

# VANGUARD

JOURNAL OF THE INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION



# Who's Who

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# From the Honorary Colonel

**A**s I write this in mid-September 2020, with six months of the COVID-19 pandemic survived, I find myself contemplating the cancellation of our involvement in this year's Lord Mayor's Show (if indeed it goes ahead), the prospect of a much reduced marking of Remembrance Sunday at Lincoln's Inn, and similarly remembering the fallen Rough Riders at St Bartholomew the Great only in line with whatever restrictions may apply in a few weeks' time. These are amongst our most significant annual events, and will be much missed, along with so much else that the Signal Squadron, the Band, and every reader of Vanguard has endured for most of 2020.

However, there have been some highlights to record, most notably maybe, the important contribution of volunteers from 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron to form the bedrock and command of Normandy Troop, created to respond to the pandemic crisis. This they did in helping to build one of the Nightingale Hospitals, and subsequently as part of the COVID testing initiative. Sergeant Ros Whiffen has covered this excellent work in more detail in her report of the Squadron's year.



The eighth day of May marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day. This was intended to be an opportunity to celebrate the end of the Second World War in Europe, but of course most of the planned events were cancelled or curtailed. But at barely 24 hours' notice, an IC&CY Zoom church service was organised, led by our Honorary Padre Major Nick Levisseur, at which a gratifyingly large gathering of the Association attended, albeit remotely. For myself, I chose to don my No. 1 Dress tunic, but forgetting I should need to stand for the Two Minute Silence. Quick thinking had me ducking behind a chair to hide my lower half jeans from the camera!

Still looking back to World War Two, not all readers may have been alerted to the short film that suddenly appeared on YouTube about Easter time. Someone unknown to any of us, but who I take to be a semi-professional military historian/filmmaker, has produced and posted a very good account of the events at Jerusalem Crossroads in early June 1944. The men of the Inns of Court Regiment get full acknowledgement of their role in this amazing, though tragic, piece of history. You can find it at the link at the foot of the History page of the Association website <http://www.iccy.org.uk/history.html>

One hundred years ago, the Royal Corps of Signals was formed, and 2020 should have been a year of celebrations to mark the anniversary. Happily, two events early in the year did take place – a church service, parade, and Guildhall reception in the City, also marking 71 (City of London) Signal Regiment's Privileged Status; and a Corps wide event (also service, parade and reception) at Salisbury Cathedral, when the salute was taken by the Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal.

But in a year of sadness, it may be appropriate to end by recording the death of Squadron Sergeant Major Jimmy Woolf in early August. Few have given more to the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry Signal Squadron, and I count myself fortunate that my own Reserve service at Lincoln's Inn coincided with his time as our SSM. A tribute appears on our Obituaries pages.

## Colonel Nigel Pullman



# From the Chairman



*Eddie Marshall, our Chairman, right, Normandy 2019*

A tale of two halves for this last year. In the Autumn of 2019 our presence at the Rough Riders' Memorial Service at St Bartholomew the Great was complemented as usual by the very smart turnout of the Honour Guard from the Squadron. Again, thanks to Major Barrie Corfield for arranging a weekend that the serving squadron personnel can attend.

The All Ranks Belgium Night Dinner kicked off the start of the Remembrance Sunday weekend. The 'Pit Stop' in Temple Gardens during the Lord Mayor's Show was as popular as always, arranged superbly by Captain John Donaldson. If you haven't been in recent years, we have now spread our footprint into the gardens along the Embankment.

Remembrance Sunday at Lincoln's Inn is our big parade of the year and well attended. It was noted this year that the Cadets from Whipp's Cross looked much smarter on the marchpast in their new issue of uniforms.

St Andrew Holborn (the Wren Church a stone's throw from 10 Stone Buildings) was the location for the City Corporation 'Privileged Status' Regimental Service. A short walk later found us in Guildhall to see the Squadron on a Regimental Parade in Guildhall Yard before an excellent and generous Reception by the City Corporation.



Then "lock down"!

Full marks go to Major Andrew Collins who organised a VE Day Service on Zoom (our Honorary Colonel and Squadron Padre were in full rig for this worthwhile Commemoration).

The Association has kept in touch with the news of Squadron members during their deployment on 'Op COVID' (and was especially heartened to hear the story of the GOC's Commendation for Lance Corporal Bertram-Smith for redesigning the spreadsheets in the GOC's HQ. Never let it be said that officers in a unit have all the best ideas!

The Association has also been busy under Ian Agnew who has put a huge effort into sorting out a fitting memorial for the ICCY at the Normandy Memorial. A brand-new bench with a plaque commemorating the comrades lost from the Regiment. Read more about it in his article.

The outlook for the next few months is not great for Parades (the Lord Mayor's Show has been cancelled, the first time in 170 years) and a very reduced Remembrance Sunday Service. But somehow the 'show will go on', on or off Zoom!

**Eddie**

**EJH Marshall TD**  
**Major (Ret'd) Chairman IC&CY Association**



*left: SSM Jimmy Wolfe at Remembrance 2019*

*above: St Andrew Holborn, the Christopher Wren church a stone's throw from 10 Stone Buildings*



# Secretary's Report



**T**he Rough Riders Memorial Service at St Bartholomew the Great Church was attended by 18 members of the Association. The Guard of Honour was provided by members of 68 (IC&CY)

Signal Squadron who were unable to attend annual camp. The Guard comprised Sergeant Burke, Sergeant Lonfreen, Signaller Ali, Signaller Gannon, Signaller Metin and commanded by Sergeant Ros Whiffen. My thanks go to the Squadron Officer Commanding, Major Matt Cahill, and especially Captain John Donaldson who not only organised the Guard but attended the service as well.

The Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey was attended by 18 Association Members. The two plots were fronted by the Honorary Colonel and Honorary Secretary. I was encouraged by the support this year and will arrange a few more tickets for next time, as I did have to disappoint some people, for which I am sorry, but you have to get your order in quickly.

Belgium Night proved another success with 16 Association Members present. The occasion is an excellent opportunity to meet socially with the Squadron and riding detachment.

Remembrance Sunday was almost a record for the Association, as 43 members managed to make it to the initial forming up parade. The newest member of the Association was heard to say, "I have never seen the parade from this angle before". I am of course quoting Major Roy Falshaw MBE, our newbie. The band were excellent, both on the parade and in the church.

On 25 January 2020, 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment were afforded the privilege status by the City of London. The format was a church service in Holborn, with a formal march by the Regiment and the band to Guildhall where the Lord Mayor was invited to inspect the Regiment. This was followed by a wonderful lunch, provided by the City of London. I was amazed at the number of old friends (ex-Colonels, OCs, and former members) of the Regiment who turned up to support the soldiers on parade. A grand time was had by all.

Then suddenly the world stopped and coronavirus (COVID-19) created a new order. With all social gatherings no longer permissible, the social calendar was put on hold. However, work continues in the background.

Sadly, I must report the passing of the following members of the Association:

Corporal Neil Bolton – Inns of Court Regiment

Captain Michael Day-Thomson – Inns of Court Regiment  
Corporal Chris Glover – 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron  
John Hallifax – Inns of Court Regiment  
George Lovell – Inns of Court Regiment  
Corporal Robert Pulbrook - 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron  
Squadron Sergeant Major James Wolfe – 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron  
Obituaries can be found at the back of this publication.

During the lockdown period I have been contacted by family of former association members regarding items they have, that might prove useful as exhibits in the museum. Mrs Prebble sent two prints, one of Rough Rider officers and another of Imperial Yeomanry dress, along with a small hand painted statue of a Rough Rider.

We have also been presented with the original diaries of Lt Frank Chadwick MC RAMC, who served with the Rough Riders in the Middle East, during the 1st World War. The diaries have been transcribed and published, after considerable research and dedication, as a book by Mrs Jane A Stott, his granddaughter in law. This book, together with his Military Cross have also been presented to the Museum.

I wish all members and their families a safe and virus-free time for the remainder of this year and beyond.

**Maj (ret'd) P B Corfield QVRM TD**



*"Newbie" Roy Falshaw & PSAO Capt Donaldson*

## Dates for Your Diary

### 2020

5 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
8 November	Remembrance Sunday
14 November	Lord Mayor's Show – cancelled

### 2021

5-7 June	Dedication of IoC Bench at Ver Sur Mer, Normandy
7 October	Association AGM
24 October	Rough Riders Memorial Service
11 November	Field of Remembrance
12 November	Lord Mayor's Show
13 November	Remembrance Sunday

# Squadron Commander's Report

There is a curse for your enemies that runs along the lines of "may you live in interesting times" and these have certainly been an interesting few months. However I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron has weathered the storm admirably; indeed, we have had several successes.

The overseas training exercise (OTX) in Cyprus last October was an exceptional exercise which allowed all ranks to grow and develop in role through challenging military training, rewarding adventure training and sporting competitions. Operating away from the close support of the home base comes with its own obstacles but nothing that could not be overcome with well motivated and driven soldiers. For me it was an opportunity to spend time with a critical mass of the Squadron and I was delighted with their performance.

I had my first opportunity to ride in the Lord Mayor's Show last year and I was privileged to be loaned Hyderabad, the Commanding Officer of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment's mount and the horse that has been ridden by Princess Anne for Trooping of the Colour. Due to equine quarantine, we were sadly reduced to half strength on the day of the event and this year, of course, the event has been much curtailed meaning it will not include the mounted detachment. I wish to reassure you that it is my intent to enter the 2021 Show with as many riders as are available and whilst this year we will be disappointingly absent, we will be proudly displaying our horsemanship traditions at the first opportunity.

Of course, the Squadron's response to Operation RESCRIPT, the military's COVID-19 related operation, was as robust as you would have expected from the IC&CY. Having detected that there may be a requirement, the Squadron had already collated availability dates and likely responses from our officer and soldiers. You will be pleased to know that we had IC&CY soldiers deployed within 24 hours of being asked, a testament to this Reserve unit's commitment. In total we deployed two officers and 17 soldiers (one being deployed on non-RESCRIPT related duty). All the post-operational reports we have received speak highly of our soldiers and you should be justly proud of their performance.

Looking forward to the next 12 months, clearly we will need to re-establish our working routines whilst maintaining appropriate safe working practices. As a subunit we have already started collective training, and this will continue until January when it is intended that the Regimental training programme will resume in preparation for the September 2021 Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE).

It seems likely that by the time you read this we will have been taken under the command of 3 (UK) Division. This is a significant event, as this Division is the Army's primary



*Major Matt Cahill*

deployable warfighting force. It will mean a change in training practice as we move away from focusing on UK operations as a primary role and concentrate on honing our warfighting skills; ADE will be our test for this.

You will be following the state of the Squadron's health I am sure, and I am pleased to be able to inform you that we are growing. Maybe not as quickly as I, or indeed any commander would wish, but our numbers are increasing. The Squadron's recruiting non-commissioned officer (NCO) is tracking 35 applications for the Squadron and in September we welcomed one phase one-trained soldier from recruit training and have attested two more, with more to follow. In the deficit column, two of our soldiers are transferring to the regular Army but the IC&CY's loss is the Army's gain.

In conclusion, it has been a year that no one could have predicted but one which all of us have coped with in our own indomitable styles. I sincerely hope that this issue of Vanguard finds you well and that you remain so over the coming year.

**Major Matt Cahill**



# The Squadron's Year (2019-2020)

By Sgt Ros Whiffen

Despite the uncertainties and disruption of 2020, 68 (IC&CY) Squadron have certainly managed to pack in a lot over the last 12 months. The training may look different now, and the methods of delivery have changed but this has not discouraged our soldiers from turning out and supporting a whole host of events. Many thanks to Second Lieutenant Tunnickliff, Lance Corporal Bertram-Smith, Signaller Hebbroon and Lance Sergeant Hugill for supplying photos and providing information for this article. And, as ever, a big thank you to the Association for supporting the Squadron throughout the year.



*Parade rehearsal at Pirbright*

## The Regimental Privilege Parade

This was not only an important moment for the Regiment – to be given Privileged Status by the City of London – but also for



*Marching onto the Guildhall Square*



*LCpl Bertram Smith with ambulance crew*

ICCY to be parading on home territory so close to Lincoln's Inn. The parade started out with a service at St Andrew's church before the Regiment formed up on the A40 and marched approximately 1.5 miles to The Guildhall in order to present arms to the Lord Mayor.

Throughout January there was a series of ever more intensive rehearsal weekends based at Pirbright to make sure that both our foot drill and rifle drill were ready for the occasion. At times, practising on an icy parade square introduced a heightened level of concentration to the proceedings. This meant that by the time of the parade, despite a few nerves, everyone was confident in their task and raring to go.

68 Squadron had the additional honour of providing a lance guard at the Guildhall itself that added an extra dimension of smartness to the parade.

## Operation RESCRIPT

Op RESCRIPT, the support to the COVID-19 response, saw a large proportion of the Squadron stepping up to volunteer their services.

LCpl Bertram-Smith, LCpl Ridley-Boyce and Sig Metin were all deployed within London to support the London Military

Operations Centre and other HQ organisations. LCpl Bertram-Smith made such an impression that he received a coin from Standing Joint Commander (UK), the prize giving was reported on Instagram: "During his visit to the Joint Military Command (London), Lieutenant General Tyrone Urch, the Standing Joint Commander (UK), gave special recognition to three members of the Joint COVID-19 Support Force who are based in the capital and who have been working tirelessly as part of the Armed Forces response to combat the corona virus...LCpl Bertram-Smith has created a lasting impact by applying his



advanced cyber skills to produce a number of digital tools that have increased efficiency in key departments.”

LCpl Bertram-Smith describes his experiences:

*“For the first three months we were directly supporting the London Military Operations Centre (LMOC) who were mainly dealing with the Logistics elements that were assisting the NHS Nightingale hospital early on during the pandemic. This ran 24/7 for a period of time before moving to a twelve-hour, 0800 to 1800 working day.*

*“I trained logistics troops to use Airwave radios and issued out many handsets and chargers. We then transitioned to supporting the main headquarters at Joint Military Command London (JMCL) and the countless liaison officers deployed throughout government departments from the NHS, local authorities and police.*

*“We set up MOD workstations at NHS Gold in Skipton House to support the 50-plus officers working there. A smaller scaled Ops room remained running at Horse Guards which we also supported.*

*“During this period we were given some free rein to assist the HQ with projects and received many accolades for various IT improvements. I received a commendation coin from the three-star General, Lieutenant General Tyrone Urch, for my innovative methods to improve many departments within the HQ.*

*“Finally, myself and Sig Hawks assisted in Exercise FAIRLIGHT which was a government department planning exercise led by the military to look at future issues that might arise. Some senior ministers were in attendance, I set up a workstation to get Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, onto a MODNET-hosted meeting.”*



*Sig Jackson keeps things clean for the NHS*

Sig Langton, Sig Hebbbron and Sig Donoghue were deployed to Aldershot, attached to 11 Infantry Brigade, as part of the COVID-19 Support Force under Op RESCRIPT. Sig Hebbbron writes about his experiences:

*“Our primary effort was supporting the Operations room for Headquarters Joint Military Command South East (HQ JMC SE) by delivering the G6 plan, establishing a Computer Information System (CIS) network, setting up and supporting various communications assets and establishing alternative means of communications.*

*“Due to the ever-evolving nature of the Op due to the unfolding landscape of the pandemic, this meant the incoming tasks were constantly changing and made for a very challenging, yet ultimately very rewarding, environment.*

*“There was also plenty of opportunity to bring our civilian experience and expertise into our roles, such as the planning and delivery of briefings to visiting Generals.*

*“It was a privilege and great learning experience as a Reservist to be*



*OCdt Gannon and Sig Ali at St Bartholomew the Great*

*part of such a vital Op on our own doorstep.”*

The Squadron also provided the majority of soldiers to form Normandy Troop, tasked to support the Nightingale Hospital in the West Midlands, although luckily their services were not extensively required. In all, ten members of the Squadron were selected to be part of the Troop, they received training on how to conduct COVID testing and spent some time deployed on the ground, as well as spending several months maintaining readiness to deploy.

Normandy Troop included: 2Lt Tunnicliff, LCpl Asamoah, LCpl



*The OC and the Lord Mayor*



*Sig Ali at Lord Mayor's Show pitstop*

Johnson, LCpl Lui, Sig Ali, Sig Himel, Sig King, Sig Mziray, Sig Pratt and OCdt Gannon.

Above and beyond the military taskings, Sig Jackson volunteered her services to the NHS and was employed in a vital role keeping a COVID ward clean and serviceable.

### **Rough Rider's Memorial 27 October 2019**

As with previous years, the Squadron were honoured to provide a lance guard at St Bartholomew the Great Church to commemorate those members of the Rough Riders who gave their lives.

### **Remembrance Sunday 2019**

It was very gratifying to see so many cadets joining us for Remembrance Sunday, as well as the usual support from the Association and the consistently brilliant Band. There was also a strong turn out from the Squadron, and from friends and family, meaning that the chapel was full to the brim for the Remembrance service. Once again, we were lucky with the weather and it was a sunny if cold day. The parade was conducted smoothly and the curry lunch afterwards was a big hit and raised a lot of money for the Poppy Appeal.

### **Lord Mayor's Show 2019**

Once again, the Squadron put on a good show at the Lord Mayor's parade. There were five riders from the Squadron and the wider Regiment led by the Officer Commanding, Maj Cahill. This was his debut ride in the Show. Unfortunately, the number of riders had to be restricted due to a number of horses being in quarantine.

The riders had taken part in rigorous training over the summer



*Remembrance Sunday Inspection Parade*



*COVID-19 Drill*

at the Royal Military Academy's riding centre at Sandhurst and then under the watchful eye of Corporal of Horse Evans at Hyde Park Barracks. As ever, they were ably supported by the 'walkers' along the parade route and by the support crew at the pit stop providing the necessary hot food and a brew. This year there was





*Drill Instructors - LSgt Hugill and SSgt Barley*

the addition of kerosine heaters at the pit stop, which were very welcomed by the visitors, although proved a little tricky to light.

## Ex PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR

The Squadron deployed to Bramley Training Area, Hampshire, on a typically cold and wet November weekend to do some back-to-basics comms training. This included arrival drills, detachment set up, mast set up, and navigation. The weekend was organised as a competition between detachments and some of the newer Squadron members really came into their own, using a blend



*Whipps Cross Drill Hall becomes a socially distanced classroom*

of enthusiasm and knowledge to win the day. The Squadron also took some time to work on developing SOPs (standard operating procedures), including how to enter a location and set up at night with minimum noise and light. During downtime there was an opportunity to fit in some MATT (Military Annual Training Test) presentations and even hold a movie night.



## Remote Training

The Regiment and Squadron adapted to the COVID-19 restrictions during lockdown by training virtually over Zoom and Skype. Each week a different instructor was tasked to provide an online presentation to deliver either across the Regiment or locally on the Squadron Skype group. Some lessons were able to make use of features such as break-out rooms and chat groups to enable soldiers to interact with the lessons. The topics ranged from leadership training and basic mil skills, to antenna selection and even navigation, all conducted from the living room!

The Squadron also made extensive use of online training from the Defence Learning Environment and applications such as 100% Army Fit to enable troops to train in a structured manner from home.

Once the lockdown started to be lifted, soldiers headed back



*Trade training at Kenley airfield*

into the Army Reserve Centres with new restrictions such as limits on the occupancy of rooms in place to ensure that social distancing is maintained. The drill hall at Whipps Cross has been turned in to a classroom to allow more space for distancing. Track and trace and hand washing measures are also in place to ensure that the soldiers can train safely. Drill also looks a little different now with soldiers maintaining separation on parade.





*Mast lesson at Bramley*

## Trade Training

Trade training continued virtually through the year after lockdown was introduced, however there was an opportunity in February for members of the Squadron to complete the final part (Module 5) of their trade training at Kenley airfield in Coulsdon, on a bright but very cold weekend. This involved setting up a full detachment with minimal guidance from the directing staff (both in daylight and at night) and getting comms in with a series of different types of antenna.

Congratulations to Sig Murphy, Sig Donoghue, Sig Harkishindas, Sig Mziray, Sig Chalk, Sig Saintus, and Sig Metin who have all achieved their Class 3 trade qualification during the last year.

## Ex PHOENIX FLIGHT



*Land Rover deployed at Bramley*

The last full regimental weekend before lockdown took hold was at Blandford. The Regiment got together to conduct some comms training on the Land Rover-based Training Aids, to brush up on voice procedure, and to catch up on any outstanding



*Packing the dets at Bramley*

Mandatory Annual Training Tests before the end of the training year. This included conducting the new physical training test, the Soldier Conditioning Review (SCR), which includes jumping, throwing and lifting, as well as the traditional running element.

It was also an opportunity for the outgoing Commanding Officer, Lt Col Rankin, to say farewell to the Regiment and present each of the Squadron OCs with a memento of his time with the Regiment.

## Ex PHOENIX MAINTENANCE and Christmas Events

The Regimental Christmas lunch was combined with a maintenance weekend. Christmas jumpers were a must for the lunch on Sunday. However, combat jackets were far more appropriate wear for braving the garages at Whipps Cross in December to make sure the kit was maintained and ready for the Christmas shutdown.

In addition, the Squadron held a Christmas meal at Lincoln's Inn with a great dinner and some interesting after-dinner games. The last drill night of the year saw the Squadron do something



*Christmas Lunch at Lincoln's Inn*

a little different and attend a carol concert at the Guards Chapel followed by a few drinks. This helped get everyone into the Christmas mood and was a good way to say farewell to Sgt Sharp who left for a new role at 254 Specialist Group Information Services at the end of the year.

## Recruiting

On the first Tuesday of each month, the Squadron hosts a recruit open evening at Lincoln's Inn to show potential recruits what we are all about. Ably led by LSgt Hugill, these nights have proved to be an effective tool in getting more potential recruits into

the pipeline. The laser gun range is always popular and the potential recruits gain a lot from being to chat with members of the Squadron and hear about their personal experiences.

Well done to Sig Blakcori who attended one of the first socially distanced recruits' courses for the Reserves and completed it with flying colours to become the newest qualified soldier in the Squadron.



Recruit Open Evening at Lincoln's Inn

### Promotions

Congratulations to 2Lt Badar who earned his commission within the last year and took over as OC of 906 Troop at Lincoln's Inn. Congratulations also to LCpl Bertram Smith and LCpl Lui who completed promotion courses in the last year and got their well-deserved first stripes.



2Lt Badar

### Army Netball

Second Lieutenant Tunnickliff describes playing for the Royal Signals Netball team:

*"On 8th May, I played in the Corps Inter-Unit Netball Competition, a great experience and an opportunity to get to know other members of the Corps."*

*"As a last minute additional to the tournament, I played with fellow*



2Lt Tunnickliff at Army netball tournament...

*Reservists in 37 Sig Regt and with the help of a large tub of chocolate bites (I'm sure that's what the England netball team eat as well) we gelled quickly and won all our games! I even won Player of the Tournament.*

*"The day was brilliant and really well organised by the Capt Miskelly and Officer in Charge Lt Col Mortimore and the high standard of netball made it a friendly yet competitive atmosphere."*

*"The day left me very proud and eager to play more. Time and leave permitting I'd like to represent the Royal Signals in future competitions and hopefully trial for the Army team as well."*



...and on parade



# Exercise CARIBBEAN EXPRESS

27 October - 24 November 2019

## Day 1. Gatwick to Lanzarote.

The crew of 15 meet for the first time. Among them 71 Signal Regiment's troops Sergeant Clare Sharp and Lance Corporal Bertram-Smith. The team quickly became



at home on their Challenger 72 yacht *Discovery*, or to the more familiar 'Disco-Vera'. The first days in Lanzarote the team were split into watches and the mammoth tasks of prepping for the Atlantic crossing

started. Food and water for the next 28 days packed into every nook and cranny, sail evolution training, man overboard drills, kit packed and boat prepped. Last messages to loved ones and the team set sail on Wednesday 30 October.

The crew swiftly got into routine taking four-hour watches on the helm and deck, cooking and cleaning or sleeping. An extremely



favourable wind started the journey off with real pace as Disco soared passed the Canaries south west out into the open Atlantic ocean. A little Halloween fancy dress to kick

off the crew's next two weeks of open ocean and each other's company went down well.

After 15 days and 20 hours at sea the crew at achieved a



lot, four novices trained up to competent crew, many hours of skippering for the watch leaders and many hundreds of sail changes and meals cooked. A Remembrance

Day service (pictured) was also held on board on 11 November. In the early hours of Thursday 14th they made landfall in Rodney Bay St Lucia. Many hours of admin later and lots of facial hair removed the team could finally enjoy a meal out to celebrate their Atlantic crossing.

Disco then spent the next days moving down south St Lucia to Marigot Bay and then on to St Vincent. The crew stopped off in Wallilabou Bay where the famous Pirates of the Caribbean movies were filmed, Chatam



Bay on Union Island and then a dolphin greeting before Tobago Quays. The wildlife sanctuary went down a treat, the crew swam with turtles and snorkelled in the bay, found wild tortoises and iguanas on the island and enjoyed a fabulous lobster BBQ nearby.



Next stop, Grenada. Disco parked in St Georges, final exercise admin before handover to the following crew. A full clean, every wall, bed, fork and toilet scrubbed down and presentable for the next skipper to inspect. One final evening to enjoy the culture of Grenada and the trip was a wrap. Twenty-eight days from start to finish and the team were on their flights home.

**L Cpl Bertram-Smith**



# Commemorating

photographs courtesy of Madame Karine Fauvel,





# D Day 76 Years on

Personal Assistant to the Mayor of Graye-sur-Mer



# The Road Home

## A Victory Tale

This year I was put in touch with the nephew of a war-time Roughrider who showed me some pamphlets I had not seen before.

One of these was *The Road Home*.

At the end of hostilities, the Roughriders (RR) ended up in Austria and as people came up for leave or demobilisation it was up to individual units to organise transport back to Calais – 950

miles. Five or six days in the back of one- and three-tonners (not exactly luxury coach travel) and stopping overnight at transit camps (not exactly The Ritz!).

To while away the journey the little booklet described the main cities and towns they would be passing through and the main sights to look out for. However, it did point out that many of these places had been subject to rather serious attention from the RAF over the last five years and the qualification that “a description of ‘a fine handsome building’ may occasionally not quite agree with facts as you see them. However, we can assure you that they did, until a short time ago, really stand as we describe them.”

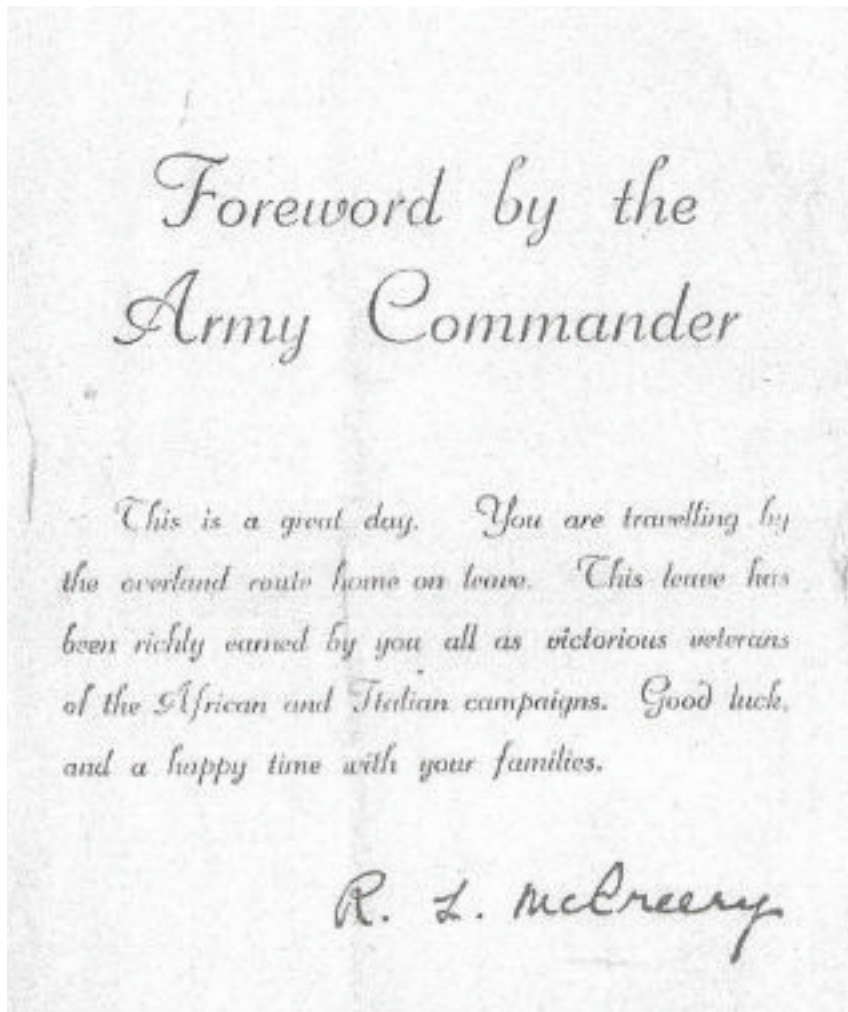
Not that you can see much out of a three-tonner anyway!

Those sergeants not due to go home shortly volunteered to drive, and off they set in vehicles not exactly in showroom condition after years of hard usage over roads in poor condition (what’s new?).

My old friend Sgt Alan Gilbert, a stockbroker in civilian life and who ended up a Chelsea Pensioner, told me of one trip where he broke down about 50 miles from the coast. His cargo immediately de-bussed with their kit and piled onto other vehicles to ensure they reached Calais on time leaving Alan to survey the damage

Alan was ruefully looking at a broken track-rod or something when a voice behind him said ‘Thy’s got trooble there, lad’. It

took him a second or two to realise the lady had spoken in English, and in broad Lancashire too. She invited him home for a wash and brush up so, leaving a note for REME where he could found, he gathered up his kit, plus anything edible and went home with the lady. The comestibles were very welcome, even the army tea was deemed nectar and the bully beef and Spam considered gourmet.



It transpired that it was a classic World War One Mills and Boon – English nurse, wounded French Officer, smooth Gallic charm (how do those Frenchies do it?). Approved of by parents (both sides catholic), marriage and off to France to help re-build the economy. Among the children was a young daughter who only admitted limited fluency in German but enough to work in the local telephone exchange but, in reality, knew far more and passed on tit-bits to the Résistance. Her father and brother were also involved so they were taking a chance.

Her mother continued to nurse in the local hospital,

became very respected in the area, and at no time did anyone denounce her as being English.

Alan was intrigued by the daughter who looked completely French but spoke such fluent English in a broad Lancashire accent.

Thereafter any RR convoy passing dropped off food and other things in short supply and it was shared out with the others in the village.

**Denis Durkin**



# VE Day

## Celebrated by Zoom

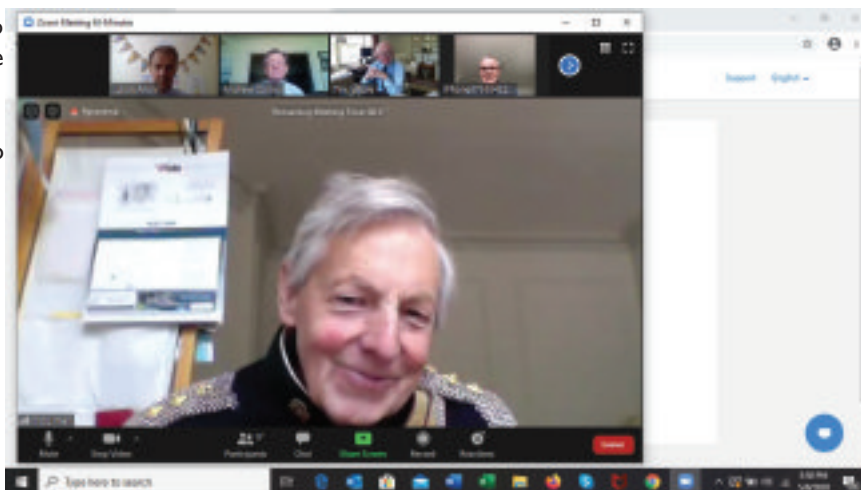
To mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day at 1200 hrs on 8 May 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19

crisis, the ICCY Association met up online (through the medium of Zoom, thanks to Andrew Collins) to listen to an address by the Regimental Padre.

The Reverend, Major Nicholas Levisur led an online Service of Remembrance attended by twenty-five members of the Association who called in from as far north as Yorkshire and as far south as the United Arab Emirates. Following a sterling service, recital of the

Ode of Remembrance and singing of Jerusalem, the Association metaphorically marched out to Nancy Dawson and then adjourned for sherry and a short catch up.

Whilst obviously not the same as a commemorating the anniversary in person it was a really moving event and well attended with most attendees dressed up for the occasion. Now, more than ever, it is important to remember those who sacrificed so much. We can only imagine what they would have thought of the advances in technology.



**Captain Jules Allen**

## Combined Services Real Tennis

The IC&CY doubles pair of Captain Christian Barker and Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Manley won the Combined Services Real Tennis Knock-out Challenge in the “past & present” category at the Queen’s Club, London in January 2020.

Being granted a bye in the first round (to accommodate a return from the ski slopes), the pair came against a very strong-seeded pair from the Army Air Corps in the next round, comprising a Major General and a Brigadier, so being out-gunned very considerably by rank. Initially going 1 – 7 down, the IC&CY pair produced a determined effort to level the score and then go ahead 8 – 7, before finally winning the tie 10 – 9.

With such stiff opposition out of the way, progress was a little easier in the ensuing rounds, with the semi-finals won by ten games to four, setting up a Cavalry versus Yeomanry final. The format changed from the first to 10 games to the best of three sets. The Cavalry team started strongly but were countered with some sturdy volleying from Barker, including two shots directly to the winning last gallery and a series of three consecutive shots into the dedans from Manley; the IC&CY pair recovered and then started to pull ahead. A robust performance saw Barker and Manley take the first set and laying some consistent chases in the second set, saw them dominate the serving and taking the match 6-4, 6-3.



*Triumphant Real Tennis champions Lt Col Jonathan Manley (left) and Capt Christian Barker*

# Devil's Own of a VE Day

This year saw the 75th anniversary of V-E Day on the 8th of May. Despite 'lockdown', the Association celebrated the event with a virtual service of commemoration, a report of which, from Captain Jules Allen, appears on page 17.

The original celebration, 75 years ago, was a much more raucous affair in London, New York, Ottawa, Canberra and almost every other allied metropolis, with soldiers, sailors and pilots on leave, joining with the civilian population in singing and dancing in the streets. The number of servicemen able to join in the celebrations at home was considerable, as re-patriation of those who had served for most of the War, started in February and lucky them for records tell us that they were went as far as "stealing kisses from pretty girls".



Padre



Frolicking in the fountain, Trafalgar Square, on VE Day

As to the official side, on 7 May, in France, the Supreme Allied Commander, General Eisenhower, accepted the unconditional surrender of all German forces. The document of surrender was signed on behalf of Germany by General Alfred Jodl and came into effect the following day. Adolf Hitler had committed suicide eight days previously. At home, the news arrived thus:



General Alfred Jodhl signs the surrender



The King, Queen, Princesses and Prime Minister on the balcony of Buckingham Palace

"This is the BBC Home Service. Here is the news. During the first few moments of this bulletin the war in Europe is coming to its official end" which was moments later confirmed, succinctly, by the prime minister, Winston Churchill: "The German war is therefore at an end." The following day, the first VE Day, the BBC reported from Buckingham Palace: "A very great crowd has collected already, thousands upon thousands of people gathered to share this historic day with the king and queen. The entire space, the whole roadway, the whole pavement and the whole scene is one dense mass of people, people in the gayest colours, red, white and blue rosettes, red, white and blue hats, streamers, flags. (Massive cheering) Here they come, first Her Majesty the Queen comes into view, then the king in the uniform of an admiral of the fleet, the two princesses standing on the balcony, listen to the crowd...' (Massive cheers merging into church bells ringing)"

However, for those who had actually been fighting the war, it was a rather different story. In the Far East and the Pacific, the war was still in full swing. Fighting continued in New Guinea, the Philippines, Okinawa, the China-Burma-India theatre and elsewhere with kamikazes still making suicide dives to sink allied shipping. So, victory in Europe was greeted with thanksgiving but little celebration. As a Times correspondent in Burma put it: "The war is over. Let us get on with the war." That said, there was hope that the troops, armaments, and supplies, formerly involved in or destined for Europe, might be diverted to the war against Japan.

Equally, the reaction of the men in the front lines of the battle in Europe was subdued. The tasks of controlling the movement of surrendered Germans and repatriating Allied former prisoners of war, still lay ahead of them. The battle conditions in Normandy, particularly during the initial weeks after D-Day, had been some of the toughest of the war and thoughts must have turned to those comrades who would not be returning home. Another sobering thought was the possibility of redeployment to the



Far East. Amongst British troops the acronym for the British Liberation Army (BLA) – was re-defined as 'Burma Looms Ahead'. Higher Command had been uncertain of victory until early August and the rank and file did not begin to believe them until the end of that month. From there the gradual path to victory took nine months and so it hardly came as a surprise. But what of the Inns of Court Regiment? Their role was, at



*An IC&CY Troop pass through a village*

that time, armoured reconnaissance. 'C' Squadron had landed on D-Day, the 4th June, charged with a special and highly dangerous mission, the story of which has been told elsewhere. Following the initial success of the landings, the Allies were mainly contained within the large beachhead area, the German defenders being rapidly reinforced and the countryside before them ("the bocage" consisting of small fields enclosed by wooded banks) being ideal for defence and the opposite for attack. The remainder of the regiment arrived on 1 July just in time for the capture of Caen on 9 July, despite the ferocious defence which was put up. The liberation of France was by no means a walk-over. The Wehrmacht were largely better equipped and their hardened soldiers, for the most part, outperformed the untried conscripts making up the Allied forces.

During the 11 months between landing and victory. The Devil's Own progressed from Normandy through France, criss-crossing Belgium five times and into Germany, right up to Lübeck, just south of the Danish border. During that time the Regiment's task had varied from being the eyes of I Corps, often in the front of



*The route taken by the Regiment*

the action, being the first to enter Caen, being approached to accept the surrender of Belsen Concentration Camp, down to mundane traffic control duties. From the histories, spirits were high and achievements impressive. An extract from one of the histories, also shows a splendid degree of optimism at the start of Operation Goodwood: -

"Shortly after H-Hour, a scout car of the Inns of Court Regiment reported exultantly that it was well on the way to 11th Armoured's objectives and could see no evidence of opposition. I said 'Jolly good show' and didn't believe a word of it," said Roberts, tersely. His scepticism was rapidly justified."

The job did not end after victory had been announced. On VE Day itself, the Regiment moved to the Kiel Canal at first light to prevent German troops, who might not have received the stand-still order, from moving south across the Canal. Two days later, with the rest of 29th Armoured Brigade, it moved north to its designated area of occupation just short of the Danish border, disappointed that their hope of few days of R&R in Copenhagen was denied them. Duties in occupied Germany consisted largely of guarding key points, controlling German facilities companies, and patrolling. However, within 3 months, participation in several sporting events had been enjoyed and the Regiment had held 2 gymkhanas. Demobilisation started in August 1945, upon an individual basis. After a while, Squadrons were moved around to perform varying tasks, eventually centring on Wolfenbüttel where, on 11 February 1946, the CO announced that the Regiment was to be placed 'in suspended animation' on 15 March. There, effectively, ended The Devil's Own war.

The disinterest in VE Day at the front leads us to the war histories of the individual Squadrons. That of C Squadron, entitled "We Were There" tells us: -

*"The end of the war had been much anticipated. On VE Day while the folks back home were celebrating with wild frenzy, C Squadron sat in dirty farmhouses having a particularly dry time. See p.66. There was a speech the next day to the whole squadron by the OC. On the 11th May they were up early heading for their area of occupation."*

It appears that D Squadron may have taken matters rather more seriously, or so "The Long Road Home" relates: -

*"On the 3rd May the Squadron heard on the radio that the surrender of all armies in the North to Monty had been announced. Out came the bottles held in reserve and the celebrations began. On VE Day the squadron were very busy all day trying to control vast crowds of soldiers and civilians all trying to go home. The Squadron's VE day had already been celebrated and they did not mind."*

There is evidence to suggest that the reaction of most of the Regiment was one of mild disappointment. After 11 months of continuous action, thoughts of a few days rest and recreation in Copenhagen had been occupying their minds, much the Scots pine for their homeland.

A more evocative picture of how it was, around VE Day, is given by the official Regimental War Diaries: -

*3rd May 1945*

*A Sqn maintained their all-night patrols, B Sqn were kept in reserve at SIEBENBAUMEN, C Sqn were ordered to send out patrols NE from REINFELD and D Sqn were ordered to recce the road to BAD SEGEBURG 6996. It was altogether an ineffective day. No*

opposition was encountered and prisoners gave themselves up by the hundred. BAD SEGEBURG was soon cleared and D Sqn advanced to SCHACICENDORF 6699, and patrols went N and W to accept the surrender of all villages within 5 miles. C Sqn were, meanwhile, having the same experiences in their area. A Sqn at 1330 hrs moved on North to FAHRENKRUG 6597. B Sqn also moved to MOZEN 6693. At 1500 hrs. D Sqn assisted the 3 R.T.R. to escort a German General to NEJLMUNSTER and were then ordered to withdraw south so as not to interfere with the surrender negotiations. It was in this atmosphere of expectation that the Regiment harboured for the night. RHQ at SCHACICENDORF, A Sqn at FAHRENKRUG, B Sqn at MOZEN, C Sqn at GEESCHENDORF 7898, and D Sqn at RIRKLING, 5904.

#### 4th May 1945

At first light A Sqn sent out a patrol towards NEUMUNSTER, and one to the forest of SEGEBURG. All other Sqns were at rest. At 0800 hrs a standstill order was received, and the A Sqn patrols were subsequently withdrawn. Negotiations for surrender were proceeding and both sides agreed to leave a neutral zone between the two armies. Our northern limit of advance was the line of the road BAD BRAMSTEDT 4194 -NEUSTADT O 117. RHQ, A & D Sqn were allowed to remain in position so long as movement was kept to a minimum. In the evening at a Squadron Leader's conference it was announced that the Regimental area of occupation was Kreis SUDTODERN on the DANISH FRONTIER. All sub-units were still in the same locations at night.

#### 5th May 1945

At 0800 hrs. the German Army in NW Europe surrendered to 21 Army Group. Orders were received for the advance of the 11 Armd Div to take over the area between DENMARK and the KIEL CANAL. This was due to take place on the 6 May, (see Appendix A). These were postponed and the standstill was still enforced and Sqns had to maintain traffic posts in their area to prevent movement North of the stop line (see Appendix B).

#### 6th May 1945

The standstill was still in operation. Traffic posts maintained as on previous day. No move, nothing to report.

#### 7th May 1945

At 0141 Germany surrendered unconditionally on all fronts. At 0900 hrs. RHQ hoisted the Union Jack in a prominent position in SCHACKENDORF. In the evening orders were received for the Regiment to move at 0415 hrs. next morning North to the KIEL CANAL in order to prevent large bodies of German soldiers who were in the area between the Kiel Canal and the Danish frontier from moving South across the canal in accordance with instructions which had been erroneously broadcast over the Hamburg radio.

#### 8th May 1945

V-E Day. The Regiment advanced at first light to the Kiel Canal to take control of all crossings from 495400 westwards to 025040, using all four Sqns. B Sqn on the extreme right, D Sqn to their west, then A Sqn and finally C Sqn in the south west. When C Sqn arrived at their crossing they found units of the 7 Armd Div already in possession, so all patrols were withdrawn and the Sqn harboured at LUTJENWESTEDT 1418. 'A' Sqn picketed their crossings and had no major incidents. 'B' Sqn similarly had no trouble at their crossings. 'D' Sqn were unfortunate enough to have the RENDSBURG swing and

railway bridges in their area. There was an endless stream of traffic in both directions here and interpreters were kept working at top speed to work out the people entitled to cross from the hordes who were endeavouring to go south. While at the bridge at RENDSBURG RHQ was visited by Major General Roberts. CB, DSO, MC. 'A' spent night at JEVEMSTEDT 2629, 'B' Sqn at BOVEWAU 3639, 'C' Sqn at LUTJEMWESTEDT, 'D' Sqn and RHQ at RENDSBURG.

#### 9th May 1945

All Sqn's in yesterday's positions. Nothing further to report. Orders were received for the Regiment to advance to take over its occupational area, i.e. Kreis Sud Tondern. Advance parties under Major Greig made a reconnaissance of the Squadron billeting areas and established contact with a friendly tribe to the north of the Regimental area. Preparations for the move were completed during the evening.

#### 10th May 1945

All Sqns were up at 0530 hrs. and the regimental column headed by RHQ moved over the Kiel Canal at 0700 hrs. RHQ and the Sqns reached their respective billet areas by 1100 hrs. RHQ, HQ Sqn and "D" Sqn established themselves at NIEBULL, 8400, the capital of Kreis Sud Tandem: "A" Sqn at LECK, 9397, "B" Sqn at SUDERLUGUM, 9108, and "C" Sqn at MEDELBY, 0799. The rest of the day was spent in turning out German troops, women and civilians from billets intended for regimental use, and in getting settled down.

#### 11th May 1945

The Regiment started to carry out its occupational role. This was:- (a) To patrol Kreis Sud Tandem - less islands. (b) To control the passage of German troops as they moved from Denmark to the surrender area (Area G). (c) To ascertain location and numbers of German troops in the Kreis. (d) To ascertain location and number of D.P. and PWX in the Kreis. (e) To ascertain location and amount of enemy war material in the Kreis. (f) To prevent unauthorised crossing of the frontier. General instructions were given by patrols to Burgomeisters as to the behaviour required from, and the restrictions imposed upon civilians. The Regimental area was divided into 4 Squadron areas, and Squadrons were responsible to RHQ for maintaining order in and searching their areas.

#### 12th May 1945

"D" Sqn discovered packing cases full of blue prints of aircraft and jet engines destined for Japan, also 3 Luftwaffe officers, Col. H. Schubert of the German Embassy to China, Major R. Sauer and Lt. R. Shuman of German Aviation Advisory Committee to Japan.

Thus, passed the first VE Day – and a lot more!

**Andrew Collins**



On the way home



# Devil's Own Sergeants Club

Firstly, I would like to thank John Lucas for his service to the DOSC. John stood down after quite a few years of service, as the Honorary President, and I will do my upmost to continue the traditions he put in place. Denis Durkin decided to retire from his Treasurer and Secretary roles, mainly due to the distance he has to travel to London. I take this opportunity to thank him for his support in keeping the DOSC going through many, some difficult, years. John Sabini also retired from the position of Social Secretary, a role he continually refused to accept but carried out so professionally. The new officers are Jacinta Stellema (Secretary), Clare Sharp (Treasurer), Bob Hooper (Social Secretary). I wish them well as the future of the Club rests with them.

What an unusual year 2020 turned out to be. Full of expectations and looking forward to a full social programme. Our annual lunch had been organised at the Civil Service Club, the 500th meeting of the DOSC due to be held in July, and planning was beginning for the annual visit to the Arboretum, and for the VE and VJ commemorations. Sadly, all had to be cancelled due to the impact of the pandemic.

However, we have managed to hold all monthly meetings via Zoom, carrying on business as usual, although the 500th meeting could only be toasted through the computer screen. This new means of holding a meeting certainly helped with our attendance,

which grew quite considerably. Once the world returns to normal and meetings are face to face again the Zoom facility will be run in tandem so that those who are unable to attend the meeting in person, can still take part.

Sadly, we recently lost Jimmy Wolfe, Past President of the DOSC, ex Squadron Sergeant Major of the Squadron, Home Service Force and at one stage the Essex Yeomanry. He was a wonderful person and a good friend, respected by all ranks. The funeral service was well attended, even though the limit in the Church was 30 people. Representation was also present from the ICCY Association, DOSC, Home Service Force, Essex Yeomanry, Berkshire Yeomanry, and the Royal Signal Standard bearer (John Mumford). The Squadron provided a guard of honour and the coffin was draped with the Regimental flag. It is hoped that a memorial service and wake can be held as soon as service returns.

Once this crisis is over, we will have a substantial amount of catching up to do and I look forward to the future of the club and meeting face to face with you all once again.

**Major (Retired) Barrie Corfield QVRM TD**

## Book Review

As military books go, this is really worth a good look – not only because it celebrates the Corps' centenary, but because it is the sort of book you can dip into with lots of pictures, short articles and features the breadth of action, activities and technological innovations of the Royal Signals. You're bound to learn something interesting about the Signals' history and organisation, or simply understand the acronyms used in everyday 'bleep speak'!

The IC&CY gets a mention with regards to our ceremonial duties and there's a photo of the mounted troop in action. Recognition of this important and unique role is reassuring to see.

**Roger So Far...** is a hardback 'coffee-table-style' book, and at 288 pages it is great value at only £9.99 plus post and packing.

Copies are available from the Royal Signals Museum's online shop, visit: [www.royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk](http://www.royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk)



# The Black Brogues

**With all events cancelled due to COVID-19, John Sabini looks into the Home Service Force's photo album**



*1991 - Route Liners from HSF Sqn - Hon Col HM Queen Mother opening of refurbished museum, Stone Buildings*



*2017 HSF Sqn 30th anniversary (Formation) lunch, Davis Street*



*On exercise in Brecon Beacons*



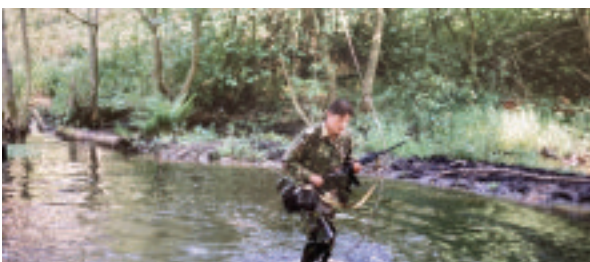
*Final Remembrance Sunday Parade 1992*



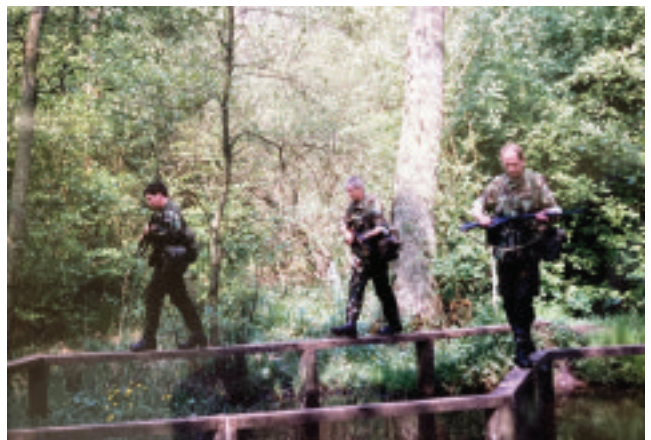
*'Early Doors' winning team of the Regimental Patrol Race held in May 1988 on the Thetford Training Area*



*'Last Knockings', a final exercise convoy procedures, 1994*



*HSF team Regiment Patrol Competition 1988, Thetford*



*HSF team Regiment Patrol Competition 1988, Thetford*





*HSF team Regiment Patrol Competition 1988, Thetford*



*HSF formation year 1987*



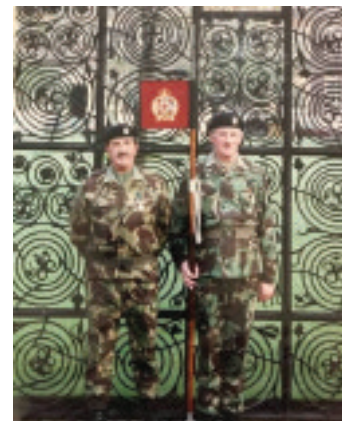
*HSF Defence Platoon's final parade*



*HSF Defence Platoon's final parade*



*HSF camp Colours, presented by HM Queen Mother 2 May 1989*



*Salisbury Plain, situation normal: damp, cold & misty*



*The National Memorial Arboretum a photo opportunity with Major General Cordingley (commander of 7 Armoured Brigade during the Gulf War)*



*Pirbright 1992. Familiarisation with the SA80*



*A brief rest period before next phase of the exercise*

# The Band of The Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry)

It was a real privilege and pleasure to take command of the Band of The Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) last October. Taking over from Roy Falshaw was an interesting twist in my new Army Reservist career as he had been my first Bandmaster when I joined the Band of The Hussars and Light Dragoons in Münster, Germany, in 1996. I was looking forward to the challenges of the coming years with the RY Band but, like all of us, little did I realise how much of a challenge it would be in 2020.

Before the COVID-19 crisis we had been able to complete our usual round of seasonal activities including The Lord Mayor's Show, Remembrance Day and Carol Service at Lincoln's Inn, and Sunday services at the Guards' Chapel. The band performed its annual Christmas concert for Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association (SSAFA) and also supported SSAFA in fund-raising events throughout the year.

Guard Mounting from St James's Palace was undertaken to support the bands of the Household Division and a series of concerts was planned at the Guards' Chapel. Regrettably, we have only managed to perform one before the lockdown: 'Love Film' was part of the Household Division Concert Series and embraced Valentine's Day and film music. Enjoyed by a large audience of family, friends, film-lovers, and military band enthusiasts, as well as London concertgoers, the concert allowed the band to extend its repertoire and challenge individuals to develop their musical performance. In January one of the most important engagements was accompanying 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment in their Freedom Parade to the Guildhall in London.

When the COVID lockdown hit, the band had to cease all face-to-face activities and so we had no involvement in the VE and VJ Day commemorations. We used the time to get up-to-speed on our Military Annual Training Tests (MATTs) and online courses, as well as getting to grips with some personal practice. Music was set via the band's Defence Connect site [the Army's online platform for units] and individuals dug into their parts to prepare for future performances. Since the partial relaxation of the lockdown the band has been able to get together but only under strict force protection measures that allow a limited number of personnel to work together for a short period of time. It has been great to get back together again particularly as those working in the music industry have been some of the hardest hit.

The next annual training camp was planned to be held in October in Warsaw, Poland, where The Royal Yeomanry is providing a squadron for Op CABRIT(P). Joint engagements with Polish Army bands were arranged, as well as supporting the RY in theatre, but unfortunately this has had to be postponed. At



*Remembrance 2019*

the time of writing a training week has been organised at RAF Henlow (which has large hangers to enable distancing measures) but, like everything else, this is in the balance. There is still real uncertainty as to what we'll be able to do until the end of the year, but I am confident that we'll be able to make a positive contribution when we return to some measure of normality next year.

## **Congratulations to all on the following:**

**Clasp to Volunteer Reserve Service Medal**  
Lance Corporal N Pankhurst

**Volunteer Reserve Service Medal**  
Musician M Everiss

**Promotions**  
Corporal to Sergeant N Jenkins, Lance Corporal to Corporal R Allen, Musician to Lance Corporal S Marsh

**Appointment to Trumpet Major**  
Corporal P Taylor

## **The band welcomes some new musicians:**

Lance Sergeant R Han, flute (on attachment from HMCS Nonsuch Band, Canadian Forces Naval Reserve, Edmonton), Musician G Atterbury, clarinet (formerly of the Band of the Welsh Guards), Musician J Dille, saxophone (formerly of the Band of the Welsh Guards), Musician B Kerrigan, clarinet (formerly of The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment), Musician S Hull, trombone (self-employed strength and conditioning coach in Chelmsford), Musician J Stone, French horn (student at the Royal Academy of Music)

## **The band says a fond farewell to:**

**Transfer out**  
Musician A Eglinton to ETS(R) on commission  
Musician P Lewis to CAMUS on FTRS

**Retirements**  
WO2(BSM) D Peacock (December 2020)  
Sergeant N Rainbird, trumpet major  
Lance Corporal A King  
Lance Corporal S Marsh  
Musician R Morris  
Musician S Nickols

**Major David B Hammond**  
**Director of Music & Officer Commanding**



# The Regimental Museum

**T**his last year has been eventful albeit not exactly as envisaged in some areas.

The unplanned element has of course been COVID-19. I remember my office advising us of a possible lockdown, and it seemed sensible to collect some useful reference books from the Museum Store on the Monday prior to lockdown 'just in case'. Sure enough the lockdown took effect a few days later.

In consequence we have still been able to answer many enquiries and to deal with general business by email, but it's not the same as being able to get in and do all the numerous admin jobs and dealing with post. Access is now feasible, but the museum staff have been stuck at home 'WFH' [working from home] for our civvy professions. Central London is so bizarre with hardly anyone around. A first task will be to change all the anti-moth devices in the various boxes and cupboards!

The second aspect (and one that had been planned but is complicated and has taken a while to reach fruition) has been the merger of the various IC&CY trusts into a single newly created charitable entity called a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is a semi-corporate body designed to ease the running of the assets comprised in the original trusts.

The driving spirit behind this has been our Honorary Colonel who has seen through similar mergers with the charities with which he has been involved and we were advised by Lt Col Simon McMenemy (a former serving Squadron officer) and an outside specialist legal consultant.

The necessary documentation was carefully considered and approved at a 'Zoom' Trustees' meeting on 29 September and has now taken effect.

As far as the Museum is concerned, all the physical assets and cash of the old Museum Trust have been transferred to the new CIO and the existing Museum Trustees have stood down. There are currently three Trustees of the CIO. It is anticipated that there will be additional Trustees, including representation from the Museum, once the 'bedding down' of the CIO has been achieved. For most practical purposes, however, it will be business as usual for the existing curatorial staff.

Major advantages of this reorganisation are that all the various bank accounts of the former trusts will be held in a central account and only one Charity Commission Return has to be prepared and filed, saving a lot of work for the Museum staff.



The other major news item relates to scanning. To remind readers, the Army Museums' Ogilby Trust (AMOT), an overseeing body of Army museums, was given many millions of pounds by the Treasury (funded from the LIBOR fines) to enable the museums to have all their paper assets relevant to the period 1899 to 1929 professionally scanned to a data base to be run by AMOT. This could be accessed by the public with provision that the best quality scanned items will be available for purchase. This is similar to how the National Archives at Kew functions. The sale proceeds will be shared with the museums whose scanned documents have been bought. The museums would also receive a top-quality data base of their scanned

material for their own use.

Working our way through and scheduling the many hundreds of documents and photographs held in the Museum and Store was a major exercise by the Museum staff but was completed on time and the boxes of papers were handed over to the scanning company in mid-February 2020. They have now come back and much further work will be needed to check them in and return them to their proper places in the Store.

Once the paperwork for AMOT has been completed we will be able to access the high-res scans and add them to the Association's website making it a very valuable and interesting addition. We are also promised a sparkly new laptop from AMOT to replace our distinctly ancient computer. So, it's a win-win situation. Thank God for those hefty LIBOR fines! The staff will have to attend a course run by AMOT so that we fully understand the new computer.

The only incoming gifts have been a bundle of photographs of the Rough Riders in the Middle East during the Great War and a charming souvenir from Jerusalem, namely a small book of pressed local flowers.

I must thank my compatriots, Major Tony Benbow and Lieutenant Philip Lenanton for all their hard work and support, and for JD and his staff for all their admin help in the last year.

Finally, a plea for any volunteers to give us a hand. We are none of us young and have to think of the future generation of curators who will need to be trained to take over the tasks that we do.

**Major Michael O'Beirne TD  
Trustee and Hon Curator**

# Expatriate Adventures

Major Sean Olohan and Captain Julian Allen met up in Somalia just before the COVID crisis hit. Maj Olohan was deployed training the Somali Army and Capt Allen runs a legal consultancy business based in Mogadishu. They had a pizza, stuck to the two-can rule and their team won the weekly camp quiz.



*The ICCY tie gets about! Capt Allen and Maj Olohan meet up in Somalia*

## Maj Sean Olohan

After many years of civil war, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2124 (2013) authorised Member States of the African Union for the deployment of AMISOM (African Mission in Somalia). Amongst the many tasks authorised, AMISOM is mandated with: providing protection to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to help them carry out their Governmental functions; assisting in the implementation of the Somali national security plans through training and mentoring of the security forces of the FGS; contributing to the creation of the necessary security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance; and, assisting the FGS to extend state authority in recovered areas from Al Shabab.

My main role was to mentor the AMISOM Force Headquarters J9 Team headed up by a Zambian Colonel. Our function was to facilitate the coordination and cooperation, in support of the mission, between the Commander and civil actors, including national population and local authorities, as well as international, national and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other agencies. In support of the Federal Government of Somalia (FSG), AMISOM are critically mandated to provide security to the Somali people. I also had a role mentoring the SNA (Somali National Army) CIMIC Team at their Ministry of Defence in Mogadishu and completed training and mentoring of key Somali CIMIC Officers going into the field in recovered areas.

It was a long tour of seven and a half months without R&R, due to COVID, punctuated regularly with small arms and mortar fire, but it was highly rewarding due to the enthusiasm and rapid progress of AMISOM and SNA CIMIC Officers in learning their craft and applying it to the desperate need of the Somalia people for the absolute basics in life.



*Expatriate Sean Olohan in Somalia*



## Captain Hugh Beattie

Captain Hugh Beattie is serving with 77 Brigade as the British Army's official illustrator and oil painter

Back in 2018 the Royal Yeomanry hosted a lecture from Lieutenant Colonel Purbrick about the new Cultural Property Protection Group. As a prospecting oil painter in my day job, I am not really the archaeologist type, but because I hang exhibitions and move art, I thought I may as well volunteer as a runner. To my amazement, after much out-of-the-box thinking, I found myself passing into 77 Brigade, not as a runner to grey-haired academics but, remarkably, as the British Army's official Illustrator and oil painter!

When I first arrived at the Brigade barracks, halfway down the M4, there was everything an artist could wish for. The Operational Media and Communications Group where I was initially posted was a hive of activity. There were various projects on the go, with the Reserves contributing their specialist skills in a variety of imaginative ways with plenty of ideas flowing. For myself, the first major project was Estonia.

The British Army is currently deployed to Estonia as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence (EFP) in the Baltic States. Estonia is a breath of fresh air in many ways. Imagine a country that has been waiting for freedom for many hundreds of years, to finally realise its dream in the last 26 years! Their joy is very fresh, and their liberty is not taken for granted like ours. So, I and a small detachment of media Reservists were sent to the capital Tallinn to promote Anglo-Estonia relations. Thus, I whipped out my easel, marched into town and expressed my love of Estonia through the medium of oil paint.

Soon I found various spots to paint in the lap of luxury, beautiful views and coffee on the side. The town square is a very charming medieval job, perhaps a little over restored. (Look out for an Estonian War film called 1944 which shows what hell Estonia went through, with views of Tallinn).

When the rains came, I bolted for the castle museum, and at the very top tower, I set myself up with the most spectacular view of the cathedral, citadel and port. The wheels of the Army Influence machine were cranking, and soon I was being interviewed for Estonian News at Ten! Like Sir Norman Wisdom I am famous in all the odd places.

Back home in the mess...

Regarding the Officers' Mess at 77 Brigade Barracks, it needed some new styling when I first arrived. Generic photo landscapes on the wall were the only adornment. I could not wait to get started and turn the whole place around. The building was erected in the 1980s to the artistic standards of the seventies and the craftsmanship of a blind accountant. First the 'State Rooms' of the mess are ample but bland. The bar was full of Royal Engineers bric-a-brac that they did not think to take with them. The Brigadier wanted something done about this, which was music to my ears!

As 77 Brigade has chosen to embrace the historical creativity of the famous Burma Chindits, we have a badge which is similar to theirs but modernised. So, my first task was to paint huge round Burmese Lion (Chinthe) badges on boards for the outside walls. Simultaneously I started to paint shields of most of the regiments involved in the Burma campaign. The main drawing room was desperately short of a suitable central painting, so

in one month I knocked up a six by six feet futurist portrait of General Wingate including a map of Operation Thursday. This seemed to get the Brigade very excited, so next I painted formal portraits of Wingate and the 2IC, Mad Mike Calvert (you must read Mad Mike by D Rooney). From then on, I have been augmenting the mess on a monthly basis with paintings, cartoons, badges and photographs. By next year, it will feel very much the home of 77 Brigade.

[www.jh1b.co.uk](http://www.jh1b.co.uk)

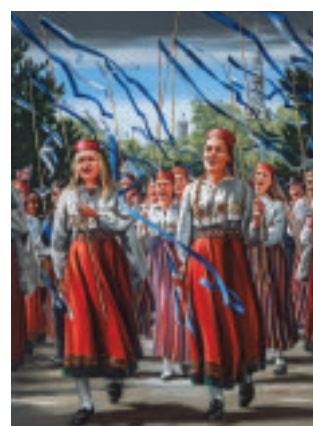
*[As a serving member of 77 Brigade, I can vouch for the remarkable makeover that Capt Beattie has created and delivered. His work is first rate! – Editor]*



COVID PPE Delivery (detail)



Brigadier Wingate



Freedom Parade (detail)



Chindit 2IC 77 M Calvert



Futurist Wingate portrait

# British Normandy Memorial

## In memory of Inns of Court members

**T**he idea of establishing a permanent memorial to the many thousands of British servicemen who lost their lives in the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944 and the subsequent Battle of Normandy to the last days of August that year, had been long-standing over the intervening years.



*British Normandy Memorial*

It was not until 2016 that this concept, through the inspiration and persuasive powers of Nicholas Witchell (broadcaster and Trust founder) and others, became a reality with the formation of the Normandy Memorial Trust (NMT).

The fifty-acre site on the hinterland above Gold Beach and Ver-sur-Mer was acquired along with the services of architect Liam O'Connor – creator of the Bomber Command Memorial in London – to design and oversee the construction of a grand Memorial bearing the 22,442 names on the Roll of Honour.

IC&CY Association's interest in the British Normandy Memorial (BNM) was made known to NMT at an early stage in its development. This was on account of C Squadron, Inns of Court Regiment (ICR) landing the first wheeled vehicles in Normandy around 0830 hrs on 6 June 1944 on Juno Beach, one mile west of Graye-sur-Mer with the remainder of ICR landing in Courseulles on 1-3 July 1944. From these first meetings with NMT, it became apparent that the level of sponsorship required to have an individual unit, ICR in our case, inscribed on the memorial would be prohibitively costly for our Association. This position remained until June last year with IC&CY Association and 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron's commemorative visit to Graye-sur-Mer for the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Following our day of memorial services and parades at Jerusalem Crossroads and Juno Beach on Friday 7 June 2019, a group of IC&CY members found their way (after some map misreading!) to the BNM site. Earlier that same day, the BNM site was officially opened by President Macron of France and the then Prime Minister Theresa May.

At that time, the only construction was the amazingly iconic bronze statue of three British infantrymen storming the beaches, sculpted by David Williams-Ellis.

The information centre, housed in a marquee, provided much useful background and history to the purpose and plans for the construction of the Memorial.

It was here that I met Nicholas Witchell and was able to discuss with him the operational difficulties confronted by NMT of combining individual names on the Memorial with their ships, regiments or squadrons. The reasons for not being able to fulfil 'this combination' boiled down to the space required being prohibitive within



*David Williams-Ellis statue*

the overall architectural design and the exorbitant additional costs involved.

On our return home and not wanting to be thwarted of having some recognition of ICR on the BNM, our Association Committee agreed for the matter to be pursued by a small seven-member subcommittee headed by Major (ret'd) Andrew Collins.

With my own close family connection within ICR of my wife's father, Major A Wyndham Read, officer commanding B Squadron ICR, killed in action near Le Tourneur on 2 August 1944, discussions with Julie Verne, Development Director NMT, continued in pursuit of an affordable opportunity for ICR recognition. [Readers may recall Ian Agnew's piece in last year's edition of Vanguard - Ed.]

Such an opportunity was put to us in July. Two stone benches were to be installed on either side of the main central courtyard of the Memorial. These benches were 'to provide a chance for pause and reflection for all who visit' and 'for a sponsor to remember their regiment with an engraving/symbol'.

Much deliberation then ensued between subcommittee members as to the shape and size (eventually decreed by the architect), wording, type styles and design as illustrated, resulting in a 200 mm diameter plaque of white Corian (marble effect) with black lettering. The photograph with the architect sitting on the bench, illustrates the proportions of the plaque installed.


Hopefully our readers will agree this stone bench with its commemorative plaque is a very fitting, permanent memorial to our forebears of the Inns of Court Regiment who made the ultimate sacrifice all those years ago in Normandy for our freedoms today.

**Ian Agnew Lt (ret'd) IC&CY**

**A trip to Normandy is planned for 5-6 June next year to commemorate D-Day and dedicate the bench. Details will be published. Ed**



*The Architect on the bench (right) and the wording of the plaque*

  
SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX  
IN MEMORY OF  
Those 43 MEMBERS of  
**INNS OF COURT REGIMENT**  
who gave their lives  
during the Normandy Campaign  
June - August 1944  
— ∞ —  
This Commemorative Bench  
has been donated by  
Inns of Court & City Yeomanry Association



# The Day Lieutenant Chadwick Won His Military Cross

During the First World War, Lt Chadwick MC MB ChB of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) was attached to the City of London Yeomanry in Palestine. Following action on 21 November 1917, he was recommended for the Military Cross. This is his own account of that day.

**A**t 0830hrs we move out from under the crag, leading our horses in support of the 6th Brigade who are attacking Beitunia. By 1100hrs we have reached the bottom of the wadi and although under heavy machine gun fire, there are no casualties. We form our horses up under the cliff in a good place, B and D Squadrons and the machine gunners are attached, having been sent to support the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry on the left and the Dorset Yeomanry on the right. We form an HQ on a small hill in the wadi close to some houses, in between the two yeomanry regiments.

Early in the action Lieutenant Rendall of the machine gun section is wounded in the lower abdomen – on going out to see him I find it impossible to get him in because of his exposed position, and the machine gun fire. I send word to the ambulance for a stretcher which eventually arrives in the afternoon, and he is got safely away, although with great difficulty. On returning to HQ, I find Sergeant Orford my medical orderly, had gone out to bring in some wounded from B Squadron on the right. As the day advances the Turks are strongly reinforced and the fire from the guns, machine guns and rifles gets extremely hot.

A Traube [the enemy] comes over to help direct the fire, subsequently the sharpshooters and Divisional HQ get a lot of shell fire over them as do we.

By 1600hrs we have to retire, and the wounded are got in as fast as possible, but many have to be left and many are missing. Second Lieutenant Byrne is shot through the leg and brought in. As dusk draws in, I find myself in the wadi with five wounded men and only blankets as stretchers. Everyone in front has retired and we are left to the mercy of the Turks.

In the meantime, all our horses have been taken up the wadi again – although there are a lot missing – they are rallied with the Regiment at the old bivouac area. The whole Brigade has retired. Our Regiment holds the hills in front of Foka during the night and then they form camps on the west side of the village.

Finding myself left alone with the wounded I



call out as I hear someone coming along. I see a group of men, two Sharpshooter officers with 15 of their men. The men act as stretcher bearers while the two officers form our rear guard. Fortunately, the Turks do not come on very fast, and after firing only a few shots we manage to reach the led-horses of the Berkshire and Buckingham Yeomanry, who have been ordered to hold on – although Colonel Perry of the former had been killed.

Here three stretchers from the ambulance reach me, luckily one of the wounded men can ride, but I have to manage with an improvised broken stretcher for the remaining one. Soon about ten men from B Squadron reach us and handing their horses over to the Sharps men, take on the work of stretcher bearers, and so, little by little, working in relay parties – for the broken stretcher gives out – we work along the

wadi and up the side.

After the most stupendous labour we reach the top at 0300hrs with the first party, the second party make it back just as it is coming light, here we settle down for a short rest.

I then set off for our old bivouac area, but I learn from the Dorset's that the whole brigade has retired - except for HQ, and as I see Beitunia in front of me I decide it is better to go back and try Foka. I do not go far when I meet Captain Young from our field ambulance with some camel cacolets and we managed to get the wounded back to the ambulance at Foka. The Regiment are very pleased to see me as they did not know what had happened to me.

I now hear that Second Lieutenant Howard is missing – nothing is known about him.

We have six other ranks killed, 23 wounded and two officers missing.

*This account is an extract from the diaries of Lt Chadwick, which have been transcribed, and the collection reproduced in a book edited by Mrs Jane A. Stott, the wife of his great grandson. The book, diaries and the MC have been donated to the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Museum by his family.*



**Barrie Corfield**

# In Stan's Footsteps

**E**very year Sergeant (retired) Alan Callow and his wife Carole go on a mission to follow the route and battle grounds that his father, Stan, experienced in the Italian campaign of the Second World War. Sadly, due to COVID-19, they were unable to make the trip this year. Here they share some of their adventures from previous years.



Stan Callow

**O**ur "footsteps" journey traced Alan's dad's route as he fought his way from Algiers to Austria. An infantryman of the Queens Own Royal West Kents (RWKs), they formed part of 78th Division and specialised in mountain warfare.

We followed from Syracuse to Sankt Stephan im Gailtal in Austria, and thence to Salzburg. Stan Callow's war was a relentless series of tough battles. North Africa was hard fought, then to Syracuse and across the Catania Plain to the lava-lumed pinnacle of Centuripe, through dense lava fields skirting mighty Mount Etna through Adrano, Bronte and Randazzo. They cleared the enemy out of Sicily who then regrouped on the mainland.

The RWKs landed at Taranto and pushed north to Bari and Termoli, where they met heavy resistance after which they were down to 80 men. They then cut across to Cassino and the legendary battle of Montecassino. They pushed on to Rome, Orvieto, and to Castiglione del Lago where they lost 300 men between there and Orvieto. This battle was as hard fought, or even harder than Cassino. The RWKs and the Buffs pursued the enemy north of the Po where they finally surrendered. The RWKs went on through Ferrara, Venice,

across to Klagenfurt, Villach, and finally to the high alpine village of Sankt Stephan. We felt pride, respect and humility. They were magnificent and we owe them our freedom.

Our journey, about twelve weeks altogether by public transport, was an adventure in itself, and each destination thoroughly explored. Immense fun, full of incidents and very satisfying, we explored everything and everywhere. So many places that we would never have thought of visiting, we made many new friends and loved every minute. Throughout our pleasurable endeavours, we gained increasing respect for Stan and the RWKs. Three major battle areas stood out. Firstly, the immense lava fields and hugely difficult terrain around the impressively beautiful Mount Etna. How hard must that have been to fight through. Then the famously near impossible taking of Montecassino, where Stan was holding out on Castle Hill for three months till the fortress finally fell. They have since rebuilt this perennial strategic target into a once more impressive monastery. And just when they were pressing north, the enormous losses and terrible conditions in continual bombardments en route to Castiglione del Lago. It's not until you actually see the places for yourself that you begin to really take in what you read in the archives. These men were relentless, enduring, resilient, and so courageous. It just gives you a smidgeon of an insight into what these men went through, along with all the others in both world wars, to give us the freedom that these days we tend to take for granted.

**Carole Callow**



Sergeant Alan Callow



# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Firing Point...

Major General Sir Desmond Rice KCVO CBE passed away in August aged 95. Here, Denis Durkin shares some of his memories of 'Col D'.

In the Defence Review of 1967, it was decided to reduce the 19 Armoured Yeomanry Regiments to just one: The Royal Yeomanry Regiment (subsequently The Royal Yeomanry). As you might imagine military whiskers throughout the land bristled and heavy political artillery was deployed.

We were heavily involved and were bought off with the band, retaining IC&CY uniform and badges and the transfer of many IC&CY personnel to HQ Squadron (Berkshire & Westminster Dragoons) and C Squadron (Sharpshooters). In fact, each squadron retained its regimental uniform for many years.

Desmond Rice, then a Lieutenant Colonel was given the unenviable task of being the first Commanding Officer (CO) and melding it all together.

I was one of those transferred to HQ and as part of Regimental Headquarters sometimes acted as the CO's driver/operator. Sometime in 1969, I think, I was to drive him during a live-firing weekend at Lulworth. I was out of London on business that Friday so could not go down with the other small party. I picked up the brand new long-wheel base Land Rover from Elverton Street in Westminster, it having been firmly impressed on me that I was not to damage our new pride and joy. By arrangement, I parked it in our local police station, rose early, had a splendid drive down and picked up 'Col D' at the mess.

We then drove to the main-line railway station to pick up the Brigadier Royal Armoured Corps. At this point I was consigned to the back as Col D wanted this opportunity to button-hole the Brigadier about his next posting and chances of promotion to full Colonel. He could not really do this sitting in the back as it would mean talking through the metal grids, rather like being in a confessional. Not a good time to amend the work ticket I thought, so we were technically out of order.

All went well until we were on the small single lane road (with five mph limit) leading to the firing point. A Squadron of The Queen's Royal Irish were the range controllers and around the corner came a beat-up old Land Rover, with its driver, Trooper Paddy, going at a lick, no doubt intent on going off duty, titivating and trying out his blarney on the local talent in Dorchester or somewhere.

I managed to yell out a warning, Col D swung left and the banger-racing look-alike delivered a hefty right hook on our



Major General Sir Desmond Rice KCVO CBE

highly polished off-side door. Paddy's face dropped when a Sergeant got out of the back, dropped further when a Lieutenant Colonel got out of the driver's side and then hit the floor when a Brigadier emerged from the other side.

"Sort it out Sarn't Durkin" said he. "Very good, sir" said I, and as an afterthought foolishly, as I needed to know this for the accident report form "How tall are you, sir?". This earned me "6ft 2" and a withering glare but a small smile from the Brigadier and they drove off.

I told the quaking trooper to

take me to his orderly room (OR), with him calling on his maker en route. In the OR, a bemused OR Quartermaster Sergeant was confronted by a gabbling trooper and a sergeant wearing a black beret but not a Royal Tank Regiment badge, a flashy stable belt and not speaking like a non-commissioned officer (NCO). "Fetch the Squadron Sergeant Major!" and off went one of his gofers. This worthy arrived on hearing what had happened and delivered a tirade that would certainly have made the finals of "Bo\*\*ocking of the Year 1969". Trooper Paddy was then dismissed to the cookhouse or somewhere and I got the details I needed.

The Squadron Sergeant Major drove me back to the ranges and a little bulb flickered when he worked out that I should have been driving. "Leave it with me David," I said – we had become quite friendly on the drive. He did not want to get involved in any way if it could be avoided.

I made it back on Sunday and just left a note under the wiper that said "it wasn't me". On arriving at the office the next morning, I was told that someone had just rung for me, that they sounded cross and barked that I should phone ASAP. Well, I did so. The first two words I heard were "What the..." – I bet you could not guess the third! On explaining what had happened word three was repeated followed by "leave it with me".

The universal 'freemasonry' of SNCOs swung into action and all paperwork disappeared. Off went the vehicle to workshops with "Handbrake must have been faulty on delivery and disengaged in the garage". It came back in pristine condition.

Col D's promotion did not come as though as quickly as he had hoped, but he was given a well-deserved OBE when moving on.

**Denis Durkin**

# Exercise Lion Star

## 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment's Overseas Training Exercise to Cyprus

### October 2019

We had a whole year of building up to this moment. Not just the build-up training, but the ever-rising anticipation and excitement for this huge treat to celebrate the 50th Birthday of the Regiment – 120 personnel from 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment were ready to deploy to Dhekelia, Cyprus, to conduct an Overseas Training Exercise (OTX) for our Annual Camp.

Squadrons from across London congregated at Uxbridge Army Reserve Centre on a cold mid-October night to head to RAF Brize Norton together, but not before being introduced to ten attached soldiers from our Regular Army paired unit, 3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment (3DSR), as well as Regular soldiers from 254 Signal Squadron and fellow Reservist individuals from 37 Signal Regiment. In fact, the welcome for our Regular counterparts felt more like a joyous reunion, as most of the soldiers had worked alongside our Reservists on Exercise BARBARY SUN 2018 in Gibraltar, when a whole Troop comprised of 36 Signal Squadron and 265 Support Squadron members supported 3DSR. The high-octane work of the UK's warfighting division (3(UK) Div) is the perfect match for the equally high-octane programme at 71 Yeomanry Signal Regiment – our soldiers have integrated and collaborated with 3DSR on exercises throughout the year. Importantly, an oddly-dressed individual instantly stood out – CPT [Captain] Chad Johnson from the Connecticut National Guard, US Army Reserve, joined us for the OTX as part of the NATO Military Reserve Exchange Programme.

But just how quickly will we make it out of the wintry British weather and into the record-high climate of the Mediterranean autumn? Some scepticism came from the team from 37 Signal Regiment, but only because when our sibling Reserve unit went



CPT Johnson and Capt Johnson – an instant brotherly bond!

to Cyprus in May, they were delayed for three days! But as smooth as the Cypriot sand, we arrived safely and on time – smocks off, sleeves up, immediately! Not only a long-yearned change from the London smog, but for many of our younger soldiers, this was their first time abroad.

Our 50th anniversary annual training camp focussed on fundamental soldiering skills to prove our Corps ethos

that we are 'Technical First, Soldier Always' – so what better way to kick off with a bang than a full week of 'advanced ranges'?!

Our very own SA80 champ (as certified from the Army Operational Shooting Competition earlier this year!) Sig Dana Camm, of 36 Sig Sqn, thoroughly enjoyed the range week, as it offered even more varied challenges and unique new opportunities to advance her skills gained as a key player in the Regimental Shooting Team. And certainly a true champion who embraces any challenge, as she had never even touched a weapon until a year ago!



Sig Dana Camm (36 Sig Sqn)

"The range package developed our shooting skills progressively in order to smash the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test (ACMT). This test of accuracy and technical skill in applying the marksmanship principles was hardly the end goal, but merely a qualification in order to advance onto the even more challenging and exhilarating ranges – night shoots by the beach, and Fire and Manoeuvre combat drills.

"For most, the change in terrain and climate was a test in itself. There was a stark contrast from the ranges experienced back home, as Dhekelia was dry, sandy and barren land where the biggest risk was accidental fires being sparked. We even had to train our own Fire Officers, Sgt Carl Crane of 265 Sp Sqn and Cpl Young, who rather enjoyed their glamorous new roles, sitting in their sparkling new Land Rover Fire Truck – much better, if just aesthetically, than the Land Rover Fit-for-radio (FFRs) in which we are used to operating.



Sig Smith ranges with Capt Alleyne



"Each range was conducted in a safe manner and system of training, which was repeatedly reassured to us from the Range Conducting Officers, Capt Raj Sherchan MBE (Second-in-Command at 36 Sig Sqn) and Staff Sergeant Gaz Ward (Senior Permanent Staff Instructor (SPSI) of 265 Sp Sqn). Concurrent activities to remind and revise important military skills knowledge further hyped up anticipation for the field phase of week two, including OBUA (operations in built-up areas) and fine-tuning the SOPs (standard operating procedures) of our respective sections, consisting of a mixture of ranks and Regular and Reserve soldiers, with whom we were working throughout the OTX.

"Each day, the first round was sure to go down range at 0730hrs – an early start but we would much rather that than endure the heat later on in the day. Luckily, the ice cream van somehow always timed its arrival just as we stopped for our regular water breaks. Forget which is better – Rifles or Pistols, the biggest debate was which flavour to choose – 'mint choc chip' or 'malteaser sundae'!

"On day (or night) three, all participants attempted the ACMT (annual combat marksmanship test) – the coaching from the safety and coaching staff clearly paid off as we had 100 per cent pass rate, meaning everyone could experience the night shoot. Since summer seems to be all-year-round in Cyprus, the only light allowed was the ambience of the moonlight (well, apart from the cyalumes marking safety boundaries, which could probably be seen from across the Med!). However, this had a secondary training benefit, because only the Section Commander had night vision goggles, which allowed them to 'locate the enemy' and shout target indications. Some trenches were obscured by foliage or bushes and had minimal vantage points but targets were periodically raised and fell as a storm of rounds penetrated and the audible sound of wood shattering could be heard from afar, indicating that in the darkness, targets were being hit!"



*Brig AJ Smith presenting the CO with his VRSM Bar*

Nearing the end of the range package, the sky threatened to rain as dark clouds sneaked in overhead and the sand kicked up against our boots, whilst weeds tumbled by as the wind picked up. It felt bitter-sweet as we wished for cooler breezes, but obviously prayed that the sun stayed. With the breeze blowing away as quickly as it came, the heat was scorching again – a perfect excuse to pause training, as the Brigade Commander of 11 Signal Brigade, Brig AJ Smith, flew out to visit us as one of his first official visits in the new role. Our new incoming Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 (RSM) Britton, also came to meet all the troops and made an effort to introduce himself to individuals personally. As if scripted, with all important visits comes awards presentations – congratulations to Sig Wilsher (265 Sp Sqn) for his richly-deserved Brigade Commander's Commendation, LCpl Wood (36 Sp Sqn) and LCpl Bertram-Smith (68 Sig Sqn) for their promotions, and the WOs and Officers who earned another Bar to their Voluntary Reserve Service Medals



*Nicosia cultural visit and tour*

Following a hugely rewarding week on the ranges, our soldiers were granted much-needed admin time to thoroughly prepare their kit for the three-day Field Training Exercise (the 'final attack') which is the culmination of a series of Ex PHOENIX WARRIOR soldiering skills weekends throughout the year.

Whilst uniforms were turned around, the weekend was spent in civvies as the Regiment's senior major, Maj Will Carr TD (Regt Ops Officer (V)) organised an insightful cultural studies package to Nicosia, a one-of-a-kind war-torn global financial hub which is rich in history, especially its military history and unbreakable link to Great Britain.

We were fortunate as to welcome the Master Draper, Tim Orchard, and Clerk, Col (Retd) Richard Winstanley OBE, of the Worshipful Company of Drapers (the Regiment's affiliated Livery Company as true to our intimate relations with the historic City of London). The Regiment's Honorary Colonel, Col Ray Wilkinson QVRM TD DLVR (himself, a Draper) also travelled out to spend visit us and experience our training first-hand. The Drapers sponsor the Regiment and support much of our internal and external activities, so it was good for them to join us and help strengthen the bond we have as a Privileged Regiment of the City of London.

The weekend, like every weekend, vanished way too quickly, but the excitement for the next phase of OTX could not be



*Capt Roberts Coy 2IC taking a breather*

downplayed by many keen, green, fighting machines! The build-up weekends in the field equipped our soldiers with crucial skills that are not frequently used as Royal Signals technical operators, and the vast majority were simply too ready to go in for the final climax in the thrilling scenario. None more so than our City consultant Troop Commander, Lt Ian Dawes (265 Sp Sqn), who

lusts for anything Army as a perfect getaway from his central London desk job inside a stuffy skyscraper. He led a full-strength platoon of Regular and Reserve soldiers on the final Ex.

“The exercise kicked off with both platoons setting up harbour areas under the sweltering heat, with the troops quickly getting into routine to prepare themselves for what lay ahead – the hostile heat more so than the hostile enemy!

“Each platoon was given multiple missions, ranging from section-level recce and fighting patrols, and liaison taskings with friendly coalition forces. All were essential in building up intelligence for the final attack which aimed to locate and rescue hostages in an enemy compound.

“As my first experience in assuming a command appointment, working as the second-in-command (2IC) for my section, this was especially challenging but rewarding. I was responsible for the smooth running of the section and ensuring each member of my section knows what we are doing, and readily equipped to do so. The upward reporting to the Platoon Sergeant was also a great learning experience and exposure to see the bigger battle picture.

“Due to the heat of Cyprus, less work was done during the lunchtime peak and more work done during the cooler nights – but as a Section 2IC there are things to be done all the time! Our job includes tracking the ammunition state and carrying the spare ammo when out on – extra burden, quite literally! A key responsibility is to be prepared to step up to Section Commander should anything happen, so having constant situational awareness and an understanding of the section’s operations is imperative. Fortunately, our section consisted of



*Brig Goldstein visiting the harbour area*

strong-willed and intuitive soldiers, all of them adding value and gelling as a team.

“Our final night and day was the highlight – being extra busy as the lead Section to conduct a recce on the enemy in order to plan for the final attack, and immediately upon return, deployed as fire support for a platoon attack in the night. Having successfully

overcome the enemy outposts at night, we received orders and ‘notice to move’ onto the big-ticket target – a platoon attack on the enemy compound at dawn to rescue the ‘hostages’.

“With our familiarity due to the recce, we were the spearhead leading the platoon in – the first to storm through the front gates of the compound, and the first to move on to conduct the OBUA drills which we have perfected in the week beforehand, to ultimately carry through to be tasked with rescuing the hostages.”



*Regt Padre Capt Trundle delivering a field service*

The morale was clearly as high as the temperature, as our Regt Padre, Capt (Revd) Chris Trundle, gave a field service – bringing with him rather biblical stormy winds howling in the background. Brig Goldstein MBE also travelled out to update our soldiers on the new formation of 6 (UK) Division, as well as hear from our troops as to what they want to pursue, which may just be compatible with some of the ever-broadening opportunities now open in the continuously active ‘grey zone’ operational environment.

A stimulating field package to give our troops the most comprehensive skillset, following a year-long training programme



*Maj Lok Gurung MVO (Ops Major) and forces TV*





*Mountain biking team in Troodos mountains*

and sequential scenario development led by SSgt Mike Paynter (Regt Ops SSgt) – this was truly appreciated by the troops as they gained a real sense of achievement. Even better, the action was all captured by Forces TV in a special feature report. Check it out on Forces Network ('Exercise LION STAR: Historic Reservist Unit Tests Soldiering In Cyprus')!

With all the hard work seemingly complete, the final phase of OTX was two days of Adventurous Training (AT) and sport. Sadly, the sun disappeared and storms arrived (what did we expect for end of October, considering back home it had not stopped raining for the whole duration!). Due to the weather, beach sports looked less idyllic and more reflective of the word 'adventurous'. Half the Regiment tried to surf the waves on kayaks and paddle boards, as well as conquer the slippery giant rock-climbing boulders by the coast, whilst the other half volunteered for the rare opportunity to spend two days up in Mount Troodos (nearly 2000 metres above sea level), for hill-walking and mountain biking (MTB).

All AT proved to successfully achieve the aims of AT – to challenge our soldiers and push them out of their comfort zone. Just the freezing cold temperatures and sideways rain would be enough to add stress to most of the MTB riders, who were trying it for the first time! SSgt Steve Baulch (SPSI 36 Sig Sqn) intricately planned the AT package to ensure all risks and logistics were covered, and his attention to detail (that is, detail in Army policies!) led many to suspect he might have booked the

torrential weather just to make it extra breath-taking (literally)!

"I was so lucky to spend two days trying mountain biking. It was an amazing experience, we struggled at some points (well, lots of it!), but what goes up also comes down, so there were just as much easy fun parts – all of it was enjoyable. Surprisingly, the biking quiz became a main feature of the day because every time we had a break (and this was very frequent, thankfully) to wait for all the riders to regroup, one of us would come up with a question and we would have to wait to get an answer until the next RV [rendezvous]."

"There was one point which was super tough, where we all struggled for 5 km straight uphill – not sure if it was harder to just get off and push! But once we reached the top, the view was magnificent... just wow. Every inch of hard work and our physical struggle was forgotten – reaching the top was priceless. We managed to cover lots of ground, reaching 20 miles cycling on the first day, but it just felt like a full day of phys! On the second day we had more action. Our energetic instructor, Cpl Lucky Gurung (248 Gurkha Sig Sqn, 22 Sig Regt) took us on a challenging rugged route which was certainly rough and adventurous – but we had built up confidence and enjoyed the thrill. Cyprus, Troodos, AT, the whole package of training at Cyprus, was a great experience in life!"

And just like that, two weeks flew by, with the sun peeking back out for the final day of Regimental Sports Competition and a long-awaited chance to relax and socialise over a BBQ – just to milk every last second of the summer vibes before returning to the UK.

And as for CPT Chad, he's had the experience of trying our weapon systems, learning our doctrine and best practices, but the one takeaway which will stick with him for life, of course, is the Cockney Rhyming Slang!

**Compiled by Lieutenant Ranny Wei**



*71 Y Sig Regt exercise photo*

# NATURAL NAVIGATION

At the mention of the word 'navigation', thoughts turn towards maps, compasses or even Global Positioning Systems, but what would happen if you had used your map to light the fire, left the compass at Whipps Cross and your smartphone battery was dead? Well, you would be much in the same position as your ancestors over 100 years ago, for, although the compass, like less desirable things, started in China in about 260BC, its use was not common over here, even on ships, until the latter part of the nineteenth century. This roughly coincided with the availability of Ordnance Survey maps of the UK.

So how did our forebears find their way across country? It was comparatively easy for Dick Whittington to find his way from Lancashire to London as he could follow the highways going south and would be greeted by milestones giving him the cheering news 'London 200 miles'. It was trudging across the moors that would have presented the problem. Or would it? Nature provides us with several ways of telling north from south, which may not form part of the map reading training in this

technological age.



*Milestone*

The best-known guide is the sun, which is always due south at noon, Greenwich Mean Time. The shortcoming of that method is the need for a watch but if one is to hand, a compass bearing can be worked out at any time of the day. However, do not be confused by the fickle moon at night, which dodges all over the place. Look for The Plough

and follow upward from the non-handled end until you come to a bright star, Polaris, which is also, for good reason, called the North Star.



*The North Star*

In the UK, the prevailing wind comes from the south-west which, in wooded country, gives us a hint as to the bearing. If trees are in an exposed position, due to the pressure of the wind, they will lean slightly towards the north east. But take a circuit or two of your tree before deciding as the more luxuriant growth, in terms of

branches and leaves, will be on the sunny south side. Even if a tree is as upright as Nelson's column but has moss growing on it, that moss will be seeking the shade and damp provided by the north side of the tree.

The subject goes deeper, with esoteric practices such as looking for sheep's wool on gorse bushes and counting insects, but let us look at another age-old navigational aid, although this was not entirely contrived by nature. One of the frequent long-distance, cross country travellers of yester year was the drover, who would each year, usually with the aid of a dog or two, drove their cattle or sheep from sparse mountainous districts to lush meadowlands to fatten them before taking them to market. The practice of droving started around the fifth century AD and could involve a journey from one end of the country to the other. As travellers on the highway tended to get cross if confronted by 200 cows, drovers forged their own drove roads. Whilst these routes, where convenient, followed ridgeways some form of signage was necessary across flatter country.



*The start of the journey in Scotland*

Many of the early drovers came from Scotland and noted that the Scots pine, a quick growing and distinctive tree, was rare in England so they would travel south with a bag full of pine cones planting one to mark a safe place to ford a river or simply as route marker. [Image 4] The idea spread and soon the drove roads from Wales were similarly marked. They also served as an early form of TripAdvisor, being planted to mark a favourite inn at which to overnight or a friendly farmer who would provide food and accommodation.

Thus, should you pass a lonesome Scots pine in your travels, you will not know your bearing, but you will be en route for a farm, a pub, a cattle market or raising ground.



*The Waymarker*



# Obituaries

## Honouring former comrades now deceased

Corporal Neil Bolton – Inns of Court Regiment

Captain Michael Day-Thomson – Inns of Court Regiment

Corporal Chris Glover – 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron

Staff Sergeant Mick Grimshaw – Permanent Staff Instructor to 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron

Mr John Hallifax – Inns of Court Regiment

Captain George Lovell – Inns of Court Regiment

Corporal Robert Pulbrook - 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron

Major General Sir Desmond Rice – Royal Yeomanry

Mrs Bridget Thompson - widow of Colonel Digby Thompson MC, CBE

Squadron Sergeant Major James Wolfe – Home Front Service and 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron

### Neil Bolton

I first met Neil in 1960, when I joined 'C' Squadron of what was then The Inns of Court Regiment. I had been working with his elder cousin Derek, who had earlier recruited Neil and who painted such an enjoyable picture of life in a TA reconnaissance unit that I signed up too, along with Neil's younger brother Ian.



Neil was a quiet and amiable person and we got on very well. We were both members of 3 Troop, together with Ian, 'Mac' MacGowan and Desmond de Silva, under the leadership of Lt David Weir and Sgt Bill Thompson. A top troop too, as we won the Armourer's Bowl at Annual Camp in Thetford. As well as a good troop corporal, Neil was also an excellent shot, and his name appears on at least one trophy.

Neil was born on 29th January 1940 at Hanwell, Middlesex. When he was six his father, a Merchant Naval officer, was appointed Engineer Transport Officer in the Colonial Engineering Service in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) where the boys spent two carefree years before being sent back to boarding school in England.

After serving a five-year apprenticeship with the heavy engineering division of David Brown (gearbox manufacturers) in West Drayton. Neil joined P & O as a junior engineer officer and spent the next 16 years in the merchant navy with various shipping companies; rising to the rank of Chief Engineer Officer and becoming a Chartered Engineer.

He left the Merchant Navy in 1974 to join his parents, Ian and Derek in South Africa, where the senior Boltons had started a magazine, South African Transport. Neil was appointed Technical Editor, and in 1986 became a freelance journalist and copy writer, writing for various automotive publications. He eventually started his own magazine, Road Transport Review. He always said that the pay wasn't good, but the perks were great as he travelled a great deal and enjoyed high-class entertainment.

Neil always said he wanted to retire at 45, but he actually carried on working until 2001. He married Dorothy Burge in 1994, and

after retirement the couple moved to Hermanus on the Cape coast. Here they enjoyed nearly 20 idyllic years, tinkering with classic cars and touring local vineyards. As a result he became chairman of the local Wine Tasting Group.

I lost touch with Neil after I left the TA in the late 1960s, but he called to see us a couple of times when he was the UK, and eventually he started an irregular contact with me via Skype and e-mail. He enjoyed hearing about my activities in the UK and in turn filled me in on life in the sun!

Unfortunately, Neil started to suffer from dementia in recent years, and with the situation in South Africa worsening, he and Dorothy moved back to the UK in November 2019. Sadly, he had little time to enjoy England again as he died on 28th February 2020 – just a month after his 80th birthday.

### Chris Glover

Chris Glover was born on 26 May 1960 and died on 5 June 2020. He leaves his wife Kim, two sons and two daughters. Chris originally served with the Parachute Regiment transferring to 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron in 1982 where he was a major support within General Military Headquarters (GMHQ) troop, remaining with the Squadron for seven years before leaving due to work commitments. He made many friends within the unit and the Regiment as a whole. Our sympathies are with Kim and his family at this sad loss of a Husband, Father, and fellow Yeoman.



### Robert Pulbrook

Robert died on 20 January 2019, aged 82. Robert was called up for national service, where he took the Queen's shilling and served with Sherwood foresters, as a regular soldier. On discharge he joined the TAVR, again with the



Robert Pulbrook with Hon Col the Earl of Limerick



*Sir Desmond Rice with Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in 1985. Photograph ©The Times*

Sherwood foresters (Notts & Derby) his local unit. When he moved to London, he transferred to 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron as a signaller, later he extended his skills becoming a cook, and subsequently a mess steward. He was totally dedicated to his friends and colleagues and fully supported the Squadron no matter what task he was given. Robert was a mild-mannered man who was always willing to please and help in any way and is a sad loss to all who encountered him. He was buried at St James Parish Church Little Clacton on 8 March 2019.

## **Major-General Sir Desmond Rice, KCVO, CBE**

**M**aj Gen Sir Desmond Rice was the first Commanding Officer of The Royal Yeomanry and rose to become Vice Adjutant General of the British Army. He was born on 1 December 1924 and died on 14 July 2020, aged 95.

He will be known to many for the part he played in raising the Royal Yeomanry (RY) during a major reorganisation of the Army and in the face of great difficulties. In 1967, following the Defence White Paper of the previous year, the regimental and divisional structure of the Territorial Army (TA) was abolished and the title Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve (TAVR) was adopted. On assuming command of the RY, he was faced with the problem of merging five squadrons, drawn from five different Yeomanry regiments, each with their own ideas, traditions and forms of dress and all with different standards of training. They were also widely dispersed, being based at Westminster, Croydon, Wiltshire, Nottingham and Northern Ireland. To promote the best characteristics of each and retaining their local links, whilst bringing these diverse units together called for first-rate leadership, an adroit blend of tact and firmness, involving long hours of work and constant travel.

Rice was up to the challenge, creating an efficient and united armoured car regiment and went on to prove that a volunteer unit could be trained and equipped to undertake an immediate mobilisation role. In 1970, he was appointed OBE in recognition of the successful completion of a most challenging assignment.

Col Jonathan Hunt, who subsequently commanded RY, wrote "he was 100 per cent Royal Yeomanry and treated the yeomen as adults and challenged them to rise to this absurdly unattainable task. In short he went 'all in' and bet his career that his yeoman could achieve this impossible transformation and because he went all in himself his yeomen went all in as well, and in that moment he created a 'can do' culture which turned RY into one of the outstanding TA regiments of the Cold War era. It was this attitude which struck me the most about RY when I joined. I had come from a very capable regiment and took myself seriously but energy and drive I met when I joined was so

impressive. He created a culture of 'vivre la difference' in the RY which he used to create a dynamic competitive edge between squadrons but at the same time he created this strong culture of excellence which we shared."

Desmond Hind Garrett Rice was educated at Marlborough College and went on to commission into the Queen's Bays (now Queen's Dragoon Guards) in November 1944. Arriving in Naples in the last blacked-out ship, he joined his regiment just before the end of hostilities in Italy. In 1947, he accompanied his regiment to the Canal Zone. After a spell at the War Office, he rejoined the regiment in Fallingb., Germany. Command of a squadron was followed by Joint Services Staff College and then a return to the Regiment as second-in-command.

Command of the RY was followed by a series of exacting high-profile staff jobs ideally suited to his analytical mind, quick grasp of key problems and command of detail. He was, progressively, General Service Officer 2 (GSO 2) in the Military Operations Directorate at the War Office, Deputy Assistant Adjutant (DAA) and Quarter Master General (QMG) in 11 Brigade at Minden, Germany, and Military Assistant to the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Berlin, Major General Sir John Nelson. Then, after three years as Colonel General Staff (GS) of the 4th Division in BAOR, in 1973 he moved to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as Brigadier General Staff in the Military Operations Directorate, responsible for the operational employment of the Army. The following year, when Turkish forces invaded Cyprus, Rice's General was on holiday in France. Rice deployed two brigades and reported to the General that everything was under control and there was no need to cut short his holiday. He was appointed CBE at the end of his tour.

After a year at the Royal College of Defence Studies, he returned to the MoD as Director of Manning for the Army and, then, as Vice Adjutant General. This was a difficult period for the armed services as a whole; successive pay freezes had led to under-manning, poor retention rates and low morale.

Rice retired from the Army in 1979 and joined the Royal Household as Secretary of the Central Chancery of Orders



of Knighthood (1980–89). He was responsible for all the investitures and the chivalry services in St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel, Windsor. In 1989 he was appointed KCVO, also becoming an Extra Gentleman Usher to the Queen. From 1980 to 1986 he was Colonel 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

## Bridget Thompson

**B**ridget Thompson, the widow of Colonel Digby Thompson MC, CBE, died on 27 March 2020. Many will remember her as a regular at Remembrance Sunday parades, which she continued to attend after Digby's death in 2003, until the journey from Sussex got too much for her.

She was born on 6th August 1925 at Streat Place, Sussex, the daughter of Cdr and Mrs Swift, attending school in Eastbourne which, during WW2, was evacuated to the Lake District. In the summer of 1940, back home in Sussex on holiday, she remembered seeing the dogfights in the skies overhead that became known as the Battle of Britain.

After leaving school in 1942 she became a student nurse at Chailey Heritage in Sussex, subsequently working, on the administrative side, at a convalescent home in Camberley. After the war she worked at the Red Cross HQ in London and then in a convalescent home for civil servants in Camden Hill. By the late 1950's her parents were becoming elderly and she devoted herself to caring for them.

It was on a skiing holiday in 1964 that she met Digby Thompson and in 1966 they became engaged but Bridget needed to sort out the future care of her father so it was kept secret from all until matters were able to be resolved and, eventually, in 1969 they married. Col Digby had served, in the 12th Lancers, with distinction during the war. On discharge in 1948, because of his wounds, he joined the Inns of Court Regiment, assuming command of the IC&CY just in time for the presentation of their guidon in 1961. At the time of their marriage, Col. Digby was Colonel, GSO1 London District, an appointment he held until 1977, when he returned to the IC&CY as their Honorary Colonel, retiring 1989 when he handed over the reins to Col Stephen Carden. Throughout those years, Bridget was at his side whenever appropriate and supported him in his appointment as ADC to the Queen from 1974, accompanying him to Buckingham Palace when he was awarded the CBE in 1990. On the occasion of the Queen Mother's 80th birthday the IC&CY gifted their Royal Honorary Colonel with furniture for a log cabin on her Birkhall Estate in Scotland. Bridget and Digby were honoured to use this present when they were asked to picnic lunches whilst holidaying in Scotland.

On Digby's retirement from Whitbreads in 1979, they became highly involved in local matters in the village in Sussex where they lived.

She was proud of her association with the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry and its members and always spoke of it so fondly. The feeling was mutual and her unassuming charm will be greatly missed.

## James Angelo Wolfe

**S**quadron Sergeant Major James 'Jimmy' Wolfe was born on 10 April 1931 in Cork City, Ireland and died on 4 August 2020. Growing up in Cork, Jimmy lived with his mother and three sisters. He was educated by the notoriously strict

Christian Brothers and at the age of fifteen he was sent London to find work and make a life for himself. He arrived in the East End and initially found a job with Fords at Dagenham, but at the age of 17 he started his dream career as a footplate cleaner on the railways, subsequently becoming a fireman stoking the flames of some of the great steam engines of the time. He remained a railwayman for his entire 47 year career, rising in the ranks to driver, trainer and eventually inspector. He was enormously proud to be able to say that he had driven the Flying Scotsman, the Mallard and the Sir Nigel Gresley amongst others. The final encore was to drive the first Eurostar through the Tunnel on his retirement.

Near the start of his railway career he was conscripted into the Royal Irish Fusiliers/Rifles. He was sent for training in Northern Ireland and served in Gibraltar and post-war Germany. On his return to civvy street, while visiting a friend in Mile End Hospital, he met Sheila, a nurse and, in the Autumn of 1953, they married and moved into Millman Street where they started their family. At this time Jimmy met his great friend Clem Manley and they agreed to join the Territorial Army (TA) and reported to 10 Stone Buildings. The rest as they say is history.

Jimmy loved the military life and was able to draw on his experience as a fusilier to encourage and train members of the Squadron. He progressed through the command structure from Signaller to Squadron Sergeant Major before retiring. He was involved with the Regimental Training Team and was responsible for the military training of the Recruits and Detachment Commander Courses.

Jimmy was an extremely honourable person and was fair in the way he treated soldiers. He also had a wicked sense of humour and one was always wary of going to the toilet in the field especially when Jimmy was in control of the thunder flashes. He was fully supported in his TA career by Sheila who used to organise Squadron dances and events. Sadly, Jimmy's Sheila passed away far too early, leaving a very large gap in his life.

He was also a supporter of the Devil's Own Sergeants' Club and served as its President for a number of years. Jimmy had a full and eventful life and was extremely proud of his family and the Inns of Court. He is buried at Islington and St Pancras Cemetery. Rest in peace old comrade, your service is completed, till we meet again on the Square.



Jimmy Wolfe



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