

# VANGUARD

JOURNAL OF THE INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION



# Who's Who

## Inns of Court & City Yeomanry

**Honorary Colonel:** Col Vickie Sheriff

### 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron

**Officer Commanding:** Maj Huck Keppler

**Second in Command:** Capt Eliot Goward

**PSAO:** Capt John Donaldson IG

**Squadron Sergeant-Major WO2 (SSM) Colin Anderson**

**Headquarters:** 10 Stone Buildings,

Lincoln's Inn, LONDON WC2A 3TG

**Telephone:** 020 7405 8112

**Fax:** 020 7414 3496

**E-mail:** iccy.li@virgin.net

**Drill Hall:** TA Centre

900 Lea Bridge Road,

Whipps Cross, LONDON E17 9DW

**Telephone:** 020 8556 0938

## The Band of the Royal Yeomanry

### (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry)

**Director of Music:** Maj David Hammond PhD

**Headquarters:** Holderness House,

51-61 Clifton Street, LONDON EC2A 4EY

**Telephone:** 020 7539 3447

**E-mail:** RY-BAND@mod.gov.uk

**Facebook:** BandOfTheRoyalYeomanry

## 35 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron ACF

**Det Comd:** Sgt P Anderson

**Headquarters:** TA Centre,

900 Lea Bridge Road,

Whipps Cross, LONDON E17 9DW

## IC&CY Museum

**Curator and Deputy**

**Chairman, Museum**

**Trustees:** Maj M O'Beirne, TD

Michelob666@ntworld.com

## IC&CY Association

**President:** Col Vickie Sheriff

**Vice-Presidents:** Maj (ret'd) A S Collins TD

**Chairman:** Maj (ret'd) Edward Marshall TD

**E-mail:** postmaster@edwardmarshall1.plus.com

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

**Address:** 8 Ascot Road, St Mary Cray,

Orpington, Kent BR5 2JF

**Telephone:** 01689 827496

**E-mail:** secretaryiccy@gmail.com

**Hon Treasurer:** Patrick Reeve

**Committee:** Maj J Fern TD, Maj E H Marshall TD, Maj M

O'Beirne, Mr J Sabini, WO2 Paton, WO2 A Tear, WO2 Clifford

Springer

## ICCY Home Service Force (Black Brogues)

**Point of Contact:** Mr J Sabini

**Telephone:** 020 8527 6871

**E-mail:** john.sabini@btopenworld.com

**Website:** www.iccy.org.uk

## ICCY Benevolent Fund

**Secretary:** Maj (Ret'd) P B Corfield QVRM TD

**Telephone:** 01689 827496

**E-mail:** secretaryiccy@gmail.com

## Devil's Own Sergeants' Club

**Secretary:** WO2 James Paton, 34 Hunters Avenue, Shenfield,

Essex CM15 8PF

**Telephone:** 07939 290423

**E-mail:** James.Paton@tfl.gov.uk

## VANGUARD

**Publisher:** Richard Bundy

**E-mail:** rabundy@mac.com

**Editor:** Col Vickie Sheriff

**E-mail:** vickiesheriff@mac.com

**Editorial committee members:** Vickie Sheriff, Andrew

Collins, Denis Durkin and Richard Bundy

*Cover: Riding Training at Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment*

## Contents

2	Who's Who	22	The Black Brogues
3	From the Honorary Colonel	24	Berkhamsted Visit
4	Chairman's Report & IC&CY Trust	25	Operation UNITY
5	Secretary's Report	26	Exercise PHOENIX KNOWLEDGE
6	Squadron Commander's Report	30	Normandy Revisited
7	The Squadron's Year	32	Death at East Dereham
13	Rough Riders	34	Devil's Own Regatta
14	The Band	35	Old Comrades' Association
16	The Regimental Museum	36	Cecil Toovey Remembered
17	The Banner of Templeuve	38	Where are they now?
18	Exercise DEVIL'S ADVENTURE	40	Nancy Dawson goes to sea
20	Cavalry Memorial	41	Obituaries

# From the Honorary Colonel

There is nothing quite like taking the salute at our wholly unique and exceptionally moving Service of Remembrance in Lincoln's Inn.

Last year I had to pinch myself, so humbled was I by the occasion, standing by the memorial and taking in the scene. Seeing the Squadron march past so proudly behind our phenomenally impressive Band, and followed on by the bowler-hatted predecessors of the Association is remarkable. The picture is framed by the beauty of the golden-leaved trees and the quiet sanctuary of the Inn's square. There can be no more fitting memorial for those that have gone before us and who made the greatest sacrifice for their friends, and their country. I am immensely proud of being associated with the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Squadron and Band, and even more so to have been appointed your Honorary Squadron Colonel.

Almost a year into the role now (where has the time gone?), I want to formally thank my predecessor and mentor Col Nigel Pullman. The efforts he went to, to sort out our finances and charitable status, putting our various financial 'pots' into a single, more efficient and manageable Trust, has set up the Association well to support the Squadron and Band securely for the future. Thank you, Nigel.

I am very pleased to welcome two new Trustees to the Board too. Staff Sergeant Clare Sharpe and Mr Cliff Springer bring more contemporary experience of the Squadron to the table and have already made a valued contribution. This past year the Trustees (along with our friends from the Royal Yeomanry Trust) have started to address the Band's "hat problem" – with the green light given to start reproducing the rather fabulous Czapkas. This will equip the Band to wear their ceremonial uniform made in the remarkable Austrian Grey of the IC&CY. A big thank you to Lt Col Simon McMenemy for his leadership in this matter.

I am indebted to the Chairman of the Association, Major Eddie Marshall, and the Secretary, Major Barrie Corfield, for their wise counsel and 'chivvying' on some matters. It's no mean feat to juggle the day job and being an Army Reservist, alongside the responsibilities of being the "Hon Sqn Col" for such a busy and active Association, Squadron and Band. But that's what the life of a Reservist is all about.

It feels a little tardy, but I want to extend a warm welcome to Major Huck Keppler, who has returned to regimental life from many years working at the forefront of Army Information Operations, as the Officer Commanding 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron. Unit command is a major undertaking (no pun

intended) and the high tempo of training is eye watering. I hope you enjoy reading about the Squadron's Year which provides a good summary of the breadth of their activities and the sizeable commitment our troops make.



I had the pleasure of visiting the unit on their Annual Deployment Exercise (annual camp in old money) along with my fellow Honorary Squadron Colonels and our new Regimental Honorary Colonel, Tim Orchard. The Regimental Commanding Officer, Lt Col Emma Bruce, and her training team made us very welcome and did an incredible job to rejig the whole programme, due to the sad passing of HM The Queen. Despite the period of mourning, the troops I spoke to were really enjoying the annual camp experience and the efforts the training team had gone to.

The Band have had another incredible year and their contribution to the wider Armed Forces' musical output is exceptional. I want to thank Major David Hammond for his energy and enthusiasm for military music and for keeping the traditions of the Band and its IC&CY roots

alive, whilst always looking for innovative ways to celebrate the breadth of music and talents of his charges. I encourage you to attend the Band's regular training concerts at the Guards' Chapel on Wednesday evenings. We hope to have a special one for the Squadron in 2023.

This year has been marked by loss for both our Squadron and for the country. We said goodbye to a former Squadron Commander and one of the stalwarts of the IC&CY, Major Tony Benbow, and we said "thank you and farewell" to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We were well represented at Her Majesty's funeral, as you will read in the Band Report, and Benbow's many friends saw him out suitably. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been touched by illness and bereavement amongst the IC&CY family this year.

I write this as we look forward to the Lord Mayor's Show and the season of Remembrance. It is a particular high point in the IC&CY's year, starting with the Rough Riders' Memorial Service on 30 October. We are very excited to be keeping our mounted tradition alive as we return on horseback for the Lord Mayor's Show. Long may that continue. See you in the pit stop!



*The Czapka*

**Colonel Vickie Sheriff**

# From the Chairman

I had the privilege of standing in for the former Squadron Honorary Colonel on the Regimental Annual Deployment Exercise Visitors' Day in Sept 2021 at Folkestone. It was very good to hear how well the Squadron had performed (especially Sgt Whiffen running Signal courses to bring regular soldiers up to speed on HF [high frequency] comms!). The Brigadier was very impressed and said it was the best comms across the Channel he had used for the duration of the Exercise.



*The Honour Guard*

A warm welcome to our new Squadron leader Major Huck Keppler. He brings horsemanship skills that will allow the Inns of Court to participate again with a Mounted Detachment in the Lord Mayor's Show after a two-year absence. (It is no mean feat to train the riders to the required standard in an increasingly busy Sqn/Regt training year.)

This year's parade also includes a visiting US Army

General and riders from the 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood in Texas, so I commend a visit to the 'pit stop' in Temple Gardens! A recce took place in early September to visit our French friends in Graye-sur-Mer (the first visit since 2019). This was to help start preparations for a combined visit (Squadron, Band, and Association) in June 2024 to mark D-Day's 80th Anniversary.

I look forward to catching up with members at our Autumn meeting, St Bartholomew's Rough Riders' Service on 30 October, and of course Remembrance Sunday at Lincoln's Inn.



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

## Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Trust

The Trustees are aware, and very grateful, that some Association members may be considering a legacy to the "Regiment" in their will. Those that have already done so might not have specified the correctly named recipient charity – now the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Trust, Charity Commission number: 1190829

If this applies to you – THANK YOU – but please consider now adding a codicil to your will to ensure that your bequest goes to the intended IC&CY charity.

Vanguard readers will be aware of the rationalisation of our various trusts and funds held under the banner of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. Now (since 2021) all our financial assets are professionally managed by one manager; and importantly in a tax efficient manner, by virtue of being within a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation. A CIO is the modern company-style entity used to set up charities registered with the Charity Commission.

If you are considering writing or amending your will, it may be worth bearing in mind that all legacies to registered charities and CIOs fall outside your estate for inheritance tax (IHT) purposes. This would mean the value of any bequest would be exempt the 40% tax if your estate is greater than the IHT threshold (under current tax legislation).

On a related matter, the new CIO retains the responsibilities of the (old) IC&CY Benevolent Fund – namely a duty to support where possible previous members of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry (68 Sqn, Band, or any of their predecessor units, and their dependants) should they fall on hard times.

If any Vanguard reader becomes aware of a comrade who may be in need, and considered for a modest grant or support, please contact the Secretary of the Association, Barrie Corfield, email: [secretaryiccy@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryiccy@gmail.com).

**Nigel Pullman**

# Secretary's Report

**D**uring the year, the Association has been able to commit to its responsibilities to members and overseas affiliations.

The Rough Riders' Memorial Service at St Bartholomew the Great Church was extremely well attended, 32 persons, not including the Guard of Honour kindly provided by permission of the Squadron OC. Our faithful buglers attended and



*Eric Hendry and Carol Corfield,, with John Lucas to the rear*

sounded the last post. A big thank you to John Spencer and Nigel Rainbird.

The Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey went ahead this year, and our usual plots were populated with Remembrance Crosses and a badged cross for Both Regiments. Again our thanks have been given to the volunteers who put them in place.

It was a pleasure to attend the Remembrance Service at Lincoln's Inn in person and meet up with many old friends. The Parade went off very well and there was a good turnout by the serving Squadron. A curry meal was organised by the PSAO, and convivial conversation ensued over a few beers and wine.

In the background wreaths have been sent to Graye-sur-Mer, L'Aigle and Eben Emael. Our thanks go to Dave and Serena Hutchings, who were traveling to France and placed our wreath and displayed our standard in Grey-sur-Mare.

The Association is hoping to travel to France in 2023 and Jeremy Fern has agreed to organise the

event. As soon as details have been ironed out the details will appear.

Sadly this year my good friend Tony Benbow passed. I have known him and worked with him and Barbara since the 1970s. He was the memory behind all the military songs and gave a great rendition of Eskimo Nell. Our commiserations to Barbara and his family.

I take this opportunity to wish all members a happy healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



**Barrie  
PB Corfield QVRM TD  
Maj (Ret'd) Secretary IC&CY Association**



*The Secretary with the then Duchess of Cornwall, now Queen Consort*

## Dates for Your Diary

**2022**

**30th October** Rough Riders' Memorial Service. St Bartholomew the Great

**10th November** Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey

**12th November** Lord Mayor's Show

**13th November** Remembrance Parade Lincoln's Inn

**2023**

**5th October** Association AGM

**29th October** Rough Riders' Memorial Service (provisional)

**9th November** Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey

**11th November** Lord Mayor's Show

**12th November** Remembrance Sunday

# Squadron Commander's Report

**M**y tenure as Officer Commanding (OC) started in January 2021, coming back to ICCY after being at Extra-Regimentally Employed (ERE) since 2004. I found the Squadron in good form thanks to the commendable work of my predecessor, Maj Cahill. The impact of Covid-19 had been significant and there were a number of strands where the Squadron were eager to pick up the reins, literally in the case of preparation for the Lord Mayor's Show (LMS).

The first half of the training year was heavily skewed towards Regimental training and there is a heightened emphasis on our core delivery of Signals training and expertise in light of our transfer to 3 (UK) Division. It is likely that we will deliver the Reserve component to the Division Signals Regiment however this is still under discussion along with a possible uplift in capability with Falcon to supplement our already strong Bowman proficiency.

A series of Phoenix Communicator training weekends displayed the professionalism and understanding of 'getting the Comms in' that has made ICCY a standout amongst the Squadrons in Regiment. The Phoenix Warrior weekend displayed the hard work and dedication of our service personnel to their core military skills and presented an opportunity to impart my specialist communication skills to Captain Goward and Lieutenant Badar. Captain Goward has volunteered to be the Regimental Media Officer and fulfills that role which was sorely missed by Regiment. The officer cohort as a whole has been a point of pride in their service to Regiment by taking on additional commitments. Lieutenant Tunnicliffe not only helped coordinate the Regimental Ski Trip this year but is also taking charge of this adventurous training event in 2023. Lieutenant Badar acted as Second-in-Command of the Shooting Team and is coordinating the Lord Mayor's Show. Lieutenant Gannon took on the organisation of the Lanyard Trophy, and despite it being cancelled this year due to The Queen's passing, this does not diminish his five months of dedication in preparation of this arduous event.

Well-deserved promotions include now Staff Sergeants Burke and Whiffen, and Lance Corporal Liu is eligible for promotion to Corporal on completion of the Army Leadership Development Programme.

Our Annual Deployment Exercise this September was also impacted by The Queen's funeral which took place on the central weekend. However, the Training Objectives were achieved and we delivered what was required. The first week saw us based in Nesscliffe Training Area, then we regrouped on Stanford Training Area. It was a hard couple of weeks but a success. There were personal commendations by the Regimental Yeoman and Foreman for ICCY and it is not a biased opinion where I state that our Squadron was the best performing in the Regiment.



Squadron training is now more in focus in the remaining year although our Adventurous Training has already been successfully completed. It is my hope that our service personnel will be able to achieve a broader Reserve experience in the coming years. I have been fortunate to have varied experiences at ERE and in that light, I wish to join with other sub units for collective training for example those of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers and the Rifles.

In order to achieve a greater reputational standing of Squadron and Regiment I have invited the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment (HCD) from the United States Army to ride with us at the Lord Mayor's Show. This has now been approved and three of their troopers along with their Commanding General Major General Richardson will be participating with us at this event. It is hoped that the return leg of this exchange will be approved where three riders from ICCY will ride with HCD at the Rose Parade in California in 2023. The preparation of riding training has been an additional task this year in light of the Lord Mayor's Show not having been run for the previous two years and a more difficult riding assessment from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. Sig Mann is especially to be lauded for her efforts in coordinating this with support from Lt Badar.

We are fostering connections with the Innholders' Livery Company and it is our ambition to further strengthen this bond. Our Regimental Livery Company, the Drapers', is further enhanced by having Regimental Honorary Colonel, Tim Orchard, as a former Master. It was our pleasure to host him at Chancery Lane and we continue to explore ways to work together. Recruitment is strong and our cohort of both Other Ranks and those seeking commission continues to place the Squadron in a positive light. It is my hope for the future that the Squadron continues to succeed and enhances the Reserve experience, and it is my honour to lead it.

**Major Huck Keppler**

# The Squadron's Year



Remembrance Day November 2021

## Remembrance (November 2021)

The traditional Remembrance Parade was carried out at the Inns of Court without the Covid restrictions of the previous year, and it felt good to be able to commemorate the event as it deserved.

On the day before the parade, the Squadron paid their



Port Parade at Remembrance

respects at the memorial in Berkhamsted. The visit was organised by Signaller Wilde-Evans, and his knowledge and insight into the historical context of the visit was much appreciated as he managed to bring the stories of the soldiers who trained at Berkhamsted and fought during the First World War to life. See the separate account of the IC&CY's return to Berkhamsted trenches.

Prior to the busy weekend of Remembrance, the Squadron supported the annual Rough Riders' memorial service in the Church of St Bartholomew the



Berkhamsted Trenches

Great. This moving service was marked with an honour guard. The Squadron enjoyed relaxing in the local pub afterwards with family and Association members.

## Exercise PHOENIX MAINTENANCE (December 2021 & January 2022)



En route to the Rough Riders' Memorial Service

December and January saw the Squadron undertake some essential maintenance weekends to make sure the comms equipment was in good condition for the year to come. The December weekend included the first opportunity for the Sqn to try out the new Role Fitness Test before it came into effect in the 2022 training year. The RFT replaces the six-mile tab and includes a whole host of new elements such as a jerry can carry, and dragging and lifting weights to simulate extracting a casualty. Most found that the new test was not as daunting in reality as it first appeared to be on paper. The weekend ended at Lincoln's Inn on the Sunday with a slap-up Christmas meal prepared by the Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant (SQMS).



*The SQMS prepared a slap-up lunch*

## **Exercise PHOENIX LINK (February 2022)**

The preparation of the detachments for the forthcoming training year continued through the Squadron's deployment on Ex PHOENIX LINK. This consisted of the Regiment getting together at St Martin's Plain to test out the functionality of all the detachments under a controlled progression of serials. It was an opportunity for members of the Squadron to get to grips with understanding how data comms are set up and to start seeing text and e-mail being passed between user terminals in different vehicles. This knowledge of the system has been progressing gradually in recent years but has really become a significant part of the training and exercises over the last year. In parallel with this training, newer members of the Squadron and Regiment were undergoing Basic Signalling Skills (BSS) to start them on their journey to becoming fully trained signal operators. BSS includes core skills such as voice procedure, understanding health and safety and (everyone's favourite) camming up a det (detachment). The Regiment was accommodated in a series of barns for this exercise so good use was made of the Squadron's kerosine heaters.

## **Exercise PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR I (April 2022)**

The new training year was kicked off immediately at the start of April with the first PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR weekend. This is a Regimentally-led comms weekend where the Squadron was deployed into the field to set up the Squadron Command Post (SCP) and ready the detachments for further

taskings. This was the first opportunity of the year to clear out the cobwebs in terms of detachment drills and getting into a routine during a deployment.

## **Exercise DEVIL'S FIRER**

Two weeks later and the Squadron had the opportunity to get on the range down at Lydd on a specially crafted weekend organised by the new-in-post Squadron Senior Permanent Staff Instructor (SPSI) Staff Sergeant Goring. The aim of the weekend was to progress through some basic shoots and develop the firers' skills to the level of passing the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test. The training was very thorough with some excellent coaching and the majority of firers got through the test first time despite some windy conditions.

## **Exercise PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR 2 (May/June 2022)**

The second in the series of Regimental comms exercises saw the Squadron deploying to Stanford training area to build on the skills acquired in the earlier exercise. The level of the tactical scenario was increased and the Squadron SCP was based in a hard FOB [Forward Operating Base] location with a constant stag rotation to provide protection. Once again, the time on the equipment allowed members of the squadron to grow more confident and fight the skill fade that is unavoidable as a reservist.



*Defending the FOB*

## **Individual Training Requirements (ITRs)**

During May and June there were two opportunities for members of the Squadron to attend a military skill ITR weekend. The ITRs have replaced the previous mandatory annual training tests (MATTs) as a means to demonstrate a soldier's efficiency. These weekends were aimed at taking soldiers through basic military skills such as patrolling, defending a harbour, and section attacks, as well as testing out CBRN drills on the ground. The training serials were delivered in such a way that meant that everyone could learn as well as demonstrating what they could do. Aside from a few navigational errors, the weekends went smoothly and everyone was able to achieve the standards they required.



*LCpl Hebborn on radio stag PC2*



## Exercise PHOENIX WARRIOR (July 2022)

Building on the progress made on the ITR weekends, the Regiment was put through its paces in terms of military skills during deployment on Ex PHOENIX WARRIOR at Bramley. This exercise was designed to challenge participants by pushing them through a series of training serials that built up different elements of a scenario. The sections went on missions to receive intelligence from locals, to help out a chemical search team, and to evacuate casualties from a road traffic accident (RTA), amongst other activities. Everyone got involved with enthusiasm, possibly too much in the case of Corporal Kane whose idea of 'sprinkling' water over a pretend heat exhaustion casualty used up about half a bottle of water. The weekend culminated in a sustained attack on the harbour area that had to be held back by a coordinated defence from the full platoon led by our very own Lt Tunnicliff.

## Exercise PHOENIX REACH

The aim of PHOENIX REACH was to test out the Regiment's high frequency (HF) capabilities by communicating from each of the Squadron locations to a detachment in York. 68 Sqn made use of the local area in Walthamstow Forest to set up our antennas and started testing at different heights and power settings to try and get communications to the outstation. After a slow start, and a lot of hard work adjusting the masts and antennas, we began to see some results. One of the most effective antennas turned out to be a low-level dipole built by Staff Sergeant Burke, held up by a 5.4m mast and some cleverly improvised string and tape. Those that were on the exercise learnt a lot about antennas and enjoyed the opportunity to spend time understanding the equipment and how best to use it.



*SSgt Burke proud of his dipole on Phoenix Reach*

## Exercise DEVIL'S ADVENTURE (August 2022)

The Squadron took part in some adventurous and cultural training over a weekend in August. The first element was a visit to Lee Valley Water Park where the Squadron undertook a waterborne assault course followed by white

water rafting on the purpose-built 2012 Olympic course. The event was organised by Corporal Asamoah who had to contend with multiple date and time changes and many levels of risk assessment, but managed to pull it all together and deliver a really fun event. There were definitely some competitive tendencies brought out by the assault course as two teams battled to reach the end first, and also through games of 'cat and mouse' where one competitor was pursued by another with the intention of throwing them off into the water. Luckily no injuries were sustained!

The white-water rafting was an experience for all involved. The civilian instructors built us up fairly slowly to get used to the



*Squadron trip to Lee Valley Water Centre*

course and then, just when we all thought we had the hang of it, upped the ante by turning on additional pumps to increase the current around the course. They then manoeuvred us



*Armed with paddles: IC&CY afloat*

into certain areas to try and surf the eddies, a very precarious position in a raft. Needless to say, the majority of us ended up going for a swim.



*Water Assault Course*



The second part of the weekend saw the sqn return to Lincoln's Inn to take part in an historical treasure hunt led by Signaller Wilde-Evans. See his separate report on this event.

## **Annual Camp Annual Deployment Exercise (September 2022)**

This year's annual camp combined a number of elements including a tactical communication exercise designed to test the boundaries of our capability and a range management cadre to qualify more reservists to be able to conduct military skills training with blank fire and pyrotechnics. In the following paragraphs, Lance Corporal McCarthy gives an overview of the exercise as a whole and Lance Corporal Lui describes the cadre.

### **Exercise PHOENIX FOCUS (ADE 2022) – Lance Corporal McCarthy**

68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron deployed on the shortest, but sadly most unforgettable, Annual Deployment Exercise in living memory on Sunday, 11 September 2022. The prioritisation of Operation LONDON BRIDGE (the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II) required a rapid adaptation of prior



*The Squadron on ADE*

planning, to which the Squadron responded with eager determination.

Four detachments, F68B, F68C, F68D, and F68F, drove to Beacon Barracks, MOD Stafford on the Sunday morning, and experienced the pleasure of reuniting with comrades not seen since the previous year, and the almost unprecedented luxury of single rooms. Reunited again, the Regiment commenced its



*The OC waiting to start Night Nav on ADE*

traditional PACEX (Proving and Adjustment of Communications Exercise) the next morning: checking serial numbers, filling radios, and checking the equipment was functional. Service personnel had the opportunity to operate all radio equipment, to fault find, to practice partly forgotten skills, and to learn from each other.

On the third day, the Regiment had the opportunity to move again, practising movement and convoy drills, and travelling to MOD Nesscliffe, arriving early enough for breakfast and for a remedial and individual navigation exercise in the Shropshire



*Cpl Kane showing off the Squadron Command Post on ADE*

countryside, before some much-appreciated forced rest and a subsequent night navigation exercise. The next day further opportunities were provided to develop military skills, including a planning exercise with Major Monk, a command-and-control exercise with Sergeant Noble, and an observation and memory exercise with Staff Sergeant Aldridge. All activities were non-competitive in honour of the ongoing period of national mourning.

For the next two days, the Regiment deployed all assets simultaneously in a larger and more comprehensive PACEX, and we had the opportunity to practice the SCP related drills that would be prioritised on the exercise in the following week. All



*Taking a break during deployment on ADE*

tents and cam nets were erected, and masts nested. Antennas were checked and assets were inspected.

While at Nesscliffe, the Regimental Chaplain, Padre Trundle, visited and held a thoughtful service of commemoration and reflection on the death of Her Late Majesty, in which he drew our attention to her devotion to the armed forces and reminded us of her lifetime of dutiful service. On the final evening at Nesscliffe, the Commanding Officer poignantly presented Platinum Jubilee Medals to those who had earned them.

On Saturday, the Squadron returned to Whipps Cross Army Reserve Centre (ARC) to turn kit around and prepare for the exercise phase. Training on Sunday was conducted remotely, with regimental PT being conducted by Teams and further training on heat and cold injury being completed individually. On Monday, all service personnel were given the Bank Holiday off, to watch The Queen's funeral and reflect upon the unforgettable scenes we saw.

Having returned to the ARC on Tuesday morning we deployed again on the exercise phase, to Stanford Training Area, where exercising troops had the opportunity to provide robust Communication Net Radio (CNR) comms in support of our Baltic allies as part of an exercise scenario in defiance of the irregular forces who sought to infiltrate and subvert their



*2Lt Gannon and Sig Steele on ADE*

country. The newly developed skills of establishing, operating, and defending an SCP in a remote location were tested, as were drills regarding casualty evacuation and the treatment of Captured Persons.

The exercise concluded with a redeployment to a shared FOB with 36 Squadron before the traditional regimental photograph and a final return to Whipps Cross ARC. Although short, ADE 2022 was both challenging and rewarding, with abiding memories for all who attended.

## **'M Qual' Cadre (ADE 2022)**

### **– Lance Corporal Lui**

The M Qual, short for military qualification, enables qualified service personnel to be able to plan and conduct exercises involving blank ammunition and pyrotechnics. The cadre ran over a week concurrently alongside the Regiment's annual camp (PHOENIX FOCUS) at Nesscliffe Training Area.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my position as a lance corporal is the development and nurturing of personnel under my responsibility, particularly in dismounted military skills. This was observed by my Squadron and when the opportunity was offered to obtain the M Qual by the Squadron Senior Permanent Staff Instructor (SPSI) to further develop my trainer skillset, I immediately snapped up this opportunity and asked, 'Where do you want me, Staff?'

The first two days of the cadre consisted of learning about how to complete the EASP (Exercise Action and Safety Plan). Before I attended the cadre, I had no idea what an EASP was. It turns out that the safety brief we get at the start of every exercise is part of the EASP. The importance of this document was emphasised to us in the first two days and before we progressed onto the practical phase of the cadre, we had to demonstrate we could write an EASP. In short, if something goes wrong, the EASP will let you know what to do and who to turn to for help.

The first two days have certainly given me a greater appreciation of the work undertaken by the training staff before an exercise even takes place. I will certainly pay more attention to the safety brief in future exercises I take part in.

The second part of the cadre was the practical part, delivery of an EASP before and after training takes place. The EASP had to be delivered in a certain format for clarity and consistency. We also learnt how to plan a field exercise, assess, and give feedback to the training soldiers.

One of the most important things I learnt in the second phase was temperance. My SPSI demonstrated this to a high degree during the cadre. A number of things unexpectedly happened, from a smoke grenade setting a small fire in the training area, which the cadre promptly smothered with lots of water from our water bottles, to cows invading the training area. The SPSI and his team maintained their stoicism throughout.

I am happy to report that I successfully completed the cadre and was awarded the M Qual which is now recorded on my JPA record as a competency. I look forward to planning my first exercise and writing my first EASP – helicopter fast-roping comes to mind!

## Through the Year

### Drill Nights

For the most part, drill nights have returned to the regular weekly training in ARCs following the disruption caused by the pandemic in the last few years. Although there have been certain occasions, such as during tube strikes, when our expertise in virtual training has been put to good use. One standout evening this year was a physical training (PT) session led by Corporal Asamoah where he taught the soldiers the basics of hand-to-hand combat out in Lincoln's Inn Fields. This started with the basics of how to fall back properly and how to divert an approach made by an attacker to use their



*Hand to hand combat training during Drill Night*

momentum against them. At the end there was an exercise where two people at a time were selected to go into the centre of a mat on their knees and try to force each other off the mat, with the loser getting 20 push ups.

On another occasion there was a last-minute opportunity



*On board the Chinook*

to join another unit in a Chinook flight around London for five members of the Squadron. Unsurprisingly the places were quickly filled despite the late notice and the lucky participants enjoyed a really memorable experience.

### Operational Shooting Competition

During the early part of the year, members of the Squadron attended a series of Shooting Team weekends with other members of the Regiment with an aim towards competing at the Corps shooting competition. Lieutenant Badar and the SPSI were central in planning and delivering the weekends. The participants were able to build their skills and try out a series of ever more challenging shoots. An account of the team's progress is given below.

### Regimental Shooting Team Training Compiled by Lieutenant Badar, Sergeant Nugent, Corporal Lovett

After a period of 'enforced rest' brought on by Covid-19, 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment Shooting Team was eager to get back on the ranges to refresh what we had learned in previous years and to sharpen our skills.

Team Captain, Lieutenant Coe put together an excellent training package. Over four weekends, we were able to build up to the 3rd (UK) Division's Operational Shooting Competition 2022 (3XX OSC 22) in May. Drawing on participants from all four Squadrons, and supported by Regular and Reserve range staff, this was a true team effort.

More than just shooting at targets, competition level shooting consists of numerous 'matches or assessments', in which a firer is expected to learn when to shoot or move, how many rounds they must accurately fire from which firing position (e.g., standing, kneeling, prone supported and unsupported), whilst being competent and safe with the weapons. Success is not guaranteed, but becoming a better individual marksman is, as well as being part of a specialist team that represents 71 Signal Regiment.

Open to all ranks and experience, the team is always looking for new members from the Regiment, specifically anyone who can commit to further training weekends and wants to be challenged at target shooting over various ranges, with both a rifle and pistol.

Over the training package providing, the Regiment's shooting team was quick to recall their shooting skills and very soon the kinetic training took place. The training team was pleased to see an improvement in the scores sheets as various 'matches' were repeated over and over again. The final training weekend saw emphasis on the pistol, with heart-pounding and fast 'matches' over close quarters. Overall, the training team and the Regimental Shooting team has put in an incredible amount of work, and we look forward to taking part in not only the competitions in 2022, but also to nurture a highly skilled shooting team for the years to follow.

The Regiment's shooting team means so much more than the basic ranges we have to conduct for ITR. Signals is an integral part of the Army, but remember 'Soldier First' and take the opportunity to train to the next level.



Riding training with the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment: L-R: Col Sheriff, Sig Mann, Cpl Kale, Sig Wilde-Evans, Sig Jackson, LCpl Johnson

## Training for the Lanyard Competition



Lt Tunncliffe and Cpl Asamoah on a break from Lanyard Training

This year Second Lieutenant Gannon undertook the challenge of organising the training for the Lanyard Competition on behalf of the Regimental team. A whole series of training weekends were required in order to build up to the competition, which is a 40 mile tab across challenging terrain carrying 15kg. Unfortunately, this year

the event was cancelled as it fell within the period of national mourning. However, the completion of the training itself was no mean feat. Part of the the team visited training areas all over the country including the South Downs, Colchester, and Dartmoor to train for the event. The high temperatures this summer meant that extra precautions had to be taken to limit training to the cooler hours of the day and to include additional water (and ice cream) stops.

## Training for Lord Mayor's Show

Training for the mounted detachment for the Lord Mayor's Show started early this year with a series of riding sessions at Sandhurst. This was followed by further lessons with the Honourable Artillery Company at Flemish Farm in Berkshire. With a new riding master in place and updated requirements for passing out the riders as fit for the parade, it was even more important than ever to get plenty of practice. Signaller Mann was instrumental in organising the training and making sure it all ran smoothly, her overview of the training follows below.

On Saturday, 12 November, the IC&CY will once again ride with the Household Mounted Cavalry Regiment in the Lord Mayor's Show, a very old and cherished tradition, writes Sig Maya Mann.

This will be the first time since COVID-19 that horses take part in the parade and, since the training dates with Sandhurst were confirmed earlier in the year, the Squadron have been looking forward to starting the training. By late May, training finally started at Sandhurst and between six to eight riders were taught by the Sandhurst Riding Master. The spirit was high throughout, and as many riders were completely new to the art of riding, everyone started out with the basics, and by the end of the third allocated lesson, most of the riders were able to trot and some even cantered.

After Sandhurst, lessons with the Honourable Artillery Company followed at Flemish Farm in Windsor. Here the riders were trained on new horses, and some experienced for the first time how it is to ride in a military saddle and with double reins, which caused quite a bit of laughter as well as corrections. However, the Squadron's spirit continued to be high, and everyone continued to improve their riding skills.



Sig Maya Mann enjoys riding training at HMCR

By mid-October, lessons at the Household Mounted Cavalry Regiment had commenced and it was a very exciting morning when six riders for the first time in two years were able to travel to Knightsbridge Barracks to start their training. Everyone had been looking forward to this leg of the journey and were excited to get to know more about the specifics and what the famous Irish Draughts were like. The first lesson flew by, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

There will be lessons every Saturday until the Lord Mayor's Show takes place, which this year will also include riders from the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment, a United States Army equestrian military unit.

**Compiled by Staff Sergeant Ros Whiffen**

# The Band of The (Inns of Court &

Since Autumn 2021, and no longer restrained by Covid restrictions, the band has been able to return to a full programme of engagements.

Once again, the band took part in the Household Division series of training concerts in the Royal Military Chapel (The Guards' Chapel) led by Director of Music, Major David Hammond. A concert in October entitled 'Anniversaries' featured works from composers with important anniversaries in 2021: Saint-Saëns who died in 1921, and Malcolm Arnold who was born in 1921. This was followed by a joint Christmas concert in the Guards' Chapel with the Choir of the Guards' Chapel and their conductor, Martin Ford. Here the audience enjoyed a performance of traditional music including Dance of the Tumblers, Suite from the ballet Les Patineurs, and a festive version of the well-known Post Horn Galop entitled Yuletide Galop featuring two of our Post Horn players.

The finale was Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, a joint feature with choir and band. During this concert Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas WH Bragg, presented two of our Musicians, James Lewis and Mark Farrar, with CO's coins for outstanding contributions to the band and service to the army during Covid.

In February 2022, the band laid on 'Exultate' and in March a rather special concert, 'Jubilee', in honour of Her Majesty's



*Jubilee Concert, the Guards' Chapel 2022*



*Cavalry Memorial Sunday, Hyde Park 2022*

# Royal Yeomanry (City Yeomanry)



Jubilee celebrations. The programme featured Handel's Overture to the Music for the Royal Fireworks, Eric Coates' The Three Elizabeth's Suite and Rogers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma Selection, which was one of Her Majesty's favourite musicals. To conclude the concert season, in August the band dedicated a concert to Vaughan Williams to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of this incredible British composer.

This year the band fulfilled its public duties by accompanying the Band of The Household Cavalry and British Army Band Tidworth on Cavalry Memorial Day in Hyde Park in May. It was a beautiful day for this annual parade of

the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association. The band played under the trees while the old comrades gathered, and then during the parade itself where Prince Edward, Royal Honorary Colonel of The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, took the salute.

In November, the band performed two further important public duties at the Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London and the Remembrance Sunday parade at Lincoln's Inn. During the year the full band and smaller ensembles performed for Sunday worship at the Guards' Chapel in Wellington Barracks, the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols at the chapel at Lincoln's Inn, at Liverpool Street station (raising money for the charity SSAFA), and at many other squadron events.



*RY Brass Quintet in Vietnam 2022*



*Major Hammond Saluting HM The Queen in 2014 when serving with the Household Cavalry (Crown Copyright)*

During the year, members of the band took part in two special engagements. Our brass quintet travelled to Vietnam to support the Defence section of the British Embassy in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City for The Queen's Birthday events. It is always a great honour for the band to represent the Royal Yeomanry and the United Kingdom at international events, projecting the UK's soft power for Defence Engagement. Four more members, themselves ex-regulars, were fortunate to take part in The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour) and the Platinum Jubilee Pageant celebrations. The Director of Music, Major David Hammond and Sergeant Richard Allen both performed mounted with the Band of The Household Cavalry, and Musicians Bruce Douglas and Stewart Bunyan both played with the Band of the Irish Guards.

In July, members of the band undertook their annual training exercise, this year based at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire. During this time the band provided musical accompaniment when HRH Princess Alexandra, Royal Honorary Colonel, attended D (Shropshire Yeomanry) Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry's exercising of the Freedom of Shrewsbury. A parade around the town centre was followed by a reception for the Regiment and guests in the grounds of Shrewsbury Castle. This year's annual training exercise also provided opportunity for the band to put down their instruments and take to the trees during an adventure training day at 'Go Ape' in Woburn Safari Park.

It was an honour and privilege for several members of the band to be on parade for the funeral of HM The Queen in September. Sgt Richard Allen with the Band of The Household Cavalry and Musn Bruce Douglas with the Band of the Irish Guards. Our PSAO, WO2 Stuart Forgie, took part as a member of The King's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard, undertaking vigil duties at Westminster Hall for the coffin of Her Majesty.

The band is delighted to announce the promotion of SSgt Richard Llewellyn to WO2 Band Sergeant Major following his 32 years of dedicated service to the band.

**Major David Hammond**

# The Regimental Museum

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Major Anthony 'Tony' Benbow on the 28 April 2022. He was an Assistant Curator for many years. He had already been a stalwart of the old Inns of Court Regiment from 1960 and later the IC&CY Squadron. After his term as Squadron leader ended, he moved to Regimental Headquarters until he retired from the Territorial Army in 1995 with enough service to merit a bar to his Territorial Decoration (TD).

A while later he joined the Museum, as we were rather short staffed. He will be remembered for his acerbic wit, his planning of a replacement computerised archive system to replace the clunky system running on a Noah's Ark of a machine we had from Dick Gentry's time, and his meticulous attention to sorting out the technical issues in the new system that arose in its early days. Once up and running he was instrumental in transferring the old data from the earlier computer and then adding to it as new items were received. He did much of this work unseen from home and transferred the data by remote program to update the new machine. He also updated our book lists and many other mini projects. A glance through the Accessions Book and the computer will show his handiwork all over the place and the significant extent of his contribution.

In the end prostate cancer took its toll, yet until a year or so before his death he was still attending the Museum on Tuesday evenings to do his bit despite arriving on crutches, his evident pain, catheter problems and hospital visits. Would that I had half his determination and resilience to battle on under such disabilities.

We finally said goodbye to him at the Mortlake Crematorium on the 12 May 2022.

The current staff are Lt Phillip Lenanton, Signaller Robert Wilde-Evans and me. Robert is becoming very proficient in the rather arcane working of the Museum and has accumulated an encyclopaedic fill of knowledge to keep the recruits and visitors on their toes.

Among the gifts received are the following:

Colonel Nigel Pullman gave his Blues uniform, cap and boots to be held for his successors. The new Hon Colonel, Vickie Sheriff,



Tony Benbow

has not yet tried this kit on!

Roger Weetch donated a framed print of the Bloomsbury and Inns of Court Volunteers. The artist is no less than the renowned 18<sup>th</sup> century artist and caricaturist, Thomas Rowlandson. He is also well known for his erotic creations, but I can safely say that none are in our collection!

John Toovey has made another interesting donation – a computer stick of the verbal recollections of Major Stanley Gill MC, his brother-in-law, who had landed with C Squadron on D-Day. Stanley had a rather interesting war. Being a highly efficient staff officer, he was poached by 'Higher Command' in late 1944 and spent the remainder of the war as ADC (aide-de-camp) to General Sir Richard O'Connor in the comfortable surroundings of the Indian Raj.

The sharp eyes of Robert Wilde-Evans spotted a Blues jacket in an auction bearing a tailor's label for 'RGL Ravis'. We are grateful to the trustees for coughing up a modest sum to pay for this find. The significance is that the original owner was Major Ravis who was the creator and first Curator of the Museum.

The work of the Museum continues with regular enquiries from relatives asking for information on those who served with the Inns of Court Regiment or the Rough Riders. There seems to be a general assumption that a regimental museum will hold all the records of all soldiers who have served. The reality is that the records are held by the soldier's unit. If he or she transfers, the records are sent on to the new unit. On the death, retirement or demobbing of a soldier all the records are sent to the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. The information we can give is extracted from unofficial muster rolls, *Vanguard* and its predecessor regimental journals, and what we can locate in the regimental histories.

Quite a few visitors have been shown round the museum and the building. I cannot recall anyone not being impressed with our architecturally very grand surroundings.

I must also thank the Squadron permanent staff for their support and help.

**Major Michael O'Beirne TD**



# The Mystery of the Missing Banner of Templeuve

**O**n 3 September 1944, troops of the Inns of Court Regiment (ICR) liberated the Belgian village of Templeuve. Ties between the village and the Regiment have always remained strong.

In 1972, the people of Templeuve celebrated the English liberators, then represented by Major Bill Wright. On this occasion, the Commander handed over a pennant of the ICR.

Later, on 8 May 1980, when the new war memorial on the forecourt of the church was inaugurated, the local paper SudInfo reports that Colonel Thompson of the Inns of Court donated a banner (he was the last serving Commanding Officer of the Inns of Court Regiment, in 1960, and the first of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry from 1961). This was then installed in the Saint-Etienne Church.

During construction of the new church, the banner was



*The new banner at 10 Stone Buildings*

transferred to the Castle of Templeuve. But when the southern part of the Castle was closed, the banner went missing.

Charles Deligne, then the curator of Tournai Military History Museum, along with the help of volunteers keen on local history, set out to locate the banner. Amongst them was a local man, Gerard Vandenborre, who worked tirelessly to find it. He sadly died this year.

The banner was finally found on the premises of the City of Tournai!

This year, on 8 May, the banner of the liberating Regiment, the Inns of Court, was returned to its initial destination. The occasion was reported in the local press.

We have Serana and David Hutchings to thank for keeping alive our connections with

Templeuve. They continue to make the annual pilgrimage to Templeuve and were present for the re-inauguration of the Inns of Court banner.

The people of Templeuve very kindly made a duplicate of the banner and presented it to Mr and Mrs Hutchings. This has now made its way back to the Museum at 10 Stone Buildings.

**Colonel Vickie Sheriff**



*Serana and David Hutchings with the banner at Saint-Etienne*



*At the Memorial, Templeuve*

# Exercise Devil's Adventure

## an Historical Tour of Central London

It was with a sense of great relief that we are now allowed to start holding and planning activities again – one of which, of course, is the traditional annual Adventure Training weekend. It is a chance to do something deliberately non-military, but with an emphasis on difference and being pushed somewhat out of one's 'comfort-zone', over the weekend of 27 and 28 August 2022, that is exactly what happened.



*Holderness House, home of the Band*

A challenging day of white-water rafting on the Saturday (perhaps covered elsewhere in this Journal) led to lots of laughter, some aching muscles, and a few people (myself included) going 'in the drink' which was followed by a social that evening at Whipps Cross Army Reserve Centre. If Saturday was all about strength and co-ordination, Sunday was all about a different skill set...knowledge of Regimental and Squadron history. It was with some trepidation that I hoped



*The London Troops War Memorial*

everyone had been listening to my military history presentations over the past few months, otherwise this is an activity which has the potential to go rather awry!

With the Squadron broken down into teams, the objective was to set each team eight clues relating to locations in central London which are important to the history of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. I joined Lieutenant Tunnicliff and Staff-Sergeant Whiffen manning the 'Ops Room' at Lincoln's Inn, maintaining 'comms' with each team through Signal (the new 'WhatsApp' for the uninitiated, and highly appropriate for a Signal

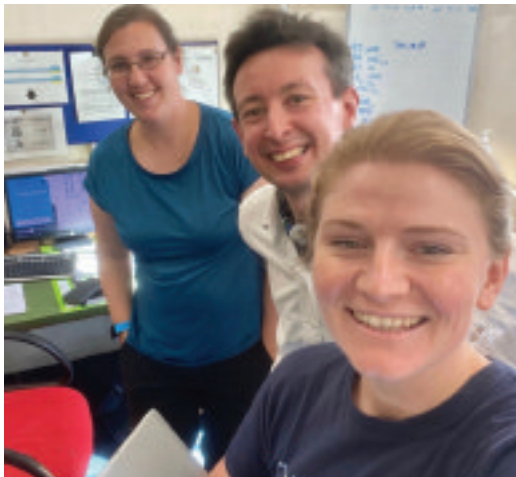


*Team 'Rough Riders' crosses off another location, with added pointing for emphasis*



*Who knew King George III could make people so happy?*

Squadron), and issuing instructions accordingly in between mugs of tea and bites of cold pizza from the previous evening at Whipps Cross. When each team reached the location they thought related to the clue, they had to take a photograph of the team next to said place (generally in the form of a 'selfie') and state why it was important to the unit. Points were awarded based on identifying the correct location and stating the correct reason for being sent to that place and deducted if no correct answers were given.



*The Ops Room team having fun – l to r: SSgt Whiffen, Sig Wilde-Evans, Lt Tunncliffe*

Examples of locations included the statue of HM The King George III near Trafalgar Square (he who gave us our moniker of 'The Devil's Own'), the statue of HM The Queen Mother on The Mall (our Royal Honorary Colonel), the London Troops' War Memorial at the Royal Exchange (having the City of London Yeomanry commemorated upon it); and Holderness House (home of the Regimental Band).



*A very well-framed shot indeed...*

Intrepid gangs of signallers roamed central London gathering up all these clues – with some using a spot of ingenuity and hiring 'Boris Bikes' to get up a bit of speed. Appropriately their team's name was 'The Rough Riders'. Another group, mostly from Recruit Troop and perhaps led astray by a more senior individual, attempted to bend the rules by photoshopping a picture of themselves in front of one of the locations, despite being nowhere near it! Happily a sharp-eyed Lt Tunncliffe in the Ops Room saw through their ruse, and points were swiftly deducted for cheating...though they nearly gained a point for creativity.



*...with bonus points for dramatic posing alongside their trusty steeds*

With aching feet but happy faces, as the eight locations were ticked-off slowly, all groups reconverged on Lincoln's Inn before we decamped to a local pub for a pint and announcement of the scores before everyone dispersed. Now to think up more clues for future years!

**Sig Robert Wilde-Evans**

# Cavalry Old Comrades Parade & Memorial Service

Sig Wilde-Evans bravely represents the Squadron solo at 'Cav Mem' and is warmly hosted by the Royal Yeomanry

Sunday 8 May 2022 saw the return of a physical manifestation of the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Parade and Memorial Service or 'Cav Mem' as it's fondly called. It was the first in several years due to the concerns associated with the recent pandemic.



*Bowler hats and lots of medals on a sunny morning in Hyde Park*

An important date in the diary of every Regular and Reserve cavalry and yeomanry regiment in the British Army, the parade is famous for its marching columns of bowler-hatted and umbrella-carrying serving and retired officers from units past and present. It is, however, not such a well-known fact that Other Ranks are just as welcome as officers – and it was in this capacity that I found myself attending the parade for the first time since joining the Squadron a few years ago. The day certainly started out well: the sun shone and it was quite entertaining to (very easily) spot other individuals on the London Underground heading into 'Town' for the same purpose as myself...the dress code rather gave it away! Upon arriving at Hyde Park Corner station, a short walk through the park led me to the gathering assemblage, with signs informing one where each unit was to form up. The Royal Yeomanry has, for several years, co-ordinated the participation of a number of old Yeomanry units – including the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, so that's where I stood.

Alas, it soon transpired that I was the only serving member of the Squadron attending – though I made up for standing on my own for too long by bumping into a number of old friends from various regiments including the King's Royal Hussars, Queen's Royal Hussars, and Royal Wessex Yeomanry. It was also a delight to see Major David Hammond and the Band of the Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) in attendance: they played a number of splendid pieces both before and during the parade which kept the growing crowd (and waiting soldiers) entertained.

Before too long it was time to form-up. A slightly harassed-looking officer from the Royal Yeomanry handed me the Association Banner and, as I'd never done it before, asked if I'd like to carry it for the parade. Fame and glory awaited! Alas it was not to last, as a few minutes later calmer heads prevailed and a Senior NCO swiftly removed it from my grasp and handed it to someone else. Well, there's always next year...

Upon stepping-off, each unit marched past the saluting dais in turn to its Regimental Quick March: one of those wonderful moments one only experiences once a year and which makes the hairs on the back of one's neck stand up. Of course, under the auspices of the Royal Yeomanry there was no rousing performance of 'Nancy Dawson' for this single Signaller...but again, perhaps another year! We marched to the bandstand for a short but moving Drumhead Service, to officially remember



*Sig Wilde-Evans with the Royal Yeomanry Standard, just before it was taken away from him...*



*The Band of the Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) with Maj David Hammond to the fore*

those of all cavalry regiments – whether horse or armoured, Regular or Reserve, past or present – who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

At the conclusion of the parade, I was intending to just head

home, but having chatted with a few young members of the Royal Yeomanry marching alongside they invited me to 'The Grenadier' for a few drinks. Those of us with a passing interest in good London pubs will know 'The Grenadier' is famous for its old military connections and a wonderful Guards-related theme, with suitably stirring battle pictures and prints on the walls – and even a Sentry Box outside the front door! Tucked away down a small mews near Hyde Park, it was the perfect location for a couple of post-parade G&T's.

I must say I was very impressed by the kind hospitality of the Royal Yeomanry, who made me feel most welcome and ensured I was always part of the group – I couldn't have wished for better hosts.

In all, it was an excellent day out – and one which I would thoroughly encourage other members of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry to attend in the future, especially as an opportunity for a 'social' afterwards. Next year's parade will be held on Sunday 14 May 2023. See you there...?



*The post-parade watering hole: marching is thirsty work...*

*Sig Wilde-Evans's tie and pair of Inns of Court Regiment cufflinks; the latter a recent eBay bargain*



# The Black Brogues

## John Sabini reports on the past year's activities

**A**t last, we have 'got back in the saddle' and started meeting socially after the Covid years.

**February** - We started with a Home Service Force (HSF) Formation Lunch at the Union Jack Club where we had two tables deployed for an informal gathering with pre and post lunch patronage of the bar. We were able to welcome former HSF Sqn member Adam Pamment into the fold. We had not seen him since the days when we all had different hair colours! [Images 1-3]

**July** - Next came a Veterans Day Lunch at Mark Masons Hall in St James's SW1. This was hosted by the Royal Green Jackets' Association London Branch. This was our first involvement with a 'half section' of Black Brogues' deployed. The feedback from attendees was positive, so in the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger 'we'll be back'. [Images M-N]

**September** - The Kings' Royal Rifle Corps' (KRRC) Delhi Lunch was held at the Victory Services Club. Due to the loss of Her Majesty The Queen, this was re-profiled as an informal 'Comrades Lunch' with no formal speeches or a duty bugler. We had 16 Black Brogues there making up 15 per cent of the total attendees. We were made most welcome by the KRRC Association and will attending next year's formal lunch. Delhi is a major battle honour of the KRRC. [Images A - E]

**November** - We have booked a table at the Rifle Brigade Annual Lunch. As this takes place after the publication of Vanguard a report and photos will appear in next year's edition. Planned but thwarted by TFL and rail strikes was a visit to Peace Hall Great Queen St followed by a lunch - we hope to have better luck in 2023.

We were not able to run our marquee event this year, the HSF Patrol '88 Lunch, but we will get this back on track for next year. Most of our activities have been 'off the shelf' through other associations but we will aim to revive some of our own activities for next year, in the planning will be:

- February - the Formation Lunch
- April - HMS Doris/ANZAC Day
- October - Patrol '88 Lunch

Also, a visit to Peace Hall during the summer will be planned, and if access to Highgate Cemetery can be arranged, we plan to visit the grave of Major Knollys City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders). See last year's edition of Vanguard for the story of Major Knollys.

Black Brogue events are open to all, not just ex-HSF members. There is an active group of friends and guests who regularly support the Black Brogues' activities.

If you wish to receive notifications and reports on our activities send an email to John at [john.sabini@btinternet.com](mailto:john.sabini@btinternet.com) and he will add you to his email list.

### HSF Formation Lunch



*Pre-lunch warmers at the Home Service Force Formation lunch*



*HSF table banter*



*Black Brogue supporters, post lunch*

## Veterans' Day Lunch

Lunch is served. Les Clarke makes a determined attack on the hotplate



Pre-lunch drinks: Brian Cook & Les Clarke (middle right of shot) in conversation putting the world to rights, pints in hand

## King's Royal Rifle Corps Lunch

HSF 'O Group' (L-R: Phil Seaton, Major Nick Holder, Philip Gordon)



IC&CY Attendees below left to right: Philip Gordon (HSF) Bob Hooper (68 Sqn/DOSC) John Spencer (Band) Major Nick Holder (HSF) John Sabini (HSF) Phil Seaton (HSF)



Guests (L-R clockwise: Brian Cook, Mick Fairfax, Jude Fairfax, Barbara Cook, Janet Sabini, Gloria Smith)



Guests: situation desperate down to last bottle of white wine! (L-R clockwise: Brian Cook, Mick Fairfax, Jude Fairfax (IC wine?), Barbara Cook)



Karen & Bob Hooper

# 68 (IC&CY) Squadron visits Berkhamsted Trenches

On Saturday 13 November 2021, as part of our Remembrance Day activities, I had the privilege to plan and lead a Squadron visit to Berkhamsted. Those of us well-versed in regimental history will know that the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps embarked en-masse for this location during the Great War, with the objective of training members of the Regiment in the essentials of warfare before they were commissioned into other units on active service.

I had performed a 'recce' the week before – and with the 'six P's' (or five P's, for the delicate of hearing) resonating in my mind it's just as well I had because, though our simple but moving war memorial is easy to find, the fascinating and historically important trench system is not!

Assembling in the car park, just before 1100hrs the Squadron formed-up opposite the memorial and a wreath was laid. The Officer Commanding, Major Cahill, read that all too well-known verse from Binyon's 'For the Fallen', and the Last Post was played. After this, I spoke for a few minutes about our war memorial and Colonel Errington (the Commanding Officer instrumental in the successful move from Lincoln's Inn to Berkhamsted and whose ashes were scattered nearby after his death). I read out the names and citations of the three members of the Inns of Court OTC who (as officers in other regiments) went on to be awarded the Victoria Cross – all of them posthumously on the Western Front.



*Reading out the names and VC citations of some famous members of the Inns of Court OTC*



*The Inns of Court OTC Memorial at Berkhamsted*

After this, it was time to head over to the trench network a short distance away through some trees and into a clearing, on some gently sloping ground at the edge of the golf course. It's not especially well-signposted, which is rather a shame as this is one of the few places in the entirety of the UK in which any length of Great War era trenches still exist – and one can simply step down into them.

Before physically exploring, I presented a briefing on the wider context of trench warfare on the Western Front and the Inns of Court OTC's role during the Great War, additionally highlighting some of the features of an effective trench system, why our forebears were here, and what they were doing on this very patch of ground. Having given this background knowledge, everyone was free to wander through the remains of the trenches (communication, front-line, and saps are all still very obvious even after all this time).



*Lt Sekhon keeps the troops enthralled with some animated discussion*

They were able to reflect on past members of our unit too, two thousand of whom made the ultimate sacrifice. On a personal level, it was a delight to impart some knowledge and military history to my friends and comrades in the Squadron: we are a special unit with some important traditions, and we should never forget those who have gone before us at 10 Stone Buildings and beyond.

**Signaller Robert Wilde-Evans**



# Operation UNITY

## Signaller Mizray recalls supporting the Commonwealth Games

Earlier this year, the trawl for Operation UNITY, started. This was Defence's assistance to the Commonwealth Games. I promptly volunteered and a few months down the line, the mobilisation and deployment process began.

On 6 July, I reported to Basingbourne Barracks, to commence with the mobilisation process and ensure everything was in order. Once all the usual paperwork and admin issues were sorted out, it was a case of, wait until your unit informs you of your deployment date.

Finally, on 23 July, I found myself for the umpteenth time on the M11, heading up North. Although being a passenger this time around was more pleasant.

As expected, on arrival at Nesscliffe training camp for the RSOI (Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration), it was a hive of activity, with more cap badges than I knew existed. But the signage and numerous staff dotted about, meant you weren't short of answers for long.

And as quickly as we'd arrived, we were off to our respective taskings in disparate locations, the following afternoon.

I quickly learnt, as the days proceeded, to expect the unexpected, that way, I thought, my assumptions will be more measured, as they were at least tempered with a dose of reality.

The vast majority of the Armed Forces contingent consisted of the Venue Assistance Force (VAF), followed by ceremonial duties and a sprinkling of Venue Liaison Officers (VLOs).

All personnel were assigned a task group, be it East, West, North, South, Central or London. They were also assigned a venue and location for their accommodation. In my case, it was Task Group East, NEC Birmingham, accommodated at Gamecock Barracks, and I was part of the VAF.

Initially, our task group consisted of three teams, but this was soon revised to two teams of about thirty personnel each. Team 1, of which I was part, was led by Sergeant Kelly, from the Army Air Corps. She found herself in the unusual position of being in command of two majors, a lieutenant, a WO1 and WO2, respectively.

However, we had already been told at the RSOI that this was a unique operation and rank would play no part. So, all concerned parties took it in their stride and there were no ill-feelings.

Our first day on the ground was naturally consumed by venue orientation, briefs and mandatory training on the various tools and equipment we'll be required to use in fulfilling our assigned duties.

As with most security operations, the defence-in-depth model was just as applicable, when it came to Op UNITY. The main premise of the model is simple, should an adversary breach one layer, then they'll have to contend with the next one, which in turn, would hopefully mitigate the problem. How many layers a particular model has, is contingent on context and resource constraints.

The Perimeter Search Areas (PSAs) we manned, were the last layer of defence. A successful breach would have provided an adversary with unfettered access to most areas of the NEC.

Invariably, this would have had potentially devastating consequences, and the inevitable bad press and recriminations that would doubtless follow.

Failure on our part, therefore, simply wasn't an option, and it didn't take much in terms of motivation, to focus the mind to the crucial task at hand. It was, literally, a matter of life and death.

Once all the security measures were put in place, there was a fortress feel to the complex. A concerted effort was nevertheless made to make it as genial as possible. On our part, this constituted being as affable as practicably possible, whilst remaining vigilant. After all, the Games are meant to be a fun and family friendly experience, not an ominous one.

Thankfully, the Games proceeded and concluded, without any incidents that would have required active intervention by the various security contributors present on the ground. Testament of the combined efforts of everyone involved, military or otherwise. A truly multi-faceted and multi-agency endeavor.

In retrospect, UNITY was an apt name for the Operation. It captured, I feel, the essence of the Games and even the main purpose of the organisation itself. Which is essentially, bringing disparate groups together.

Our mission was simple, to ensure the games run smoothly, safely and securely, and in that regard, we succeeded in spades. I have now long parted with my Op UNITY t-shirt, lanyard and various lapel labels that I managed to pick up along the way. But the friendships garnered, memories made and the knowledge that I was once part of the Operation to ensure a successful Games, are for me, more than enough.

Looking back, I'm glad I put my name forward when the trawl for the games came out. I consequently met and worked with individuals, who have done, and continue to do, incredible things in defence of their country, and were generous with both their time and advice.

It was a joy, to see different government agencies and services, work together, hand-in-glove, with the customary self-interest's, parochial politics and tribalism, firmly cast aside.

The standout highlights for me were meeting, Dame Kelly Holmes and my fellow Tanzanian's, who were a mixture of delegation members and competitors, however brief.

In closing, it would be unbalanced of me to pretend everything went well. I'm sure the numerous shortcomings that were identified, will be factored into the next iteration, and solutions found. On a personal note, it was disappointing not being able to visit the National Memorial Arboretum, and the chance to watch the rugby 7's never materialized. But we had to be objective and accept there were more pressing matters at hand.

All considered, it was worthwhile.



*Sig Mizray (left) meets Dame Kelly Holmes at the Games*

# Exercise PHOENIX KNOWLEDGE

## or The Devil's Own on the Western Front

In August 2022, 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment conducted a Battlefield Study weekend to Ypres and its environs, and locations of the Western Front in World War One. The objective was to learn and understand more about warfare at this time – but also enhance our collective knowledge about the parts played in this terrible conflict by our antecedent regiments, including the Essex Yeomanry, the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry, Middlesex Yeomanry, the Kensington Regiment and of course both the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps (OTC) and City of London Yeomanry.

Principal planning was undertaken by Staff Sergeant Carl Crane of 265 Squadron – like me, he is very much a military history 'buff' (some may say 'nerd'!). He also arranged our guides: Tim Rayson (an old 'Sharpshooter') and Colonel Rhydian Jones who is also the husband of Lt Col Emma Bruce, 71 Sig Regt's Commanding Officer. Both



*Sig Mann and Sig Wilde-Evans lay the IC&CY wreath at the Menin Gate*

individuals clearly knew their subject inside-out and were an absolute asset from start to finish.

In the organisational stages, each Squadron required a representative to co-ordinate the admin; I offered to help out and, in the absence of any officers or NCOs from IC&CY attending, I swiftly found myself in charge of a group of eight signallers from 68 Sqn for the weekend! Away from a Friday to Sunday, we were requested to assemble on the Thursday evening at Regimental Headquarters (Bexleyheath) for a briefing and Q&A session, followed by a drink in the Mess for those who wanted. However, an early start the next morning meant most got their heads down in good time; sports mats and sleeping bags in the Drill Hall worked very well, especially as it provided cool quarters in what shaped out

to be one of the hottest weekends of the year...

I was keeping an anxious eye on my charges, we were one short that night but I had been promised by the individual concerned



*68 Sqn looking smart as carrots – so smart that an ex-member of the unit couldn't resist being associated with us!*



*Preparing for the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate*

that he would be there before the coaches departed for Dover at 0630hrs the next morning. In his eagerness he arrived at something approaching 0200hrs, which briefly concerned the Fire Picket as they didn't know how to get him through the front gates, but in the end all was well and a full complement of The Devil's Own embussed for the channel accompanied by a glorious sunrise.

The journey to Dover and subsequent crossing were uneventful, though we were all delighted to unexpectedly receive vouchers for free meals on board the ferry by the staff at Passport Control. When asked why and told "Because we like you", and therefore fearing there had been some horrible mix-up with a coachload of angelic schoolchildren, it was no-

further-questions-asked and onto the ship PDQ. A hearty breakfast followed, accompanied by discussion amongst the more thoughtful signallers about the comparison between uniforms of the British Army and the Royal Navy. We all waved as a small French warship sailed past, but they didn't wave back...

From Calais it was on to Ypres, our base-of-operations for the next few days and site of our accommodation – a hostel in the very centre of the city. While the property was in a prime location, it had clearly just undergone a huge refurbishment, and the smell of fresh paint hung ever-present in the air. It had the impression of being built for people rather smaller than ourselves; even four to a six-person room was distinctly snug – and without air-conditioning on a blazing weekend, things had the potential to become interesting...especially as Signaller Metin threatened to unleash his leopard-print 'mankini', which rather stunned one of our companions from 36 Squadron, who couldn't leave the room fast enough. Thankfully, however, with a strong WiFi signal, all was forgiven and we never saw even a hint of animal-print clothing. Orders were issued for the application of lots of sun-cream and hats to be worn: the latter gave me the perfect excuse to bring out a straw Panama complete with hat-band in SqN colours. Never let it be said that, whatever the activity, IC&CY signallers don't know how to cut a dash when out and about.



*Col Rhydian Jones and Tim Rayson, our exceptional guides, at Langemark German Cemetery*



*The Royal Engineers' Memorial at Railway Wood*

Our schedule over the next few days was certainly packed with fascinating and thought-provoking activities. From visiting Hooze Crater Museum and the crater itself and the Royal Engineers' Memorial at Railway Wood, to then learning a little about the Essex Yeomanry and their actions on the Western Front – where in one engagement both their Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command were killed in action. Over the course of the weekend, we also visited the German cemetery at Langemark (important for an otherwise Allied-specific tour). It was very moving – especially when one learned that upon each stone was between six and twelve names, not just one. From there we took in a visit to the museum at Zonnebeke – an exceptional location with



*Tyne Cot Cemetery*



several very professionally put-together displays in addition to an outdoor and underground trench network which we were free to wander round at our own pace.

Saturday evening was the highlight of the weekend, as we had been invited to witness – and participate in – the famous Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. The scale of the Gate and the sheer number of names inscribed upon it must be seen to be truly understood, and the atmosphere at 2000hrs every evening is unlike anything I have previously experienced. Lt Col Bruce and two representatives from each Squadron were asked to lay a wreath of poppies on behalf of their units. Signaller Mann and I had the honour of doing so for the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry; though of course we did not fight as a formed regiment during the Great War, over 10,000 young men were trained by the Inns of Court OTC between 1914 and 1918, and of that number, over 2,000 never came home.

Sunday saw us head out to Zonnebeke and a walk to Tyne Cot Cemetery; an unfortunately vast final resting place for so many young soldiers. Here a Regimental Service was held before we departed for Poperinghe to visit the fascinating Talbot House (otherwise known as ‘TOC H’). It was founded in December 1915 by a British Army chaplain, the Reverend P.T.B. Clayton. Known to his friends as ‘Tubby’, Clayton’s mission was to create a rest and recreation centre for soldiers to relax and forget about the horrors of war for a while; it was also important for deliberately being designed as an ‘Every-Man’s Club’ – from Private Soldier to General Officer, all were welcome and rank brought no special privileges



*The New Zealand Memorial at Messines*

*Top: Part of the trench system at Zonnebeke*

*Above: Rows upon rows of memorial stones at Langemark German Cemetery*

*Below: Talbot House: the Reverend ‘Tubby’ Clayton’s refuge for weary soldiers*





*Name upon name at the Menin Gate*

once one stepped through Tubby's front door. Today it is a superb museum which tells the story of Tubby and his noble mission. It is well worth a visit if you are ever in the area.

From this, our penultimate location, we headed to a much more sombre place a few minutes' walk away: the execution cells in the local jail, where a number of Allied personnel were tried, convicted, and shot for crimes committed during the war. Whether or not they were innocent or guilty is not the purpose of this narrative; we paused to remember them all the same. And with that, our final location of the weekend had been concluded; it was time to embus for Calais and home. Unfortunately, on the way back our little convoy of two coaches were separated. The first coach (containing 31 and 36 Sqns) put its' foot down and made an earlier ferry, which we missed by the skin of our teeth, much to the annoyance of several. This did, however, mean more time in the duty-free shop to stock up on the ubiquitous Toblerone and alcohol, which helped to pass the time most enjoyably – as did a very impressive fight between some nearby seagulls, which kept everyone glued to the windows of the coach for some time

and may have led to some bets being placed on likely winners...

The ferry crossing back to Blighty was as uneventful as on the way over, though Sig Metin almost got left behind at the ferry terminal, which nearly caused the CO a minor heart-attack. However, everyone made it aboard and fresh vouchers for yet more free meals again made an appearance so there definitely weren't any complaints. A quick drive back to Bexleyheath saw the declaration of ENDEX being made and dispersals accordingly.

All members of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry who attended the weekend acquitted themselves admirably and were a credit to the unit. Squadron ties were worn on all appropriate occasions by the male signallers – with brooches fashioned out of our 'Devil's Own' collar badges for the ladies – and everyone got something out of this very worthwhile and fascinating weekend. On a personal level it was an honour to help make it happen, and we can only hope for more such events in the future now life is returning to normal.

**Sig Robert Wilde-Evans**

# Normandy Revisited



*Avenue and view*



*Memorial explainer*



*Memorial with flags at half mast*



*Denis and Ian on the Bench*



*The Statue and the View*



*The Bench Badge*

To keep the link with the French alive before the big push in June 2024 for the 80th D-Day Memorial, a three-man recce group set off from Portsmouth on the morning of 9 September 2022, landed at Caen and proceeded along the coast road. (Map reading was on the basis that if you keep the sea on your right you will surely reach your destination.) Suitably settled into our accommodation it was time to discuss tomorrow's plans over a pichet or two of the local *vin ordinaire*. Saturday began with a visit to the Normandy Memorial Site. It's very impressive to see it in person, although I would choose

your visit in the warmer months as it is situated on the high ground overlooking the landing beaches.

We took the opportunity to see the stone bench donated by the Inns of Court, in memory of those who had landed between June and September 1944.

Midday allowed us to RV with Mayor Pascal Thiberge and Patrick Lavarde (the President's Representative) at a local restaurant. They certainly seemed very well clued up on what was going on in Britain [ie, the energy and cost of living crises, high inflation, the finale to a marathon Conservative leadership battle and the death of our beloved Queen - Ed]; though Patrick had just been



*Eddie and the Mayor*



*The Graye-sur-Mer ceremony*



*Cheers! At the Mairie*

*Denis, Ian and entente cordiale at the Mairie*



given the job of sorting out France's energy issues for the coming months which was involving a 15-hour working day and a 15 per cent cut of energy use by the French. We were later joined by the former Regimental Surgeon and his wife to add to the topics of conversation.

In the afternoon we went first to the Inns of Court Memorial at Graye-sur-Mer where the Mayor laid flowers. The wreath we had sent out in June was re-laid. We gave a quick rendition of the Marseillaise and God Save the King, then we headed back to the Mairie for a toast.

Afterwards, we travelled on to Jerusalem Crossroads for a similar wreath laying ceremony followed by yet another toast

where the 88-year-old Mayor Emile Touffaire accompanied our rendition of God Save the King on his accordion.

The evening was spent hosting Karine, the Mayors' co-ordinator, and someone well known to the Inns of Court. She told us that she had recently had a four-day trip to Bexhill on Sea including a day shopping in Portsmouth.

There is no doubt the French gave us a great welcome and are very keen for the Squadron, Band and Association to come out in June 2024 which is now our main effort.

**Eddie Marshall**

*photos by Eddie Marshall and Brian Sanders*

# Death at East Dereham

Denis Durkin looks back at the Rough Riders' connection with this Norfolk town

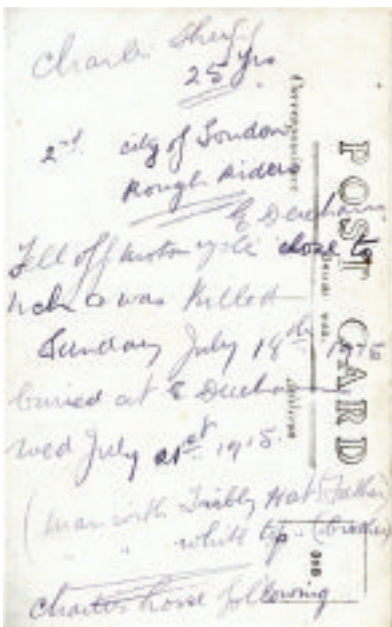
At the Rough Rider Annual Service of Remembrance in October 2021, the new Honorary Colonel, Vickie Sheriff, was interested to see one of the World War One victims was her namesake: Trooper Charles A Sheriff (he sometimes appears as Sherriff) and contacted me for details. At first, I thought he was one of the victims of a Zeppelin raid on East Dereham, Norfolk, that happened on 8 September

coffin. It clearly made a spectacle as this photo was made into a post card.

The Zeppelin raid on East Dereham was carried out by Z14 under the command of Kapitanleutnant Alois Böcker, who survived the war (albeit as a prisoner of war, having crashed his airship L33 on the night of 23 September 1916 and been arrested, with his 21 crew, by a lone policeman on a bicycle). Z14,



The funeral of Rough Rider Trooper Sheriff in July 1915, his horse followed on

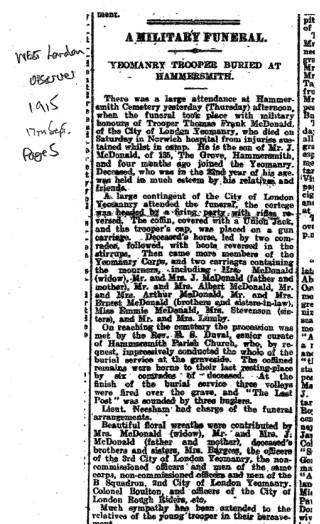


Notes on the reverse of the funeral photo post card

1915. But, on checking dates, I found he died earlier on 15 July 1915. With the help of Phil Seaton, we established that Tpr Sheriff died in a motorcycling accident. Writing to the East Dereham Museum on another regimental matter (see below) Robena Brown, one of the trustees, kindly sent me a copy of a photograph taken of his funeral. His father (in the black trilby), his brother (in the white hat), and his horse followed his

with patrolling the east coast in case of a German invasion. In 1916 they lost their horses and became cyclists. Z14 came in low, circled round and dropped one high explosive and 14 incendiaries. The only casualty was a cow (name unknown) plus some broken windows in St Nicholas's Church. Sadly, the remaining bombload (70 in all) did far more damage, starting many fires (which the Rough Riders helped to put out). It claimed six victims including two Rough Riders – Lance Corporal Pomeroy and Trooper

with Z11 and Z13, had set off from their base at Nordholz, near Cuxhaven, on the north German coast to bomb London. Z14 developed engine trouble and Böcker, made the decision to abort and return to base, but decided to drop their bombload on Norwich on the way back. Unfortunately his navigation was not 100% (what's new!) and he unloaded the lot on East Dereham, some 18 miles to the east. It was a normal Wednesday evening, dusk was just falling (daylight saving was not introduced until May 1916), and people were enjoying the good weather. The 2/1st Rough Riders were based at Bylaugh Park, mounted and tasked



Tpr McDonald's funeral made the news





*Zeppelin raid: where L/Cpl Pomeroy was killed*

McDonald, and four residents, one of whom, Harry Patterson, had only nipped out to post a letter. Trooper Parkinson was wounded but recovered, contrary to local press reports at the time, and several other locals were injured.

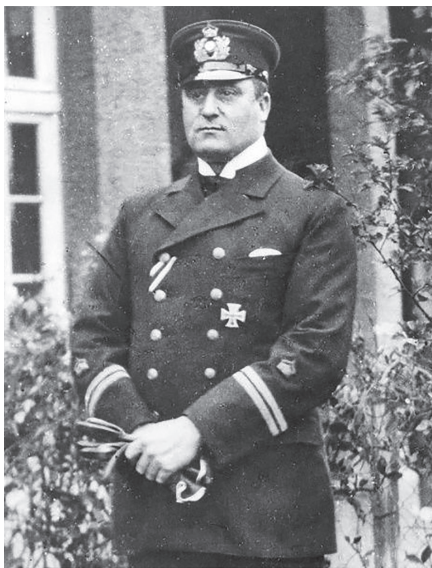
Following this raid, every time a Zeppelin was sighted, which in those days was frequently, 50 men with rifles were paraded to immediately open fire at the intruder. The rifle of the time

backwards. Many regimental members attended, and a long article appeared in The West London Observer on the 17 September.

East Dereham had not had such a sad event since 1799. The bell tower of the church was used as an overnight prison for French Prisoners of War (POWs) being transferred from Great Yarmouth to Normans Cross (site of the first specially built POW camp on British soil) under the charge of the East Norfolk Militia. On 6 October 1799, a French officer, Jean de Narde, managed to escape from the tower and, being unable to escape from the churchyard due to the large number of guards on duty hid in a tree. He was spotted and when he refused to come down and surrender was shot dead by a sergeant of the Militia. At the time the residents thought strongly that this had not been necessary. He is buried in the churchyard and on a memorial stone erected in

his memory in 1858 it says "Once our foes but now our allies and brethren".

Jean de Narde's link is commemorated by a road named after him.



*Kapitän-Leutnant Alois Böcker.*

(SMLE – or the Short Magazine Lee-Enfield variant) had an effective range of 6,000 feet (or 1.8 kilometres).

John Newman MVO, son of Corporal Charles Newman of C Squadron, the Inns of Court Regiment, kindly agreed to take photographs of the graves of Sheriff and Pomeroy, both interred in East Dereham churchyard which is how we discovered that Pomeroy had been buried as a 25th County of London Cyclist which he never had been. In fact, the Rough Riders still had their horses at the time. This error had been noticed at the time (1925) and the entry corrected but the information was not passed on. This is why I contacted the local museum.

Trooper Thomas McDonald was buried in Hammersmith Cemetery on 16 September 1915, with full military honours including three rifle volleys and the Last Post. His horse also attended, with Tpr McDonald's boots in the stirrups, facing



# Devil's Own Regatta

**Major Jane Dodd reports on this year's salty sea -dog antics which took place on Friday 29 April 2022**

There were a marvellous eleven crews (including IC&CY, Royal Yeomanry, Household Cavalry Regiment and Royal Armoured Corps) competing this year for the ultimate prize of the Devil's Own Decanter – newly acquired as a replacement for the much-loved Carden Decanter which went missing in action some time ago. (If anyone does know of its whereabouts, please let us know – no questions asked!) The weather was perfect. Plenty of sunshine and a reasonably steady breeze to speed us on our way. There were several false starts and turnarounds due to the urge to achieve perfection at the off. This competitive drive was merited by the fact that the boats finishing in the top three had only three points between them.

In the end, it was the Yellow Mermaid expertly skippered by Major Rupert Sawyer and crewed by Captain George Cordle

that swept to victory, beating Matthew Douglas and Jeremy Field into second and Major Andrew Collins, Major Jane Dodd and Gwynne Lawrence into third.

The Rusty Shackle went to Major James Evans and his valiant scratch crew – who all seemed to have the most glorious time. The Devil's Own Regatta is now a combined effort with the Royal Yeomanry under the official title of Ex SEA FOX. Huge thanks go to Lt Col Charlie Field and the Yeomanry Sailing Association for organising and all those loyal supporters (particularly Major Anthony Jewell and Angela) for providing shore assistance during the day and with the splendid dinner arrangements.

**Major Jane Dodd**



*The Winners - Major Rupert Sawyer and Captain Georg Cordle*



*The Devil's Own flag flies high!*



*Major James Evan's team taking pride in the Rusty Shackle*

## **Prizes:**

**Devil's Own Decanter** (Overall Winner) – Major Rupert Sawyer, IC&CY

**Gentry Goblet** (Highest placed Regimental team) – Major Paul Chishick RHG/D, Household Cavalry

**Rusty Shackle** (Last placed team) – Major James Evans, IC&CY

## **Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Yacht Squadron**

**Admiral:** Maj A Collins

**Commodore:** Hon Col Vickie Sheriff

**Vice Commodore:** Maj R Sawyer

**Rear Commodores:** Lt Col J Manley, Lt Col S McMenemy, Maj J Evans, Maj J Dodd, Lt Col C Field



*Major Paul Chishick accepting the prize for Highest Placed Regimental Team*

# Final Parade of the London Territorial and Auxiliary Units Old Comrades' Association

**O**n Sunday 3 October 2021, by kind invitation of Major (Ret'd) Edward Marshall, I was privileged to participate in the final parade of the Federation of Old Comrades' Association of the London Territorial and Auxiliary Units... a title one really needs a full breath for before attempting to pronounce!

Formed in 1934, like so many old associations of this type, sadly numbers have been dwindling for a few years and so it was decided that the 2021 parade was to be the last for an Association with a most worthy and honourable cause.

Gathering at the London Troops' War Memorial outside the Royal Exchange, the parade was a fascinating mix of members from a number of those famous London-based regiments – including the London Scottish, the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) and, of course, the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry.

A short service of commemoration was held at the Memorial before we all formed up on the road to march to Armoury House for an inspection, another service, and lunch at that famous City location. The parade was led by the Band of the HAC, and it was really quite special to march through the City of London to some very stirring martial tunes – stopping traffic as we did so, turning many heads, and gathering quite a crowd on the way. The Parade Marshals also kept a close eye on proceedings, and it was with some trepidation that I soon

found myself in the centre file of the front rank. Happily I kept in step all the way – though this was probably mostly due to the enthusiastic bass drummer a short distance ahead rather than my innate sense of timing and prowess in L/Sgt Hugill's Drill lessons around the square at Lincoln's Inn....

Left-wheeling through the front gates at Armoury House with 'bags of swank' we halted, right-faced, and got into Open Order for inspection by Major-General Paul Nanson CB, CBE – a distinguished Fusilier and until relatively recently Commandant, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. After a few words with those on parade we all fell out to attend the second Service of Remembrance, which was most moving and again accompanied by the Band of the HAC. Like our own band, they showed the versatility of their musicians who can go from military marches to hymns all in the space of a morning's work.

Upon the conclusion of the service, we filed upstairs for lunch... but this, alas, is where our luck ran out. By some unfortunate oversight on the part of our hosts, the IC&CY contingent hadn't been booked in and so Maj Marshall and I found ourselves in a bit of a predicament. However, the 'Devil's Own' are made of sterner stuff: after a couple of covert pints in the HAC bar ('The Sutling Room') we repaired to the In & Out Club on St James's Square for a most enjoyable lunch and a bottle of wine. So ended a very special and fascinating day, in which I was honoured to be involved.

**Sig Robert Wilde-Evans**



*Major Edward Marshall (right) and Signaller Wilde-Evans*



*Hats and umbrellas lodged at the In & Out before lunch*

# Cecil Wotton 'Dick' Toovey CB, CBE, MC & Bar Private to Lieutenant-General: a brave and distinguished officer and gentleman (1891-1954)

Major Michael O'Beirne, Hon Museum Curator, traces the illustrious life of a former recruit of the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps

C&CY and its predecessors can properly be proud of the quality of its intake. Few other units can boast three alumni who have made it to Prime Minister: namely Pitt the Younger, Clement Attlee and Harold Macmillan. This article describes the rise of Dick Toovey from a recruit in the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps (ICOTC) to an acting Lieutenant-General and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief North-Western Army, India. John, his son, has most of his original service personnel documentation and some diaries. Thus, it has been possible to trace practically all his postings and promotions with unusual precision. Toovey was born on 17 April 1891 in Berkhamsted. His parents were John and Blanche. He was educated at Malvern College between 1905 and 1910 but did not join the College's Officers' Training Corps (OTC).

However, before leaving the College in December 1910, he joined the ICOTC, possibly with a military career in mind. After leaving Malvern he was articled to his father, a solicitor practising in Lime Street, London EC3. Our War Record states that Toovey enlisted in A Company on 18 November 1910 as a Private. This was only about 18 months after the 23rd Middlesex (Inns of Court) Rifle Volunteer Corps (ICRV) had been re-designated an OTC by order of Edward VII in 1909. The official OTC records are unavailable, but we know that his regimental number was 519 (an unusually low number reflecting his early entry) and that he was later commissioned into the 9th Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) as a Second Lieutenant. Toovey's Commission was gazetted in The London Gazette on 3 May 1913. One suspects that the ICOTC gave him a preference for military life over the drudgery of the law for three years! I must say that I too have been tempted from time to time when the 'delights' of conveyancing have proved to be less than entirely gripping. Upon the outbreak of the First World War, Toovey was



mobilised and joined his regiment on active service. His career then took a significant change when he was seconded on probation from the Middlesex Regiment to the Indian Army where he was promoted to Lieutenant and was attached to the 82nd Punjabi Regiment on 23 August 1915. This secondment was confirmed on 3 April 1917 but he remained on probation (as did other new subalterns). During 1915, Toovey was sent first to the North-West Frontier of India and then to Mesopotamia as a Brigade Machine Gun Officer. Toovey served in this theatre for over three years soldiering from Basra up to Baghdad and beyond. During this period, he was mentioned in dispatches. On his return to India in 1919 he took part in the major Waziristan and Mahsud Frontier campaigns of 1919-20. Promotion to Captain followed on 3 May 1917 but he still remained in the Middlesex Regiment, though

he continued to serve with the Punjabis during these wars. Confirmation of his transfer to the Indian Army was made on 3 April 1918. His promotion to second-in-command of the 82nd Punjabis as an Acting Major was made on 9 December 1919. However, he relinquished this acting role on the 2 June 1920 and reverted to Captain. That is what happened to numerous members of the Armed Forces upon the termination of hostilities, when the Army necessarily had to contract to meet a much-reduced peacetime role. Mention has been made of his NW Frontier campaigns. During service in Waziristan Toovey was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. The Supplement to The London Gazette records as follows: "...on the 21 December 1919, at Palosina camp on Black Ridge Hill. When in command of the battalion, which was driven off the ridge by the enemy, he gallantly organised and led a counter-attack under heavy enemy fire, though himself wounded. He displayed conspicuous coolness and set a fine example to his command".

He also earned mentions in dispatches in 1918 and 1920 during further NW Frontier campaigns.

His promotion to the rank of Captain in the Indian Army was finally confirmed on 3 February 1923 but backdated to 3 May 1919.

Toovey was Adjutant of the 82nd Punjabi Depots in Jhansi and Lucknow in 1922. He attended the Staff College, Quetta, in the NW Frontier region, during 1925, graduating in December. As so often happens after Staff College training, his next post was a staff job and he became a Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General at GHQ India in November 1927. That was followed, from 1 April 1929, as Brigade Major for the 5/1st Punjab Regiment until 1931. In November that year the Regiment was part of the 2nd (Rawalpindi) Infantry Brigade in actions based on Fort Sandeman, Baluchistan.

Here Toovey took part in the Khajuri Plain operation and in 1932 was awarded a Bar to his earlier MC and was again mentioned in dispatches.

The following year Toovey returned to staff duties at the War Office in London as a General Staff Officer (GSO) 3rd Grade (Intelligence) and held this appointment until 1937. His promotion to Major was on 3 May 1933. Taking 20 years to reach Major sadly was an aspect of peacetime soldiering but thankfully he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on 1 January 1935. Two years later he was appointed GSO 2nd Grade at the War Office.

In 1937 he returned to India and took command of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Punjab Regiment. He took his battalion to the 1937 operations in Waziristan and was again mentioned in dispatches for his work there. Unfortunately, promotion

continued to be slow. Toovey's Confidential Report in 1938 records the excellence of his abilities and work but regrets that further promotion was highly unlikely due to the, then, large number of senior officers. Fortunately, that prediction proved to be way off the mark thanks to the impending outbreak of war. On the 27 April 1939 he was promoted to Colonel and took the role of Assistant Adjutant-General (Mobilisation and Recruitment) at GHQ India. In April 1940 he moved to the Middle East where he became Senior Liaison Officer at Middle East Command as a GSO 1st Grade to General (later Field-Marshal) Wavell, then Commander-in-Chief, Middle East and was yet again mentioned in dispatches. His next appointment was Brigadier in charge of lines of communications for the Sudan Defence Force, set up early in 1941, to invade the Eritrea Sector of Italian East Africa, in what is modern Ethiopia. Formed around two Indian Army Divisions, the Force drove the Italians back from their defensive positions at Keren and Amba Alagi, near the northern tip of Ethiopia, about 700km north of Addis Ababa. The Italians under

the Duke of Aosta surrendered in May 1941.

Toovey did not stay long in Eritrea, being recalled to India to become Deputy Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General at General Headquarters India on 24 October 1941. He was promoted to Acting Major-General and was awarded the CBE on 30 December 1941. In 1943 he was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) and was promoted to the rank of substantive Major-General on 2 November 1943. Two weeks later, aged 52 and with 30 years' Army service, he was appointed General Officer Commanding Rawalpindi District. This was a static command in India's North-Western Army covering part of the North West Frontier.

On 1 June 1945, Toovey was further promoted to Acting Lieutenant-General and took command of the whole North-Western Army on 1 June 1945. The family have a group photograph of him at about this time with several most distinguished luminaries at an Army Commanders' Conference, which included Field-Marshal Slim. [IMAGE 3] Sadly, the post was short-lived for it was taken over four months later, on 22 October, by Lieutenant-General Sir Richard O'Connor. He had been 'relieved of command' (as they say tactfully) by Field-Marshal Montgomery and packed off to India. On the same day, Toovey reverted to Major-General and went back to command the Rawalpindi District. There he remained until 15 April 1946. Toovey retired from the Indian Army on the 8 January 1947, aged 55.

He and his family left India in the early summer of 1946 and settled in Godalming, Surrey. Despite retirement, Toovey remained active. He became

a Commissioner for St John's Ambulance in Surrey and was very busy at their Guildford office, visiting their stations to reorganise activities after the war. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of St John in 1952. He was a Governor of Malvern College and also involved as a Governor of the Docklands Settlements, a London-wide charity associated with Malvern College, where his boss was Field-Marshal Wilson. He also played an active part on the board of the Army Arts Society, he himself being an accomplished artist, as too was his wife. I have seen some of his works and can certainly vouch for his obvious talent. His watercolours of landscapes in Eritrea are a fascinating and well-crafted record of the 1941 campaign. He developed a particular skill at wood engraving and exhibited at the Royal Academy. He died in 1954, sadly still relatively young, aged only 63. Perhaps his many years of rough infantry soldiering in hostile climates had taken their toll.

John Toovey has undertaken a fascinating project tracing his every move from the numerous official papers that have survived. He reckons that his father



*Continued overleaf >>>*

travelled at least 61,000 miles during 1940-41 as a liaison officer to General Wavell. This involved numerous long-range flights from Cairo to the War Office in London, by a circuitous multi-legged route across Africa to avoid the Luftwaffe threat in the Mediterranean. His achievements reflect great credit on the ICOTC where, one hopes, he acquired some of his many skills in hard infantry soldiering. The family connection with the Inns of Court Regiment continued when his future son-in-law Stanley Hird Gill (1921-2002) joined the Inns of Court



*The North-West Army Conference in August 1943. Toovey is on the front row, left, in the acting rank of Major-General. In the front centre is Lieutenant-General Finnis, GOC-in-C NW Army. He died suddenly in May 1945 and Toovey was appointed acting GOC-in-C and acting Lieutenant-General to replace Finnis. In October 1945 he handed over the NW Army to Lieutenant-General O'Connor, and Toovey reverted to GOC Rawalpindi District as Major-General*

Regiment (ICR) in 1940 rising to the rank of Captain (and later to Major). On D-Day 1944 he landed with C Squadron on Juno Beach where he gained a Military Cross. He remained with ICR as far as Antwerp whereupon he was recommended by Field-Marshal Montgomery to Lieutenant-General Richard O'Connor (then General Officer Commanding VIII Corps) as his ADC (aide-de-campe) and later accompanied O'Connor to Rawalpindi, India. It

was there he met Toovey's daughter on leave from the FANY in India and later married her.

## Where are they now?

Two former Inns of Court & City Yeomanry Signallers have been tracked down and photographed for *Vanguard*. Their latter-day exploits and achievements may be known to a few readers.

Sig Grieve was subsequently the Right Honourable Dominic Grieve QC MP and Her Majesty's Attorney General 2010-2014. Sig Mercer became Lieutenant Colonel the Reverend Nicholas Mercer and was Human Rights Lawyer of the Year 2011 for his work in Iraq 2003. He was the Rector of the Falkland Islands and is now Rector of Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire.

In the words of the Rector "What an extraordinary and eccentric Squadron!"

Hear hear!



# Nancy Dawson goes to sea

Andrew Collins tells the story of Nancy Dawson's unlikely and historic connection to the fated Franklin expedition in the Northwest Passage

Everyone knows of Nancy Dawson as the quick march of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry. Fewer will know that Nancy Dawson was the stage name of Ann Newton, an English dancer and actress, who rose to fame by dancing a hornpipe, to our tune, between acts in *The Beggar's Opera* at Covent Garden Theatre in London in 1759. A print of her hangs in the anteroom of the mess in Lincoln's Inn. Even fewer will know of another manifestation of her name.

In 1845, a 26-year-old, ex-Naval Officer, Robert Shedden, had a 120-ton schooner built for him by William Camper in Gosport (now the famous yacht designers and builders, Camper & Nicholson). Robert named his yacht *Nancy Dawson*. We do not know why he chose that name for, as a Naval man he was unlikely to have enlisted with the Inns of Court Regiment Volunteers but more remarkable than his choice of name was what Robert Shedden did with his *Nancy Dawson*.

In the summer of 1848, Robert Shedden left England in *Nancy Dawson* to cruise the seas of the Far East, which he had experienced with the Royal Navy during the Opium Wars. By the Spring of 1849 he had reached the shores of China, via the Cape of Good Hope. It was there that he learned of the large-scale efforts to trace the expedition, led by Sir John Franklin, to discover the commercially important north-west passage, the sea route believed to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, threading its way through the ice-bound Canadian Arctic Archipelago. The story of the quest and of the two ships under Franklin's command, the *Erebus* and the *Terror*, is well known, interest having been revived by the discovery of the wrecks of the two ships, *HMS Erebus* in 2014 and *HMS Terror* in 2016.

The ships had last been seen in July 1845, and in those days the only means of signalling was by flying code flags, (as Nelson did with his famous signal at Trafalgar) and there was no way the stranded ships could make their whereabouts known.

Although Shedden was aware that the British Government had already organised official search parties, he immediately



Our Nancy

decided to join in the quest. One of the government initiatives was to send *HMS Plover* and *HMS Herald*, in active search for them. These two ships had been surveying the coast of British Columbia, but had been ordered, to sail to Alaska, loaded with supplies for the expected safe arrival of the Franklin expedition.

After setting off, Shedden docked *Nancy Dawson* in Hong Kong where she victualled and took on a new crew, who were mainly Americans. Thence she sailed, with all possible speed, northward along the Chinese and Siberian coasts, calling in at Okinawa from 22 to 27 May, reaching the Kamchatka Peninsula, on the northern side of far-east Russia in June 1849. While *Nancy Dawson* lay at anchor

she was spotted by the crew of a Royal Naval

corvette, *HMS Herald*, who were surprised to see, among some American whalships, a British Yacht of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, raising speculation as to what she was doing that far north. *Nancy Dawson* was escorted north through the Bering Straits, to join *Plover*, lying in Kotzebue Sound.

From Barrow Point onward, the sea was both uncharted and unknown. Previous expeditions had reported that those waters were very shallow, adding to the dangers caused by ice floes.

The captain of the two Navy ships, decided not to proceed further but, instead, ordered four small boats with 25 men to try and reach the mouth of the McKenzie River and return, if possible, before the winter. Robert Shedden, not being subject to Naval orders, decided to follow; a risky decision on any basis, but particularly as his crew had been creating problems since leaving Chinese waters and he, himself, was none too well. The only factor in favour of Shedden's determination was

that *Nancy Dawson*, being

substantially smaller than the heavy naval ships, was able to navigate in the more restricted waters. Nonetheless, the Naval contingent were shocked to see that they were being followed. When they had progressed to about 10 miles from Barrow Point, they were held up by solid ice, requiring a discussion as to what the search party should do next.



Robert Shedden's *Nancy Dawson* (courtesy of the Royal Thames YC)

Subsequently, the ice broke up, and the Naval boats and the yacht resumed their voyage. They passed Barrow Point, *Nancy Dawson* becoming the first ship to round the point as well as the first pleasure yacht to circumnavigate the world. Captain Henry Kellet recorded the following in his report to the Navy:

“We reached the island and found running on it a very heavy sea; the First Lieutenant, however, landed, having backed his boat in until he could get foothold without swimming and then jumped overboard... We then hoisted the jack and took possession of the island with the usual ceremonies, in the name of Her Most Glorious Majesty Queen Victoria. [The island in question is, to this day, named Herald Island.]

“At 1pm sighted off the low land the *Nancy Dawson*, yacht, and the owner, Mr Shedden came on board, accompanied by Mr Martin, the second master of the *Plover*... in charge of the two large boats of the expedition. I learned from Mr Martin that he had arrived at the anchorage off Point Hope on the 10th instant in company with the yacht and was preparing to start again north in the *Owen*, sending the other back again in charge of the yacht to Kotzebue sound.

“The boats after leaving the *Plover*, on the 26 July, were detained a day or two by the ice before reaching Point Barrow; found the natives most friendly and anxious to assist them in every way. The boats were accompanied as far as Point Barrow by the yacht. This vessel had many escapes; she was pressed on shore once; ran on shore on another occasion to the eastward of Point Barrow and was only got off by the assistance of natives, who manned her capstan and hove with great good will.

“On another occasion she parted her bower cable from the pressure of the ice that came suddenly down on her and had a narrow escape of a good squeeze. She recovered her anchor and cable. Mr Shedden erected a mark on Refuge Inlet where he also intended to have left some provisions, but the natives were too numerous to do so without their knowing it.

“He found another small inlet a short distance to the south of Refuge Inlet... Where he buried from his own store a large cask of flour and a large cask of preserved meats... Nothing could exceed the kindness of Mr Shedden to those in the boats, in supplying them with everything his vessel could afford and in following them in considerable risk. His crew were unfortunately a disaffected set. He had too many of them for so small a vessel.”

At this stage Shedden made the decision that he had to return, partly because of the ice but mainly because he was confronting a mutiny by his crew, who had been creating problems since they set off from Hong Kong. They were now aggressively refusing to winter in the north. Things were so serious that *HMS Plover* had to hold three men from *Nancy*

*Dawson* under custody, in chains. Before leaving, as Kellet's report mentions, Shedden ordered that a quantity of their stores be left onshore in case any of Franklin's crew might come across them. Matters cannot have been easy for Shedden as he was, by then, suffering from the advanced stages of consumption, the disease having undoubtedly been contracted before his departure from the United Kingdom. The Naval ships had also been ordered to leave the area, *HMS Herald* having been detailed to carry out scientific work in Mexican waters, over the approaching winter period.

Because of Shedden's indisposition, the decision was taken to place *Herald's* Second Mate in charge of *Nancy Dawson* to accompany *Herald* down to Mexico. On 13 November 1849, they arrived at Mazatlán, about half-way down the west coast of that country. The Naval ships had also been ordered to leave the area, *HMS Herald* having been detailed to carry out scientific work in Mexican waters, over the approaching winter period. On 13 November 1849, they arrived at Mazatlán, about half-way down the west coast of that country. The final chapter is well told in *The Narrative of the Voyages of HMS Herald*:

“At Mazatlan we found lying the *Nancy Dawson* which had arrived the morning previous, and *HMS Amphrite*.

“Mr Shedden did not long survive his arrival at Mazatlan. Naturally of a weakly constitution, he had suffered greatly from the sudden change from a hot to a cold climate, and the arduous voyage on which he was engaged. While yet in the Arctic regions he was so ill that the navigation of the *Nancy Dawson* had to be entrusted to Mr W. Parsons, of the *Herald*,

and as the little vessel advanced towards the

tropics the health of her owner became worse every day, until, on the 17th November, his earthly remains were laid in the Protestant burial-ground at Mazatlan, his funeral being attended by the officers of the *Herald* and *Amphrite*, as well as by the British Vice-Consul, and other residents of the port. The *Nancy Dawson* will ever be remembered in the history of navigation as the first yacht that performed a voyage round the world and penetrated to the eastward of Point Barrow; while the generous impulse which induced Mr Shedden to search for his missing countryman will always be appreciated by every feeling heart and held up as an example for future generations.”

Shedden's courage in undertaking this errand of mercy, knowing that he was fatally ill, is unquestionable and the suspicion must linger that he was unaware of records which he had created. Whatever his achievements Robert Shedden certainly added glory to the name of *Nancy Dawson*.



*HMS Erebus and HMS Terror trapped in the ice*

**Andrew Collins**



# Obituaries

## Honouring former comrades and friends, now deceased

**Major Tony Benbow - Inns of Court Regiment and 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron**

**Captain Charles Hazell – Inns of Court Regiment and 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron**

**Major Tony Shipton MBE TD – Inns of Court Regiment and 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron**

### Tony Benbow

Major Anthony John Benbow (generally known as Tony) was one of the great stalwarts of the Inns of Court Regiment and then the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. For many younger readers his work as a Squadron Leader was before their time and most of his later decades of hard work went largely unseen, as a Trustee and Clerk for the various IC&CY trusts and as an Assistant Curator at the Museum. This is an opportunity to expand on what he did and his considerable contribution to the Squadron, writes Michael O'Beirne.

Tony was born on the 3 January 1940. He often joked that he should have been an Admiral (as in the Admiral Benbow Inn in Treasure Island). He attended Taunton School, Somerset, and was then articled between 1958 and 1963 to Andrew Bellamy Garner, solicitors of St Albans. He passed the tough law exams and qualifying as a solicitor. He eventually became a partner in Simmonds Church Rackham of 13 Bedford Row, London WCI, specialising in personal injury claims. In recent weeks his old firm's Manual of Military Law was presented to the Museum, indicating a military law side to his practice.

In 1960, while still in articles, he enlisted as a Trooper in the Inns of Court Regiment, three years before it amalgamated with the City of London Yeomanry to form the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. In those days, the Regiment was still part of the Royal Armoured Corps, traversing the country in their small, chilly Ferret armoured cars. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, serving in B Squadron based at Lincoln's Inn and Merton Road. For two years he was Troop Sergeant of 3 Troop.

In August 1965 a career change took Tony to a firm of solicitors in Hong Kong and he also served in a 'Territorial Army (TA) equivalent' role with Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Marine Police. He was always rather reticent at what he got up to out there, but his son James let out at his funeral service that he was very keen on Chinese cuisine. He returned to London in 1969.

Shortly after his return, 71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment was formed of which 68 (IC&CY) Squadron was a part. Tony immediately enlisted as a signalman. By October 1973 he had attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and two years later, after a course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, he was granted a commission in the Royal Corps of Signals. His first posting was to 256 (Kent and City of London



Tony Benbow

Yeomanry) Signal Squadron where he commanded 890 (Air Commander Home Defence Forces) Signal Troop at Bromley, and subsequently 905 Signal Troop at Bexley.

In October, having attained the rank of Captain, he returned to IC&CY to command 906 Troop (based at Whipps Cross). His further postings were as the Squadron's Communications and Training Officer, then then Squadron's Second-in-Command and finally he made it to Squadron Leader in 1985. In 1987 he relinquished his post and moved to Regimental Headquarters (RHQ), Bexleyheath where he ran the video suite from 1989 to 1995 and then retired.

He was awarded a Territorial Decoration and Bar and the Efficiency Decoration.

Although he retired from active service, Tony did not remain inactive. For many years he was a Trustee and Clerk to the Trustees of the various IC&CY trusts. His draft minutes of the many Trustees' meetings were prepared promptly and accurately. The thick 'Minute Book' of their meetings are a reflection of his lawyer's training in accuracy and diligence. He retired in 2018 and that task was taken over by SSgt Adam Tear. His retirement party at Lincoln's Inn was a great success.

In his TA retirement he also joined the Museum as an Assistant Curator and continued almost until shortly before Covid struck in 2020. To say he 'assisted' would be grossly unfair. He was the driving spirit behind the Museum's IT advance into the 21st century, from a paper-based archive record to a computer system (This is described at further length in the Museum Report on page 16).

Tony made a number of donations to the Museum including various books and journals, his 1958 Pattern webbing, an even older 1937 Pattern large pack, a respirator and an NBC suit.

Although 'paper management featured high in his list of activities, it was not his sole hobby. He was always a hurricane of energy and enthusiasm in whatever he did. He was a keen driver and a member of the Institute of Advanced Motoring. His old sporty Jensen CV8 was a regular sight on weekends and camp. It was not a particularly comfortable vehicle but, by God, it went like the wind.

Tony was a keen and competent DIYer. According to his son James, he rewired the family home in Chiswick and, with his wife, Barbara, redecorated it. A visit to his office/den in the basement would reveal an extraordinary aroma of a calm and efficient

organisation with numerous filing cabinets lined up carefully like soldiers on parade and his desk a model of filing neatness. One cannot help but feel that Tony would quite like to have used his DIY skills to fit an ejector seat and Browning machine guns into his CV8 and would probably have done a rather good job.

Despite all his other activities, the family was always central to Tony. His wife Barbara had worked as a probate solicitor in his firm and loyally supported his TA work, regularly attending Remembrance Sundays and other social activities. His son James was commissioned into the Royal Navy, became a helicopter pilot, and served for three years as a successful Royal Equerry to Prince William. Sophie, his daughter, is Marine Director for a conservation charity and has oversight for marine conservation projects across 17 countries.

The sea was an abiding love. The family maintained a holiday home at Seaview on the Isle of Wight and kept a boat there for sailing. He was a regular at the annual TA regatta and became a highly competitive sailor. History does not record whether he ever won the Rusty Shackle award!

Music and singing featured high in his priorities. For many years he sang with the Addison Singers in the Hammersmith area; he also served as Treasurer and kept their accounts. He was a decent pianist and organist and brought his electric organ to TA training weekends and annual camps.

Tony's humorous and inventive sides were never far away. There was an infamous occasion at Cultybraggan Camp, Scotland, when Tony was put under house arrest by the Regiment's Regular Commanding Officer (CO). The background is that Tony was then the Regimental Video Officer and it was considered by RHQ that his choice of videos shown to the young visiting Officer Cadets the previous evening had been somewhat inappropriate. This confinement to barracks on the evening of the Squadron officers' dinner at a local Chinese restaurant was not to Tony's liking. Accordingly, he devised a cunning plan to be smuggled into the restaurant with a tartan blanket over his head, much to the entertainment of all those present. To disguise his absence from Camp, he set up his electric organ in his room so that it would play 'on auto' and throw the patrolling Royal Military Police (RMPs) off the scent. What the CO made of this is not known.

Sadly, old age is not a facet of life that will go away. Tony attended numerous hospital appointments and endured the pain of his cancer with much fortitude and the occasional burst of irritation. He made his last appearance at Lincoln's Inn in late 2019, hobbling in on crutches. He died on the 28 April 2022. Many IC&CY members and his fellow choristers attended his funeral on the 12 May 2022 at the Mortlake Crematorium followed by a rather splendid wake at the Coach and Horses on Kew Green afterwards. He will not be forgotten.

**Anthony John Benbow was born on 3 January 1940 and died on the 28 April 2022.**

## **Charles Hazell**

As Charles' eldest son, Joss, said in his father's eulogy, he was 'not a conformist'. This would ever make him entertaining, amusing, challenging or annoying, but always interesting company, writes Andrew Collins. Many of Charles' contentions could well have caused outrage were they not delivered with his disarming, languid smile. This charming maverick tendency

could easily extend to actions.

Charles was born into that dynasty of the printing world, Hazell, Watson and Viney. He was educated at Rugby, after which he served with 14/20th King's Hussars for the period of his National Service, from 1957 to 1960, which included time in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR). For his subsequent service in the Territorial Army, he chose the Inns of Court Regiment, joining C Squadron in 1960. When the Regiment was axed in 1967, he, together with a healthy number of other officers and men, transferred to the newly formed 68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, commanding 883 Troop and rising to the rank of Captain. His unique style made him a popular officer both amongst his men and within the Mess, his status being coloured by his ownership of a soft-topped Jaguar 120 and a light aircraft, kept at Elstree. A three-seater Piper Cherokee was disposed of in 1972 to make way for a six-seater version.



*Charles Hazell*

When, in 1974, the Squadron was at camp on the Yorkshire Moors, the Brigade Commander was scheduled to visit us. Charles had volunteered to fly him up and the usual form of field dinner was laid on in the small Mess tent. On arrival, our guest, clearly unused to such hospitality, ordered that the tablecloths and silverware be removed, and that blues should be discarded for combat kit. Fate is a queer thing: the next morning, Charles was instructed, by our guest, to land at Blackbushe, in time for an important meeting at Camberley. Seeking clearance to land, Charles was told that his passenger was not security cleared and he was forced to drop his red-faced passenger at Gatwick. Charles' skills as an aviator were also called upon in connection with a TEWT (tactical exercise without troops) on the island of Alderney and the preceding recces.

After National Service, Charles was not left with the quandary of what career to pursue, as the family company beckoned. Accordingly, he continued his studies taking a year's Management Diploma Course at the London School of Printing and Graphic Arts where he qualified as a Master Printer. However, his career in mainstream printing was curtailed when, in 1963, Hazell, Watson and Viney Ltd was acquired by the British Printing Corporation, giving Charles the opportunity to follow his own path within the printing industry. Freed from the restrictions of a large company, he was able to set up other enterprises and played a part in the revolution in the world of print caused by digitisation.

In July 1966, he married Diana, the daughter of Colonel and Mrs Hallows, seated at Mobarnane House in Tipperary from which they were married. Charles typically surprised his bride on her entrance to the Church by rising on crutches owing to a broken leg sustained on the stag party the night before! Charles and Di took possession of Mobarnane in 1967, upon her father's death, moving there permanently in 1975.

After the birth of sons Joss and Ralph, a VW camper van was purchased and they set off for India, via Afghanistan, taking a

year to complete the journey. On their return, Charles and Di concentrated on establishing Mobarnane as their home. The house has historic associations with the Tipperary Foxhounds which Charles continued, in between establishing a herd of cows to be milked by hand, shearing Jacob's sheep for wool to knit jumpers, itinerant pigs, feral goats and cantankerous geese. It was during this period that Jack and Olivia were born.

Predictably, despite this happy domesticity, travel remained part of Charles and Di's life, induced by curiosity not boredom. He and Di made several trips to Egypt, investigating the Nile, Luxor and other ancient sites, fuelling Charles' interest in the ancient Egyptians and other civilizations. This led to his writing a book, *The Golden Apples of Hesperides*, which sadly he did not have time to publish.

With resolute bravery, he suffered leukaemia for his last five years, but this did not stop his writing the book or letters to newspapers on any topic that engaged him.

**Charles Jonathan Stewart Hazell was born on 27 July 1938 and died on 2 January 2022.**

## **Tony Shipton MBE TD**

Anyone who was lucky enough to meet Tony, would have been struck by his quiet enthusiasm and sense of humour. His quality of loyalty should appear from this obituary. His funeral, near Exeter, in early January was attended by several of our members, who were generously entertained afterwards by the family, writes Andrew Collins.

On completion of his National Service in the 14/20th Kings Hussars, Tony avoided his subsequent obligation to serve in the Territorial Army for four years by volunteering to join the Inns of Court Regiment in 1950, then an armoured car regiment, being assigned to C Squadron.

He would have attended successive annual camps at East Wretham in Norfolk, Penhale in Cornwall, Kirkcudbright in Scotland and Chickerell in Dorset. In May 1954, when Colours were presented to the Regiment by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, in Inner Temple Gardens, Lieutenant A A Shipton was one of the two Officers for the Colours.

There followed two changes, the Inns of Court Regiment becoming an armoured car regiment in 1956, and, on 1 April 1961, merging with the City of London Yeomanry, to form the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry. At the subsequent presentation of the guidon, on 14 June 1963 in Middle Temple Gardens, Tony, now a Major, was commanding 'C' Squadron.

There was one further change which put an end to Tony's justified ambition to command the Regiment. As part of the drastic cuts in the TA, brought in by then then Major General Carver, the IC&CY, with effect from April 1967, ceased to exist as a regiment. Tony decided not to avail himself of any of the 're-employment' options offered to all ranks but remained, in spirit with the successor units, taking on the responsibility for Vanguard in 2001 and becoming Chairman of the Association

in 2002, handing over both roles in 2007.

Tony was born on 14 February 1929 and, in common with many other interesting people, had an unusual upbringing. His parents divorced when he was four years old and his brother, Peter, was eight. His mother went abroad leaving his father to look after the boys. By happy chance, his father's sister, a widow with two young boys of her own, set up house with her brother, taking Peter and Tony under her wing. He was educated at Marlborough before entering National Service. The normal worrying question of what to do thereafter appeared not to exist, as the distinguished publishing company of Ward, Lock & Co, founded in 1854, had become a family business and opened its doors to Tony at 6 Chancery Lane.

Tony remained a director of Ward, Lock & Co until his part of the business was sold in 1970. Running family businesses, from one generation to next, when risk averse aunts and uncles have substantial shareholdings, adds a further layer of management problems for its working members. These may have driven the sale, but Tony did not complain, and, with his wonderful sense of humour, suggested that it had been a good idea because 'I didn't like the colour they repainted the front door!'. Ward, Lock & Co published the works of many distinguished authors including Jules Verne, Daniel Defoe, R M Ballantyne, Dornford Yates, Oscar

Wilde and Lewis Carroll. But one of Tony's favourites, which he handled personally, was the late Isabella Beeton, the author of the standard work on household management.

Anticipating the sale of the company, Tony set up, with a couple of colleagues, a business producing football stickers. The venture became a great success and Tony set up a division in Japan where he would spend the best part of a month throughout the '70s. His newly found interest in Japan exceeded his almost non-existent interest in football.

One of the fellow founders of the new business was Spanish. Visits to Spain led both to a close friendship and to Tony designing and building a house in Alicante

which was completed in 1970. The success of the business allowed Tony to retire at 55 and for Liz and he to move to the Cotswolds, whilst spending considerable time in Spain. Their house in Spain became a splendid family retreat at which their children and grandchildren could spend long periods together during the summer.

Gardening had been a lifelong interest and one which could be indulged to the full with two properties to cope with. At the house in the Cotswolds, he looked after trees, vegetables and lawns, leaving the flowers to Liz, although his knowledge extended to those as well. He bought the field over the road from his home and took great pleasure in turning a quarter of it into an arboretum. Their move to Alphington, near Exeter, was driven, in part, for the need to reduce the area of garden to be cared for. Nonetheless, apple trees and other bushes and plants were introduced to the new garden and their progress followed with keen interest.

**Anthony Ashley Shipton died on 19 December 2021. He will be sadly missed by Liz, his widow, Andrew, Ben and Tom, their sons and the grandchildren.**



*Tony Shipton*



**Inns of Court & City Yeomanry Association**  
10, Stone Buildings  
Lincoln's Inn  
LONDON WC2A 3TG

---