousing speech to close an outstanding, emotional and thought-provoking day.

Lastly the Desert Rats Association would like to thank everyone from individuals, institutions and Regimental/ Corps Associations for their help and support over the length of the memorial project which has taken 5 years from concept to this magnificent and appropriate memorial to honour the 'Desert Rats' past, present and future.

The Association was represented by the Hon Secretary (Tim Rayson) and John Annett who had an interesting journey to get there. Unfortunately our No 3 – Ron Snowball fell by the road side







## MUSEUM TRUST – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022

**by Chris Sutton**  
**Chair of Trustees**

It has been an excellent year at the Museum, with many highlights such as the launch of the “Living History” Group, the repair and firing of the 25 pounder, the conservation of the Elham guidon and the fit-out of the Anderson shelter. Turn to the Curator’s report for details on these and other activities.

In my report I want to focus on two highlights – Diversity Day and Trustee Succession.



Diversity Day at the museum was the culmination of a project funded by the Arts Council, which gave birth to a new oil painting of the late John Morrison, our much loved Standard Bearer whose story is told on our touchscreens and website. It also gave birth to a new entry into the “must visit” list for those exploring Sikh heritage in the South East, namely our Oscar silver statuette.

The John Morrison painting was created by Hugh Beattie from a collection of black and white snaps. A full size digital image appears on the last wall panel at the Hever museum, thanking people for visiting us. The original hangs next to the staircase at the Croydon drill hall.

We have always told the Kent Yeomanry side of the Oscar story (see touchscreens and website) but used the Arts Council grant to work alongside Sikh historians to research the Punjab battalion that fought alongside us on the advance up the eastern side of Italy in 1944. The Sikh historians were delighted to discover a piece of Sikh history in Kent that they didn’t know existed.

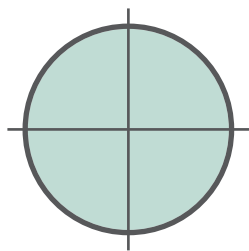
Diversity Day at Hever in June brought many members of the Morrison family to Hever to celebrate the unveiling of the painting, and a group of around thirty Sikhs to see the Oscar statuette. We were delighted to be joined by twelve members of the Association and a similar number of our volunteers.



On to Trustee succession. In November we dined out Paul Acda, and paid tribute to Tony Jewell over Zoom, as we thanked them for their loyal service as trustees over many years, and for the generous donations they have made to the museum collection. Both become Honorary Advisers. We welcome their replacements as trustees, David Lakin the recently retired OC of 265 Sqn who has been a regular and very supportive ex-officio member of our meetings since first becoming OC, and Phil Mason the former RY RQMS who has worked with Dan on curatorial projects.

The team of trustees is now Chris Sutton (chair), Huw Jones (Secretary and Assistant Curator), Dan Taylor (Curator), John Gunn (Treasurer), Tim Rayson (Assistant Curator), Brenda Traylen, David Lakin and Phil Mason. David Whitehouse (Assistant Curator) is also a key member of the management team.





## **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 (Treasurer), Tim Rayson,  
Brenda Traylen, David Lakin and Phil Mason.

Curatorial posts held as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Hon Curator: Dan Taylor

Curator (Croydon): Tim Rayson

Curator (Bexleyheath): David Whitehouse

Curator (Hever): Freddie Deane

As a follower of history, one is drawn to those years of greatest tumult and change to enliven the study of different epochs. If the last three years prove anything, it isn't nearly such fun living through them. From pandemics to European war and through a fury of politics, there rarely seems much opportunity to ignore the news. And so it is as 2022 draws to a close.

Perhaps eager for distraction from our contemporary travails, the activities of the museum have gathered pace after lockdown. This has been aided enormously by a significant rise in volunteer numbers – and their willingness to participate in a wide variety of ways.

We now boast over thirty regular volunteers – who take on numerous tasks from vehicle restoration to gardening, and from uniform conservation to social media output. There are always more tasks to undertake and so if you can spare the odd hour here and there, please drop me a line. The Volunteer team are having their first 'Social' this coming Spring, so all is in rude health.

In addition to our regular cleaning and titivation tasks, we have had a busy year, laying on a ceremonial gun salute for the late Queen's Jubilee (on our newly restored 25-pdr Field Gun – see the Black Gang Report), and have extended our outreach through the activities of our newly constituted Living History group. In other measures I have also given a talk for the National Army Museum on Jimmy Sale's photograph collection (available via YouTube) and another for the Army Benevolent Fund on the feuding between Allied generals towards the end of the Second World War.

Six students took part in our now regular Student Volunteer week, which was held in July. Activities included the digitisation of our photograph collection, sorting a large quantity of '38 pattern webbing provided by the Tank Museum, and working on our stored uniform collection. These tasks require many man-hours, and so these



Paul Acda, whilst stepping down as an active Trustee, has been most generous in donating some interesting and useful artifacts to the museum. This year we have gratefully received this rather fine deactivated Webley service revolver along with a No1 Mk III rifle, which now adorn respectively the Inter-war cabinet and the First World War cabinet.



As mentioned in the main text, we received this 1939 Mercedes Selektatypewriter from the family of Doug Endacott to add to our growing collection of items and photographs from Doug's career. It has been cleaned, tested and found to be in excellent working order – though we are trying to track down replacements for a couple of missing keys.



Our store room at Hever is an Alladin's cave of memorabilia, which we had presumed had been fully recorded. Languishing at the back of one of the top shelves was a large metallic box which had been presumed to be part of the Saladin from when it had arrived at Hever. During a recent tidy-up, we decided to get it down to check and were surprised to find that it is, in actual fact, a wartime No.19 wireless set. More shocking still, it had never been accessioned. That oversight has been rectified now and it is undergoing a cosmetic restoration so that it can be fitted within the tank turret display in the museum.





One persistent complaint we have heard from visitors is that they were unaware that the museum was on the Hever site. This is a problem when creating a military museum as camouflage is an inherent part of our thinking. Fortunately, one of our volunteers came to our aid. Richard Budgen has not only provided a number of our student volunteers in the shape of his wife and daughters, he has also arranged for this excellent sign to be stencilled next to our entrance. Many thanks, therefore, to his printing company, Wilmot Budgen Ltd.

concentrated group activities are incredibly helpful for the museum, at the same time as giving students actual hands-on access to genuine historical artifacts. Another benefit for the museum is that there is a high return of eager recruits to become long-term volunteers. Certainly, when I started with the Trust, we were lucky to have three or four Trustees to tidy up the displays each January, where this year we had over a dozen volunteers doing a remarkable job in a fraction of the time. If you know any students with an interest in history who are looking for useful activities to adorn their CV, please pass on my e-mail address (below).

As mentioned above, the Living History Group has enjoyed its first full season, attending four shows and providing Sharpshooter and Kent Yeomanry badged personnel for the museum's 'pitch'. The team are popular with the owners of restored military vehicles because, by and large, they are of military age, and so look convincing as crew (certainly more so than the general run of re-enactors). This is proving an excellent form of outreach. Many of those attending are pleasantly surprised to hear that the museum exists and consequently plan trips to Hever. It is hoped to enlarge the group over the next two years so that we have the capability to represent the Regiment's history from the Boer War to the Cold War. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining. We held our first training camp over the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Hever, which is to become an annual event, aimed at honing historic military skills (yes, there will be drill) along with familiarisation with kit and weaponry. The intention is that the group are able to provide an authentic recreation of the uniforms and activities of our antecedent regiments, and so to engage the public with a useful sense of our history. The group is intentionally inclusive and broadly based, including a ladies section. We possess a selection of uniform items so that new recruits can test the water before purchasing any expensive kit of their own. We have also created extensive uniform guides so that we can get the details right (here I'm taking credit for Freddie's hard work).

Formal accessioning of acquisitions has now passed to David Whitehouse, though I continue to be the main conduit for incoming gifts, loans and other fascinating items. Just as you start to think that the museum has the definitive information on a period,



As part of our outreach programme, I am the designated flag waiver offerer for a charity drive each spring for the Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society. The run goes between Sevenoaks and Hastings and this year included over seventy beautifully preserved vehicles, spanning over 100 years of motoring. The event is sponsored by the AA and this year raised £2,500 for military charities. This very fine Scammell Pioneer is a frequent feature of the drive.

something new and unexpected often turns up to prove me wrong. Just to highlight this point, I have chosen a single item from this year's arrivals. The family of Doug Endacott (3CLY from 1939 to 1946) came to visit the museum in the summer and were looking to donate a few items of memorabilia during the visit. Paul Endacott, Doug's son, had brought along a couple of other bits and pieces which he was going to get rid of but had thought to show me, just in case. One of them was a stout transport case with careworn trim. Inside was a 'portable' Mercedes Selektatypewriter. This may seem less than exceptional but, after a little digging, it suddenly became engrossing. The model dates from 1939 and has a British 'qwerty' keyboard. According to Paul the typewriter was brought back to the UK after his father's wartime service. It seems reasonable to assume that, on demob, the most likely source would have been the Regimental office. Given the date of manufacture, it then seems very likely that this may have been acquired by the Sharpshooters at the beginning of the War (somehow Mercedes were disinclined to produce British formatted office equipment for a few years after that). Comparison with the War Diaries – which were typed up suggest a couple of different typewriters were in use, though the typeface of one is consistent with that of this device. It is a little early to say anything definitive but the balance of probability suggests that this saw service through the war with the Regiment, making it a most prized exhibit.

The keen-eyed among you will have noted a slight change in personnel within the curatorial team. Huw Jones, who has served as Curator (Hever) has taken a slight step



Above left: The ‘We Have Ways’ event is held annually in Oxfordshire in July and is hosted by historian James Holland and comedian Al Murray. It is based around their popular podcast, chiefly based around WWII topics. It is a fascinating event and includes a number of talks by a variety of gripping guest speakers. The KSYM Living History Group attended this year, and provided suitable eye candy for members of the public. Here Mark, Freddie and Joe adorn a rather fine Daimler armoured car sporting 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars markings. Above right: At the same event, our team represented 4<sup>th</sup> CLY on this A27 Cromwell (it is actually a Centaur but the differences are minimal and mainly internal) which is being faithfully restored by friends of our museum. It is due to be finished in Sharpshooters marking and we hope to have her visit Hever in the next couple of years. Arrayed on top are Eve, Freddie, Mark, Joe, Oren and Joe.



The first outing for the Living History Group this year was at Tankfest in June. The theme this time was 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> CLY in the autumn of 1944. They were interviewed by the Tank Museum’s official podcaster and got to pose on this M4A1 Sherman Mk II as used by the Regiment through 1944 and 1945. The group comprises Oliver, James, Joe, Mads, Oren, Freddie and the curator. Joining us were two members of the Austrian tank museum, Johnny and Franz, who regularly don Sharpshooter attire for shows and events.





On a visit to Sheffield in February I managed to drop in on one of the billet used by 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY in 1940, Thoresby Hall. This image was taken by Charles Rich during a Church Parade at the time. My comparison shot was fortunate to be taken in fine weather.



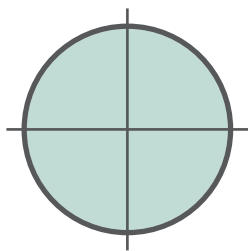
back to provide space for Freddie Deane. Huw has been in post for more years than he would appreciate me stating openly and his contribution has been invaluable. His keen eye for detail and expertise on various conservation and care techniques have kept us in good stead. The good news is that his intention is to remain active in these areas. Freddie first came to the museum as a Student Volunteer and is now in the final year of a history degree. He has a startling knowledge of 20<sup>th</sup> century military history and occasionally puts me to shame on our regimental history. In addition to taking a lead role in the creation of our Living History Group, he has also been very active on our social media output on various platforms including Facebook and Instagram (search Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum).

### **A CALL FOR HELP:**

One dilemma facing the Museum at the moment is the storage of our uniform collection. We have nearly one hundred uniforms in storage – currently located at the Bexleyheath Reserve Centre. Not unreasonably, the drill hall would like to use the room currently occupied by the uniforms and so we are urgently looking for an alternative secure location. Lacking any form of reliable income, conventional storage units are out of our price range and so we would like to hear from anyone who might have a suitable space. They occupy three hanging rails, totalling in the region of seven metres of rail space (22-feet in old money). If at all possible, we would like to see them housed within a half hour drive of Hever. Please get in touch with me or any of the Trustees if you know of anyone who might be able to help.

Dan Taylor  
curator@ksymuseum.org.uk  
December 2022





## KSY MUSEUM'S 'BLACK-GANG'

by Dan Taylor  
and Gordon Bubb

In honour of the mechanics and Fitters who maintained the Regiment's vehicles in bygone times, our own group of technical wizards has been dubbed the 'Black Gang'. This name arose after the switch to mechanisation in the 1920s to describe those individuals who were charged with keeping a recalcitrant pool of motor vehicles in functional order and, as a consequence, became somewhat grease-smeared. Our own team have taken to the role and may often be found climbing over our Saladin, elbow-deep in carburettors or manifolds. My own role is to nod sagely when they start explaining things and keep silent so that my ignorance never becomes too apparent.

Gordon and Oliver are the leading lights of the gang, assisted by Oren and John plus any other member of the volunteer team who looks able to wield a brush/broom/cloth/spanner etc. Their focus this year has been on the 25-pounder field gun, though our Saladin has also had some attention.

Gordon is a tinkerer. Distracted from working on the Saladin, he had started to inspect the breach of the 25-pounder to see what sort of state it was in. Considering the gun has likely been an outdoor ornament for around forty years, he was surprised when he was able to persuade it to move a little. Blocks, pulleys and grease were employed to cajole the metalwork and his sound grounding in engineering did the rest. I found him using a block of oak and a car jack to ease the breach block apart on one occasion – fascinating ingenuity. All of a sudden, a rusted and jammed exhibit was becoming a viable piece of equipment that might work. This sudden change prompted me to consult our firearms officer as previous discussion with him had always been on the basis that our licence covered an unworkable and decrepit piece of scrap metal. Fortunately, he quickly came on board. Our thoughts then turned to an opportunity to test the gun.

Quoting from Gordon's report, '*...it was agreed that a salute should be fired during the Queen's Jubilee. The initial aim was to go for 21 rounds, the standard salute. To that end over 21 cartridge cases were begged, bought or borrowed, and the writer (Gordon) obtained a black powder licence and approved storage box. It was discovered that not all the cases actually fitted gun. They all look good but some are obviously slightly oversize. It was also discovered that black powder is expensive, so the salute was reduced to seven rounds, one for each decade of Her Majesty's reign. Advice was taken from other 25pdr groups (largely members of the Garrison Artillery – DT) regarding the charge size and a test firing carried out to check the gun and also decide on the appropriate amount of black powder. This was successful and we have decided on a charge size of 200-250 grams for "live" firing.*'

Gordon's account skips over the excitement of the test event. We arrayed a gun team, dubbed 'Invicta Troop' as their ceremonial role is to commemorate the Kent Yeomanry.



To complete our 25-pounder gun we have been on the lookout for a rotating platform – a significant, though missing part of our exhibit. By a stroke of luck we came across a member of the Garrison Artillery who (would you believe) had a spare which he has loaned us. Gordon and John travelled up to Walsall to collect it back in the summer. Gordon then undertook cleaning it up, working out the fittings, and giving it a fresh coat of paint. Here it is during the installation process under Gordon's supervision.

The team, along with the gun, relocated to the overflow car-park at Hever, away from visitor gaze in case some catastrophe ensued. Neighbours with horses and other pets were duly warned that two loud bangs were to be expected. Advice had suggested that the usual amount of powder was 250 grams and so the first shell was packed accordingly. We wanted to see what leeway we had to mitigate costs, and so a second shell of 190 grams was charged. The first shot gave a resounding and satisfying crack, video recording revealing that the cardboard tamping disk was propelled some twenty yards downrange. This also revealed that hot embers were prone to be blown about and so Gordon's caution in creating dust covers for the unfired rounds was fully vindicated. Pleasingly, from an economic point of view, the second round seemed no less loud than the first, and so our stock of black powder could be stretched for future events. After concluding the test firing, we gathered round the gun for a debrief and for a little self-congratulation. Suddenly, there was a third very loud bang. As we had only brought



Invicta Troop pose for the camera after firing the ceremonial shoot for the Queen's Jubilee, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022. Members of the team for the shoot were Freddie, Oliver, Oren, Gordon, the Curator, Arthur and Mads. It should be noted that there was a large backup team of supporters making sure everyone was smart and appropriately badged.

two charged shells, we looked at each other, confused as to what had happened and checking that everyone was intact. Bafflement turned to shocked relief when it was discovered that one of the gun's tyres had catastrophically failed.

This episode demonstrated that a shoot for the Jubilee was viable but left us with the dilemma that we now had a field gun that leaned alarmingly due to its missing shoe. Fortunately, our outreach programme has netted some very useful friends. A spare tyre was borrowed from a museum in Norfolk. Oliver used some brilliant persuasion to get the tyre attached to a hub by a local garage (as well as travelling up to Norfolk to retrieve it!). All this was achieved in a very tight time scale – along with giving the gun a fresh coat of deep bronze green paint. The Black gang are miracle workers.

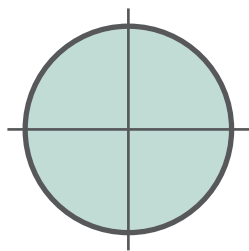
The Jubilee shoot was carried out by Invicta Troop on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to a large audience on the square in front of Hever's gatehouse. The gun team were resplendent in WW2 Kent Yeomanry uniform.



The gang's next miraculous feat is the resurrection of the Saladin armoured car. This year, efforts have been largely, though not exclusively cosmetic. Again, turning to Gordon's report, *'The C13 radio has been installed in place of the C42 and is now working and can be used by licensed radio amateurs and ACF and CCF cadets. The intercom can be used to give talks inside the turret to add to the ambience. A dummy B47 radio has been made and installed until such time as a real one appears at an acceptable price (a discussion with Blandford is due). A correct ATU for the B47 has been acquired and fitted. A dummy .30-cal machine gun has been made and fitted in the turret. This has a correct ammo tin and empty case catcher fitted along with a belt of empty .30-cal cartridges. These are blank cartridges and so are the normal length of a live round, rather than empty live round cases. If anyone would like to paint the ends to represent the copper rounds, feel free! The engine has been turned over a number of times to keep the oil circulating. The carburettor has been rebuilt and a jury-rig fuel system made. Next year's main effort will be to start the engine. A visit was made to see C Squadron's Saladin and, with permission, a number of items were swapped with the intention that our Saladin might be brought up to service standard. Mainly these were grenade boxes and also the range wheel for the main gun. Their Saladin has a breech block and firing mechanism, and another visit will be made next year to see if they can be swapped out too. This would allow us to fire blank rounds from our Saladin as we have acquired some cartridge cases for this too.'*

As Gordon relates, we are fast approaching a point where the Saladin may no longer be merely a static display item. My understanding is that there are a few veterans who served in the 1970s on Saladins who might be interested in the prospect of reliving a little of their youth.





## SHARPSHOOTERS IN NORMANDY THEN & NOW

by Dan Taylor, Simon Malik, Penny Malik

The poignancy of historical locations can offer an insight into the past. Standing on a spot where history was recorded not only builds a connection but can broaden our understanding of the action described through appreciating the lie of the land.

As a method of bringing our history to life I have been carrying out an exercise to photograph locations that appear in the museum's photographic albums with Simon and Penny Malik. Simon has taken this one step further by blending historic images with those taken during our research.

For the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) the Normandy campaign starts in the south coast resort of Worthing. After returning from the campaign in Italy, the Regiment was located in the streets just off the seafront on the eastern side of the town. Jimmy Sale was had been designated a semi-official role as regimental photographer (though this may have provided a cover for a number of the unit's members who carried cameras and contributed to his albums). As he was a member of 'A' Squadron, it is understandable that their locations feature prominently, and indeed most of the images taken in Worthing centre on Navarino Road, where they were billeted.

### T+M SAL-16-224

**This set of newly issued Humber Scout Cars are parked in Windsor Road, close to RHQ Squadron's billets, and only one road west of 'A' Squadron. The left-hand side of the image was taken in March 1944 and the vehicles are so new that markings are yet to be applied. The right-hand side of the image was taken in June 2022.**



**T+N SAL-16-233**



From the seaward end of Navarino Road looking east you get a view of the ‘Half Brick’ public house – a favoured watering hole for members of the Regiment in the Spring of 1944. The pub has since changed name and been closed down but the seafront buildings have otherwise changed very little in the intervening years.

**T+M SAL-17-111**

Taken on Navarino Road seventy-eight year apart, these images blend perfectly to demonstrate how little has changed. It is noteworthy that the tank closest to the camera, with ‘12’ as its tactical number on the turret bustle, is that of Jimmy Sale. He remained in this tank through almost all of the campaign in Northwest Europe and it bore the name ‘Azrael’.



**A1 07598**

At the junction of Navarino Road and the Coastal road, looking west, the scene shows a pair of newly issued M9A1 Half-tracks. One has unit markings applied, whilst the other still sports the markings of a previous unit.

Moving to Normandy, the Regiment landed some way from its intended location, close to the German gun battery at Mont Fleury on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1944. By a happy coincidence this was almost exactly the same spot that 4<sup>th</sup> CLY landing, so the two regiments were briefly reunited. It so happens that this is the precise spot chosen for the new British Normandy memorial, only completed this year.



#### **A-British Memorial-143**

The original portion of the photograph shows tanks of 'A' Squadron, 3rd CLY, lined up on the Mont Fleury bluff, with the invasion beaches stretched out behind. De-waterproofing of the tanks has commenced. The comparison shot was taken from within the grounds of the memorial.

#### **Beaches D-Day-142**

At the eastern end of the memorial site, the remains of the German gun battery can still be seen, though modern housing has absorbed a couple of the bunkers. This Sherman Firefly is beginning its drive inland. It was here that Sergeant Stan Hollis of the Green Howards earned D-Day's only Victoria Cross.



#### **B-Douvres-105**



One of the first tasks allocated to 'A' Squadron in Normandy was the suppression of the German Radar site at Douvres-la-Deliverande. This proved a difficult nut to crack as the site was well defended with extensive minefields and deep bunkers, only eventually surrendering on 17<sup>th</sup> June. There is now a fascinating museum there with a number of the bunkers that have been restored. Jimmy Sale's albums contain a few images taken after its capture, including this one showing Sergeant Freddie White.



### **A-Pegasus-031**

On July 18<sup>th</sup> 1944 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY took part in Operation Goodwood and, like much of the force that took part, had to cross the Orne Canal at Benouville. Sale took this image of the Gliders that had landing on D-Day to capture what became known as ‘Pegasus’ bridge from the roadway as he passed the spot. In the foreground is ‘chalk 91’, the glider that carried Major John Howard and ‘D’ Company’s first platoon, flown by Jim Wallwork and John



Ainsworth. Nearly eighty years on the landing zone has been landscaped and markers show how astonishingly close to the bridge they landed.

Towards the end of July 1944 the Regiment had some down-time where they had the opportunity to act as tourists in the rear areas of the bridgehead. As well as recording some of their former battlefields, they visited Bayeux and Caen.

### **B-Bayeux-302**

Bayeux had been liberated on D+1 – 7<sup>th</sup> June – the same day that the Sharpshooters landed, and so had barely suffered any damage at all. Sale took a couple of pictures of the Cathedral from a side-road opposite. The Cathedral looks as pristine as ever.





#### **A-Caen-115**

Caen took a month of heavy fighting and extensive bombing before it fell to the Allies. Astonishingly some parts of the city remained relatively unscathed. This is the Abbaye-aux-Hommes in the west of Caen, immediately next to the Mairie (town hall). Both were untouched by the fighting. The British set up a medical centre here.

Our attention then passes to the exploits of 4th CLY and their battle at Villers-Bocage. The fighting in the town is much discussed, though widely misunderstood. A new book on the battle is due out in May and so here are some images to whet your appetite.

#### **E-VB-169**



Captain Pat Dyas was commanding a Cromwell tank in the RHQ Troop at the time of the battle. He is famous for having stalked a German Tiger tank, hoping to catch it in the rear, only to find it coming back out of the town in his direction. Here his tank was knocked out, just above

the bend onto the high street at the eastern end of the town. The chateau d'eau (water tower) in the background was there in 1944 and presents a poignant reminder of the location today.

F-VB-176



Another view of Dyas' tank showing that, despite the carpet bombing that took place on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1944, some buildings remained intact. Most of the buildings at this end of the high street remain pretty much as they were, though some in-filling and new building fills what had once been pasture.

J-VB-196



One of the recently discovered facets of the battle is just how far 'A' Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> CLY had penetrated into German territory. The accepted wisdom is that they had remained cut-off on Point 213, east of the town for the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> June. This image shows 'Shufti Cush', a Cromwell tank of 2 Troop that had been part of an attempted push in the direction of Caen and was photographed where it was knocked out, nearly a kilometre further up the road.

## L-VB-165



The devastation on the town's high street on 30<sup>th</sup> June makes comparative photography fairly meaningless. However, a distance of under one hundred metres from the high street, this surprisingly modern-looking Art Deco house remained astonishingly intact and can still be

seen today. The same could not be said for the Great War memorial. Photographs show that it survived the battle but was badly damaged by RAF raids through June, and by the time that the British liberated the town for a second time, in early August, was utterly destroyed.

## A-VB-160

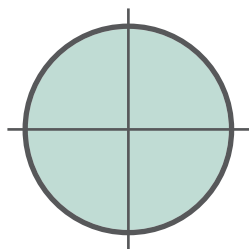
The part of the Villers-Bocage story that most accounts sketch over, is that the Germans attacked the town through the afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> June, losing up to eight irreplaceable Tiger tanks plus a number of Panzer IVs for the loss of no British tanks. The defence put up by 4<sup>th</sup> CLY, supported by infantry of 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Queen's deserves greater recognition. Here Tiger turret number '123', commanded by



Untersturmführer Fritz Stamm, is shown knocked out at the junction of rue Jeanne Bacon and rue Emile Sampson. Like the Art Deco building, this street is only tens of metres from the high street yet many of its buildings survived the war.







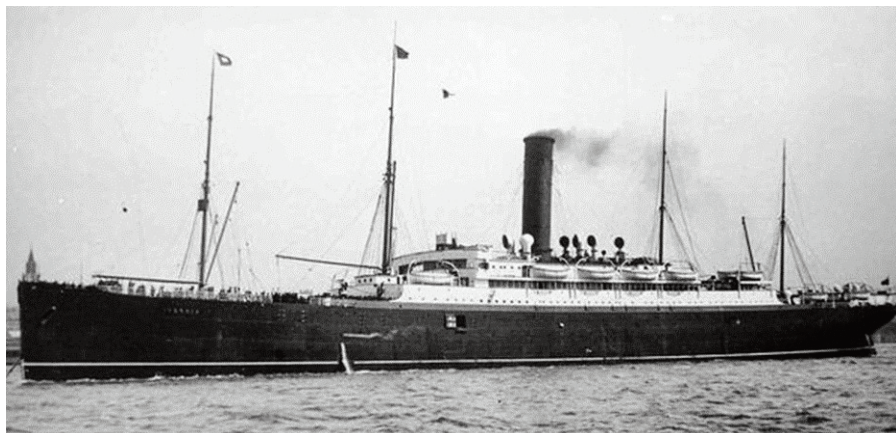
## **THE MYSTERY OF LANCE CPL. HERBERT CRANDALL WEST KENT YEOMANRY (QO), THE LOSS OF SS IVERNIA AND THE ALBERT MEDAL**

**by Tim Rayson**

As part of my research into creating a Roll of Honour book illustrated with all of the medals and citations for gallantry awards for all of the Kent and Sharpshooter yeomen I came across an entry in the Regimental History of the West Kent Yeomanry (by Lt Colonel Ponsonby) that a Trooper Herbert Crandall had been awarded the Albert Medal following the sinking of HM Transport Ivernia on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1917. This got my attention because the Albert Medal (one of the predecessors of the George Cross) was generally awarded to non-military personnel for saving life at sea and is the only one ever to be awarded to either a Kent or Sharpshooter Yeoman in all of our history.

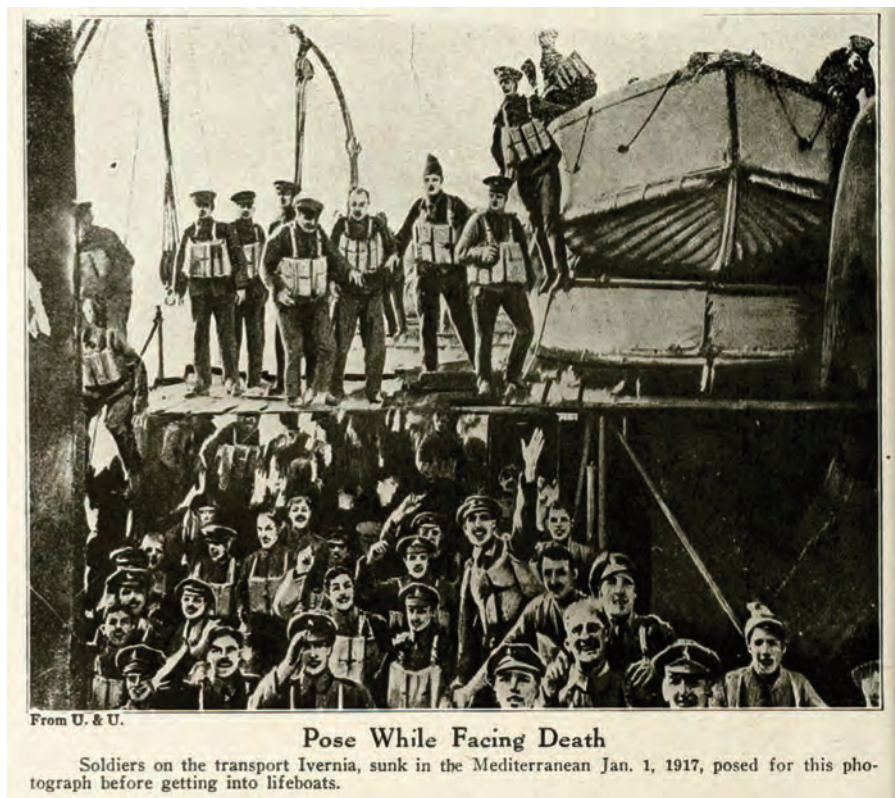
The research took a lot of time because the citations for the Albert Medal were hand written into a ledger and trying to find both the ledger and then an entry was challenging: perfect copper plate written in probably size 8 font made picking out the words difficult and ledger entries were not necessarily in date order. However I have found the story and dear reader it is in the succeeding pages which I hope you will find interesting.

SS Ivernia was a British ocean liner owned by the Cunard Line, built by the company Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, and launched in 1899. The Ivernia was one of Cunard's intermediate ships that catered to the vast immigrant trade. Together with her sister ship RMS Saxonica, the Ivernia worked on Cunard's service from Liverpool to Boston and then later on the immigrant run the Cunard Line had established from Fiume and Trieste to New York City. SS Ivernia had the distinction of having the tallest funnel to go to sea – it was 60ft high.



Following the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 the Ivernia was hired by the British government as a troop transport. In autumn of 1916, William Thomas Turner (made famous for being the captain of RMS Lusitania at the time of her sinking) was given command.

On 1 January 1917, the Ivernia was carrying some 2,400 British troops from Marseille to Alexandria, when at 10:12 am she was torpedoed by the German submarine UB-47 in the Kythira Strait which is 58 miles south-east of Cape Matapan in Greece. The ship went down within an hour with a loss of 36 crew members and 84 troops. There was however sufficient time for a quick group photograph of some of the passengers before they abandoned ship!



From U. & U.

### Pose While Facing Death

Soldiers on the transport Ivernia, sunk in the Mediterranean Jan. 1, 1917, posed for this photograph before getting into lifeboats.

Captain Turner, who had previously been criticised for not going down with the Lusitania (even though he had believed he was the last person on board), remained on the bridge until all aboard had departed in lifeboats and rafts “before striking out to swim as the vessel went down under his feet”. Cunard subsequently decided after the loss of the ship was that “all Turner would be captain of, from then on, was his desk”.

HMS Rifleman rescued a number of survivors and armed trawlers of the escort towed the bulk of the survivors, who had taken to lifeboats, to Suda Bay in Crete.



HMS Rifleman during the rescue of troops from the Ivernia 1st Jan 1917.



© V. & U.

#### Victims of the Submarine

An actual photograph of a swamped boat from the Cunard liner Ivernia, a transport sunk in the Mediterranean Jan. 1, 1917. One hundred and fifty-three men perished.

Most of the troops aboard the Ivernia were reported to be infantry of the Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, Royal Scots Fusiliers, Rifle Brigade together with some 'yeomanry'. In fact the yeomanry were men of West Kent Yeomanry, soon to be incorporated into the 10th (Royal East & West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs. Crandall was recommended with two others for the Albert Medal as follows:

#### **Citation for Lance Corporal Herbert Frederick Crandall West Kent Yeomanry (Queens Own)**

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1917 the SS Ivernia was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean Sea and 120 lives were lost. Soon after the ship was struck one of the starboard (life) boats 1(?) davits and broke the leg of a soldier standing by. Lance Corp. Crandall at once



went to his assistance and refused to leave until he had been safely lowered onto the trawler. It was entirely due to the devotion of Lance Cpl Crandall that the injured man was saved.

The citation was submitted for consideration by the Victoria Cross Committee who had to recommend to the King the award of the Albert Medal in addition to the Victoria Cross. The citation was considered and rejected by the Committee as not being deserving of the Albert Medal – the other two citations submitted for the sinking were similarly rejected. It was then proposed that Crandall and the others be awarded the Meritorious Service bronze medal for gallantry in saving life at sea which was a civilian award administered by the Board of Trade. In parallel it seems the award of the Meritorious Service Medal (Army) was also being considered. This latter was cancelled when the King approved the award of the Board of Trade Meritorious Service medal in bronze on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1917 to all three who had been recommended for the Albert Medal. The medal was, according to the register, presented to Lance Cpl Crandall by His Majesty on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1919 and is also known as the Sea Gallantry Medal.



The Sea Gallantry Medal in Bronze.

The citation is recorded in the List of Rewards Given by His Majesty's Government held by The National Archives in Reference BT 261/6.1 Entry No 391 which can be found on Image 67 of Volume 1.

From the foregoing sadly we do not have an Albert Medal recipient in our history and the entry in Ponsonby's book is therefore incorrect. But the Sea Gallantry Medal is still suitable recognition of his efforts.

Finally and not part of this story the Albert Medal register for WW1 has many entries – and awards – relating to training accidents involving hand grenades and individual sacrifices to save comrades during training exercises. A selection of these might appear in a future edition of the Journal.

#### *Footnote.*

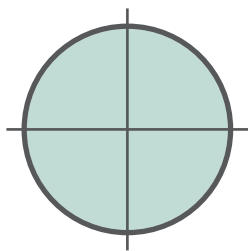
All of the men of the battalion who were on the Ivernia escaped death or injury, except for Cpl William Pedel whose legs were severely injured. Of the 34 other WKY men listed, five would be killed and three wounded during the forthcoming campaign in Palestine, whilst a further four would be wounded in France, when the battalion moved to that theatre the following year.







**MEMENTO**  
**of Sergeants Mess.**  
**W.K.Y. HOUNSLOW.**



## FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 2022

The 94<sup>th</sup> Royal British Legion Field of Remembrance was held at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 10th November when the lawn of St. Margaret's Church was laid out with 308 plots in the names of military associations and other organisations. Additionally, this year a plot was laid out on the north side of St. Margaret's Church dedicated to the memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The *Association* plot contained a large named cross – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanry (*Sharpshooters*) and three further crosses representing the *KSY*, the *Kent Yeomanry* and the *CLY* (*Sharpshooters*) together with a number of small crosses commemorating *Association* members who had passed.

The service commenced with the arrival at the Field of Her Majesty The Queen Consort where she was met by The Dean of Westminster Abbey, The Very Reverend David Hoyle, MBE. Prayers were offered after which Her Majesty laid a personal Cross of Remembrance.

A Bugler from the Band of the Scots Guards sounded 'The Last Post' which was followed by the 'Exhortation to Remembrance' given by Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis, CBE, DL, President of The Poppy Factory. The two-minute silence was observed, followed by 'Reveille'.

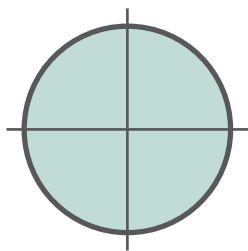
Her Majesty was then invited to undertake a review of the plots where she took the opportunity to speak with our plot representative Tim Rayson, *Honorary Secretary* of the *Association*.

Representatives of the *Association* and members of the serving *Squadrons* were also in attendance.

**"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"**







## EL GUBI DINNER 2022

This year's annual Bir El Gubi dinner was particularly significant. Following-on from the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle last year, 2022 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> continuous dinner since 1947, a remarkable achievement.



The Chairman, Lt Col Mark Hodson TD, welcomed all to the impressive surrounds of the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly. He particularly welcomed Mr Nick Dunlop as the new Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers (WCI), our affiliated livery company, and guests from Australia, New Zealand and Germany. He had written to His Majesty the King offering loyal greetings on behalf of the association and read-out the reply from Buckingham Place, which was much appreciated by all present.

The evening marked a sad event in that our President, Guy Farage, was stepping down from the role after many years heading and representing the Sharpshooter family. In his valedictory speech, the Chairman thanked Guy for his steadfast support and advice to both individuals and, collectively, to the association over the years which had been immeasurable; as was his leadership and unwavering support of the Museum Trust. Guy was presented with commemorative El Gubi glasses and a large bunch of





The Chairman thanking Guy Farage for his enormous contribution to the KSYA.



The KSYA President, Guy Farage, giving his farewell speech.



The Master Worshipful Company of Insurers, Nick Dunlop, addressing the association.



Cpl Michael Greenwood receiving his WCI cufflinks from the Master WCI.

flowers for his wife Carole, also a longstanding supporter of the association. Both Guy and Carole received a very well-deserved and heartfelt standing ovation from the whole room, it was a moving occasion.

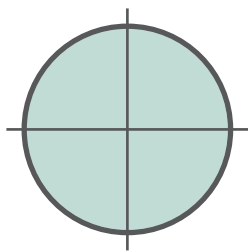
Each year the Worshipful Company of Insurers generously sponsors an award in the form of WCI gold cufflinks or broach to a member of each of the serving squadrons in recognition of meritorious contributions for the betterment of their unit. This year citations were read-out by Hon Col Simon Malik for **Cpl Ian Liscoe** from 265 Support Squadron and by CO Royal Yeomanry Lt Col Charlie Field (who also gave an update on Reserve issues) for **Cpl Michael Greenwood** from C (KSY) Sqn.

Cpl Liscoe was unable to be there as he was on a promotion course but his award was in recognition of his drive in re-organising the recruiting programme and commitment to maintaining contact with recruits, especially during the difficult COVID restrictions. Both actions have positively increased recruiting and retention within the squadron. Cpl Greenwood proudly received his award presented by the Master WCI in recognition of his fulfilling the role, one rank up, as Troop Sergeant and his additional contributions as a PTI (including his own time) to the squadron. He was also able to provide support to the arrangements for late Queen's funeral under Operation London Bridge.

Many congratulations to both very well-deserved recipients.

*[Please see the registration form for the El Gubi dinner 2023 enclosed with the journal, make a note in your diary now]*





## **THE SAVING OF THE ELHAM TROOP GUIDON**

**by Tim Rayson**

The Elham Tp guidon is one of the oldest artefacts in the Museum Trust collection and ranks alongside those of the West Kent Yeomanry which are on display at the Museum at Hever Castle. It dates back to the period of the early stages of the Napoleonic Wars of around 1793/1795 when the East Kent Yeomanry were raised forming nine troops scattered across the County. The guidon along with the two from the West Kent Yeomanry was unofficial in that it had not been formally presented by the King but with typical Yeomanry spirit they carried it anyway. The guidon had a practical purpose in battle as well as the word guidon is an abbreviation of the medieval French for 'Guide homme' which means 'guide man. His job was to carry the flag into battle and wherever it went the soldiers followed defending it at the cost of their own lives there being no greater dishonour than having it captured by the enemy. In 18<sup>th</sup> century warfare with all its attendant noise and lack of visibility caused by powder smoke the guidon was absolutely crucial to effective command and control.

The guidon was originally on display in the parish church of the village of Elham where it languished until being 'rescued' in 1980, mounted and displayed at the ARC Bexleyheath. In 2014 the Museum Trust received a request from the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford to loan items for a Yeomanry themed display they were creating. It was decided to loan the Elham Troop guidon as it was one of earliest pieces in the Museum Trust collection and it was to be loaned without the frame so as to facilitate its display. The guidon was delivered to Blandford and there it languished on top of a filing cabinet because the display never went ahead. It remained stored in these inappropriate conditions for at least two years before it was recovered for a short term pop up display at ARC Croydon as part of the retirement parade of the KCLY guidon.

Following the parade and display at Croydon the guidon was placed in the SQMS store but no arrangements were made to return it to Bexleyheath or for them to collect it and there it remained until a change of permanent staff brought it back to life in late 2021. It had been stored incorrectly and it had been covered by some sort of white felt covering which had not been kind to the silk fabric that it is made of. The fact that the backing board was acidic and therefore contributing to the overall deterioration of the guidon did not help matters.

The cost of conserving the guidon was estimated at £2300 and was funded by a mix of grants, a contribution from the Museum Trust and a crowd funding campaign run by the Association. The crowd funding campaign raised the £1300 required plus a significant amount of Gift Aid because the individual contributions were considered to be donations.



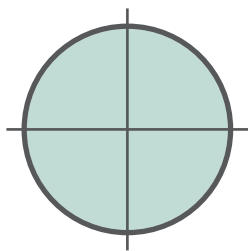


Top: Before conservation; bottom: After conservation.

The work was successfully carried out and as you can see from the photographs it looks a lot healthier than it did before. The guidon is currently on display at the ARC at Croydon and will at some stage in the future go on display at the Museum at Hever Castle for the public to admire.

The following members of the Association contributed to the project and their kind donations were very much appreciated.:

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



## FRED HEWER

by David Whitehouse

Having recently acquired an aluminium matchbox cover engraved with the West Kent Yeomanry cap badge and the initials 'FJH', I have sought to discover the item's provenance and to whom it may once have belonged. The previous owner thought it originated in WWII but I believed it to be older, on the basis that the WKY had by that time become part of 97<sup>th</sup> (Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment Royal Artillery and would have expected artillery insignia or at least references to a particular battery, which are absent in the engraving. Therefore, I suspected that the matchbox cover belonged to someone who served in the WKY during WWI.



Fortunately, I have access to a database of those who have served in the Kent or County of London Yeomanry since the earliest days of its formation. Whilst far from complete, the database contains well over 4,000 records of veterans of WWI. Searching this database for the initials FJH returned 13 results, but only one of these related to the WKY. This was that of a Private F J Hewer who, according to Colonel Ponsonby's regimental history, served with C Squadron WKY in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine. An obscure note also mentions he was 'with C in C E.E.F' or Commander-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Certainly, Private Hewer was a good candidate for the owner of the matchbox cover, and therefore I sought to find out more about him. The first step was to see if his service record had survived as many were lost during the blitz of WWII. Frustratingly online searches failed to find such a record and I could only assume that it was not amongst the so-called 'burnt documents' that had survived the blitz. I did, however find his medal

index card (MIC) in the name of 'Fredk Jas Hewer' which not only confirmed that he had received the 1914-15 Star indicating that he deployed to an operational theatre, but also the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was also awarded a Silver War Badge indicating that he had been wounded or otherwise incapacitated as a result of his service and had been discharged as no longer fit for war service.

*x\* / 1st Kent Ye. 1000*

Name	Corps	Reg. No.	Rank	Date of Discharge	Cause of Discharge
HEWER FREDK. TDS	2 Corp	361603	Plt	6.7.19. Enlistment 4.5.14	Para 392. (XUIB) S.

Date of application (a) Badge (b) Medal 63/1C

No. of File " " " "

Address of applicant :-

Action taken *inst 5/75*

W966-11/2794 100,000 2/10 HWV(1511) K64  
 1000-11/2794 100,000 2/10 HWV(1511) K64

*4/2/2032 3201*  
*15 JAN 8 1914*  
*(24) Balkans*  
*7.10.15.*

The MIC had been difficult to find because his regiment was recorded as Labour Corps as Private 361603, with only a brief and easy to miss reference to 'W Kent Yeo' as Private 1000. The card also revealed that he enlisted on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914, disembarked overseas in the Balkans theatre (which Gallipoli came under) on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1915 and was discharged on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1919.

The medal rolls themselves, did not provide any further details except to confirm his full name as Frederick James Hewer and that he had previously served with the 1/1 WKY before ending up in the Labour Corps, presumably as a result of injury or ill health.

From the few records that have survived, we can build up at least an outline of his service during the Great War. As we have seen, Fred Hewer enlisted on the outbreak of war into the first line regiment of the West Kent Yeomanry, with whom he went to Gallipoli. After the evacuation of the peninsula, he presumably followed the regiment to Egypt. According to Ponsonby's history, Hewer was amongst many men from WKY who was transferred to 'C' company, 10<sup>th</sup> (Royal East Kent & West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion The Buffs on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1917 and that he served in Palestine. I have been unable to confirm this from the surviving military records, as they fail to mention the Buffs at all. One reason for this may have been his supposed service with 'C-in-C E.E.F'. Perhaps he was detached from the battalion and worked at G.H.Q. for a time. It is likely that at this point he became unfit and was then transferred to the Labour Corps.

So, what of the man himself and his life before joining up? At first, it was impossible to discover anything about him, as his name was by no means unique. Not only were there several Frederick Hewers serving in the forces at this time, but even more in vital records such as births, deaths and marriages, as well as census records. Again, fortune came to my aid and I found an obscure transcription of a pension record ledger, relating to Pte 361603 Frederick James Hewer. This gave his residence as what appears to be (the handwriting is difficult to decipher) 41 Coxwell Street, Cirencester and a year of birth as 1897. This was a good starting point.

The obvious next step was to find a Frederick Hewer in the 1911 census, who if the year of birth was accurate, would have been about 14 years old at the time, presumably living in the Cirencester area in Gloucestershire. Rather unexpectedly, I could find no entries that matched, either in Gloucestershire or the rest of the country. Thus, I decided

on a different approach and thought perhaps I might find something in contemporary newspapers using the British Library's newspaper archive. Amongst several entries that mentioned a Frederick James Hewer, the was one of particular interest in the Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard dated 3 October 1908 as follows:

*"A pretty wedding took place on Saturday afternoon, September 26th, at the parish church, Ashton Keynes, the bride being Mary Annie Messenger, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Messenger of Ashton Keynes, and the bridegroom Frederick James Hewer, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Hewer of Stratton, Cirencester. The bride, who was given away by her brother, wore a dress of cream alpaca with wreath and veil, and carried a bouquet the gift of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids, Miss Hewer, Miss Portlock, and Miss Roseblade, wore dresses of pale blue nun's veiling, with large white lace hats. The Rev. F Girdlestone officiated."*

If this related to 'our' Fred Hewer, then the year of birth I had from the pension record was clearly wrong. So armed with the potential new information I searched the electoral register for this period. Bingo! The 1920 electoral register showed that a Frederick James Hewer, together with an Annie Hewer and John Messenger lived at 41 Coxwell Street, Cirencester. This was the same address as the pension record and confirmed my suspicion that he was the same man mentioned in the newspaper article.

COXWELL STREET—continued				
965	R	O	English Samuel	40
966	HO	HO	English Rose Emily	40
967	R	—	Hinton Edward	40
968	R	O	Hewer Frederick James	41
969	HO	HO	Hewer Annie	41
970	R	—	Messenger John	41
971	R	—	Samson Edwin William	41
972	R	—	Redhead William	43

Renewed searches of census records now started to produce results. In 1911, a 27-year old unemployed groom by the name of James Hewer was living with wife Annie Hewer, and their one-year old son Ronald, in two rooms at Buckingham Place, Staple Hill Bristol. James Hewer's place of birth is recorded as Quenington, Gloucestershire, whilst that of Annie is shown as Siddington in the same county.

Ten-years before, a 17-year old James Hewer is shown in the 1901 census as living with his parents, John and Charlotte, and a number of siblings in Stratton, Gloucestershire. His place of birth is also shown as Quenington, and his residence accords with that recorded in the newspaper article. From this entry and that in the 1911 census I am confident that not only do they both refer to the same man, but also to 'our' Fred Hewer, who seems to have preferred the appellation of James. His age in both census records indicate that he was in fact born in about 1883.

This is confirmed by baptismal records for the parish of Quenington, that show that a Frederick Hewer, son of John and Charlotte, was baptised on 21 October 1883. So, in August 1914, Fred would have been 30 years old, and not 17 as the pension record suggested.

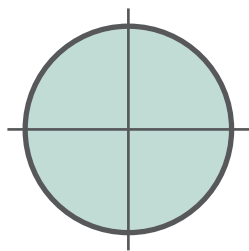




These few records allow us to sketch out important milestones in his life before the Great War. As we have already learned, he returned to Cirencester after his discharge. How long he remained there is not clear, but by 1939, when war at once again broken out between Britain and Germany, Fred was the landlord of the Bell Inn, Seend in Wiltshire. What prompted Fred and his wife to take on the proprietorship of this 18<sup>th</sup> century village pub is not known. Nor is it known how long they remained there. Certainly by the early fifties the couple had returned to Cirencester, living firstly at 43 Archery Road and then at 19 Austin Road.

In June 1959, Fred's wife of 51 years passed away at the age of 74. She was buried in the parish of Stratton on 18<sup>th</sup> June that year. Fred continued to live alone at the Austin Road address for another seven years. At some point age or infirmity led him to be admitted to Watermoor Hospital (formerly the Gloucester Union Workhouse). There he died aged 83 and was buried, presumably with his wife, at St Peter's, Stratton on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1966.



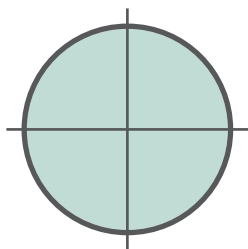


## REGIMENTAL EPHEMERA THROUGH PRINTED PAPER

words by Dan Taylor  
on the collection of Simon Malik

One way to get into creating a collection of Regimental ephemera can be through printed paper curios. From cigarette cards to embossed badges, each epoch has engendered a fresh selection of motifs and miniature artwork as shown in this image. It includes items from the Edwardian period through to the second world war. Online auction sites seem to have given this sort of thing a second life as they frequently appear on E-bay, where before they likely just sat at the back of a drawer. Just to highlight two: Top left is a badge applied to stationery – probably the flap of an envelope. It comes from the inter-war period when the Sharpshooters were the 23rd Armoured Car Company, based on Allitsen Road, north of Regents Park. Top right is a cigarette card – a popular means of set collecting between the turn of the last century into the 1970s. There are a number of sets representing British Army units made by various cigarette manufacturers that represent both our Kent Yeomanry and Sharpshooters heritage. This card was issued by W H & J Woods in 1902 as part of a collection called ‘Types of Volunteer and Yeomanry’.





# KENT AND SHARPSHOOTER YEOMANRY FINE DINING

Part 3 (1939 – 1948)

by Tim Rayson

In the last Journal I covered the period up to the start of World War 2 and notwithstanding the economic outlook in the 10 years prior to the start of the War most dinners continued to have six or even seven courses. The evidence available shows that both regiments usually held a single dinner night in those years where the dress was formal – black tie seemingly having replaced white tie and tails. However there are a good few at the 1939 Sharpshooters dinner wearing white tie and also No1 Dress which were known then as ‘Patrols’ and not ‘Blues’.

The advent of the War seems to have reduced regimental dinners to almost nil despite the fact that the 3rd and 4th CLY being based in the UK until deploying to the desert in 1941. The 3rd CLY regimental association similarly have left no recorded history although the September 1947 Newsletter records the resignation of Mr John Farrer from the Association Management Committee due to the pressure of business. Mr Farrer was a WW1 3rd CLY and the article notes that he almost single handedly revived and kept the association going by means of his “roast and boiled” suppers which were only discontinued in 1940 due to the war. However that did stop him supporting the Sharpshooters as he set up the regular Family meetings at the Bridge House pub on London Bridge. These families meetings ran in parallel with those of the 4th CLY and were called ‘Gin and Tears’ because there was little to offer the wives except ‘gin’ (which was readily available and cheap) and tears by way of sympathy for those whose husbands were either KiA, wounded or in the bag as POW’s.

There is however evidence of dinners held in the desert and Italy by both the Sharpshooters and Kent Yeomanry and for which we have the menus. The earliest dinner we have a menu for is a 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY New Year’s supper held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1943 at Khatatba followed by a further dinner held in Cairo on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1943: this latter would



Menu from 8th January 1943.



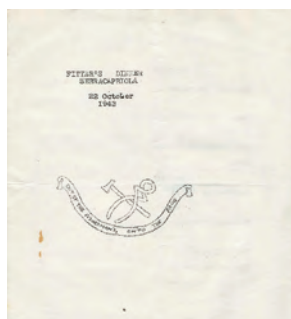
Menu from 13th May 1943.

have been a few weeks prior to the initial deployment movements for Op HUSKY – the invasion of Sicily. The menu for 8<sup>th</sup> January is for three courses recognising field conditions perhaps applied to Khatatba whilst the menu for the 13<sup>th</sup> May dinner was more extensive. It also features in the War Diary which records: “*HQ Squadron held a Squadron dinner at the Slade Club, Abbassia*” {Barracks} in Cairo. These barracks were vast and housed the RAC Training and Base Depot, British Troops Middle East.

There are a couple of interesting features to note for the 13<sup>th</sup> May dinner. The first is that rolls and butter which one might have expected to feature at the start with the soup now feature as a separate course with cheese at the end of the dinner – perhaps no one wanted issue biscuits with the cheese. This latter tradition would feature in the post war Association dinners for many years. The second is the inclusion of ‘Sauce pickles and stuffed olives’ as a separate dish quite possibly as the only ‘green’ vegetables to be had. The 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY War Diary also records on 24<sup>th</sup> May that:

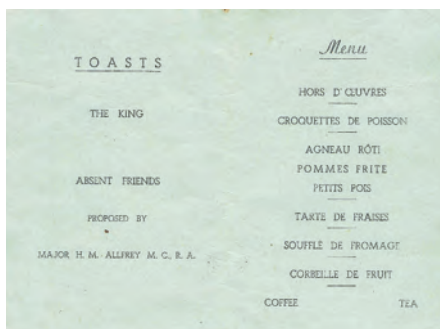
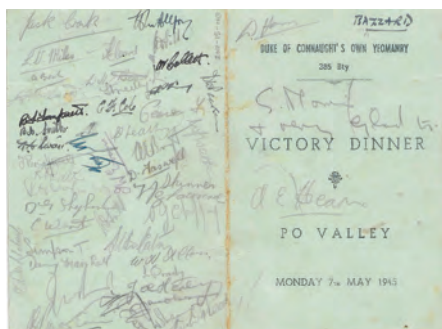
*“The Regiment represented by OC Squadrons and one other officer per Squadron and 72 ORs per Squadron under command of Lt Col GGL Willis DSO attended the Empire Day Service held in Kasr-el-Nil barracks. 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY led the march past which was followed by tea and cakes at the Empire Service Club.”*

This ‘tea party’ is only mentioned as it was the last event for dining we have evidence for until the Fitter Section of 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY held a dinner at Serracapriola on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1943. As you can see from the menu the wine list is rather amusingly written although



Menu from Fitters Dinner, 1943.





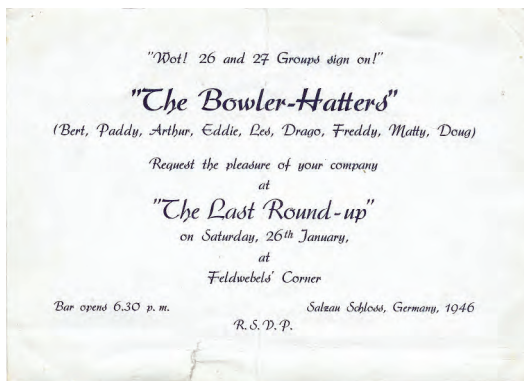
97 Fd Regt Victory Dinner, 7th May 1943.

we do not know which was white and which was red: perhaps 'Ordinaire' was white whilst extra-ordinaire was red possibly reflecting the taste!

This dinner was the last dinner of WW2 that was held in the field under operational conditions of which we have a record of. However it is not the last dinner that the KSY was to hold under operational conditions in the field. That honour fell to C Sqn whilst on tour in 2004 on OP TELIC 4. The story of that dinner will appear in next year's final part.

There is then a gap until the end of the War when 385 Battery held a Victory Dinner on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1943 in the Po Valley with a menu that harked back to the pre-war days including being written in French! If you look at last year's journal it was 385 battery (whose origins were the Royal East Kent Yeomanry) who held the most dinners pre-war and whose menus were amusingly written in French.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sharpshooters might well have held an Endex dinner but there is sadly no evidence in the form of menu cards that support this. However there is a 'Demob' menu for a dinner held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1946 as the regiment was by then undertaking garrison duties in Germany. The menu was extensive as you can see and included the bread rolls

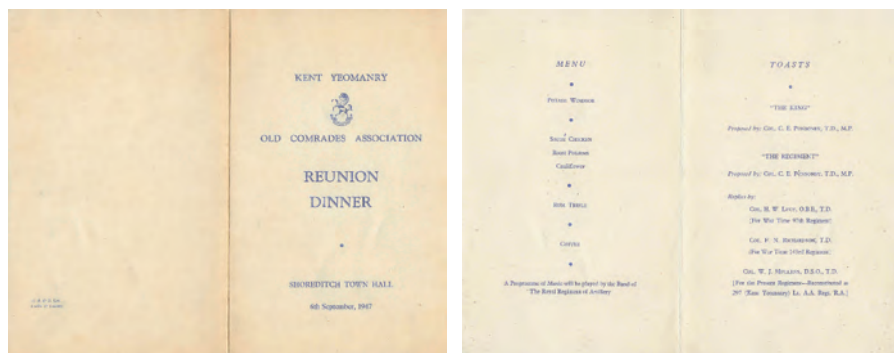


Demob Dinner, 26th January 1946.

with cheese. The regiment did not stand down until later in the year and was immediately reconstituted as a TA armoured regiment.

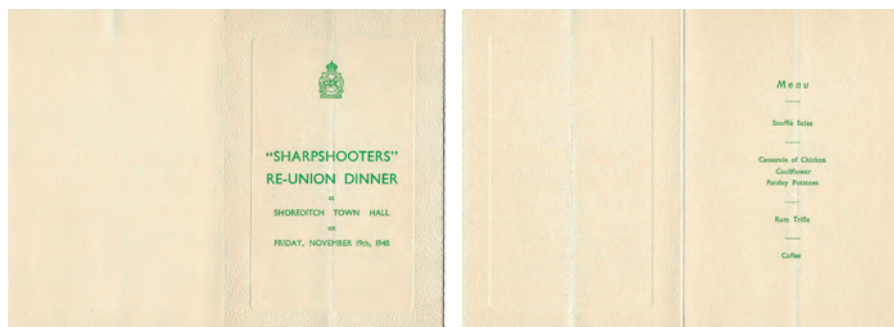


CLY Dinner, 28th March 1947.



Kent Yeomanry Dinner, 6th September 1947.

We now reach 1947/48 and the first reunion dinners held by both regiments in London, both at the same venue (Shoreditch Town Hall) and with almost identical menus. There is quite a bit of background to the first Sharpshooter dinner and the decision to go for the second dinner. For example Shoreditch was chosen because it could take 500 people but we do not know how many attended but we know that the staff band of the RTR played during dinner. The cost of this first dinner was 12/6d and included beer with it.



CLY Dinner, 19th November 1948.

Note the signatures on the menu: Lt Col Sandy Cameron, Lt General Sir Richard McCreery and Lt Col W (Bill) Carr all well known war time Sharpshooters.

The Sharpshooters dinner was followed a few months later by that of the Kent Yeomanry and as you can see the menu was almost identical so one can reasonably assume that the cost was about the same. It was also printed in English as opposed to French! How many went to the dinner is unknown but one would like to think that there were over 100 otherwise they would have rattled around in the space that they were likely to have been allocated. However like the Sharpshooters they had a military band play during the dinner.

The second dinner in 1948 was initially postponed due to severe fuel rationing that led to power cuts and the population being told not to travel to reduce coal consumption. It was however reinstated in the spring and has since then been held at the time of Bir El Gubi. We know that 137 members of the SYA attended that dinner.

The Journal next year will carry the 4<sup>th</sup> and final part of Fine dining and cover the period from 1949 through to the present day.

### **Shoreditch Town Hall – A short History**

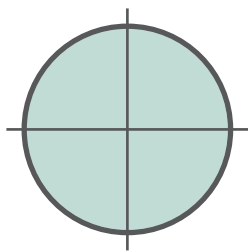
When it opened in 1866, Shoreditch Town Hall was known as one of the grandest Vestry Halls of its time and its ambitious founders wanted the building to embody their progressive values. Until the 1960s, the Town Hall operated as the centre of local democracy and civic life in the borough of Shoreditch.



Throughout the building the motto 'More Light, More Power' can be seen beneath the crest of Shoreditch. This motto, together with the statue of Progress on the front of the tower, commemorates the borough's reputation for pioneering bold ideas such as the building's revolutionary 1897 Refuse Destructor, which generated electricity and powered street lighting in the borough.

The building has a rich history. It played an important role in East End working class culture, first as a Music Hall in the late 19th and early 20th Century, and as a boxing venue from 1955 – 1975. In between, it survived a huge fire in 1904, and two World Wars, before neglect in the 1980s and 1990s led its inclusion on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk register.

It was rescued and transformed into a venue offering a variety of different spaces. These pictures are as it is today and as it might have been at those first dinners.



## THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK

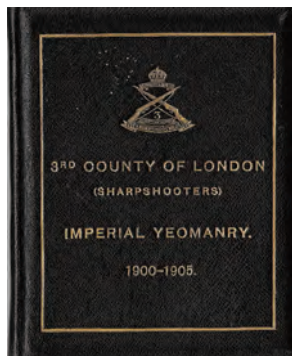
by Tim Rayson

In this year's Journal you will have received a copy of The Little Green Book and I thought that it might be a good idea to explain the history of the book because it does have a history going back to the Boer War.

As you all know the Sharpshooters part of the Association were raised specifically to fight in the Second Boer War and that they raised four battalions from volunteers who were seized of their patriotic duty to defeat the Boers. There is also evidence of a 5<sup>th</sup> battalion but they were never constituted as such being a strong reinforcing draft of 300 plus men.

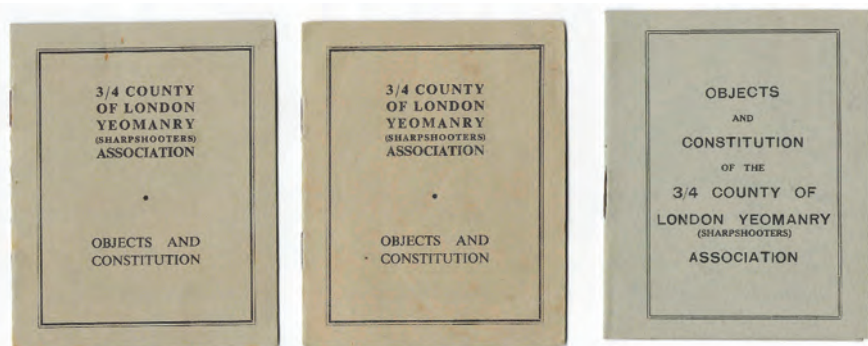
The criteria for joining were strict in terms of horsemanship and shooting skills and although many (5000) applied to join few (1700) were accepted. With the Sharpshooters gaining a reputation for being able to combat the Boer Commandos in the field by out shooting and out riding them it was decided that a Home Service Yeomanry regiment should be raised and this idea was approved by the King on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1901 with the regiment being the 47<sup>th</sup> in order of precedence of the Home Yeomanry regiments. This day – known as Founders Day – also saw the official creation of the Middlesex Yeomanry and the Westminster Dragoons.

With such a strong record of service in the War together with being awarded the Battle Honour "South Africa" it was decided by someone that there should be an official history of the creation and subsequent exploits in South Africa and the creation of the Home Service regiment. This history was published in 1905 in a set of green covers and is known now as the 'Little Green Book'. It was a small A6 size book in hard covers containing 72 pages with some lovely coloured prints.

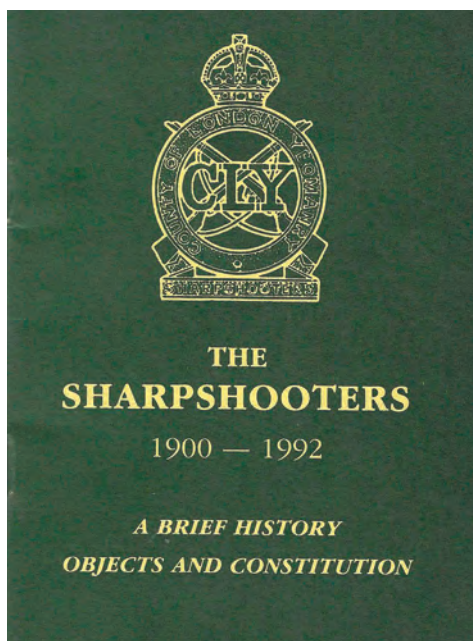


1900-1905 cover and inside covers.





WW2 versions of the LGB.



When I originally wrote this article I thought that the story would now roll forward to the early 1990's when it was decided to produce a short history of the Squadron that incorporated the SYA constitution. Once again the archives confounded me when as I was looking for some Boer War photos I chanced upon a copy of the LGB but with dark blue covers sitting in a cupboard and moreover I came across a WW2 sort of equivalent which dates back to 1944/45/46 although the covers as you can see were not Sharpshooter green but a sort of khaki colour. Turning to the 1991/2 edition this was a time of great change in the Army and uncertainty especially the Territorial Army and the Committee thought that its members should know its history and importantly understand

what the Association was there to do for its members. Thus the 'Little Green Book' 1992 version was created and given out to all members both serving and retired.

Finally here we are in 2022 some 30 years later and again facing a period of significant change which is why we have produced the 'Little Green Book' 2022 version which like its predecessors provides information on the KSY Association constitution and a short history of our predecessors. The book is available on the KSY Association website and can be downloaded from there as well as at the following link:

<https://www.sharpshooters.org.uk/KSYA/LittleGreenBook>

## First to the Top

The picture 'First to the top' on the back cover of the Journal appears in the history of the Second Boer War called 'With the Flag to Pretoria' which consists of three volumes and covers the whole of the War from a decidedly patriotic angle. We know that the figure is a Sharpshooter because the cap badge on his slouch hat is 'SS' which is the original cap badge worn by all battalions but what is not known is who the picture might depict and when/where.

It was whilst closely reading the LGB referred to above that some circumstantial evidence emerged that might give a clue and answer the who/when/where questions. On 28th April 1901 at Rietfontein Tpr Middleton (75th Squadron/Company) distinguished himself by being the first of a small party sent to climb a steep kopje to reach the top only to find 25 Boers coming up the other side and about 200yds distance. He at once opened fire and by killing one of the Boers and his horse checked their advance until the rest of the squadron arrived. Had the boers occupied the kopje they would have probably inflicted considerable loss on the squadron. He was promoted to Corporal and received a mention in dispatches.

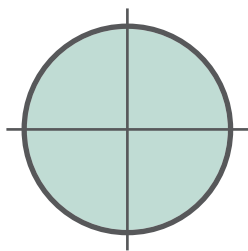


FIRST ON THE TOP  
Base of London's Volunteer new rifle battery.

The above story is only circumstantial evidence but it would be nice if there was further evidence to support the idea that the picture depicts Cpl Middleton.

TJR





## **TE308 – A SPITFIRE MADE FOR TWO – FEBRUARY 2022**

**by Peter Arnold**

**3<sup>rd</sup>4<sup>th</sup>CLY/KCLY**

*Foreword:* Some readers might be puzzled by the inclusion of the following article by Peter Arnold. Peter joined the Sharpshooters in the late 1950's and is an avid and discerning collector of things Sharpshooter specialising in both cap badges and sweet heart brooches and he has an outstanding collection of both. His collection of sweet heart brooches featured in the 2015 (p84) edition of the Journal. However his enthusiasm of things Sharpshooter is out shone by his name of Mr Spitfire. Peter is almost certainly the world's foremost expert on the aircraft that made an impression on him as a young person. When it comes to the history of the world's surviving Supermarine Spitfires, it is doubtful that anyone can surpass his knowledge and expertise. He has travelled the globe in search of lost examples of Britain's most famous fighter plane and has served as an invaluable resource to numerous restoration teams over the past half century regarding the provenance of the airframes in their workshops. He has also rescued a number of examples from the brink of oblivion including several virtually extinct variants.

Well done Peter for your efforts not only for the Sharpshooters but also in keeping the Spitfire going in our memories – the noise of the merlin engine in a dive or even just flying straight level stirs many people's memories I am sure – it does mine!

Tim Rayson

The dropping of Atomic Weapons on Japan in August 1945 bought the ending of the Second World War to an abrupt and unexpected end. This had immediate repercussions on the UK aviation industry as orders for fighter aircraft were speedily terminated or severely reduced.

Vickers Armstrong and Supermarine had been producing Spitfires since 1938 and by successive upgrades and development continued manufacture right through to the end of the war. The outstanding technical achievement of the basic Mk I Spitfire was its capability to transition from initially a 1000hp Merlin engine driving a two blade propeller with 8 x .303" machine guns and modest interceptor range through to a 2350hp Griffon engine Seafire 47 driving a six blade contra rotating propeller with 4 x 20mm Hispano cannons, Naval fighter. With many iterations along the way, the mid-war Mk IX, basically the last of the Merlin engine variants, was produced in the greatest number totalling 5,665 of the 22,752 Spitfires and Seafires built.

By mid 1945 and in to 1946 substantial numbers of Mk IX Spitfires had been put into open storage at Maintenance Units pending their fate to be scrapped or sold on. The Mk IX Spitfire, without the encumbrances of the later marks, would prove to be



TE308 Windsor Ontario, 5 June 1972. Peter Arnold and Don Plumb.

the ideal aircraft to re-equip Air Forces emerging after the cessation of hostilities and in so doing maintaining a sphere of British influence around the world. For Vickers Armstrong it was a commercial opportunity to buy back Spitfires for overhaul and resale, or where Spitfires had been gifted, set up maintenance and spares operations. The Air Forces of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Turkey and Yugoslavia would operate Mk IX Spitfires post WWII with several other countries operating Griffon engine and Seafire variants for tactical reasons.

Vickers Armstrong, wrestling with the test and development of the first of the Jet Fighters namely the Attacker leading on to the Swift, perceived that with all these Spitfires in Foreign Air Force service there was potentially a market for a two-seat dual control Advanced Trainer Spitfire variant. This would not be a completely new build Spitfire but a conversion of existing airframes at minimal cost using 'cut and shut' style engineering. The front cockpit would be moved forward into the fuel tank location, about thirteen inches, sufficient for the installation of an instructor's cockpit with fully linked dual control at the rear. The loss of fuel was compensated by the fitting of wing tanks in the vacated cannon armament bays. A prototype was converted using a surplus Mk VIII Spitfire, formally MT818 of the RAF, and placed on the British Civil Register as G-AIDN. Submitted to the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down for appraisal with a view to securing an Advanced Trainer contract for the RAF, it was rejected principally because of the poor visibility from the instructor's rear seat. Notwithstanding, Vickers did get orders for the conversion; three for the Royal Netherlands Air Force and ten for the Indian Air Force delivered in 1948, two for the Egyptian Air Force in 1950 and six for the Irish Air Corps in 1951. Certainly, these would be disappointing numbers for the effort put in by Vickers. The choice by the Irish Air Corps is strange as they had only a very modest Air Force, with no Spitfire





fighters, just a few ageing early Seafire Mk III's that were all time expired by 1955. Most probably they were intended to keep pilots current on a high-performance aircraft with constant speed propellers and retractable undercarriage and for gunnery practice using just the outer machines guns. With the crash loss of just one, the remaining Irish Trainers continued to fly until 1961 when all five were allotted to ground instructional duties. One, number 163 of the IAC and formerly TE308 of the RAF, remained assembled and close to flying condition at the main air base at Baldonnell.

My own passionate schoolboy interest in the surviving Spitfires had plateaued by my early twenties as marriage came along, and then in the mid 1960's the epic film 'Battle of Britain' came over the horizon. After a shaky financial start by 1967 a fleet of Spitfires, flying, taxiing and static, was starting to be assembled at RAF Henlow, less than 30 minutes from my home. In total 12 airworthy Spitfires were available to film out of a total 16 world-wide. Included in the 'flight' were two sold on by the Irish Air Corps including 163/TE308. I made a good number of inspection visits to RAF Henlow at this time and was always made very welcome.

With their bulbous rear canopy, the Trainers would not be flying close to the cameras but together with the later Griffon engine examples could make up a formation at the rear. For some shots, to give a pilot's action view of the instruments and gunsight, TE308 had a camera mounted on the front seat shooting up to a mirror set at 45 degrees. The film then needed to be reversed. With filming complete by the end of 1968, many aircraft returned to RAF Henlow for tidying up and repaint before being handed back to their owners, principally the MoD. I decided to make one last fortuitous visit to Henlow and there chatted with the pilot of the camera ship, John Hawke, who was



endeavouring to sell a static Griffon Spitfire to a Canadian, Don Plumb. Plumb latterly came over to me and asked for my phone number. He rang and said this sale was not now going to happen and with my apparent Spitfire knowledge could I possibly find him a flying Spitfire. Slightly taken aback I said I would do my best and after a few enquiries established that the new owner of TE308, Sir William Roberts, who had bought two Spitfires after the film was prepared to let it go for £12,500. Plumb did the deal and I was tasked with getting the Spitfire disassembled and shipped in crates to Canada. Thinking that would be then end of it...it was not. Plumb decided to have the Spitfire totally stripped down to the last nut and bolt for a total zero-time refurbishment that took some eighteen or so months. He then very generously invited me firstly to 'Transpo 72' in Washington then on to his home base in Windsor Ontario to fly the Spitfire on 5 June 1972.

I was pleased to be Don Plumb's man in the UK who could rustle up spare parts and technical information. Spitfires were starting to become a major part of my life in parallel with my career as an automotive engineer at General Motors and latterly Aston Martin/Tickford. With my world-wide contacts I started to collect Spitfire parts for my own project, a fuselage section from this scrap yard and engine from another, a pair of wings from Malta, propellers from Canada and so on. As an enthusiast I would get almost as much pleasure finding parts for others as for myself as what we now call the 'Warbird' movement burgeoned in the UK. Fifty years on and seven Spitfire/Seafire projects later I still have a Mk 22 in my garage workshop and in the mean time the number of Spitfires that have flown since the BoB film stands at 95 with the number currently airworthy, give or take winter maintenance, at 74 with 41 of these being in the UK. Currently the asking price for an airworthy Mk IX Spitfire is £3.5m. Restoring old Spitfires commercially at the top end of the market has become 'big business' with two seat conversions or new builds in the ascendency.



Don Plumb was to lose his life in a P-51 Mustang flying accident in 1976 and TE308 passed through a couple owners before being purchased by Bill Greenwood of Aspen Colorado. I was to fly TE308 a number of times with Bill, the most adventurous, and now with a new Private Pilot's Licence, was a 1,250 mile flight in several hops in marginal weather from Aspen to the big Oshkosh air show in Wisconsin. No landings or take offs with my minimal experience but the chance to safely explore the flying envelope and try a stall, flying above the Rockies.

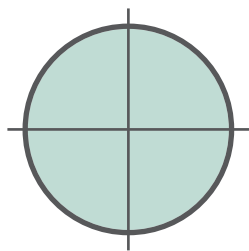
In the UK it was never possible, by Civil Aviation Authority ruling, to ply for hire a ride in the back seat of a Spitfire. It was deemed too dangerous. In c.2009 the Boulton Flight Academy at Goodwood put up a strong case to the CAA to reverse that ruling and this they did with the proviso that basic training, evacuation drill and a full understanding of the higher than normal risks were given. With the green light now on Spitfire rides, further operations were established at Biggin Hill, Duxford, Headcorn and Sywell. Typically a 20 minute flight would currently cost c.£2,850 with a waiting list stretching months into the future. The 'ugly duckling' of the Spitfire world with its second cockpit rose immediately from being bottom in the desirability stakes to close to the top.

In 2020 I co-authored my third book on Spitfires, 'Two-Seat Spitfires - The Complete Story' with John Sanderson and Greg Davis. Greg does volunteer work at the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar who operate some three Spitfires giving rides. In addition, they carry out substantial refurbishment work, contract maintenance including the RAF's 'Battle of Britain Memorial Flight' and ground up restorations from WWII crashed recovery projects that provide a RAF serial provenance required by the CAA. Greg also gives hangar tours and provides PR services. On Friday the 4 February he casually asked me how I would feel about a ride in TE308 reacquainting after my first flight 50 years previously, a thank you for my services to Spitfires coinciding with recent 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was proposing to run it by the CEO at Biggin Hill Heritage, Peter Monk. With the high cost and the long waiting list I did not get over excited about the prospect however on the following Monday he rang and said... 'How are you fixed for next Wednesday?'

Well. What can you say? The weather was fine. The chase plane was put up with both a cine cameraman, Ian Amis, and top stills photographer, Richard Paver. We made several circuits of Leeds Castle just waiting to get the positioning right, with good sunlight and minimum highlighting flare for still publicity photos. It was on down to Hawkinge to give the Battle of Britain Museum there a flypast, then back to Biggin with a Victory Roll, a curving fighter approach to Runway 21 and we were down. Just over an hour chock to chock flight... simply wonderful.

Greg passed a portfolio of images and clips of the cine to his friendly press agency and it just snowballed. Pictures and the story in the national press including the Times, a request for an interview with ITV Anglia resulting in three local TV stations picking it up, then the big surprise, it made the ITV 06:30 National news with a two minute slot alongside Prince Andrew and the depressing latest from Ukraine. The unexpected publicity just kept on rolling with features in the US and UK aviation press... just a good news story, and sometimes we need that, about an enthusiast and a two seat Spitfire.





## **SURREY ARMY CADET FORCE THE MAYDWELL CADET AND BEST STUDENT ON THE THREE STAR CADRE**

**by Corporal Andrew May**

### **Major RW Maydwell 1919 to 1993**

Dickie as he was known within the Army Cadet Force or 'The Major' as he was known in Slinfold, West Sussex where he lived was an eccentric and extrovert individual held in high regard in both his business and personal lives by all those who knew him.



Immediately on the outbreak of war in 1939 he joined the Royal Signals and spent most of his war service in the North African desert serving under great leaders such as Montgomery.

At the end of the war in 1945 he returned to his studies to qualify as a Chartered Surveyor joining the firm of Folkard and Hayward and later becoming one of the senior partners.

In the early 1950s he brought two abandoned 15th century cottages and 100 acres of scrubland in Slinfold. He restored the cottages with great care and cleared the land with the help of a number of cadets from Surrey and Sussex before successfully raising pigs, sheep and finally beef cattle. During this time Dickie was commissioned into Surrey Army Cadet Force and served with the Mitcham Road Detachment in Croydon.

At that time the cadet units wore the cap badge of their sponsor units and Dickie was delighted to adopt the uniform of the Kent and County of London Yeomanry (The Sharpshooters). He quickly became integrated with the Croydon based



Maydwell medal Group.

squadron even assisting in the design of the new officer mess kit. Several years later he convinced the Commandant of the need for a TA/ACF Liaison Officer, a role which he fulfilled with relish and he continued to wear the cap badge and embellishments of the Sharpshooters for the remainder of his time in the ACF.

In 1970 huge cuts in the Defence budget were being proposed and recognising that the funding of the Army Cadet Force was severely at risk Dickie got together with Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Chris Rowlands the County Medical Officer and Sir William Mullens the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Surrey to form a charitable fund now known as the Army Cadet Force Association.

In 1972 an appeal was launched and raised £23,000 a considerable sum of money at the time. The objects of the Association were to help educate young people through their leisure time activities so as to develop their physical mental and spiritual capacities so that they might grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.

Dickie lived to see the Association grow in strength and as a consequence of his very generous bequest under terms of his will in 1993; a near seven figure sum was left to the ACF Association. This has gone to provide funds to support of many of the activities that the cadets of Surrey Army Cadet Force enjoy today and hundreds of young people have derived great benefit from Dickie's generosity.

*Note by the Hon Secretary.*

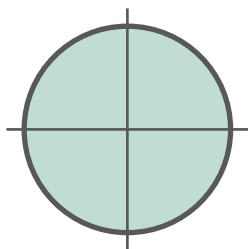
This article came to the Association via Tony Jewell and is an important record of one of the Sharpshooter's most generous – in terms of time and money – officers and an outstanding example of philanthropy via a will. As a young trooper I remember Dickie very well and there are certain nuances to the story behind this Surrey ACF Annual award that are not immediately evident and which need to be mentioned.

The village of Slinfold was known to both Sharpshooter regiments when they were stationed in Dorking prior to deployment to North Africa in 1941. They exercised throughout the area and it was during this period that one of their officers (Lt Dick Sutton) earned the nickname of ‘Admiral’ Sutton.

Sir William Mullens who helped establish the Army Cadet Force Association was the Honorary Colonel of the Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry at that time and a former CO of the Kent Yeomanry. Whilst serving with the latter he was awarded the DSO for the action at St Valery in 1940 and subsequently a bar in 1944 during the Italian campaign. As Honorary Colonel he was a most generous host at the annual squadron ‘smoker’ which he hosted at his house just outside Guildford and where the Sqn made good use of the swimming pool. He thought nothing about standing on a table and singing some rude and very witty WW2 songs. The squadron also managed to demolish his greenhouses one year when a go-kart driven at speed by Cpl Hugh Waller went out of control careering through a wall and landing in the middle of them.

By coincidence Dickie Maydwell’s medals came up for auction earlier this year and the decision was taken to bid for them and subsequently present them to the successor of the ACF Association – the Army Cadet Charity Trust. With Richard Blacks help the medals were secured and are in the process of being mounted for presentation to the ACCT later in the year.





## MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER 1916

by Tim Rayson and David Whitehouse

### *Hon Secretary's Note*

This newspaper cutting caught my eye on ebay so I bought it, lost it and then thanks to the owner he redirected me towards a copy that he had kept. With the assistance of Dave Whitehouse the service history of the two named Sharpshooters is as follows:

L/Cpl 670 GW WEEKS. Taken on strength 3CLY 01/11/1910. Subsequently found medal records for a 670 George William WEEKS but for some reason he's shown as 1st County of London Yeomanry. His medal index card shows that he was commissioned into the 9th Reserve Cavalry regiment on 20/12/1916. That would explain his return to the UK - for officer cadet training. Gazetted temp LT on 30 Jul 1918 wef 21 Jun 1918.

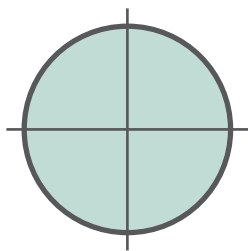
Pte 337 JT MORTON. Taken on strength A Sqn 3CLY 27/03/1908, re-engaged in 1911 and 1913, so presumably was still serving at the start of the war. Thus it is highly likely that this is the chap in the photo. A medal index card for 337 John Thomas MORTON shows "Dis T.E. 30-4-16" which I interpret as discharged time expired. This again would explain why he came back to the UK.

#### SEAMEN HOME FROM GALLIFOLI JOIN IN A BOAT RACE.



Crews of the 3rd County of London Yeomanry, back from Gallipoli, who took part in a Putney boat race. The winners, Pte. Morton's crew, are seen on the left; behind them, on right, Lance-Corpl. Weeks' crew.





## RECTORY PLACE

by David Whitehouse

RECTORY PLACE COTTAGES, CHISLEHURST.



Standing on the common in Chislehurst, a quaint suburb on the outskirts of southeast London, it is difficult to believe that one is actually still in the capital. With a mixture of Victorian villas and cottages bordering open grassland, heather, furze and ancient woodland, the place has retained much of its village charm. It is easy to see why the exiled Napoleon III chose to make his home here in 1871. He took up residence at Camden Place, the former home of 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Camden, whose son the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl would be commissioned as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the West Kent Yeomanry on its formation in 1794. This, of course, is not the only connection that the Kent Yeomanry has to Chislehurst. A troop of West Kent Yeomanry was raised here in 1794 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Sydney.

Amongst a row of dwellings facing Chislehurst Common and a short distance from Saint Nicholas's Church, is a pair of Grade II listed 18<sup>th</sup> century white weather-boarded cottages. One of these, 3 Rectory Place, has been the home of both a Sharpshooter and a Kent Yeoman.

A directory of Chislehurst residents published in 1915 lists Lt-Col John Charles Ker-Fox residing at 3 Rectory Place. Ker-Fox was born on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1851 in Castle Dillon Armagh. He entered the Prussian Army in 1875

and was appointed Lieutenant in the 16th Hanoverian Dragoons, transferring to the Hessian Guard Dragoons two years later. In 1878, he enlisted into the (British) Life Guards, rising to the rank of Corporal of Horse before being commissioned into the 19<sup>th</sup> Hussars. In 1882, Ker-Fox embarked with his regiment for Egypt to join a British expedition led by Lt. Gen. Sir Garnet Wolseley with the aim of suppressing an uprising led by Arabi Pasha. Two years later he was shipped with the regiment from Egypt to the Sudan to fight the Mahdi War. Ker-Fox was subsequently awarded the Africa General Service Medal with clasps for 'Egypt 1882' and 'Nile 1884-5'.

In 1888, now a Brevet Major, he exchanged with an officer of the South Staffordshire Regiment. Why a cavalry officer would be appointed to infantry of the line is not known.

Kennett Ernest, School ho., Perry st  
Ker Fox Lieut.-Col. John Charles, 3  
Rectory place, Chislehurst com  
Kinder Miss, The Croft, Green lane  
King Basil W., The Ferns, 29 Lower  
Camden



When war broke out in South Africa at the end of the century, Ker-Fox joined the Imperial Yeomanry as a Captain and commanded the 15<sup>th</sup> Company of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

It was after the Boer War that Ker-Fox joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) as a Major and by 1904, he was commanding C Squadron. By the time he resigned his commission in 1910 he was an honorary Lt-Col.

After the First World War broke out, Ker-Fox was appointed as temporary Major in 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Inniskilling Fusiliers, which make sense given his Irish roots. However, this regiment was based in Finner Camp, Ballyshannon in County Donegal. In October 1916, Ker-Fox is known to have written from the camp to the then Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey. If one assumes he joined his regiment directly on appointment (29<sup>th</sup> March 1915), how then could he have been a resident of Chislehurst?

Apart from that single directory listing, I can find no other references to Ker-Fox and Chislehurst. The 1911 census finds Ker-Fox as a boarder at an address in Hyde Park, London, whilst the electoral roll of 1913, lists him at 75 Victoria Street, Westminster. Perhaps he used the property at Rectory Place as a country retreat within easy reach of the city. Whatever the case, his connection with the property seems to have been a brief one.

Certainly by 1918, 3 Rectory Place had become the home of another soldier, Lance-Corporal Alfred William Gosling of 10<sup>th</sup> (Royal East & West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs, who gave that address on his discharge, on medical grounds, on 26<sup>th</sup> April of that year.

Alfred was born on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1895 in London to Alfred Luther and Fanny Gosling. Aged 17, and living at 18 Gourock Road, Eltham he enlisted into the West Kent Yeomanry on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1913 as Private 793. On the outbreak of the First World War, he was embodied into 'A' Squadron of the first line regiment. As only parts of his service record have survived, it is not possible to determine the details of his service, but according to Colonel Ponsonby's regimental history, he served in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine.

So, Private Gosling would have left the UK with his regiment in September 1915, to head to Gallipoli. In early October the regiment, alongside the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, were landed disembarked on Cape Helles on the Gallipoli peninsula, as part of a follow-up force to the Suvla Bay landings in August. After the evacuation of the peninsula in January 1916, both regiments were sent to Egypt where it spent a large part of the time training and patrolling the desert. Neither, however, returned to their horses but were employed in a disembarked role. This was formalised in early 1917 when the two regiments amalgamated to form the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion East Kent Regiment, The Buffs. Thereafter, the new regiment, now part of 74<sup>th</sup> (Yeomanry) Division, was sent to Palestine to take part in operations under General Allenby.

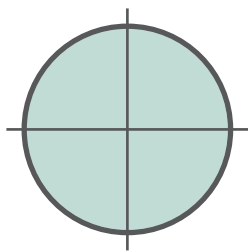
It was here, during the Battle of Beersheba in October 1917, that Private 270563 of 'C' Company 10<sup>th</sup> Buffs received gunshot wounds to his right arm and leg, that would ultimately lead to his discharge. He was invalided back to the UK and whilst at Bath War Hospital he was brought before an invaliding medical board who decided that he was 'unfit for service'. He subsequently received a pension of 27 shillings and sixpence for six months.

It would appear that the address he gave on discharge was in fact his parents house, and this is confirmed in the 1921 Census that shows the occupiers of 3 Rectory Place as: Alfred Luther Gosling, 74, a retired architect for the Corporation of the City of London; Fanny Gosling, 50, wife of the above; Alfred William Gosling, 26, son and a bank clerk with the National Provincial & Union Bank; Maude Gosling, 9, daughter and student.

The following year young Alfred was married to Ivy L Kenward. This probably marks the end of Alfred's direct link with Rectory Place as he most likely moved out of his parent's house after his marriage. A 1925 directory for Eltham shows an Alfred W Gosling living at 4 Park View Road, New Eltham.

Alfred's parent's continued to live at 3 Rectory Place until at least 1927, when 80-year old Alfred Luther passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> January.





## **THE SHARPSHOOTERS REGIMENTAL MARCH**

**by Tim Rayson**

In 2008 the then Chairman (David Hannam) writing under the pseudonym ‘Timber’ wrote a short article for the Journal about the Sharpshooters March. In the article David recalled that Boris Mollo (OC C Sqn 1969/70) remembers that the subject of a regimental march came up in 1963 when planning for the guidon parade. Boris was not directly involved but at second hand heard the story that we were to have the band of The Royal Dragoons, who were by then our parent regiment, for the parade. At a pre-parade O-group the question of a regimental march came up. No one had ever heard of a Sharpshooters march and expected that we would use the Royals march.

However the Quartermaster perked up and said that he had some music entitled ‘The Sharpshooters March’. This was handed to the bandmaster of the Royal Dragoons who arranged it into the form we now know. Unfortunately Boris was never able to track down the original piece of music produced by the Quartermaster.

The guidon parade programme has the note ‘The Regimental March, which is played in public for the first time today has been specially arranged for the Regiment by Bandmaster G.E.Evans ARCM, The Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons)’.

My investigations led to the kind provision of a recent recording in digital format by Capt Roy Falshaw, Director of Music of The Band of the Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry). He added the following about the history:

“...”The Sharpshooters” March doesn’t have a composer credited on the band parts. However, after researching some old parts in our library, some were written out by hand by Jim Meikle. Jim is an old pal of mine, and a former Royals and Royal Scots Dragoon Guards musician, and was the librarian at the Royal Military School of Music (Kneller Hall) circa 1975-1995 (during my 3-year student bandmaster course). I contacted him in Warminster, he recollects it was either composed or, more likely, arranged by the then bandmaster of the Middlesex Yeomanry - WO1 Dougie Shewan. The Royals and the Middlesex Yeomanry had quite a lot of contact between their two bands at the time and Jim Meikle remembers his bandmaster giving him the rather laborious task of writing the parts out by hand!

You may well be asking yourself, so why do we have a strong affiliation to “Farmers Boy” which for many a younger Sharpshooter at Croydon may well be thought of as our regimental march. Well, the rumour mill suggests that historical precedent has passed this splendid march down into the Sharpshooter family as well. It is great to have a choice of two fine marches.....the story goes as follows.....

“Farmers Boy” was originally the regimental march of the Berkshire Yeomanry then part of the Berkshire & Westminster Dragoons with whom it came to The Royal



Yeomanry in 1967. The first RY CO chose '76 Trombones' as the RY regimental march but it was apparently booed every time it was played. The next CO bowed to pressure to change it and the popular vote was by then for 'Farmer's Boy' which was not only steady but could be sung as well which none of the other squadron marches (less the North Irish Horse who were then D Sqn) could.

However, prior to that in the very early days of the RY, a regimental march past involved changing the regimental march as each squadron approached the saluting base. "The Sharpshooters" March was a very different rhythm from the previous marches with the result that C Squadron always lost their step when their march was played. Eventually by common consent, 'Farmer's Boy' was chosen as the regimental march past.

David's article ended with "So there you have it.....unless you know different."

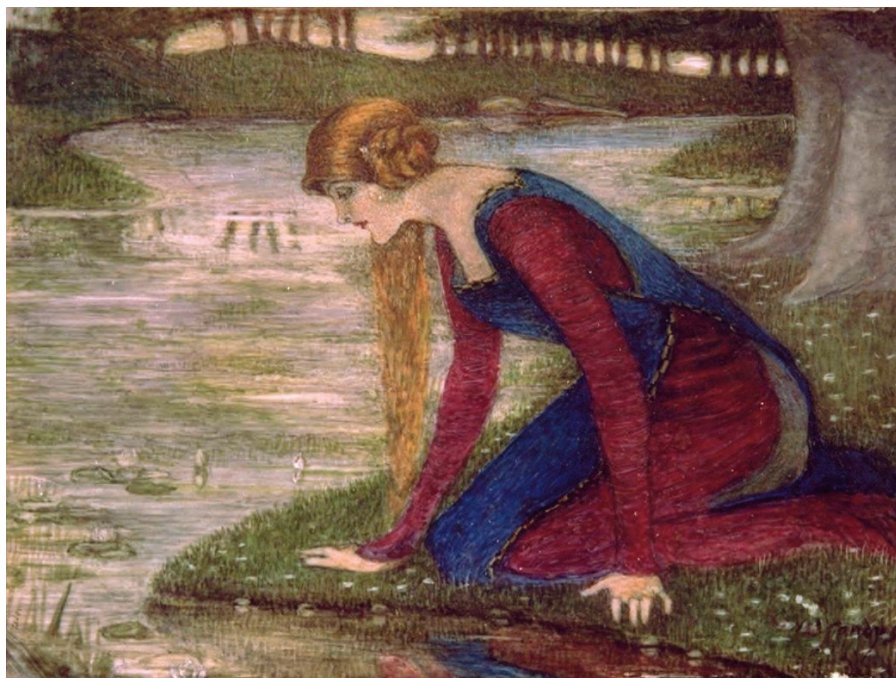
Fast forward to The Sharpshooter Journal of 2021 where aficionados of the Fine Dining series may recall a mention of the Sharpshooters march played by 'The Red Victorian Trio' on the music card at the Bohemian Evening held by C Sqn 3CLY at Café Monico in 1912 – see extract below:

PART I.				
<p>"Put on your boldest suit of mirth, for we have friends that purpose merriment."—<i>Merchant of Venice</i>.</p>				
THE RED VICTORIAN TRIO will play—				
(a) March:	"Sharpshooters"	...	...	
(b) Valse:	"Count of Luxembourg"	...	...	
<p>"What harmony is this? My good friends, hark! Marvellous sweet music!"—<i>Tempest</i>.</p>				
Messrs. LEWIS STROUD and RALPH VERNON will sing—				
"Watchman, what of the Night?"		...	...	
<p>"Now shall we know if Gadshill have set a watch."—<i>1 King Henry IV</i>.</p>				
Mr. G. A. DUNCAN will sing—				
"What shall I buy for ma dearie?"		...	...	
<p>"And this duty after me Sing and dance it trippingly."—<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>.</p>				
Mr. FELTON TURNBULL will sing—				
"Stonecracker John"		...	...	...
Mrs. E. A. LAWFORD will sing—				
"My Dearest Heart"		...	...	...
Lce.-Cpl. R. S. DOLLEYMORE will sing—				
(a)	"Look down, dear Eyes"	...	...	... <i>Howar</i>
(b)	"Perplexity"	...	...	... <i>Daisy</i>
Mr. W. F. WURTZBURG will sing (At the Piano)				
Mr. PATRICK DESMOND will sing—				
"Take a pair of Sparkling Eyes"		...	...	
Trooper A. H. HORSFIELD will recite—				
"House of Griefenstein"		...	...	... <i>Ch</i>
<p>"Now is your time; speak loud."—<i>Measure for Measure</i>.</p>				
Miss EILEEN MORRIS will sing—				
"Until" ...		...	...	... <i>S</i>
Mr. W. HUNT PARSLow will give some Imitations.				
Trooper EDWIN H. COE (West Kent Yeo.) will sing—				
"Melisande in the Wood"		...	...	... <i>Alm</i>



Note also the presence of a member of the West Kent Yeomanry (Tpr Coe) doing a solo number 'Melisande in the Wood' a recording of which can be listened to at the following link:

<https://www.indictus.org/post/alma-goetz-m%C3%A9lisande-in-the-wood-1902>



This programme carries a major clue in that it mentions the composer – H Brown and armed with this information I got in touch with my good friend WO2 Richard Llewelyn the RY Band Sgt Major and enlisted his help in tracking down the music. In the space of a very few days Richard and his team went one better than that having found a recording on YouTube which can be listened to at the following link or use the QR code:

[https://youtu.be/0R\\_ivtzsRas](https://youtu.be/0R_ivtzsRas)

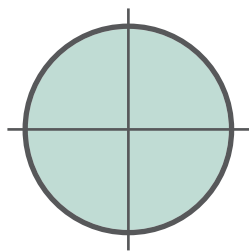


The first thing that the listener will note is the speed of the music which is played at 78RPM and gives a tempo that might be inaccurate. It might be therefore better played at a slower speed – 65RPM. The 78RPM speed has an impact especially on the second part of the march which is complex making it very difficult to keep in step with which backs up what was said when it was rearranged in the 1960's. However notwithstanding the speed the first and third movements are very recognisable in the Sharpshooters march as it is played today and the second movement can also be identified.

The music is played by the Imperial Guard Band and that has to be the next target for research together with the story of Tpr Coe ... there are early indications that there is an interesting story involving a MC which will appear in next year's edition of The Sharpshooter. In the meantime download and enjoy the recording of the original Sharpshooter March. It is hoped that the Band will play this version at some stage in the future at one of their excellent free evening concerts that are played at The Guards Chapel, Wellington barracks.







# **THE SHIPS THAT TRANSPORTED KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMEN TO WAR AND BROUGHT THEM HOME AGAIN PART 1 – THE BOER WAR**

The Kent Yeomanry and Sharpshooters yeomanry have over the last 123 years deployed by ships of varying types and sizes in order to get to war. These ships were designated as HM Transport and were taken up from trade (also known as STUFT) to fill the needs of the day.

This short article aims to record when they became ‘STUFT’ – one can imagine that both crews and passengers might have considered themselves to be ‘STUFTD’ - and to chronicle their final fate whether an ignoble grounding, scrapping or sunk by enemy action. For the purposes of this article and, recognising the seniority of the Kent Yeomanry with the East Kent being the most senior this article will start with the Kent Yeomanry and is followed by the newly raised Sharpshooters.

## **The Kent Yeomanry regiments**

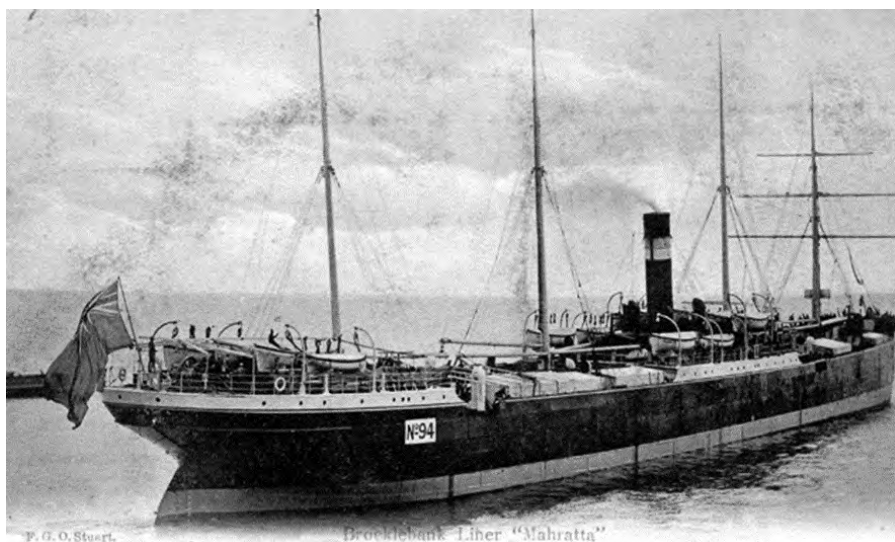
The West Kent Yeomanry raised one company numbered 36th (West Kent Yeomanry) which was part of 9th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry. The Royal East Kent Yeomanry raised two companies of Imperial Yeomanry from volunteers who wished to fight in the Boer War. These companies were numbered 33<sup>rd</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> (Royal East Kent) companies and were part of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Battalions of Imperial Yeomanry respectively although the 53<sup>rd</sup> transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn in 1902.

## **SS CYMRIC**



The SS CYMRIC was a large passenger/cargo ship (12,500 GRT) also known as HM Transport 74. She undertook two voyages to South Africa carrying over 1,100 men (including both the Royal East Kent (33<sup>rd</sup> Coy/11<sup>th</sup> Bn IY) and West Kent (36<sup>th</sup> Coy/9<sup>th</sup> Bn IY) and 450 horses. After the Boer War the ship sailed on the North Atlantic run to New York being involved in the odd collision and fire. In WW1 she carried cargo and was sunk by UBoat on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1916 some 140miles WNW of Fastnet off the coast of Ireland. The UBoat who sank her had 12 months previously sunk the LUSITANIA. The wreck has never been found. Further details of the ship can be found at:[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS\\_Cymric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Cymric)

#### SS MAHRATTA (1891)



The 53<sup>rd</sup> Company deployed on the SS MAHARATTA (HMT 94) on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1900. The ship came into service in 1891 and after the Boer War ran aground on the Goodwin Sands in 1909. The grounding was due to pilot error! Over a period of three days the ships back was broken and she was a total loss. A second ship of the same name came into service in 1917 and suffered the same fate running aground less than a mile from her earlier namesake. Spooky!!

### SS MANCHESTER MERCHANT



The SS MANCHESTER MERCHANT also known as HM Transport 92 made quite a few voyages from Cape Town to not only the UK but also Australia and even New Zealand especially as the war came to an end. The 36<sup>th</sup> Company (WKY) arrived home on her on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1901. The ship was a modern and fast cargo ship. In Jan 1903 on a voyage from New Orleans to Manchester carrying cotton, lumber & maize she was scuttled in Dingle Bay to try and extinguish a fire in the fwd holds and subsequently became a total loss.

### SS TINTAGEL CASTLE



CASTLE INTERMEDIATE STEAMER *TINTAGEL CASTLE*, 1896  
Sister to *Avondale Castle*. After removal of yards

The SSTINTAGEL CASTLE was laid down in 1896 and was part of the Union Castle Line that ran a weekly scheduled service to South Africa. She made two return voyages to South Africa and on 25<sup>th</sup> May brought back the 33<sup>rd</sup> Coy (REKMR) company.

## SS GALEKA



The SS GALEKA transported the 18<sup>th</sup> Bn Imperial Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) to Beira in Mozambique to form part of the Rhodesia Field Force. This voyage took from 6<sup>th</sup> April 1900 until 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1900 a total of 28 days covering 8000 miles. In WW1 the ship became a hospital ship with 366 beds and was at Gallipoli providing support for that campaign. GALEKA was mined in 1916 off Cap de la Heve – near Le Havre. There were no wounded soldiers on board although 19 RAMC personnel were killed. The ship was beached but was written off as a total loss.

## SS MONGOLIAN





The SS Mongolian was built in 1890 in Glasgow by D & W Henderson Limited for the Allan Line with the intent to carry those immigrants fleeing poverty in Britain to the 'New World'. She also carried cargo and the Royal Mail. Built during the time when ships were transitioning from sail to steam, she was fitted out with two 100 foot masts to raise sails should the need arise to supplement her engines.

The ship was contracted to provide transport for soldiers deploying to and returning from the Boer War and brought back the 71<sup>st</sup> Company/18<sup>th</sup> Bn on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1901. Between April 1891 and 1913, 1507 British Home Children were sent to Canada on her decks according to the Canadian Library and Archives database.

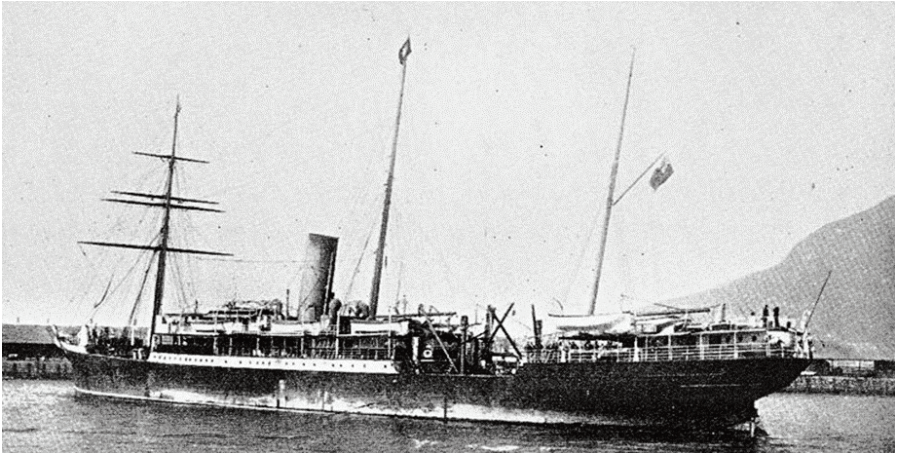
In 1915, the ship was purchased by the Admiralty as a cargo ship and was armed defensively. She was torpedoed on the 21st July 1918 some five miles off Filey Brigg, about a mile north of Filey, North Yorkshire and sank with the loss of 36 crew.

### SS HAWARDEN CASTLE



The 18th Bn were returned from South Africa in the SS HAWARDEN CASTLE after a 12 month deployment in June 1901. The SS HAWARDEN CASTLE was renamed CYRIL in 1902. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1905 she collided with S.S. ANSELM 4 miles below Curralinho, River Amazon when outbound from Manaus with a full cargo of rubber and sank in 70ft. of water. The cargo valued at £110,000 was salvaged, but the ship was a total loss.

## SS SALAMIS



A replacement draft of 300 Sharpshooters deployed on the SS SALAMIS on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1901 along with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. The draft were in fact a new 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion which has in the past confused historians because the history has always been about the three battalions namely 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The replacement draft took the mantle of the original 18<sup>th</sup> with a unique title namely 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Sharpshooters Imperial Yeomanry (18<sup>th</sup> Battalion). The SALAMIS was broken up for scrap in Italy in 1924 having been renamed KAMARIMA.

## SS AVONDALE CASTLE



The Regimental History (written in 1905) records that the 21<sup>st</sup> Bn (known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharpshooters) sailed out to South Africa on board the SS ARUNDEL CASTLE. However a search of the shipping records in the Times of London shows that in fact they went out on the SS AVONDALE CASTLE!! They sailed on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1901 and arrived in Cape Town on 6<sup>th</sup> April from where they deployed on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

SS AVONDALE CASTLE was laid down and completed in 1897 and was sold to a French company in 1912 being renamed GARONNE and shipped wines from Bordeaux to South America plus passengers. She was scrapped in 1923.

#### SS SAINT ANDREW



From what can be gleaned from the Regimental History and the Weston Jarvis papers all three battalions returned on the SS ST ANDREW. Although only the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion is listed in the Times of London the Regimental history states that the remaining two companies of the 23<sup>rd</sup> had by then been incorporated into the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Times of London entries for both departure and arrival dates align with the history of all three battalions. However the name was incorrectly recorded in the history and in the Weston Jarvis papers. The SS ST ANDREW was in fact the SS SAINT ANDREW and proof of this is in Lloyds Register of shipping that records on P702 of the 1902 Register SS SAINT ANDREW was built at Swan Hunter in 1899 with A1 Classification and weighed in at 6914 GRT. The key piece of information is the name of the Master who is named as Fitzgerald and who is mentioned in the Weston Jarvis account of the 21<sup>st</sup> Bn.

The greatest challenge has been getting an image of the ship. The above is the only decent photo of the SS SAINT ANDREW and confirms that she was a cargo ship and after the Boer War she had a pretty unremarkable history. She was sold in 1912 and went through a number of name changes (BERMUDA, ENGLESTON and MARIA ADELE before being scrapped in 1932 in Savona. There are no images of her under her later names.

Extract from the London Times 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1900 regarding food on board during passage to South Africa

Victualing on the SS UMBRIA and NILE is accomplished at a cost of a shilling a head, including medical comforts. A menu follows and includes milk with tea or coffee.

**Sunday** *Breakfast:* Porridge, milk, bread, butter, and coffee; *Dinner:* Roast beef, potatoes, vegetables, plum pudding; *Tea:* Tea, biscuits, and jam.

**Monday** *Breakfast:* Irish stew, bread, and coffee; *Dinner:* Soup, hotpot, potatoes etc, and rice pudding; *Tea:* Tea, biscuits and butter.

**Tuesday** *Breakfast:* Porridge, molasses, bread, butter and coffee; *Dinner:* Pea soup, pork & beans, potatoes etc, prunes, and rice; *Tea:* Tea, biscuits and cheese.

**Wednesday** *Breakfast:* Vegetable stew, bread and coffee; *Dinner:* Roast mutton or pork, potatoes etc, apples and rice; *Tea:* Tea, biscuits and butter.

**Thursday** *Breakfast:* Porridge and milk, bread, butter, and coffee, *Dinner:* Salt beef and suet pudding, potatoes etc; *Tea:* Tea, biscuits and jam.

**Friday** *Breakfast:* Porridge and milk, bread, butter and coffee; *Dinner:* Ling fish, egg sauce, hotpot, potatoes etc, and sago pudding; *Tea:* Tea, biscuits and marmalade.

**Saturday** *Breakfast:* Irish stew, bread, coffee; *Dinner:* Soup, boiled mutton, potatoes etc, prunes and rice; *Tea:* Tea, biscuits and butter.

Victualling on board SS Manhattan

**Sunday breakfast:** Fried ham, Dinner Soup and bouilli, Chicago beef, and plum pudding.

**Monday breakfast:** Curried beef and rice, Dinner Pea-soup and salt pork

**Tuesday breakfast:** Porridge and golden syrup, Dinner Soup and bouilli, salt beef

**Wednesday breakfast:** American dry hash, Dinner Pea-soup, salt pork

**Thursday breakfast:** Curried mutton and rice, Dinner Soup and bouilli, salt beef

**Friday breakfast:** Salt fish, sauce and potatoes, Dinner Pea-soup and salt pork

**Saturday breakfast:** Porridge and golden syrup, Dinner Soup and bouilli and salt beef.

**Tea:** Cold meats, margarine, jam or marmalade, tea. Coffee every day at breakfast and at 6 am Fresh bread and fresh potatoes every day and other vegetables 3 times a week.





**List of Association members who have contributed to the Association funds in the financial year 2021/22, 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 (in memoriam), John Annett, Jaimie Barr, Tony Bentley, Colin Bingley, Sian Birtwistle, J Bishop, Terry Bodman, Guy Bonsor, Becky Bowles, D Browning, Graham Browning, Terry Burton, Chris Chadwick, Christopher Cook, Nicola Cook, Simon Corbin, Paul Coxon, Peter Crowley, Dodds S, Michael Donnelly, Ray Dunkley, Danny Farmer, Rand Faytaren, Anthony Gethin, John Gillman, Jason Grais, John Gunn, David Hannam, P Harrison, J Henderson, David Hewer, Richard Hewitt, Boyd Holmes, Roy Houghton, Nigel Hubbard, Tony James, Simon Jenkins, Andy Johnson, Gordon Jones, Huw Jones, Dominic Rucke-Keene, David Lakin, Leon Le Besque, J P Lee, Bill Lovell, James McNamara, Simon and Penny Malik, Chris Moden, Pat Moore, A Newitt, Mrs Gladys Ping, The PDC Trust, Tim Rayson, S Ridgwell, Paul Rogers, J M Ross, Abu Sesay, Steve Shelley, Richard Sherburne, Dave Shrubbs, Lee Sirett, Ray Smith, David Stalder, William Stancombe, Chris Sutton, Trevor Tew, Mrs Megan Timbrell (in memoriam Clifford Bliss 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> CLY), Thompson A G, Maurice Tomlin, P J Tustin, Ronnie Todd-Young, Ewan Watt, Dave Whitehouse, Dave Wilson, P A Wilson, The Worshipful Company of Insurers, Kevin Wright, C Sqn RY and 265 (KCLY Support Squadron).

In addition to the above names, the following have contributed in this financial year (22/23) to date (20 Jan 23).

Messrs

M M Bell, Eric Cross, C Knight, EW Knight, Mrs J Lawson , Wolfgang Mann, Phil Mason, Anthony Gethin, R Schroeder, Mrs A Waters

List of Association members who have contributed to the conservation of the Desert Rats Association Memorial.

Messrs

Graham Browning, David Lakin, Tim Rayson and Ray Smith.

If you have donated and your name does not appear above then it is probably because:

- Donations are received throughout the year and the above lists are a snapshot taken at the end of the calendar year,
- You are paying into the wrong account and need to change your mandate
- We have actually missed you – possible but unlikely!

Any queries should be directed to the Treasurer by email: [Treasurer@ksya.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@ksya.org.uk)



The image 'First to the top' appears in the history of the Second Boer War called 'With the Flag to Pretoria' which consists of three volumes and covers the whole of the War from a decidedly patriotic angle (see page 104).

Colourised by Simon Malik