

VANGUARD

JOURNAL OF THE INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION



Who's Who

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Cover: The Band at the Tower of London

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From the Honorary Colonel

This is to be my final report as your Honorary Colonel, so a moment to reflect at the end of my five-year term in this rewarding role.

My own time in 68 Signal Squadron was in the 1980s (following regular service in the Royal Signals), but I'd been less than active in the IC&CY Association in the intervening years. So it was a great honour to be invited to become Colonel. Thank you to all those who have made my tenure so interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile.

My reflections on these years are simple enough. I returned to find that in many respects, little had changed. But nearly 40 years ago, some still remembered our time as a regiment (and a few had served in one or other of the two constituent regiments that merged in 1960). Aside, of course, from 68 Squadron, we behaved and were structured accordingly. By 2016 it was clear that those days were over, and though we remained justifiably proud of our heritage, the Band, the Museum, our role as part of 71st Signal Regiment, and very much more, the complex structures of our charities and funds were no longer fit for purpose. So, I am pleased to hand over the newly created single Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (this is the modern term for a Charity Commission registered charity) which now looks after all our non-service funds and activities.

Another, rather different, highlight of the past five years was marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day, in 2019. An impressive contingent of the serving Signal Squadron, the Band, and the Association, gathered in Graye-sur-Mer, and all those who were there will remember the poignant ceremonies, along with the warm welcome extended to us by the good folk of Graye. I found the fact that two of our ICR forebears, Troopers John Collinge and Ken Robinson, who served in the Inns of Court Regiment and landed on Juno Beach on 6th June 1944, were publicly honoured with their photos on prominent posters in the village 75 years on, particularly humbling.

In similar vein, the Remembrance Sunday parade at Lincoln's Inn has been an annual highlight, usually on the same weekend as our traditional involvement in the Lord Mayor's Show. Others have commented that, as the years go by, public interest in the November Remembrance events grows rather than diminishes. The experience at Lincoln's Inn confirms this, and I'm grateful to those involved in ensuring that the parade and service in 2020 went ahead despite the obstacles – as did the Rough Riders service at St Bartholomew-the-Great the previous month.

And, continuing this theme (and back to Normandy), in June 2021 came the delayed formal opening of the new Normandy Memorial to the British troops who fell on D-Day and its aftermath. As we recorded last year, the Association made a significant contribution to this memorial, in the form of a fine, stone Inns of Court Regiment bench. This in turn prompted my review and research into the many war memorials to soldiers of the Inns of Court Regiment, and the City of London Yeomanry (at least 14 now identified!). In a plug for my final contribution, I would direct your interest to a description of these (and photos) at the Association website <https://www.iccy.org.uk/war-memorials.html> – the first such comprehensive summary of these many memorials remembering and honouring our forebears.

Much of the forgoing reminds us of the long and rich history of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry, continued today by the men and women of the Signal Squadron and the Band. A heritage that I know will be nurtured as I hand over to my successor Colonel Vickie Sheriff. I wish her well and know she will receive the same warm welcome as I have enjoyed and for which I thank you.



Colonel Nigel Pullman

From the Chairman



The Chairman (second on the left) with Association members at Remembrance Sunday in 2020

Below: The Squadron on parade

So we emerge from another year of the Pandemic and let's hope we don't go backwards!

Despite lockdowns we held the Rough Riders' Service at St Bartholomew's in person and the Squadron's smart Honour Guard was present. A pretty 'normal' service was enjoyed by us all (the novelty afterwards was swiping Dame Dido's App in 'the local' behind the Church to get some refreshment! That is not a euphemism – Ed)

Remembrance Sunday was very much 'on the bus, off the bus' in terms of was it going ahead in person or wasn't it? Regardless, a 'belts and braces' approach was pursued (with even a video recording on the Tuesday before) and thanks to the wonders of social media the call went out for attendance on parade on the Sunday morning.

With our band present, to all intents and purposes it was the same as in previous years (less the indoors chapel service).

This year the Squadron provided its own cameraman and a very good recording it was too which can be found on the Association webpage (www.iccy.org.uk/news-and-events)

This Autumn marks the retirement of our outgoing Honorary Colonel. Nigel has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create a more robust administration that provides greater safeguarding when it comes to assets and money. We thank him for all his efforts and wish Colonel Vickie an enjoyable tenure.

We have tentative plans that a trip to Normandy will be able to take place in 2022 combining a visit by the Squadron, the Band and the Association.

In the meantime, I look forward to catching up with Association Members at one of our forthcoming events.

Eddie

EJH Marshall TD

Major (Ret'd) Chairman ICCY Association



Secretary's Report



Over the past 12 months the Association has been able to function in the background through phone conversations, emails and Zoom meetings.

Whilst face-to-face meetings have been avoided, business has carried on almost as usual. We were fortunate to be able to hold the annual Rough Riders' Service of Remembrance at St Bartholomew-the-Great with formal distancing and no singing. The Squadron was able to provide a Guard of Honour, which was greatly appreciated, not only by the Association but the congregation as well.

While we could not visit the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, our usual plots were populated with remembrance crosses as usual. Our thanks have been given to the volunteers who put them in place.

In view of the government's guidance, many members carried out their own Remembrance Sunday at home. Hopefully, this year we will be able to have a full parade and service.

The Federation of Old Comrades had their final parade at the memorial outside the Bank of England. The Chairman, myself and Bob Hooper attended a very moving final farewell march to the HAC and service thereafter. A City of London Yeomanry wreath was laid at the memorial by the Chairman on our



*Poppies at The Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
Hopefully, this year we will be able to have a full parade*



The Honour Guard at the Rough Riders' Service of Remembrance

behalf. Although there will no longer be a formal parade, the Association will continue to lay a wreath at the memorial in future years.

I am pleased that the Devil's Own Sergeants' Club has been able to continue with their monthly meeting via Zoom, which proved to be very successful and kept members in touch during difficult times.

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

Maj (ret'd) P B Corfield QVRM TD

Dates for Your Diary

2021

31 October	Rough Riders Memorial Service, St Bartholomew-the-Great
11 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
13 November	Lord Mayor's Show
14 November	Remembrance Parade Lincoln's Inn

2022

6 October	Association AGM
30 October	Rough Riders Memorial Service (provisional)
10 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
12 November	Lord Mayor's Show
13 November	Remembrance Sunday

Squadron Commander's Report

I hope this issue finds you well and in good spirits.

It was a year full of challenge and, as a sub unit, we are still feeling some of the aftershocks of the post-Covid period of recovery. If I can start with some bad news, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to run our normal mounted training. This means we are unable to enter the mounted detachment into this year's Lord Mayor's Show. It is deeply disappointing but a product of the dislocated year that we have endured.

However, on a much more positive note, the wider regiment has transferred to 3 (UK) Division and has now started training in its current role. By the time you read this, two of the Squadron's detachments will be embedded in the first of the divisional exercises, and the Squadron officers will have had an opportunity to observe the divisional headquarters in operation. This will help prepare us for further missions and tasks, so it is a very exciting period.

The Squadron is fully committed to supporting the Regiment's Annual Deployment Exercise ("camp" in old money) and are taking the second largest contingent – we were pipped at the post. The soldiers will have some fantastic opportunities this year with multiple training activities laid on. On return we will have soldiers that are driver trained, navigation instructors, defence trainers, trade trained, MATTS qualified and prepared for promotion courses. Not forgetting the crews deployed on exercise with 3 (UK) Div.



Major Matt Cahill

The growth of the Squadron is positive with eight soldiers completing phase one training this year despite the restrictions on recruit and training activity, and as before the recruiting pipeline remains healthy.

I am also delighted to report that Sgt Whiffen was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service. This is richly deserved and a recognition of her tireless efforts to ensure the Squadron's soldiers are well trained and its heritage is maintained.

Finally, and most importantly we are about to witness the passing on of command for our Honorary Colonel. Colonel Pullman has been a reassuring figure, who worked diligently to ensure that the Squadron was well supported within the wider community. I am personally deeply disappointed that the last two years have meant that we could not work as closely together to further strengthen his work as I would have wished, but I thank Colonel Nigel for all his efforts and wish him well in all his next endeavours.

This means that we will welcome a new Honorary Colonel shortly and I am looking forward to ensuring that they receive a positive and welcoming introduction to the Squadron.



Sgt Ros Whiffen receiving the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service from Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE

Major Matt Cahill

The Squadron's Year (2020-2021)



Socially distanced Squadron Group at Remembrance Day 2020

Exercise NOBLE SKYWAVE (October 2020)

Since 2013, the Canadian Communications and Electronics Branch has brought hundreds of teams from dozens of nations together to test, strengthen expertise and compete in a friendly atmosphere to what is now known as the most prestigious military-led high frequency (HF) competition in the world.

In 2020 a team from 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron took part in Ex NOBLE SKYWAVE. The team consisted of SSgt Warren, Cpl Kane, Sgt Noble, LCpl Lui, Sig Blakcori, Sig Metin, and Sig Mziray.

The competition is run over the course of 24 hours with the aim of establishing HF communications with as many other teams as possible across the globe and logging the communications online to score points. The more distant the team, the more points scored. This meant that the UK teams were in high demand as many of the competitors were based in Canada or the United States.

In order to keep logging as many points as possible, the team



*Exercise NOBLE
SKYWAVE's global
reach*

undertook intensive shifts with lots of antenna adjustments to find the right frequencies for getting to the far stations. The level of knowledge and experience gained by the crew over the short length of the competition was invaluable and they managed to become very proficient at the required drills. The team did exceedingly well and achieved an overall place of 21st, sadly an antenna mishap prevented them being competitive in the last hour of the competition and so missed out on an even higher placing.

Sig Murphy reports on Exercise CYBER SPARTAN (Dec 2020)

From 28 November 2020 to 4 December 2020, I was part of 71st Signal Regiment's Cyber Spartan team which took part in Cyber Spartan 4.

Cyber Spartan is an all arms competition hosted by the Royal Signals to protect a virtual network from attacks, but it is a lot more than this. It was also a comprehensive training package and an opportunity to learn cyber skills through a "baptism of fire" in a cyber environment.



Back to Basics – Comms in the Cold!



In the four weeks leading up to the event the team met virtually for training with an outside advisor and to formulate some standing operating procedures (SOPs) for the competition. We also

discussed the roles that would be involved and who had the most relevant experience for each role. This build-up training was an opportunity for us to bond as a team while sharing knowledge and skills with each other. As part of the training, each team member went away and researched an area of cyber, prepared a presentation on the subject and delivered it to the group. The presentation I prepared was on Linux commands and I also demonstrated an interactive virtual Linux machine that I set up. This was a great way to learn something highly relevant and to share it with the group.

During the week of the competition, we were based in Uxbridge Army Reserve Centre. To ensure that Covid-19 risks were managed, we were assigned our own screened-off cubicles and laptops. There was a projector for presenting and two large screens for screen sharing, to avoid the normal 'shoulder surfing' that is commonplace in a cyber workplace.

As the main cohort of the event was in Blandford, we were connecting to the Army Cyber Spartan network through a virtual private network (VPN) on the laptops provided and using video conferencing software Jitsi for training presentations and meetings.

There were 27 teams from across the Army, plus the Royal Navy and international teams from France and Denmark. Generally, there were ten members per blue team. Blue teams were tasked with defending a network of virtual machines hosted on servers at Blandford. Red team members attacked the virtual machines using penetration testing tools and blue teams scored points for reporting incidents, making recommendations, and defending the network. Points were also allocated for network availability with logged in users simulating end user activity and reporting faults as they occurred, such as loss of internet or email. Finally, the green team were Cyber Spartan engineers and an internal helpdesk who managed the networks for blue teams and red teams.



Sig Omale learns to start a generator

We received two days of training at the start of the competition. Cyber is a vast area with scope for many specialisations. Broadly speaking the training package looked at cyber protection team roles, fault reporting, threat hunting, digital forensics, security monitoring, malware analysis, threat vectors, intelligence gathering and more. Some of the material was very technical while other material was more concerned with processes and decision making. There was also considerable material on the legal issues and frameworks around cyber operations in the real world.

The competition was three days of intensive cyber activity during which the team had much scope to dig deep into specific areas of learning. We split the team as best we could into the categories of monitoring, threat hunting and hardening but we also shared tasks across the team and communicated regularly about issues as they cropped up. We made decisions as a team after discussing the implications and made recommendations for actions to take. It quickly became apparent that we needed to have more knowledge around scripting to efficiently deploy security policy configuration updates and password resets across the network. We identified the key skills that we need to improve for next year.

CYBER SPARTAN has been a great learning experience for all those who took part. Soldiers with different levels of cyber experience have been able to upskill during this week of theoretical lessons and practical training and competition phase. One just needs to keep up to date with current affairs in the news media to understand the ever-increasing relevance of a cyber capability. It's clear that the Royal Corps of Signals will be at the forefront of this progression.

Exercise PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR Weekends (January – March 2021)

The early part of 2021 saw the Squadron undertake a number of weekend exercises designed to test communication skills in a tactical environment. Each weekend was progressively more challenging than the last, with the pace and complexity of the exercise serials increasing as time went on, and likewise enemy activity. The Squadron were able to develop some effective SOPs for managing the Squadron Command Post and the detachment crews were able to practice and develop their comms drills out on the ground. The 68 SOP for laying out a command post was even adopted across the Regiment.



SCP on Ex PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR



Squadron on Exercise PHOENIX COMMUNICATOR

The camouflage nets proved their worth on exercise as the 12 by 12 tents blended into the background when viewed from several hundred metres away. This did not prevent the Squadron from being troubled by the enemy however, as there were multiple visits from disgruntled 'civ pop', some suspicious drive-by activity and eventually an all-out assault on the location. 68 Sqn were primed and ready, and were able to man their defensive positions in super quick time having been through a number of practice runs. The enemy were seen off just in time to pack up and head home.



On the lookout for trouble...

These Regimental exercises were preceded by some useful back-to-basic teaching weekends led by SSgt Warren where the detachment crews practiced their hands-on drills with the Bowman radios. The emphasis was on practice, practice, practice to make sure everyone could switch on, update the radios with all the correct settings, and get the comms in and working. There was added pressure on the detachment commanders to make sure their crews were up to speed, as every time a question was answered wrongly, it meant the det commander paying the forfeit of a quick sprint.

For every training weekend, the soldiers were required to take a lateral flow test beforehand to ensure they were Covid free. Before the home tests were widely available, much of the testing was undertaken on arrival at Whips Cross, with the garage

being turned into a temporary test centre for the troops each Friday evening. Once the test had been taken, soldiers were segregated and had to wait the obligatory 30 minutes for the all clear result before being allowed to enter the Army Reserve Centre building. This process was made possible by SSgt Bentham and a small team from across both troops going the extra mile to complete the online training, for using the lateral flow test kits, and being prepared to turn up early and spend their evening dressed in personal protective equipment (PPE).

Exercise DEVILS AIM (May 2021)

In May, under the direction of the Squadron Permanent Staff Instructor SSgt Palmer, the Squadron put on a range package designed to break out beyond the boundaries of the standard shoots and allow the soldiers to develop their skills as sharpshooters.



Ex DEVILS AIM



SA80A2

The firing practices included target exposures of different lengths and close protection shoots where the firers were approaching the targets to fire from short range, even as close as five metres. For many of the soldiers this was the first time they had experienced this type of shooting and everyone agreed it was exciting to do something out of the ordinary. It definitely felt tense on the firing point waiting for the targets to turn, then bringing the rifle up to find the aim point in time before the targets flipped back again. Whilst the weather conditions were not always on our side, all were able to get some valuable experience.

MATTS Weekend

In July, the Squadron had the opportunity to get through the military annual training tests (MATTs) required for Certificate of Efficiency. The weekend consisted of spending Saturday in Pirbright on the ranges doing the required live firing practices,

being tested on first aid skills, and dusting off chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) drills in the Respirator Testing Facility. The next day saw a trip to Colchester to undertake some safety risk management training, filling out risk assessments and doing a very muddy army fitness test (six-mile tab) around Friday Woods, with plenty of rain along the way.

Exercise PHOENIX WARRIOR (August 2021) a report by LCpl Lui



LCpl Lui was awarded the Best Field Soldier award by the RSM

Every year we take part in a PHOENIX WARRIOR weekend, a weekend that I look forward to, as we get to train on dismounted military field skills.

This weekend was particularly exciting for me as this would be my first time as a section 2iC (second in command) and I was looking forward to my new responsibilities.

As with all events, pre-planning was important. I packed only the essential equipment I needed as I planned to travel light. Simple things like using the cam cream mirror as my shaving mirror, instead of carrying a separate mirror, the savings in weight add up!

Fuelling in advance of the weekend is also important. I anticipated it would be a physically demanding weekend, so I ate the right foods in advance of the weekend, eating lots of whole foods and greens. And I even refrained from alcohol 48 hours before the weekend.

We arrived at Stanford training area (STANTA) in Norfolk late on the Friday night and we were immediately put into our sections. Our teams were deliberately mixed up and made up with soldiers from different squadrons. It was certainly good to see friends that I had met across the years again, and also to meet new people.

Our first task was to patrol into location and occupy the harbour area. It was straight forward to begin with, just 'follow the group', but when the section commander departed with the



Treating a casualty on PHOENIX WARRIOR

advance party, I had to step up and take responsibility for the section for the first time. The Platoon Sergeant was there to guide me and give me a few words of encouragement which was reassuring, as well as guiding me as to what was expected of me.

After we successfully occupied the harbour, our first detail was to attend a simulated road traffic collision with multiple casualties. I was sent in advance of the section and performed the triage on the multiple casualties. The aide memoire certainly helped remind me what I had to do next. After I secured the area, the section came to the scene and began treatment of the casualties. I was sent to guide the 'ambulance' to the scene and was told to look out for a Skoda. I saw a Skoda coming from the horizon and flagged it down. It turned out to be the wrong Skoda. I realised this immediately realised when I saw the passengers were all WOIs and a Colonel!

The second detail was my favourite of the weekend, the section attack! I was section 2iC and was responsible for delta fire team. We suppressed and fixed the enemy while Charlie fireteam destroyed the enemy position. It was certainly more demanding as the 2iC to have to manage the fireteam's movements and rates of fire instead of just thinking about my own.

Later that night, we went on a night reconnaissance (recce) patrol. Another unit was driving around in the same training area in Jackals and Mastiffs without lights on. For safety we put glow sticks on so that the other units can see us in the dark.

The next day, we received reports that the harbour area was being targeted by enemy forces and we were put on notice to



Sig Ali deals with a casualty



Sig Mziray wins the CO's coin

prepare to defend the harbour area. My personal role radio (PRR) headset malfunctioned and I had to run around all morning to relay messages and orders to my section members and also the Platoon Sergeant. I should have turned on Strava (my fitness app) and logged it as I am convinced that I covered more than five kilometres running around that morning!

Finally, we collapsed our harbour area and headed back to the forward operating base where a barbecue was waiting for us. I had three burgers and three chicken breast sandwiches because I was that hungry!

It was a very enjoyable weekend, I got to spend a weekend outdoor with friends, to practise old skills and apply new ones as well as learn my new role as a lance corporal. And the barbecue at the end was a great way to end the weekend.

Exercise DEVILS COMMS (September 2021)



Sig Murphy testing comms

To make sure the Squadron detachments were in full working order prior to the annual deployment exercise, the Squadron conducted a 'shakeout' weekend at Kenley Airfield. Once again, the soldiers were getting back to basics by setting up comms on a variety of antennas at gradually increasing distances.

The aim was to practice the skills required to set up and tear down comms, and swap between different forms of comms (with all the associated changes of settings and cable connections). The result being to avoid making basic errors on future exercises.



Tabbing in the rain at Whipps Cross



Trade training in Mereworth Woods

There is a saying that 90 per cent of issues with Bowman come down to cabling, and it was well proved on this exercise as there was one issue with a power cable to a coupler that was not spotted until the end of the exercise, despite it having been checked multiple times.

The exercise also provided one of the first opportunities in a long time for the Squadron to have some social down time with fish and chips and a movie night on the Saturday, which was very welcome after a long day of comms.

Sunday saw a return to Whipps Cross to turnaround the kit. There was also another opportunity to complete the army fitness test (AFT) for those that needed it. Unfortunately, the weather definitely did not cooperate on this occasion and the tabbers returned to the Army Reserve Centre (ARC) soaked to the skin and more than a little muddy, although happy to have ticked the tab off the list for the year.

Sig Metin reports on Exercise CHARGING COMMUNICATOR (September 2021)

Exercise CHARGING COMMUNICATOR was a fantastic experience for us to get involved with the wider Army and to work with 3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment (3DSR) on exercise. In short, the exercise allows 3DSR to test and prove their tactical and operational information system (TACCIS & OPSIS) capabilities by building a small-scale advance HQ element, and maintaining its viability, in a manner that showcases their technical ability.

It was a sensibly run programme in which the more experienced soldiers were able to pass on their knowledge in slow time to



Sig Biggs (left) and Sig Francis (middle) relaxing during basic signalling training
the more junior troops, allowing 3DSR to achieve comms whilst not neglecting their newest troops. For us it was an excellent learning experience. We were able to see the range of equipment routinely employed in an advance HQ scenario and get hands on experience with equipment including SWE-DISH, Reacher & Falcon – systems which are not held locally in the Regiment. In addition to theory lessons, we were given plenty of opportunity to get stuck in with the equipment, helping to set up detachments, unpacking satellite dishes and enjoying the labour of erecting the 18m mast for the Falcon.

Trade training success

Congratulations to the following who have completed their trade training in the last year:

Sig Jackson, Sig Mann, Sig Saintus.



PSAO Capt John Donaldson is an Army Golf Association champion

Promotions

Congratulations to the following for achieving promotions in the last year:

Capt Goward, Lt Tunnidcliff, Lt Sekhon, Sgt Fox, Sgt Noble, Cpl Asamoah, Cpl Hawkins, Cpl Ridley-Boyce.

Army golfing glory

Permanent Staff Administration Officer (PSAO) **Capt John Donaldson** made Squadron sporting history when he was crowned Army Golf Association Stableford Senior Champion in 2021.

Sig Blakcori joins the Army Rowing Team

As I enter the last year of university and my final year of rowing for University College London's (UCL) senior women's crew, I wanted to see if I could continue the sport through the Army. Following the information listed on the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB), I managed to get onto a training camp with the Army's developmental squad during the summer. Located at Devil's Elbow Rowing Club in Nottingham, I joined around 15 other soldiers and officers from various cap badges for a week of water outings (both sculling in small boats and sweep rowing in fours and eights), ergs, strength and conditioning, and mobility sessions. It was a fantastic opportunity. The coaches, with a wealth of experience under their belt, were able to provide tailored feedback both on our technique on the



Sig Blakcori (far left) is an Army Rowing Team winner

water as well as weightlifting form.

The training camp further enabled the squad to assemble crews for upcoming competitions. I was selected to represent the Army in the women's coxed four event at the Joint Service Regatta in September 2021. Racing against the RAF and Navy, our boat finished in first place. We were absolutely thrilled by the result and, going forward, remain eager to compete in upcoming winter heads.

My experience rowing with the Army is a testament to the sporting opportunities open to Reservists. I'd encourage anyone who plays a sport to find out how they could do the same.

**Collated by Sgt Ros Whiffen
906 Troop, 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron**

Rough Riders

The Rough Riders' Club

A new Club is formed to uphold the finest traditions of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry

Members of the Squadron will, I hope, be pleased to learn that we have formed a new Club to help keep the history and traditions of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry alive, well, and in the minds of both serving and retired personnel.

The idea of your humble author, and with kind permission of the OC (Maj Cahill) and the PSAO (Capt Donaldson), the 'Rough Riders' Club' will be open to all those soldiers – past and present, male and female – who have participated in at least one mounted duty for the Lord Mayor's Show. There is no membership fee or annual subscription, but a database of Members will be kept at Squadron HQ and it would be helpful if membership applications were accompanied by the year(s) in which an individual's participation took place. This database will also be added to the Regimental Museum Archives for posterity. Honorary memberships will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

It is anticipated that there will be a Mess Dinner held annually at Lincoln's Inn (date to be communicated to Members) in which our historic link with the City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders) will be celebrated. On this note, it is worth pointing out that, here in 2021, it is exactly sixty years since the Inns of Court Regiment and the Rough



Domine Dirige Nos

Riders amalgamated to form the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry.

For those Members with an interest in such things, you will also be pleased to read that a Club tie (illustrated) has been produced – again drawing on historic links, it is the regimental tie of the City of London Yeomanry and copied from an example held in the Museum Stores. Made of non-crease silk, these ties are available to purchase from Capt Donaldson in the usual method as per other shop items, at a cost of £20 each.

Keen that our female members should not be forgotten, your author is also currently in discussion with the manufacturers of our ties to see if we can produce and stock a Club scarf/cravat-style garment which can be worn by ladies. That is not to say that the girls cannot purchase and wear the tie should they so wish! Watch this space.

Any applications for Membership or other enquiries should be directed to the Club Secretary by email rwildevans@outlook.com. It is hoped,

that after such a long time of no social occasions and our wonderful Mess quietly gathering dust, many members of the Squadron will want to join and help uphold the traditions and history of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry.

Rough Rider Makes D-Day Appearance

Did you know a 'Rough Rider' landed in Normandy (Utah Beach) on D Day, 6th June 1944? It was the name of the jeep of Brigadier-General Theodore Roosevelt, deputy commander of the American 4th Infantry Division. Incidentally at 56 years old, he was the oldest man to land. He was also the eldest son of Colonel Theodore 'Teddy' who famously raised and subsequently commanded the 3rd US Reserve Cavalry 'Rough Riders' in the Spanish-American war of 1898.

The public fame of their exploits at the battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba led the 20th Battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry, raised for the Boer War being given the nickname 'Rough Riders' as an aid to recruiting and was subsequently incorporated in the title of the City of London Yeomanry.

With this article you can see images of the Brig-Gen mounted on his steed and his dear old dad on his.

Incidentally, as an old Rough Rider I am glad it was the 3rd who went to Cuba, as the 1st and 2nd were known as 'Grigsby's Cowboys' and 'Rocky Mountain Riders'!

Denis Durkin



The Band of The

(Inns of Court &

The Band of The Royal Yeomanry is proud to report on its activities during this challenging period. When the pandemic struck in 2020 all engagements were cancelled and the band, like all musicians, could no longer meet for rehearsals. Our Director of Music, Major David Hammond, began sharing music online via the band's Defence Connect site. Here, members of the band could download music to practise individual parts at home, learn interesting information about the pieces and composers, and find links to listen to online performances. The aim was to keep the musicians not only playing but at the same time enabling them to extend their repertoires for future performances.

Nevertheless, during lockdown some members of the band were able to perform at certain socially distanced events, including Sunday services at Guards' Chapel, where smaller ensembles, namely our clarinet quartet, brass quintet, and woodwind quintet, were able to carry out their duties safely. In November, with restrictions lifted slightly, the whole band was able to perform for the Remembrance Day service at Lincoln's Inn. This is an important event in the band's calendar and last year it was conducted entirely outside with the band playing on the lawn in socially distanced formation. It was a beautiful morning with sunshine and blue skies and the band was extremely proud to be able to play during this service of remembrance.

Throughout the pandemic, our trumpeters have been privileged to play in the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London. This ancient ritual, which is thought to have begun in the Middle Ages, has never been cancelled throughout its entire history and COVID certainly wasn't going to stop it. The Chief Yeoman Warder processes with the keys to lock the outer gate and the gates of the Middle and Byward Towers. He is joined by guards and

is challenged by the sentry before being allowed to pass and lock the gates. Then, with a final salutation to The Queen, the ceremony is concluded as the trumpeter sounds the Last Post.

The band was disappointed to cancel its initial plans for camp last year, which was due to be held in Poland. However, as restrictions were lifted in the summer, our annual training exercise was instead arranged for June in Gibraltar, one of the few places where travel was still permitted. Our objective was to deliver musical support to The Band of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment for The Queen's Birthday Parade and other official duties. The band flew out with four musicians from the Mounted Band of the Household Cavalry, three of whom were fresh out of riding school.



Royal Yeomanry

City Yeomanry)

The Queen's Birthday Parade was held in Casemates Square, with the Governor and the Chief Minister in attendance. The band spent every day leading up to the event on the parade square, perfecting their performance, and rehearsing the drill with the Royal Gibraltar (RG) soldiers. The weather was glorious on the day and we were very glad of the tropical tunics.

After an intense first week, the band had a long weekend to recover (Gibraltar celebrates the sovereign's birthday with a bank holiday). The RG band were kind enough to organise adventurous training – in the form of water sports and caving – as well as a tour of the WWII tunnels inside The Rock. One musician ventured up The Rock and, having taken all sensible precautions regarding disposing of foodstuffs, discovered that barbary macaques have a curious taste for clarinet reeds. He

came back down five clarinet reeds lighter.

In week two, the band performed three concerts, at the Governor's residence, in Casemates Square and inside St Michael's Cave. The highlight of the week was marked by a guard mount at the Governor's residence on Armed Forces Day, which was the last day we were on The Rock. We were also joined by our Commanding Officer, Lt Col Thomas WH Bragg VR, who travelled to Gibraltar at the end of our camp and presented two of our musicians with CO's coins. The RG band were excellent hosts and, as well as achieving the aims of the deployment, lasting friendships were made.

In late summer, as City workers returned to London, the Guildhall organised its annual concert for the band in the

Guildhall Yard. This was probably the first live music that many people had heard in a long time. The sun shone and the people gathered to listen to the band perform well-known marches, tunes, and seasonal favourites. The music was well received and enjoyed by audience and band alike. Our Director of Music, Major David Hammond, is keen for the band to play more concerts and this year The Band of The Royal Yeomanry will take part in the Household Division series of concerts in the Guards' Chapel, beginning with a concert in October entitled 'Anniversaries'.

**Musn Laura Brazier
and Musn Vanessa
Owen**

*The band on the Rock of
Gibraltar, following the Queen's
Birthday Parade*



NORMANDY

77th Anniversary of D-Day

Due to the restrictions on travel, this was the second year we have been unable to be present in Normandy. On Saturday 6 June 2021 brief ceremonies were held at key locations.

Graye-sur-Mer

Led by the Mayor, Pascal Thiberge, wreaths were laid at the Inns of Court Memorial, "One Charlie" and the Canadian Memorial on 6th June.

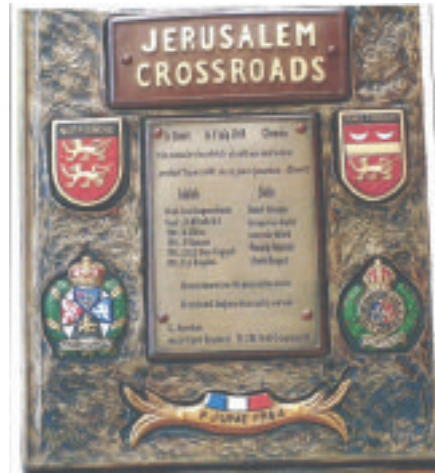
Later the second anniversary of the re-naming of the school in honour of Pat Moore was marked by an assembly of the children in the playground. The photograph taken from a video



Jean-Pierre Lachèvre, the previous Mayor of Graye, and Charlotte Renault, School Director, leading the assembly of pupils at the school renamed after Pat Moore in the singing of "Alouette"

shows Jean-Pierre Lachèvre, the previous mayor, leading the children in "Alouette". The lady is Charlotte Renault, Director of the school.

Before performing his party piece, Jean-Pierre explained that his long serving predecessor as Mayor, Michel Grimaud MBE, as an 11-year-old and a pupil at the school, had helped the Canadian troops by running messages and helping out at the dressing station. Michel spoke some English having been taught by his mother (doubtless a crime). Michel once told me he could understand the English-speaking Canadians easier than the French Canadians who spoke a curious 18th century French very heavily larded with patois.



Jerusalem Cemetery Memorial made by Pat Moore

Condé-sur-Suelles

Again, brief wreath laying ceremonies led by Emile Touffaire were held at Jerusalem Crossroads [IMAGE: Caption: Jerusalem Ceremony memorial made by Pat Moore] and Jerusalem Cemetery. Emile had told me he was going to stand down in 2020, but at 85 he remains Mayor!

Vers-sur-Mer

This was the scene of the major event of the day – the official opening of the British Normandy Memorial (see the special report). The travel restrictions meant that no-one could

travel from the UK. National TV coverage was poor but having registered with the Normandy Memorial Trust I was able to watch the whole proceedings through a link with the National Memorial Arboretum, where the UK end was held. Thankfully all I had to do was press "Click Here" and not follow a complicated link. Ian Agnew was there so I now hand over to him to describe the day's events.

National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

And so it was, the Royal British Legion's Commemoration of D Day 77 was skilfully co-ordinated with the Official Opening of the British Normandy Memorial (BNM) at Vers-sur-Mer in France. Admission to this event having been restricted to surviving D Day



Emile Touffaire, the 85-year-old Mayor of Condé-sur-Suelles, officiates at the ceremony at Jerusalem Crossroads

Veterans and their families, together with relatives of the 1944 Normandy campaign fallen. Seated in pairs and socially distanced, guests formed a main arena facing the announcers' rostrum flanked on either side by seriously large video screens.

Through these, the Normandy Memorial Trust organizers broadcast a 15 minute fast-motion recording of the most remarkable construction processes involved in the BNM from the inaugural site-opening on 7 June 2019, when the only structure in place was the iconic bronze statue Three British infantrymen storming ashore, up to the completed Memorial building, courtyard and colonnades ready for today's Opening Ceremony - all in just two years! The course of this memorable event continued as a Drum Head Service with music provided by the Band of the Yorkshire Regiment, and was interlinked with live video from the official on-site Opening Ceremony of the BNM at Vers-sur-Mer.

The service was interspersed with very personal accounts of the experiences of some of those who had taken part in the D



Ceremony at Inns of Court Memorial - Graye-sur-Mer 6th June 2021

Day landings, read out by younger members of our armed forces. The service ended with the Exhortation "We Will Remember Them", the Last Post, a two minutes silence and the Reveille blown by Royal Marine buglers. It was followed by the simultaneous laying of wreaths by VIPs and Normandy Veterans here and by the British Ambassador to France at the BNM in

Vers-sur-Mer.

A French Military Attaché then inducted our D-Day Veterans, who had not been available before, into the Legion d'Honneur with the presentation of medals. This very moving and appropriate occasion in memory of our fallen Normandy comrades-in-arms was well devised and conducted, albeit in a steady sogging drizzle under umbrellas and ponchos kindly handed out to the unprepared by Royal British Legion and NMT volunteers.

This contrasted dramatically with the bright sunshine and blue skies at Vers-sur-Mer! *Quelle différence!*

Ian Agnew and Denis Durkin

HUNTER TRIALS



Continuing the equestrian legacy of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, Lt Col Vickie Sheriff represented the Squadron at the Army and Royal Artillery Hunter Trials at Larkhill on Salisbury Plain on Sunday 10 October.

Riding her 16.2hh hunter, Carragh Silver Lady – or 'Tia' as she's better known at the stables – Col Vickie was placed fifth in the 80cm section in a class of 23 competitors. She described it as 'a good day out', although her second mount Possum pulled up lame in the warm-up arena and had to withdraw.

The British Normandy Memorial...

The history of the construction of the British Normandy Memorial above Gold Beach at Ver-sur-Mer is now well-documented on the Normandy Memorial Trust website.

Considering the IC&CY Association's involvement in, and financial contribution to the memorial, we thought it appropriate to publish a short summary of its building programme. The completion of the British Normandy Memorial is a truly remarkable achievement given the timescale in which the main organisers had to work.

From the original concept that saw the light of day in July 2015, it was not until September 2016 that the appropriate 50-acre site had been chosen. During this time fundraising by the Normandy Memorial Trust had been going on apace. The British Government donated £20 million and around £10 million was raised by private benefactors.

Throughout 2017 and 2018 the land and permission to build were acquired enabling initial groundworks to begin. The front courtyard paving and the installation of the David Williams-Ellis memorial statue were completed ready for the British Normandy Memorial site inauguration on 6th June 2019, the 75th anniversary of D Day. Some of our number visited it at the time, you can read about it in the 2019 edition of Vanguard.

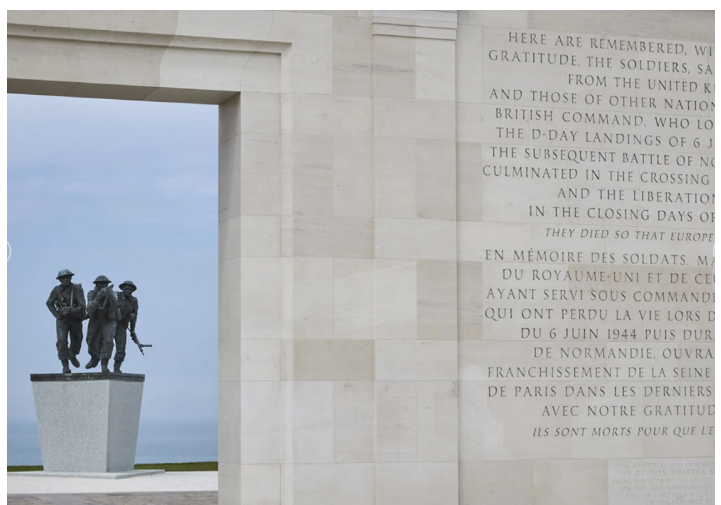
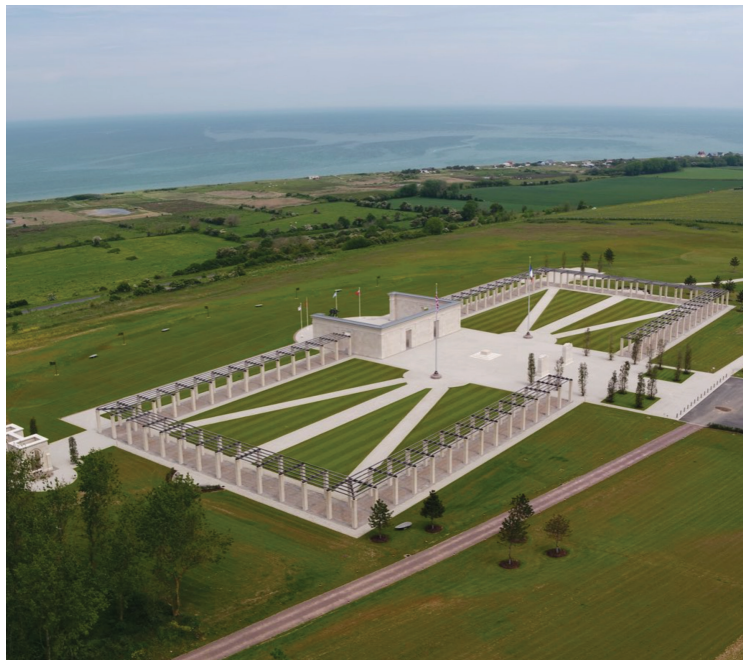
Soon afterwards, French contractors Eiffage-Route, along with Italian paving specialists Odorizzi and British timber company Carpenter Oak, began the main construction works.

Meanwhile, British stonemasons S. McConnell & Sons of Killeel in Northern Ireland were cutting 4,000 tons of French Massangis stone into blocks and inscribing nearly 22,500 names for the columns and walls of the Memorial which were then shipped back to Ver-sur-Mer for final assembly.

All this, and more landscaping was completed in the Autumn of 2020, just over a year after the inauguration of this Memorial site and in time for the official opening on 6 June 2021, the 77th anniversary of D-day.

Travel to France was severely curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic, so the ceremony was broadcast via video link from the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire where HRH The Prince of Wales assisted by Lord Llewellyn, British Ambassador to France, was present.

Ian Agnew



...and the Ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

Photos by Matt Alexander with permission of the NMA



The Regimental Museum

A year plus has passed since the original Museum Trust was absorbed into the new charitable trust (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation), which now owns all the various assets of the “ICCY family” under its wing. It has made my life a lot easier, and the new trustees have been supportive and let us get on with running the Museum.

I must say farewell to Major Tony Benbow upon his retirement from museum work. Much of his work has gone unseen, much of it in his spare time at home. He was our resident IT expert and was primarily responsible for overseeing the digitisation of the Museum’s Accession Book – a detailed inventory of the Museum’s assets as part of the process to convert that into a modern digital system with comprehensive search facilities. This was a really back-breaking exercise. He started from scratch with a home-grow system since the commercial programmes were expensive and attracted significant annual fees. They are great for large, well-funded museums, but not for us. I hesitate to calculate the man-months this took over a very long period. Similarly, he updated numerous schedules of our books and other assets and dealt with much of the email burden and assistance with annual accounts. Thanks so much for all your hard work and advice over many years.

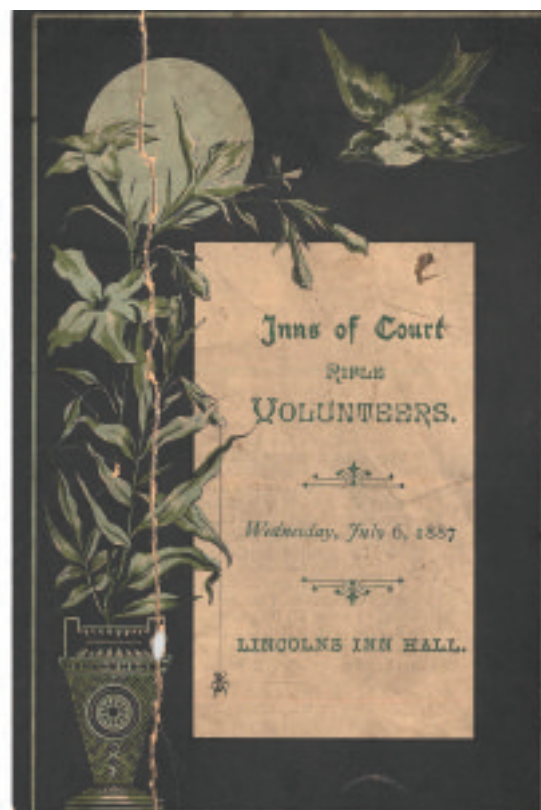
A new face has appeared in the museum, Signaller Robert Wilde-Evans. He works for the well-known London auctioneer and medal dealer, Spink, and is well versed in military history. He has already helped the Honorary Colonel’s research project to identify all the memorials to ICR and the Rough Riders in England and abroad.

The 2020-21 period has not been the easiest. We did not gain access to the Museum and store until April 2021. Thankfully we had been able to answer most enquiries at home by email from information and books taken home before the start of lockdown. Various meetings of trustees, museum conferences and training have been held via Zoom and MS teams. They were, surprisingly, pretty painless after the first one!

While we were away during lockdown, all the scanned material for the AMOT (the Army Museums Ogilby Trust) project (described in detail in last year’s report) was returned by the scanning company and checked in. In essence, all our written and photographic records for the period 1899 to 1929 were scanned to a very high quality and will be available soon for the public to see. A new laptop is currently being loaded with the software to enable us to access the new site of AMOT and soon it should be live for us. There is quite a lot of further training still to do so that we can get to grips with the new sophisticated software.

The major donations received this year have been:

- Tom Taylor’s memorial order of service presented by his widow, Sylvia.
- A gargantuan menu for a grand dinner by the members of our predecessors, the Inns of Court Rifle Volunteers, held at Lincoln’s Inn’s Hall on the 6 July 1887. How anyone could move off their seats at the end of that dinner is an interesting



The gargantuan dinner menu from 1887



World War One Cavalry pre-deployment in London 1914

question. The donor was Terry Williams. His connection with us is that he attended many enjoyable masonic dinners in our mess (presumably rather less gargantuan!).

c. Documents and memorabilia relating to the late Trooper Cliff Bone, who had served in C Squadron and participated in the D-Day invasion, presented by his stepson, Mr Neil Cole.

d. An interesting photo album compiled in about 1933 by Lt Col H J Grainger, Inns of Court Regiment (ICR). This was unearthed during the searches for material for the AMOT scanning. It's a very interesting album showing, among other things, the Bull-Nosed Morris 'armoured' cars assembled by a keen mechanic in the Regiment in the early 1930s. They were designed as carriers for the heavy Vickers machine guns and their crews to replace the original horse-drawn limbers. They proved to be a prescient start before we were later converted officially to an armed recce role. Five cars and four trailers were built in time for the summer camp in Arundel Park in August 1933. On exercises, machine guns could be re-sited very quickly to meet the changing tactical situations and proved to be a great success. Since the conversion of an infantry company to machine guns had been unofficial, the carriers had to be hidden away from the eyes of inspecting Generals lest they were condemned as being unofficial!

It is worth recalling that the official cavalry training pamphlets of the time were still describing how to organise a cavalry charge; how to hold your sword or lance in the charge; and how to regroup. As if the carnage of men and horses at the Somme and elsewhere from heavy machine guns fifteen years before had been a blip of history. In fact, the cavalry on the Western Front

proved to have little real role when faced with trench warfare conditions, yet they continued to train after the war using kit that would have been well familiar to the likes of Julius Caesar and Napoleon.

e. ICR battledress tunic, photos and documents of Trooper Alfred Goldbourn presented by his nephew, Mr Rob Ward.

f. A programme for the Marsden Manor Horse Trials, Cirencester, held on the 5 October 1986, presented by the Hon Curator. ICCY's participation there was to provide gate security and radio communications between the front entrance, the far-flung jumps, marshals and the commentary box, and this was arranged by Major Rupert Sawyer. Those trials were memorable because of a surprise visitor. A certain lady in a headscarf driving a Land Rover arrived at the gate manned by our lads. The entrance fee was requested but the said lady was a bit ruffled and after some discussions was waved in. And who was she? Princess Anne, well known in horsey circles!

Running a museum is very much a team effort. I must thank my compatriots, Lieutenant Philip Lenanton and Signaller Robert Wilde-Evans for all their hard work and support, and to Denis Durkin for his continuing advice and indispensable military knowledge. A big thanks also to our PSAO, Capt John 'JD' Donaldson, Irish Guards, and his staff for all their admin help throughout the last year.

Major Michael O'Beirne TD

Hon Curator

Operation TORCH

Denis Durkin explores the first overseas operation involving the 11th (City of London Yeomanry) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, newly established in 1939

Operation TORCH was an Anglo-American invasion of the Vichy-French territories of the western part of North Africa that took place between 8-16 November 1942. If successful, it would enable the Allies to begin a pincer movement against the Axis with the 8th Army moving west from Egypt.

There were three landing areas:

- The Western Task Force landed at three points in Morocco Safi, Fedala and Mehdiya
- The Centre Task Force at three beaches near Oran
- The Eastern Task Force in the Algiers area



The hope was that, with the tide turning against the Axis, little opposition would be met. This was true to a large extent although there was severe fighting around Casablanca.

In secret negotiations with anti-Vichy groups the impression was given that this was an American operation because, following the bombardment of the French fleet at Oran and the raid on Dakar, the British were not exactly the flavour of the month. When the US General Mark Clark was smuggled ashore from a British submarine, it was disguised as American to avoid dissent. Even though the invasion was imminent, Gen Clark maintained it was still in the planning stage as the French had a reputation of not keeping things to themselves.

This was the first overseas operation carried out by US forces and, although being in action from day one, this was the first overseas operation involving the 31, 32 and 33 Batteries of the 11th (City of London Yeomanry) Light Anti-Aircraft (LAA) Regiment, Royal Artillery, who landed at Algiers.

Although dwarfed in size by the number of vessels involved on D-Day, around 700 were involved with the British sailing 1,500 nautical miles and the US forces some 3,500.

Regimental HQ and 33 Battery of the Rough Riders sailed from Greenock on 1 November 1942, and 31 and 33 Batteries on 14 November, landing at Bougie and Algiers. Captain John Guest, the Adjutant who wrote the brief history, states that "the journeys out were uneventful", although Peter Willenbrook, Sgt in 32, kept saying he hoped his uncle didn't turn up – he being a U-Boat commander.

Once through the Straits of Gibraltar they were under close observation from both shores and this is where deception, at which the British had become quite expert, played an important part.

Renato Levi, a double agent based in Cairo (British codename CHEESE, German ROBERTO) with a totally fictitious network of spies was tasked, in addition to providing misleading information about the 8th Army, with passing false information about the destination of the TORCH fleet. Agents reported Crete, Corsica, Malta, Sicily and elsewhere at different times thus making it difficult for the Axis to deploy their ships. In this the fleet assisted



Renato Levi in 1949

by sailing beyond the intended destinations before doing a 180 degree change of course and catching the enemy off guard.

In Vichy controlled North Africa, there was a network of Polish Intelligence experts known as AGENCY AFRICA led by the 45-year-old Major Mieczyslaw Slowikowski codename RYGOR (Polish for Rigour). Their main tasks were collecting information regarding ports and French forces numbers, their locations and their attitude be that pro or anti Vichy; as well as helping to organise pro Allied civilians/military into resistance groups. They provided very valuable information but have received little credit for all their good work.



Polish spy Maj Slowikowski is awarded US Legion of Merit

The Eastern Task Force landed in the early hours of 8 November, following a French resistance group, organised by the Poles taking over some key targets and trying (unsuccessfully) to persuade the French Senior Officer – General Alphonse Juin to side with the allies.

Despite this setback, officially, very little opposition was met because the coastal batteries had been neutralised by the Resistance.

The only fighting took place in the port of Algiers, where a force of US Rangers landed as part of Operation TERMINAL. Their job was to avoid destruction of the port facilities and scuttling of ships. However, the fighting on land soon petered out and Gen Juin surrendered the City to the Allies at 18.00hrs.

The area was secured and Allied troops starting moving inland. The 11th LAA landed with RHQ and 33 Battery at Bougie on the 14 November, and 31 and 32 Batteries at Algiers on 22 November. From the moment they landed, they were under constant attack from German and Italian Air Forces. Sgt Ralph Brace, a detachment commander of No. 3 gun in Centre Troop, 32 Battery, recalled "a thick black smoke screen had been laid to protect troops, so thick you could hardly breathe". Shortly after they embarked on HMS Queen Emma and HMS Princess Beatrix, pre-war Dutch cruise liners converted to troopships bound for Bone and under constant air attack. The escort managed to shoot down two Italian Savoia Machetti planes, one piloted by a well-known Italian racing driver, Tazio Nuvelari, who was fished out of the water.



No. 6 Gun, Centre Troop, 32 Battery

Moved forward to Canrobert Airfield, the most forward landing strip of the Allies, they found themselves under continual attack. At that time the RAF only had three Squadrons of Bisley aircraft (Mk 5 Blenheims) supporting the infantry at the Medjez front.

The Germans, having quickly realised there would be little resistance from the French, reacted by taking over unopposed, the French airfields to the east of Bone and flying in dozens of ME109s against whom the Bisleys stood no chance. In addition, they also moved land forces into the area. The Allies had to ship aircraft to Gibraltar where they were assembled and flown to North Africa.

As you will know, getting appropriate kit out of British Quarter Masters is almost impossible ("these objects are for QMs to stack neatly on shelves and count, not giving to you horrible lot to mistreat") and the Rough Riders soon became inveterate scroungers – groundsheets for sleeping under being replaced by 180 pounder tents, donated by the RAF, although they didn't know it. But it was the Americans who were a pilferers dream come true. They seemed to have an abundance of kit and were a bit careless with it. The British had rigid girder 350cc BSA motorcycles (guess what BSA stood for as far as Tommy was concerned) and Alan Gilbert, Sgt despatch-rider in 32 Battery recalled he had to take the Battery OC – Sir James Waterlow on a 100 mile round trip

to an O Group when the poor baronet was suffering from piles. He made no comment when his next trip was on the pillion of a brand new well sprung Harley Davidson that had appeared from somewhere. Liberation of these steeds was made easier by the American army being "dry". Amazing what bottles of scotch can do – and all you then had to do was organise a fake logbook (it wasn't only POWs and the Resistance who were good at this!).

The advance continued steadily eastwards with the Rough Riders on the move, at times defending airfields and others in close support of the infantry in a ground attack role. At a Bailey bridge over the River Medjerda, they were in action with the Lancashire Fusiliers and the Argyle and Sutherlands, both of whom had suffered heavy casualties. There, it was realised that their anti-tank armour piercing ammo was just bouncing off Mk 4 Panzers. Tunis was by this time only five minutes flying time away and they were under constant attack. At one time they were under direct observation from German lines, and as Sgt Rupert Cannon wrote "there was a daily fly over by two ME109s nicknamed Gert & Daisy, who would dive on and machine gun anything that moved". This had fatal consequences for one poor despatch rider. Added to this was tiredness from lack of sleep, discomfort of tented living conditions, poor food, bad weather and of course flies.

Despite the setback at the Kasserine Pass, the Axis forces were finally trapped between the two Allied forces (the 8th Army included 43 Battery City of London Yeomanry). They surrendered in May 1943, with 218,000 prisoners.

The political fallout from TORCH was far reaching. As soon as the Germans realised that the Vichy authorities in North Africa had lost control they took over the Free Zone. In Italy it led to the dismissal and arrest of Mussolini on 25 July, and the Italian Armistice on 3 September 1943.

In constant action for over five months, they had carried out a number of roles and shot down at least 25 aircraft. Their time being described as "lively" by Captain John Guest. Even after the capitulation there were still air attacks from Italy.

"After some dreary locations, the Regiment finally moved to Phillipville, a pleasant town that could have been in southern France and it seemed that the summer there had not yet ended" – John Guest. Here they enjoyed a respite until 1 December 1943 when they embarked on the troop ship Cap Paderan, bound for their next adventure in Sicily.



Continued overleaf

Given all the action they had seen The Rough Riders only suffered nine fatalities:

Name	Rank	Age	Unit	Date of Death	Location
Boakes H T	Gnr	31	33 Bty	03.03.1943	Teboursouk
Boxall A C	Gnr	31	32 Bty	31.12.1942	Medjez
Burling E C	Gnr	39	31 Bty	28.02.1943	Souk el Arbe
Carter J A J	L/Bdr	32	33 Bty	18.01.1943	Medjez
Gurney W J	Pte	31	ACC	15.01.1943	Medjez
Kidgell F G	Gnr	20	31 Bty	25.09.1943	Algiers
Lea A O	L/Sgt	28	31 Bty	21.01.1943	Beja
Sweeney E	Gnr	32	32 Bty	27.05.1943	Souk el Arbe
Talyor G R	Gnr	32	32 Bty	29.11.1943	Setif

In the museum store is a Bank of Algeria note, on the back of which, very faintly in pencil, are directions to the "Villa Sophia". I asked many old Roughs where this was and what went on but nobody owned up to knowing about it. I did have one double take though, but the chap was with his wife – "Sorry can't help – must have been after I went to OCTU". **Denis Durkin**

EXPAT Adventures

News from Down Under: ANZAC Day 25 April 2021

Due to restrictions no public ceremonies were held in 2020 – just the lone buglers blowing Last Post and Reveille in their gardens.

This year, while there were some restrictions still in force, ceremonies were allowed to go ahead and I have heard from Captains Phillip Adams and Martin Dinan in Adelaide and Sgt Peter Ivey in Sydney. All served with 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron (Peter as Signaller) and the IC&CY tie was on parade.

Phillip reports from Adelaide that a parade was held at the Australian Light Horse Memorial in the morning and that an ANZAC Day dinner was held at his house in the evening.



ANZAC Day parade in Sydney

Peter wrote that "in Sydney, due to Covid, a limited number of people were able to attend the Dawn Service at Bondi but it was as moving as ever.

"Later that morning I went into town and marched with the Royal Australian Signals Association and finished up with drinks at the lunch. I raised a toast to Sig William 'Aussie Bill' Hine – Lest We Forget."

Denis Durkin



Major Marty Dinan (glasses) and Major Philip Adams sporting the IC&CY colours at ANZAC Day in Adelaide at the Light Horse Memorial in the morning (left) At the ANZAC Day dinner at home in the evening (right)

Nancy Dawson and her World

We all know that Nancy Dawson is the title of the Regimental March of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. Many of us also know that she found fame in dancing the hornpipe in John Gay's *Beggars Opera* and the children's song Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush. However, this dance did not take all of her time and sources are somewhat coy about the other aspects of the world in and around Covent Garden.

Covent Garden had long been a place for assignations that went underground after the Civil War but magically blossomed on the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660. With the opening of the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, the area was frequented by the nobility in search of enjoyment after the puritan era. This included the monarch:

**Charles the Second
Beckoned
Nell
Fell**

By the time Nancy appeared (1728 or 1730) the area was in full swing, with an international reputation, for every vice, legal and illegal, known to man and woman could be indulged there. The main ones were drinking, gambling and "the second oldest profession". The era was recently portrayed in the TV series *Harlots* which, although fictional, was based on real larger than life characters – there were plenty to choose from.



Nancy Dawson, probably painted by Samuel de Wilde the Dutch-born leading painter of actors and actresses between 1770 and 1820

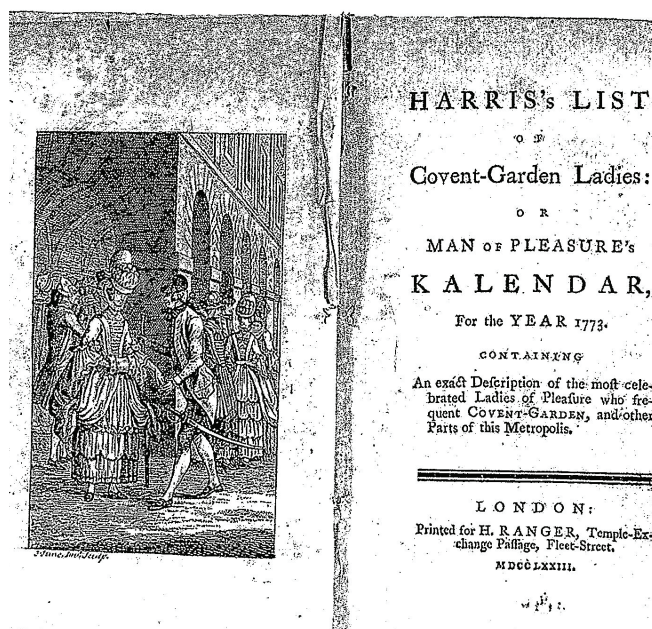
To assist you in search of the third there was a small pocket-sized guide – *Harris's List of Covent-Garden Ladies*. This was published annually from 1757 to 1795 and cost two shillings and sixpence ("two and a tanner" and about two days wages for a labourer). A contemporary report of 1791 suggested a circulation of 8,000 copies. Each edition listed between 120-190 ladies starting with their address followed by a few lines of verse and then in somewhat lurid but flowery details their appearance, "specialities" and of course the price.

Most were complimentary but some very unflattering. This suggests a donation had to be made to be included and those that refused to pay were given a bad write up (18th Century *Trip Advisor* poor review trick).

In the 1788 issue, one Miss Clicamp, of 2 York Street near Middlesex Hospital is described as "one of the finest fattest figures as fully fashioned for fun and frolick as fertile fancy ever formed" – wonderful alliteration!

Samuel Derrick is normally credited with the design of the list having been inspired by a pimp, Jack Harris, who worked at the Shakespeare's Head Tavern.

To avoid prosecution, as portrayed in *Harlots*, brothels operated behind a front, often a coffee or cocoa shop. Taverns were also a favourite venue as they have been from time immemorial. Many attempts were made to curb the disorderly conduct that prevailed, but these usually ended up with the proprietor



Harris's famous List of Covent Garden Ladies; with a circulation of 8,000 it was a "must have" for the adventurous man-about-town

fined and his or her licence withheld. The convicted then just changed the name of the establishment and paid someone to “front” it – business as usual (akin to a modern internet scam). Bribery, in cash of kind, also played a large part in their continued existence to ply their trade.

Many “Madams” who ran these places amassed large fortunes and retired to the country and respectability and a few of the “working girls” did well, some marrying into the aristocracy and others acquiring a life-time “protector”.

One, a Mrs Theresa Berkley, who ran an establishment specialising in flagellation at 28 Charlotte Street, Portland Place, amassed over £100,000. She died at a great age in 1836, leaving her fortune to her brother who has been a missionary in Australia for over 30 years. He returned to the UK to claim his inheritance but on learning of its origin renounced it and fled in horror, back to Oz. The money went to the Crown.

For the majority, however, it was a rapid descent into drink, disease, desperation, destitution and death – as illustrated by William Hogarth in his prints *A Harlot's Progress*.

As can be imagined drunken brawls, thieving, general chicanery and murder were everyday 24/7 events. Hogarth's *Rakes Progress* gives you a good idea of what went on.

Despite all this they still managed to sell fruit and vegetables!

It was into this world that Nancy first saw the light of day “within a musket-shot of Clare Market” – a sleazy, dismal enclave off The Strand, notorious for being “a nest of diverse criminals and Mollie Houses (male brothels)”.

Her father, described as a “pimp and porter” was a shiftless



Hogarth's innocent heroine, Moll Hackabout, arrives in London and meets the notorious procuress, Mrs Needham

rogue named Emanuel Dawson. Her mother, Anne, sold greengrocery from a stall in Covent Garden. She could be the Anne Dawson who in 1717 was working in one of Richard Haddock's (a big player in the sex scene) bagnios (brothels operating as bath-houses) and was taken in a 1724 raid from another bagnio masquerading as a coffee and chocolate house in Exeter Street.

Her parents died young and she was adopted by William and Eleanor Newton, staymakers, in Martlet Court,

Covent Garden and expected to learn the trade.

However, she was a pretty vivacious child who, before she was sixteen, was going round taverns earning many pennies by dancing, singing, tumbling and playing the tabor (a small one-handed drum) and the pipe. She eventually set up a skittles alley where she met a “figure dancer” who was impressed with her skills and persuaded her to go on the stage where she was soon

earning 10-12 shillings a night from silver thrown to her by appreciative audiences.

At some stage she decided on an additional, more lucrative career as well, and an early edition of *Harris's List* described her thus:

Now Nan was a Free Port of Trade

For every vessel to unlade

And whoever came to her

French, Dutch, Italians, pimps or Peice (sic)

‘Twas, Si Signor, ‘twas Ja Mynheer,

‘Twas S'il vous plait, Monsieur.

She would also go round brothels entertaining customers before the main event but she was so saucy that the whores resented her as punters preferred to listen to her and forget what they originally came for. She also used to go to Bob Derry's Cyder Cellar where she often got “tearing drunk”.

An old termagant Molly King, who, with her husband Tom, ran coffee/chocolate houses, took a fancy to her and remained friendly with her all her life. At ‘Toms’ she met all the leading



One of several small kiosks about the Piazza which remained open long after the neighbouring shops had closed, selling souvenirs but also quack medicines, contraceptives and obscene prints

actors and actresses from the nearby theatres but, at this time, she was little known outside the taverns and bawdy houses.

Her big breakthrough came in February 1758 when actor-manager Ned Shuter got her to dance 'jigges' at Covent Garden Theatre. These jigges were specially scripted ballads for two or more actors singing a cross-dialogue of a lewd nature with lascivious gestures and dancing. They were extremely popular. "Here we go gathering nuts in May" – what tree in this country produces edible fruit at that time of year?

By now she was considered a heartless, mercenary, shrewish whore living in Manchester Square with another of like nature, Polly Kennedy, known for fleecing her customers.

In 1759, Nancy was dancing the hornpipe in *The Beggars Opera* at Sadler's Wells and her performance was acclaimed for its lasciviousness. She became famous overnight and the ballad was born.

She was enticed to Drury Lane in September 1760 but continued to ply her other trade.

The Ballad of Nancy Dawson was all the rage in 1761 and her success was assured. Intriguingly, it was played at the funeral of General Sir Eyre Coote at Madras in 1783. He was a near contemporary (b1726). Did he have a "home posting" whilst Nancy was on "active service"?

Her past life was now catching up with her and she followed her old friend Molly King, who died in 1747, leaving property to Nancy, into retirement. She lived on Haverstock Hill where Molly had built some houses. These were known as "Molly Kings Row" but, in 1888, the name was changed to Dawson's Terrace – they no longer exist.

She died on 27 May 1767, leaving a considerable estate, including £50 to her brother William and his daughter Elizabeth but "only if she behave herself in a prudent manner and marries a man of Good Character".

Nancy's memory was kept alive by the publication of *Nancy*

Dawson's Choyce Ditties with the subtitle "Her Famous Smutty Songs". Unfortunately no copy seems to have survived.

She was buried in the graveyard of St George the Martyr, Bloomsbury.

I do not know if her grave can still be found, but if it can and there is no headstone, perhaps a suitable epitaph might be:

**Here lies the body of
Nancy Dawson**

**On earth her life was
somewhat wanton**

**But now she sleeps
beneath this stone**

**Early, sober and
alone.**

Postscript

My source for saying that no copy of Nancy's ditties had survived was published in 1986 and as things turn up out of the blue everyday I thought I would investigate.

Not having had much luck I enlisted the help of Will Rathouse, our home-grown archaeologist. Whilst

Will's forté is digging things up from the Thames* he unearthed a link I could not find that showed that a collection of 18th and 19th century bawdy songs had indeed been published by Routledge in 2011. The book is rather expensive and copyrighted but I have been able to see the title pages.

These include such early ones, that may be Nancy's. They include: *The Squire's Thingumbob* and *Kitty's What You May Call It*; *My Lord's Long Ledger*; *The Old Woman's Mutton*; *The Bald Headed Friar* and *Confessions Of A Chamber Pot* and I fear any reproduction in Vanguard would have a lot of ***** in it. Hardly the lyrics sung round the pianoforte at a musical evening in polite society!

*Will is Senior Community Engagement Archaeologist with *The Thames Discovery Programme* – thamesdiscovery.org – wrrathouse@mola.org.uk and is always looking for volunteers. So, if you fancy a bit of mudlarking get in touch.

Denis Durkin



Our Sisters in Arms

The more one learns about the FANY, our “sister” yeomanry regiment, the more the word “unique” springs to mind. FANY, the title which they affirm, with a coy smile of pride, is an acronym for First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (Princess Royal’s Volunteer Corps). Although, not on the Army list but appearing, in all aspects, to be part of the Army Reserve, the Corps is, actually, an independent, registered charity whose female members are not only volunteers but unpaid ones – that is unique!



The Lord Mayor’s Show

Participants and spectators at the Lord Mayor’s Show will have seen their mounted detachment but will probably have no idea of their history, which is as varied and complex as their current roles. Whilst on the subject of the Lord Mayor’s Show, no one should be surprised at their equestrian skills; a visit to the FANY’s archives reveals that they have been practising for over 110 years!



“In single file, Walk March!” Albany Barracks 1909

For centuries, women played unofficial roles in our Army as wives, cooks, nurses, midwives, seamstresses, laundresses and the rest, living and working with their regiment at home or overseas, caring for the physical and emotional wellbeing of their soldiers – the archetypal camp-follower! However, with the ongoing professionalisation of the military, women found themselves increasingly excluded from service from the start of the nineteenth century onwards. But the tide turned during the Crimean War (1854-56), when Florence

Nightingale revolutionised the nursing profession and established its indispensability in caring for sick and wounded soldiers. The foundations laid by her, led to the formation of the Army Nursing Service (ANS), whose initial role was to tend to the wounded during the Boer War. Subsequently, in 1902, Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Nursing Service (now QARANC) was formed, subsuming the ANS.

It was during the Boer War, at the Battle of Omdurman in 1898, that a Warrant Officer in the 21st Lancers, Edward Baker, was wounded. He recalled the pain of lying on the battlefield until he was unceremoniously loaded onto a horse drawn ambulance. Far from relieving his agony, it was intensified by the jolting movement of the vehicle. Would it not be wonderful, he thought later, if a group of women, mounted on horseback, had been able to administer first aid on the battlefield before removing their patients to the casualty clearing stations? It took some time for that dream to be fulfilled for it was not until 1907 that the FANY was formed initially to act as a first-aid link between fighting units and field hospitals.

Getting the Corps established was hardly a fairy tale; can you imagine the recruiting slogan? “Come and join us, give up your spare time to be uncomfortable, perform gruesome tasks in dangerous conditions and all for no pay!” Whilst the initial



Press cutting from 1908 showing two FANYs talking to a potential recruit

recruiting drive was in progress, the charity had to raise its own funds to pay for the premises, training, horses and uniforms. The fact that that the ideal recruit was a young lady, who already owned a horse, must have been an additional problem. A unique organisation, run by a unique breed of women!

Initial training was limited to riding and administering first aid. This was carried out with such enthusiasm and success, that they expanded their instruction to cover running the hospitals, driving the ambulances and, even, providing soup kitchens and canteens.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, despite the Corp’s influential connections now established within the Army, no one would give them a role, let alone support. Undaunted, their leader



The first FANY ambulance, 1911

acquired basic equipment and the FANY crossed the Channel to drive ambulances for the Belgians and the French. Their devotion to duty, in starkly unwelcoming conditions, was eventually recognised and, in 1916, the War Office took them into service – 16 FANY ambulance drivers replacing British Red Cross men on active duty, the Surgeon-General summing up FANY's unique status, thus: "They're neither fish nor fowl, but damned fine red herring". After their initial rejection, the Corps became the most decorated women's unit of the war, with 17 Military Medals; 27 Croix de Guerre; one Legion d'Honneur, and 11 Mentions in Despatches.

In the wake of the Great War, all the women's branches of the military, WAAC, WRNS and WAAF were disbanded. The FANY, once more, proved themselves unique. They simply reverted to being an independent and self-funding charity. However, since by their war-time service they had gained many supporters in the military establishment, the War Office provided Army accommodation and training assistance for their Annual Camps. Thus, the Corps continued in readiness to provide support in time of any emergency.

One of these arose in 1926, in the shape of the General Strike. Unique once more, FANY were the only women's Corps officially employed by the War Office, tasked to provide 20 private cars and drivers to drive the War Office staff to and from work. This led to the temporary inclusion of the Corps in the Army List, although paying their members was still a step too far!

This higher profile boosted recruitment and small sections were formed away from London in the 1930s, including a FANY unit in British East Africa (now Kenya), uniquely the

first overseas women's unit ever to be formed. At home, the training continued, extending to the skills of radio work, first aid, mechanics and motor vehicle maintenance.

As Hitler's voice grew louder and war clouds gathered, the FANY nearly fell victim to its own success. Plans were hatched to form an all-embracing women's service to provide drivers, cooks and clerks for the Army and RAF. Patriotic duty had to take precedence to pride in the independence enjoyed by the Corps to date and, in 1938, the FANY undertook to supply trained driver/mechanics, to be part of the new Auxiliary

Territorial Service (ATS), whilst setting up an officer and Non-commissioned Officers' Training Centre at Camberley, nonetheless, retaining their own flash on the sleeves of their ATS uniforms.

What members of the Corps did during World War Two would fill a book. They ran ambulances, acted as encryption specialists (coders and decoders), wireless operators, radar operators, personal assistants and drivers, in the UK, Finland, North Africa, Italy, India, Ceylon and the Far East and supported the Polish Armed Forces in the West (Polskie Siły Zbrojne na Zachodzie) but their most famous role was with the Special Operations Executive (SOE). The Corps' strength in WW2 was 6,000, of which 2,000 served in SOE providing to that elite unit, not only the skills they were trained in but, also, acting as agents, in top secret and highly dangerous roles.

Of the 50 women sent as agents by SOE into France, 39 were members of the FANY. Gallantry awards included: three



George Crosses; two George Medals; a King's Medal for Courage in the Cause of Freedom; a King's Commendation for Brave Conduct; two Commendations for Good Service; and 36 Mentions in Despatches, one CBE, six OBEs, 23 MBEs and ten BEMs. In addition, there were numerous foreign decorations:

one Chevalier of the Legion of Honour; six Croix de Guerre; two Medaille de la Reconnaissance; one Norwegian Liberty Medal; one US Bronze Star; and one US Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm.

The subsequent Cold War seems to have added stimulus to the Corps' training programme, with the skills of wireless telegraphy, shooting and languages being added to those in which they were already trained. However, not being a paid part of the Army meant that no specific military role was assigned to the Corps – but all that talent could not go to waste. By the end of the 1960s, a specialist unit was formed to assist the City of London Police in coping with disasters. Also, a Language Unit was formed to provide individuals or teams to interpret at international events.

Throughout the '70s, communications and other assistance was provided for major events and emergencies such as the Moorgate train disaster in 1975. Eventually, a military Cold War role was assigned: that of working alongside 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment, as it then was, of deploying to a number of secret bunkers designed to house those to be in command of the country in the event of a nuclear attack upon the UK. Whilst 68(IC&CY) Signal Squadron's role was to provide communications for the military, FANY were to be responsible to the Government itself. These bunkers contained all the facilities required to sustain a community of people for several months and a weekend in one of them was great training for lockdown!



FANY on parade!

regiment to provide logistic support for them.

Naturally FANY assisted with the 2012 Olympic Games. After giving substantial help in dealing with the Grenfell Tower fire, yet another area of training emerged, and Trauma Risk Management was added to the list of their roles. Today their reach is wider



At the Nightingale Hospital

and covers support to various military headquarters and units (both Regular and Reserves) around the Country, police forces (including the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police), coroners, many other civilian agencies. More recently the Corps has, fittingly, been involved in setting up the Nightingale hospitals to cope with the illness caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The unique contribution which the Corps makes was recognised, last year, by the award of Privileged Status by the City of London and, this year by winning the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to charitable organisations.

Now, when you meet our sisters-in-arms at the Pit Stop in Temple Gardens, make sure that you congratulate them on the wonderful (and unique) job which they do.

Andrew Collins

Note: All images, except for the first one, are copyrighted to the FANY(PRVC)



On duty during the Covid-19 pandemic



Return to the Hut

Those of us of a certain vintage will remember the Inns of Court bungalow at Bisley Camp in the Surrey heathlands with some warmth. For younger members Bisley Camp is the home of the National Rifle Association known throughout the world for its annual Imperial Shooting



Bisley Camp

meeting and its shooting ranges. But more interestingly, there are dozens of shooting camp lodges which range from Victorian club houses, colonial bungalows to modern brick buildings – and even a railway carriage – all to provide accommodation for shooting teams. The entire site is redolent of a hill station and on a summer day one is taken back to that long weekend between the wars when the sun never stopped shining!

Well, we had our own building always known as the Bisley Hut, a white painted clapboard building and garden. I say ‘we’ advisedly as from memory I think the Signal Regiment leased



Sparkling, white-painted and well cared for...

it principally for the shooting team, but it was available for use when not required by them.

It was large enough to accommodate much of the Squadron. It



...but still the Inns of Court

had beds, kitchens and there were ablutions nearby. I remember seeing pictures of the hut being used by the Inns of Court Regiment between the wars, so its history goes back a hundred years or so. There was even a small swimming pool in our garden, but grown over by the late 1990s.

I can remember many happy weekends there with the Home Service Force Squadron when we were on military training locally. Early morning PT in gas masks is a particular memory!

I stand to be corrected but I believe the Regiment gave up the lease about twenty years ago so when I was in the area recently, I decided to seek out the hut expecting to see a forlorn building badly maintained and renamed.

Imagine my surprise when I found a sparkling, white painted, well-cared for lodge looking very much better than I remember. It is still named the Inns of Court but used by Wellington College for their shooting team.

Peering in the windows the accommodation was pretty much unchanged as I remembered it, but it was smart, clean and looking very up to date. I managed to spend some time walking around our garden and the camp recalling past times but search as I may I could find no trace of the swimming pool!

One can't have everything.

Tim Weale

A Rough Rider Remembered

Major Knollys

Phil Seaton (our man at Highgate Cemetery) and friends recall celebrating the life of a distinguished former Rough Rider who perished in the First World War

A former member of the IC&CY Home Service Force (HSF) Squadron, Phil Seaton, was employed at Highgate Cemetery as a grave digger (he was good at digging trenches on exercises). While attending to his duties, he spotted the grave of Major "Frank" Knollys. He was a Rough Rider but was wounded at Gallipoli and evacuated to the UK where he succumbed to his wounds on 24 September 1915. He was "one of our own".

Major Knollys is listed on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) register as being buried in Highgate Cemetery, however, he does not have the familiar, standard headstone that is provided by the CWGC, but rather he had a more substantial private one.

The grave was in a state of disrepair and looking very unkempt, and most of the top of the gravestone's cross was missing. So, Phil decided to do something about it. With the help of a fellow worker, "OPERATION REVIVAL" took place in 2015, exactly 100 years after Major Knollys' passing. Phil was able to 'recycle' a suitable cross and fit it to the grave.

When Phil relayed his efforts and the outcome to other former members of the Squadron, Denis Durkin picked up the significance of the centenary of Major K's death. Following an email exchange of epic proportions between other former HSF members, it was decided that they should all visit the grave and pay their respects.

OPERATION BUNDABERG

In September 2015, a task force of ex HSF and a Black Brogue



Major F.R.A.N. Knollys

supporter made the perilous journey from central London to the Badlands of Highgate to RV with our "inside man" Phil Seaton. The mission being to visit and pay tribute to our fallen antecedent, comrade Major Knollys.

The contingent consisted of Denis Durkin, Jim Wolfe, John Sabini, Phil Seaton, Nobby Clarke and Lawrence Ward. Armed with a fall bottle of Bundaberg Rum* and accompanying mixers, Phil Seaton led the 'crack troops' to Major K's resting place via a very overgrown path that could

have doubled as a jungle warfare training area.

*Rum supply – Bundaberg 'Fire Water' was traditionally drunk during the Dawn Service at Bondi Beach on ANZAC Day and was sent to the HSF group by Peter Ivey, of 7th Australian Sigs. Peter served with 68 (IC&CY) Sig Sqn and has been elected a member of the Devil's Own Sergeant's Club on his promotion to Sergeant.



The gravestone and epitaph



Toasting Major K

Once settled around the grave, they toasted Major K and the Regiment.

The grave is very close to the perimeter of Highgate Cemetery and the group could be seen demolishing the bottle of Bundaberg with great gusto. Phil remembers that strange looks were exchanged by passers-by who must have been impressed that the area had such a high class of rough street drinkers as the grave visitors were all kitted out in suits and regimental ties.

Having knocked off most of the rum, we left a tot at the base of Major K's cross and exited to the local Wetherspoons for the wake.

The life of Major F.R.A.N. Knollys

I/I City of London

Point of interest

Close to the grave of Major K is the grave of the only policeman who was an Army VC winner – Sgt Robert Grant,

Frederick Roger Alexander Nicholas 'Frank' Knollys was born on 1 December 1884, the youngest surviving son of Colonel William Wallingford and Sophia Knollys.

He first served in the Westminster Dragoons but transferred to the Rough Riders shortly after its formation in 1902 and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on 25 April 1908 (London Gazette 13.10.1908 page 7384).

At the outbreak of war, he was a Captain in D Squadron. He was promoted to Major in November 1914 as officer in command of B Squadron. On 15 January 1915 he moved again to be Squadron Leader of D Squadron.

On 11 April, he embarked at Avonmouth on SS Scotia bound for the Dardanelles, arriving off Cape Helles on 28 April where he awaited instructions to land. However, the orders he received directed him to proceed to Alexandria to defend the Suez Canal where a Turkish attack was anticipated.

On 12 August 1915, he embarked on SS Caledonia and transferred to HMS Doris to land at Sulva Bay on 18 August.

Major Knollys took part in the Battle of Scimitar Hill on 21 August and moved to Chocolate Hill early on the morning of the 23rd. Here, he and his men were shelled at about 9am, the only casualty being Major Knollys whose leg was shattered by a fuse. He was evacuated to the beach where a successful amputation was performed.

He was then moved to Alexandria from where he was transported to England but was unconscious from Malta onwards. He was in the Red Cross hospital at Netley where he was nursed by his sisters Lady Wolseley and Mrs Walter Haydon and others, but he died on 24 September 1915.

His funeral took place on 29 September 1915 and after a service in the church at Highgate he was interred in the family plot at Highgate Cemetery. His coffin bore a wreath from Queen Alexandria who was represented by Earl Howe and several other dignitaries were in attendance.

He was on the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Housing Society, a director of the London Housing Society, a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers and an active Freemason, having been a founder and past master of the Waterloo Lodge and a member of the Lodge of Friendship, the Methuen and the Buckinghamshire Masters' Lodge.

He is also mentioned on the memorial in Chartridge Chapel, Naphill.

Denis Durkin



Obituaries

Honouring former comrades and friends, now deceased

Sergeant Frank Gamble – 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron
Lt Col Ralph Hedderwick – Wiltshire Yeomanry and Inns of Court Regiment
Sir Robert Johnson QC
Major Graham Merrett – Royal Engineers
Tom Taylor – Inns of Court Regiment

Frank Gamble

Sergeant Frank Gamble was a member of the Squadron for many years and a supporter of the Devil's Own Sergeant's Club and the Association. He passed away after a short illness on the 24 June 2021.

Ralph Hedderwick

Happily, I have never claimed to have been the first or only member of the IC&CY to serve as Sheriff at the Old Bailey, writes Colonel Nigel Pullman. As far as I'm aware, Trooper Ralph Hedderwick never troubled our Association record keepers or archives, and I rather suspect his service in the ICR was but brief. Nevertheless, I knew him (though not of his TA service) when we were fellow magistrates in the early-mid 1980s. By then he was an Alderman in the City and had earlier also served as Sheriff.

His entry in an almanac of past twentieth century Aldermen states: "In 1939 Ralph joined the Territorial Army as a trooper in the mounted squadron of the Inns of Court Yeomanry" (sic). The entry goes on to say that on the outbreak of war he was called up, and soon commissioned into the Wiltshire Yeomanry. He was de-mobilised as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1946.

What makes Ralph Hedderwick special, and worthy of a late entry into our collective memory, is that he was born on 22 June 1916, and died on 28 February 2021, aged 104!

So pretty much certainly he would have been the oldest surviving member of any of our antecedent units – by some margin.

Sir Robert Johnson QC



Sir Robert Johnson, QC, a High Court judge, was born on 9 February 1933. He died of pneumonia on 25 October 2020, aged 87. He served with the Inns of Court Regiment on conclusion of his National Service in the 5th Royal Inniskilling

Dragoon Guards, remaining a member of Mess Lunch Club for as long as it existed. He last visited the Mess for the dinner held in honour of the Rt Hon Dominic Grieve PC in 2014.

It was something of a thankless task, especially after it became apparent that the judge presiding knew next to nothing about football. Mr Justice Cantley, who earlier that year had presided when Jeremy Thorpe was acquitted of conspiracy to murder, did not recognise Kevin Keegan, then the most famous player in the country. He had heard of the Charlton brothers, Bobby and Jack, but didn't know which one was which. "Does your lordship mean the one with no hair?" Johnson offered.

One of Johnson's strengths, given that he represented a string of well-known figures ranging from Ian Fleming to Peter Sellers, was his dispassionate nature. He could walk away from the court room, having won or lost, without looking back — and he had no desire to mix socially with celebrities. "Robert was not someone to get very upset about cases," said Sir David Bodey, who belonged to the same chambers. Nor was he prone to a lavish celebration after a victory. "A few members of our chambers had a bad reputation for drinking heavily in El Vino's at lunchtime but he was not in that group," said Lord (Nicholas) Wilson, who was led by Johnson when they represented Ringo Starr, the Beatles drummer, in matrimonial proceedings. "Robert took people at face value and sailed through his job airily by the seat of his pants, flitting from one court to the next. Judges liked the big picture to be presented, and so they liked him."

Johnson's adherence to his clients' confidentiality was such that he did not give a viewpoint on their characters even to his immediate family. One such client was Bianca Jagger, then wife of Mick Jagger. "I rang him and he said he could not speak to me as she was sitting in his chambers," said his daughter, Melanie. "What is she like? I asked. 'Very beautiful,' he replied."

Robert Griffiths, QC, sought advice from Johnson over how to handle a big-name client while he was a junior barrister acting for Muhammad Ali. "He told me that euphemism is a very powerful tool in advocacy, otherwise one is presenting a case in which the judges think I, the advocate, shall win because of the fame of the client. And Johnson added, 'Don't get too close to your clients'."

The one exception to this rule was Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen, a wealthy and much-married industrialist who had given his soon to be ex-wife millions of pounds worth of jewellery. The court had to decide how much of the jewellery belonged to her and how much to the Thyssen family. Johnson established that a man of vast wealth should not have to declare all his assets when it is clear that he can afford to pay whatever the court orders

him to pay. "This became known as the 'Thyssen Defence' and continues to this day," Sir Paul Coleridge, another former Johnson pupil, said.

Johnson was a great strategist and always thought creatively, seeing what others had missed. "He took everything at massive speed," Coleridge recalled. "And judges loved him as a result. We won the case and a great deal of jewellery had to be handed back."

On another occasion, acting on behalf of a rich husband, Johnson submitted that if his client had been of more modest means, the award to his wife would have been much less substantial. "For example," he extemporised wistfully, "she might have married me."

Robert Lionel Johnson did not come from a public school and Oxbridge background, as was customary for his legal contemporaries.

He was born in Watford in 1933, the son of Harold Johnson, a chemist, and his wife, Ellen, and educated at Watford Grammar School and the London School of Economics, where he read law before his National Service.

At the Bar he came to specialise in family law, particularly matrimonial financial matters, and, according to Bodey, "rose to become a colossus within that field".

He became a QC in 1978, chairman of the Bar in 1988 and served as a High Court judge from 1989 to 2004.

The clerks at Queen Elizabeth Building would allocate him four pupils at a time, an exceptional number. They would be deputed to prepare a note for him to help him pick up a case more quickly. "Some of those notes, let it be said, found themselves equally quickly in the bin," Bodey recalled.

No one argued with Johnson, a tall and imposing figure, not least when he put on a white coat to umpire in inter-chambers cricket matches. It was a standing joke that, just as a matrimonial financial award took into account the length of the marriage, so his umpiring decisions took into account the length of the batsman's innings.

One of the most onerous decisions Johnson had to make as a judge came in 2000. It concerned the futures of Gracie and Rosie Attard, twins who were joined at the abdomen. If surgically separated, Gracie had a 94 per cent chance of survival but Rosie would die. If left conjoined, their life expectancy would be six months.

Johnson ruled that separation would not be murder but a case of "passive euthanasia". A 20-hour operation took place and, as expected, Gracie survived and Rosie died. Never would Johnson's ability to put an emotional case behind him be more imperative.

He met his wife, Linda (née Bennie) while he was in the army and she was serving in the Women's Royal Army Corps. They lived in London and in Pluckley, Kent, and had three children, of whom he is survived by Melanie, who works as an agent for villas in the Algarve. Edwina and Bobby both died of cystic fibrosis. Johnson was one of the founders of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and for many years served as a board member, vice-chairman and fundraiser.

Johnson was a believer in being correctly dressed. He adhered longer than most to the traditional male barrister's attire of a black jacket and waistcoat, pinstripe trousers, stiff collar and bowler hat. He expected his pupils to have their hair properly cut and to wear well polished shoes. "Even if you don't know any law," he told them, "You can at least look like a barrister."

Graham Merrett

Graham was known to many in the Association as a good friend to D-Day veteran Pat Moore who accompanied him on memorial visits to France and at the Royal Engineers' annual dinners. He sadly died on 14 January 2021.

Tom Taylor

Tom Taylor was born on the 15 February 1932 in Cleland, Motherwell, Scotland. After his school days, he was employed in the insurance industry and was posted to many offices around the UK. Tom was called up for National Service, joining 8 Royal Tank Regiment in Catterick, Yorkshire, where he received training in driving tanks. This skill never left him, and his family can bear witness to this from many family outings. Tom always had a love of music and enjoyed singing (especially during Squadron dinners).

On his discharge, he joined Equity and Law and shortly thereafter met and married Silvia. Tom realised he enjoyed the military life and joined the Lanarkshire Yeomanry, where he rose to the rank of Sergeant. On progression with his civilian job, he was posted to the London area and joined the Inns of Court Regiment. He was serving when the Regiment amalgamated with the City of London Yeomanry. Tom commissioned as a Lieutenant at this time and then served with the Regiment for a brief time before handing in his boots.

Tom was a constant and valued supporter of the Devils Own Sargent's Club and was for many years the Secretary of the Old Comrades Association. He had an encyclopaedic memory of the Regiment's history and its past members, and many recollections of their times within the Regiment and the successor Squadrons. Tom's stories and anecdotes will be sadly missed by all Ranks and our commiserations go to Silvia, Angus and Rachel. He will always be in our hearts.



Tom Taylor who served with the Inns of Court Regiment at the time of its amalgamation with the City of London Yeomanry

Barrie Corfield



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