



**Regimental Association of
The Rifles
and
The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire
and Wiltshire Regiment**

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2013

The Rifles Regimental Collect

O Almighty God the sure stronghold of each succeeding age, guard us your servants of the Rifles. That we may uphold and be worthy of the great traditions bound up in our former Regiments, and as we were chosen to be swift and bold may we seek with courage your grace in every time of need and so be patient and persevering in running the race that is set before us. This we ask through Jesus Christ, your son our Lord. Amen.

The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire & Wiltshire Regimental Collect

Eternal Father, whose service is perfect freedom, grant that we, Thy servants of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, may ever stand back to back courageously against all evils that beset us, thus upholding the high traditions entrusted to us, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

In Pensioners of The Royal Hospital Chelsea

Members may wish to know that our In Pensioners at Chelsea are:

In Pensioner RR Davis	(WO2, R Berks 1936 - 58)
In Pensioner WA Miles	(Bdsm, Wilts 1953 - 59)
In Pensioner DWJ Reiling	(Sgt, Glosters 1954 - 1965)
In Pensioner FW Welch MBE	(WO2, Glosters 1939 - 61)

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The Rifles & Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire & Wiltshire Regimental Association

County Offices

Gloucester Office, The Rifles
Custom House
31 Commercial Road
Gloucester, GL1 2HE
01452 - 522682

Salisbury Office, The Rifles
The Wardrobe
58 The Close
Salisbury, SP1 2EX
01722 - 414536

Patrons

The Colonel in Chief: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
KG KT OM GBE AC QSO,
HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

President

Brig PE O'R-B Davidson-Houston CBE

Vice President

Brig MS Vine OBE

Hon Vice President

Major General RD Grist CB OBE
General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue KCB CBE

Chairman

Col SJ Oxlade MBE BSc (Tech)

Secretary and Treasurer

Secretary: Major TR Carter

Chaplain

The Venerable Alan Jeans

Trustees

Chairman

Brig MS Vine OBE

Brig PE O'R-B Davidson-Houston CBE

Col MJ Boden TD MBA LLB (Hons)

Col MS Lee-Browne CBE TD DL MA

Col ED Brown MBE

Lt Col SD Gray MBE MA

Capt IG Spence

Executive Committee

The President

The Vice President

The Chairman

1 Rifles: TBC

6 Rifles: Capt CSD Stevens

7 Rifles: Capt SW Bennion

Berkshire: Mr D Smith & Mr SP North

City & County of Bristol: Lt Col JM Blundell

Gloucestershire: Capt LR Keeling & Mr RE Evans

Wiltshire: Lt Col SJ Venus MBE & Capt WH Sherman

Other Branches & non-Branch members: Mr RA Miller & Mr D Williams

Registered Charity No: 1038526

EDITORS MESSAGE

Dear Readers

Welcome to your 2013 Newsletter:

In July Major Tristram Carter joined the Gloucester Office as the RIFLES County Secretary and took up the role of Association Secretary at the AGM on 20th October.

Having introduced a new layout last year, I am pleased to note that it has received broad support. So I intend to continue along the same lines. This year there is a 'report' from the Lincoln & Welland Regiment in Canada

There is much to inform Readers about this year. The RIFLES received the Freedom of Salamanca in July and Edinburgh in November - the first British Regiment to be so honoured in both "countries" while marking the fifth anniversary of its formation with a sell out musical extravaganza in the Royal Albert Hall in October. While the highlight of the RGBW calendar in 2012 was the unveiling and dedication of the Regimental memorial at the National Arboretum.

Elsewhere, the Royal Berkshire Regiment commemorated the bi-centenary of the death in action of Major General Sir Isaac Brock KB in Guernsey at St Paul's Cathedral and in Canada; the DERR 'Association' dedicated a memorial in St Andrew's Cathedral, Valetta to those who served in Malta; and after months of painstaking forensic work, the remains of Pte Lewis Curtis, 5WILTS were re-interred in Holland in a well supported ceremony attended by many Dutch national dignitaries. Articles on all these regimental events may be found in this Newsletter.

Readers would wish to learn that the Goradze Stones were returned in June by Colonel Ian Harris with funding from the Regimental Trustees, sponsorship and media coverage. Regrettably at this time there is no article to add to this Newsletter.

I thank all correspondents for their support in providing an interesting Newsletter. A Happy, Prosperous and Healthy 2013 to All.

Lieutenant Colonel ATD Lerwill OBE MA
Editor

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcome to this the 19th edition of the Annual Newsletter of **The Regimental Association of The Rifles and Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment**. It has been a remarkable and most memorable year with HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympic Games. A year in which The Rifles continued to take part in operations in Afghanistan with distinction and we dedicated the memorial to our fallen at the National Memorial Arboretum.

There have been a number of important Regimental celebrations this year including the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Salamanca, the primary battle honour of The Rifles, with a battlefield tour to Spain in July 2012, and the bicentenary of the death of General Sir Isaac Brock (49th Regiment of Foot, later The Royal Berkshire Regiment), at the Battle of Queenston Heights on 13th October 1812 - "The Saviour of Canada" - celebrated in style in Guernsey and commemorated at his tomb in St Paul's Cathedral.

For the Association, the major event of the year was the dedication of the RGBW and antecedent Regiments' memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on 12th July 2012 in the presence of our Patron and Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT and over four hundred members of the Association and their families. In his opening words The Venerable Alan Jeans CF(V), Chaplain to the Association said:

"Today we are gathered together in the presence of God at the National Memorial Arboretum to dedicate this memorial to the fallen of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and our antecedent Regiments - The Gloucestershire Regiment, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, The Royal Berkshire Regiment and The Wiltshire Regiment. As comrades and family and friends, I welcome you, and pray that together we shall honour their memory."



Dedication of the Regimental Memorial at the NMA on 12th July 2012

It was wonderful that so many, representing all our Regiments, made the journey to Alrewas, Staffordshire to witness the dedication of the memorial. I strongly encourage those that have not visited the National Memorial Arboretum to make the trip, and I very much hope those of us privileged to have been at the dedication ceremony, will return from time to time to honour our fallen, to reflect upon times past and to remember friends made in the course of our service. While our roots remain firmly in our Counties, the memorial is a focal point for all our Regiments and for all of us.

On Thursday 18th October 2012, the Massed Bands and Bugles of The Rifles came together at the Royal Albert Hall to mark the Regiment's first five years and to celebrate 200 years of history. In front of five royal colonels and the Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the 260 musicians and singers, including the Fijian Choir, and the Pipes of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, put on a fantastic and most memorable performance.

Once again, at the service at the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 11th November 2012, we were honoured by our Patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, visiting the RGBW plot after the short service of commemoration. On Remembrance Sunday at the national service at the Cenotaph in London, the Association had a full 26 man contingent on parade, which included former GLOSTERS, R BERKS, WILTS, DERR, RGBW and RIFLES. Our luck held with the weather for yet another year with the sun shining for the service and march past. The salute at Horse Guards was taken by HRH The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO, Regimental Colonel of 2 RIFLES.

Following his tour in Afghanistan, we welcome back Brigadier Nick Welch, OBE, our senior serving Rifleman, who is about to take up the appointment of Assistant Commandant of the Joint Services Command & Staff College and Director of the Intermediate Command & Staff Course (Land) at Shrivenham. He has taken over as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the RGBW Regimental Charities. I would like to welcome Major Tristram Carter as the new Rifles County Secretary at the Gloucester Office, having recently retired from his final appointment serving with 1 RIFLES at Chepstow. He has also taken on the honorary role of Secretary and Treasurer of the Association. On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank Major Phil Hall MBE for all his hard work and dedication as our former Treasurer, who has served the Regiment in various capacities for some 54 years.

As always, the Association is extremely grateful to The Rifles County Secretaries and staff at the Gloucester and Salisbury Offices who have given tremendous support to us in a particularly busy year. We are also indebted to our Chairman, Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE, The Executive Committee and Branch Representatives for all their hard work across our counties and beyond in 2012.

I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and the best of good fortune in 2013 –
“**Swift and Bold**”.

Brigadier Patrick Davidson-Houston CBE

President of Regimental Association of The Rifles and Royal Gloucestershire,
Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment



The Patron, Chairman of the RGBW Trustees and President at NMA

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

This year has been a very successful one for the Association. The Dedication of the Memorial of our former Regiments including the RGBW at the National Arboretum in July by our Patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was a resounding success. We owe a debt of thanks to Major Simon Gray, the Project Officer, with members of our Executive Committee for organising such a well run day, which was greatly enjoyed by all who were present. If you haven't visited the National Arboretum then you must. It is very special and well worth a visit.

The reunions were a great success as always. The RGBW Trustees will continue to financially support them as long as they are well attended so please make a special effort to attend in 2013, particularly the officers. The AGM at 4 Rifles in Bulford was very enjoyable. There was a presentation on Afghanistan with special mention and a display of the equipment carried by a Rifleman. This was followed by a presentation of a Memorial Bench to the Commanding Officer which has been funded by personal donations from Association members.

2013 is the centenary of the formation of the Regimental Association of the Gloucestershire Regiment so members should make a special effort to attend the reunion in Gloucester on Sat 16 March. Please note that the Gloucester reunion is just on the Saturday and that there are no events on the Sunday.

The Wiltshire Reunion in June 2013 will be shared with the Rifles who will receive the Freedom of Devizes.

The dates for this year's Association events are as follows:

- Saturday 16 March** Service, March and Tea in Gloucester followed by an Association All Ranks Reunion at The Best Western Gables Hotel, Falfield
- Sunday 2 June** Association Reunion and Freedom of Devizes by the Rifles
- Saturday 13 July** Association Reunion Salisbury
- Sunday 14 July** Drumhead Service, March and Lunch at the Wardrobe, Salisbury
- Saturday 28 July** Association Evening Reunion, Reading
- Sunday 22 July** Cenotaph Service, March and Lunch, Brock Barracks, Reading
- Saturday tbc Oct** AGM with 4 Rifles at Bulford

The Garden of Remembrance Service in Westminster Abbey is on Thursday 7 November 2013 and the Cenotaph Service and March Past is on Sunday 10 November 2013. Both events are by invitation only through RHQ Gloucester or Salisbury. Please contact them for a ticket.

The President's Award consisting of a framed certificate was presented to a number of very worthy members throughout the year. Nominations for the award this year should be given to the Executive Committee member responsible for your Branch by 28th February

The Regimental Association Web Site at <http://www.rgbw-association.org.uk/> remains available to advertise your branch events and photographs. Please send or email them to the web master, Phil Miller, for publication. Contact details are on the web site or through RHQ Gloucester. I am grateful to Phil Miller for his continued good work in running this web site.

We continue to be very well supported by Regiment Headquarters in Gloucester and Salisbury. We warmly welcome Major Tristram Carter to Gloucester vice Major Chris Willis. He is already making an active contribution to the running of the Association. I thank Lt Col Tim Lerwill, Sue Nelmes and Lesley Bradshaw for all their hard work on your behalf throughout the year as well as the production of this newsletter.

I thank our Branch Chairmen and Secretaries for all they do to support our Branches and membership. If you do not belong to a Branch then please do so and the contact details are in this newsletter. Everyone is made welcome.

I look forward to seeing you at a Reunion next year. I wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE

Chairman of Regimental Association of The Rifles and Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment

PRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION BENCH
Ward Barracks
20th October 2012



Lt Col Tom Bewick, CO 4 RIFLES accepts the Association Bench from the Chairman following the Association AGM in Ward barracks.

NOTICES

2013 Calendar

Thursday 24 January	Glosters Back Badge Officers' Dinner, Davies St, London.
Friday 25 January	59-94 DERR Officers' Lunch, Davies Street, London.
Thursday 21 March	Regimental Association Executive Committee Meeting Salisbury
Saturday 16 March	The Rifles & RGBW Regimental Association Back Badge Service, St Mary de Crypt Southgate Street Gloucester The Rifles & RGBW Regimental Association All Ranks Reunion at The Gables Hotel, Falfield, South Gloucestershire.
Friday 22 March	Informal Back Badge Lunch on the Havengore, London
Sunday 21 April	Somerset Branch Imjin Commemorative Lunch, Taunton
Friday 7 June	59-94 DERR Officers' Lunch, Davies Street, London.
Sunday 2 June	The Freedom of Devizes to The Rifles & RGBW Reunion Parade & Service St John's & Lunch, - DEVIZES.
Wednesday 12 June	Devon ABF Golf Day at Dainton Park Club.
Thursday 20 Friday 21 June	The Farmers Boys (DERR) Golf Meeting, Erlestoke Sands.
Saturday 13 July	RGBW Officers' Club Lunch, Salisbury.
Saturday 13 July	The Rifles & RGBW SALISBURY Reunion (South Wiltshire GC)
Sunday 14 July	The Rifles & RGBW Drumhead Service & Lunch (Wardrobe)
Friday 19 July	The Burma Cup – Brickhampton Golf Club
Saturday 27	The Rifles & RGBW Reunion, Brock Barracks.
Sunday 28 July	Cenotaph Service & Lunch - READING
Friday 2 August	Slasher's Golf Meeting, Brickhampton, Gloucester.
Thursday 19 September	Wiltshire (DERR) Officers Regiment Luncheon Club.
Saturday 19 October	AGM (4RIFLES, Ward Bks Bulford Camp) TBC & Executive Committee Meeting,
Monday 14 October	The Rifles Regimental Golf Day
Thursday 7 November	Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.
Sunday 10 November	Remembrance Sunday - Cenotaph March Past
Sunday 8 December	FEROZESHAH Day – Reunion in Devizes TAC

**THE ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE, BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE
REGIMENTAL CHARITIES**

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

	2012 £	2011 £
Incoming resources:		
Grants - Inter Charity adjustment	-	-
Donations & legacies	3,482	22,572
Subscriptions – retired	170	120
Sundry Credits	<u>138</u>	<u>1,219</u>
	<u>3,790</u>	<u>23,911</u>
Investment Income:		
Bank Deposit interest	78	28
Investment Dividend & Interest	<u>10,379</u>	<u>13,125</u>
	<u>10,457</u>	<u>13,153</u>
Incoming Resources from charitable activities:		
Army Benevolent Fund Grants	-	3744
Grant returned to Association	-	-
Reunion Income	<u>8,735</u>	<u>7500</u>
	<u>8,735</u>	<u>11,244</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>22,982</u>	<u>43,308</u>
Resources expended:		
Cost of generating voluntary income		
Estate Agents Fees re Kirkwood bequest	(100)	100
Investment management costs:		
Nominee & Broker's fees	<u>1,388</u>	<u>2,137</u>
Charitable activities:		
Grants- Benevolent – individuals	200	4,094
Grants – Branches	1,400	1,531
Grants – Others	60	-
Grants – Reunions	16,133	11,722
Presentations	195	112
Regimental Wreaths	521	731
Annual Newsletter	7,280	8,750
Inter Charity adjustment	19,290	18,176
Travel & Committee Expenses	658	269
Printing & Stationery	394	90
Postage	220	1,120
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>200</u>	<u>1,688</u>
	<u>46,551</u>	<u>48,283</u>
Total resources expended	<u>47,839</u>	<u>50,520</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year	(24,857)	(2,212)
(Loss)/profit on sale of investments	(19,954)	(2,395)
Net realised expenditure for the year	(44,811)	<u>(4,607)</u>

NOTICES

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WEEKEND SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2013

The 2013 Rifles and RGBW Gloucestershire Reunion is being held at St Mary De Crypt Church, Southgate St, Gloucester, followed by a reception in the New County Hotel, Southgate St. In the evening the formal dinner will take place in the Gables Hotel, Bristol Road, Falfield, GL12 8DL.

The outline programme of events is:

Saturday 16th March	1345 hrs	To be seated in St Mary De Crypt
	1400 hrs	Service Commences
	1500 hrs	March Past
	1530 hrs	Reception in New County Hotel
	1900 hrs	Drinks in Gable Hotel
	2000 hrs	Dinner commences

The cost of the Reunion Dinner is **£20 per head** and there will be music and dancing after the Dinner. Branches should liaise with each other regarding the arrangement and funding of coaches.

The Gables Hotel have set aside all its 46 rooms on the night of 16th March for us at the cost of £65 per room including B&B. Rooms can be booked direct with the Gables Hotel on 01454 260502 quoting the booking reference RGBW 1003.

Please complete the proforma and return it with a SAE (50p) to the Gloucester Office by NLT 8th March 2013.

WILTSHIRE WEEKEND - GRANT OF FREEDOM OF DEVIZES TO THE RIFLES - SUNDAY 2nd JUNE 2013

The Wiltshire Weekend Reunion will be held in Devizes on Sunday 2nd June 2013 and form a key element of the Grant of Freedom of Devizes to the RIFLES.

There will be marching contingents from the RIFLES, ACF and Old Comrades led by both the Rifles Waterloo and Salamanca Bands & Bugles.

Outline timings will be 10h00 - 15h00.

A Buffet Lunch will be available for **£15 per person**

Please complete the proforma and return it with a stamped addressed envelope to the Salisbury Office by NLT Friday 10th May 2013

SALISBURY REUNION SATURDAY 13th AND SUNDAY 14th JULY 2013

The 2013 Salisbury Reunion will be held this year at the South Wiltshire Golf Club and the Wardrobe and all Members of the Regimental Association and the former Regiments Old Comrades Association are cordially invited, with their families and guests.

The outline programme is:

Saturday 13th July	1830 hrs Reception and Bar
	1900 hrs Dinner & Dance (South Wilts Golf Club)
Sunday 14th July	1100 hrs Drumhead Service in Wardrobe Garden
	1145 hrs March Past
	1215 hrs Drinks
	1245 hrs Lunch

Saturday Evening

- The Reunion Dinner Dance tickets will cost **£20 per person**.
- Transport will be available from city centre to the golf club – **seats to be reserved**

Sunday

- Drumhead Service in the Wardrobe Garden: to be seated by 1045hrs.
- There will be a march around the Cathedral Close
- Lunch tickets available at **£15 per person**.

Please complete the proforma and return it with a stamped addressed envelope to the Salisbury Office **by NLT Friday 28th June 2013**

BERKSHIRE WEEKEND SATURDAY 27th AND SUNDAY 28th JULY 2013

The Berkshire Weekend will be held at Brock Barracks, Reading – all members of the Regimental Association, and the former Regiments' Old Comrades' Associations are cordially invited to attend. Guests are most welcome to attend the events on the Sunday.

The outline programme is:

Saturday 27th July

1400-1500hrs	Reception at Main Gate.
1530hrs	Flag Raising party
1600hrs	Coach leaves the barracks to The Forbury Garden Service Maiwand Memorial Service and Wreath laying
1730hrs	Reunion Meeting, Dragon Club
1930hrs	Dragon Club Bar open, Supper and

Sunday 28th July

1000-1030hrs	Reception and Flag Raising Ceremony (Royal Berkshire Regiment)
1100hrs	Cenotaph Service of Remembrance at Barracks. (Last Post & Reveille).
1150hrs	March Past of Old Comrades.
1215hrs	Dragon Club opens Farewell Buffet Lunch and Raffle

Tickets remain at **£12.00 per person** for Transport, Food and Entertainment

Please complete the proforma and return it with a Stamped addressed envelope to the Salisbury Office by NLT Friday 5th July 2013.

**FEROZESHAH DAY
SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER 2013**

Ferozeshah Day will be celebrated in Devizes with a commemoration service in St James' Church followed by a Lunch at the Wyvern Club. All are most welcome.

The outline programme is:

Sunday 8th December

12h30	Reception in the Wyvern Club
13h30	Church Service, St James' Church
14h30	Lunch in the Wyvern Club
	Re-enactment of the "Charge"

Tickets for this year will be **£5.00 per person** for Lunch

Please complete the proforma and return it with a Stamped addressed envelope to the Salisbury Office by NLT Friday 29th November 2013.



**2nd ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
RIFLES & ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE, BERKSHIRE AND
WILTSHIRE REGIMENT**

Notice is given of the 2nd AGM
To be held at 1100 hrs on Saturday 19th October 2013
at 4 Rifles, Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire SP4 9NA

ITEM 1 - REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

**ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE 1st AGM OF THE REGIMENTAL
ASSOCIATION OF THE RIFLES & ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE,
BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE REGIMENT & MATTERS
ARISING**

**ITEM 3 - REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS & INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR 1 APR 12 - 31 MAR 13**

ITEM 4 - CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION RULES

ITEM 5 - NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ITEM 6 - REUNIONS: A WASH UP AND LOOK FORWARD TO 2014

ITEM 7 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Col (Retired) SJ Oxlade MBE
Chairman

Date: 23rd November 2013

**Attendance / Apologies and Discussion points under AOB (Item 7)
are to be notified to the Gloucester Office by NLT
12th October 2013**

ARTICLES

THE RIFLES

www.the-rifles.co.uk/portal.htm

The 7th February 2012 marked the fifth anniversary of the formation of The Rifles and five years of almost continuous engagement on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq by one or more of our battalions at a time. The number and rank of gallantry awards won by Riflemen over this period underlines this stark fact: 2 x KCB, 8 x CBE, 4 x OBE, 31 x MBE and 12 x MSM with 10 x DSO (one was a bar 18 months apart), 4 x CGC, 19 x MC, 1 x GM, 4 x QGM and 5 x MiD with a further 70+ recognised with the Queen's Commendation for Bravery or Valiant Service have been awarded.

In 2012, the 2 & 5 then 3RIFLES returned from operational tours while 4RIFLES enters the final phases of its Mission Specific Training (MST) to deploy in March 2013. This will herald the start of another protracted period of deployment to Afghanistan. Op HERRICK 18 (4RIFLES) runs from March – November 2013 when *en roulement*, the 1st, 2nd & 5th and, finally, the 3rd Battalions will follow one another til March 2015.

4 RIFLES deploys as the BAG – Brigade Advisory Group, a role carved by 2RIFLES on Op HERRICK 16 and held by 3RIFLES on Op HERRICK 17. This is the lead in the change of posture from combat to enabling and, as the end of British deployment to Afghanistan moves closer and with an accelerating Afghan desire to take more responsibility for their own security, it is an important role. The threat does not recede however notably with apparent increase of Green (Afghan) on Blue (British) incidents. In response to an alarming rate of such incidents, Lt Col Charlie Macconchie, CO 3RIFLES, wrote of the importance of his deployment in the Daily Telegraph and is re-printed below:

Progress So Far....

An Article written by CO 3 RIFLES Lt Col Charlie Maconochie published in the Daily Telegraph on 28th July 2012



"I am the Commanding Officer of 3rd Battalion the Rifles and since April this year we have been deployed in Afghanistan as the Brigade Advisory Group (BAG), where we are responsible for advising the 3rd Brigade, 215 Corps, of the Afghan National Army (ANA). Our role puts us at the very forefront of security transition, as we maintain and encourage both the operational tempo and institutional development of the Afghan Army across

Central Helmand. Since our arrival we have supported the ANA in conducting large scale operations bringing security to new areas, whilst also thwarting the insurgent effort in gaining a foothold through the spring. The Battalion's last tour to Sangin District in 2009-10 saw large numbers of casualties being taken in daily fighting. The difference now is palpable. Significant progress has been made. The Afghans are now very much in the lead as we move towards security transition. The security situation unsurprisingly varies across Central Helmand with some areas transitioned and relatively peaceful and in others there are still varying degrees of counter-insurgency operations being undertaken. The latter is to be expected and will continue to reduce further over time.



“Arriving in theatre we were immediately hit with the high tempo of ANA operations. Within 3 weeks we were advising 600 Afghan Warriors, working alongside 200 Afghan Police as we supported the 3rd Brigade clearance of the Nad-e-Ali Bowri Dashte (Dari meaning Desert) on Operation Shafuq (Dari meaning Dawn). It was an unmistakable demonstration of intent. Those of us who

harboured certain preconceptions from previous deployments about the ability of the Afghan Army and Police soon realised that their capabilities had vastly improved. We are no longer in the driving seat with the Afghan forces as a passenger; quite the opposite, as they are now wholly in the driving seat, with us in a supporting capacity. To quote the Commander of 3rd Brigade, Brigadier General Shirin Shah, when talking to me about the logistical plan, “Charlie, do not worry about our resupply, just take care of your own” – how true it turned out to be. The ANA now have their own bomb disposal teams and route clearance platoons. These two assets, coupled with their local knowledge, cultural understanding and ground sign awareness meant they could resupply their Warriors with consummate ease throughout; this was a sure sign of progress.

Each year the spring has traditionally seen an insurgent ‘demonstration’ of power in the area. This year, however, the ANA took the initiative, moving the fight deep into the insurgents’ safe havens, successfully disrupting their resupply network, cutting off previously accessible areas and denying the insurgents lethal aid. Once again this seemed to show the development in ANA operational capability from Brigade down to the Company level. Most Shuras with locals are now led by Afghan forces with ISAF staying in the shadows throughout. This is an essential part of the information campaign, getting the locals to believe in the Afghan forces as a credible force that can bring stability, security and governance to their areas.



“More recently the Afghan forces planned and executed their most dangerous operation yet in the Upper Gereshek Valley called Operation Atash (Dari meaning Fire). The end result of the operation was outstanding. 3rd Brigade searched over 200 compounds and found a total of 31 Improvised Explosive Devices (IED’s) which they either destroyed or neutralised. Two caches of weapons and narcotics were seized and a total of 13 individuals were detained, 5 of whom were taken away

for further questioning. Not bad for 3 days work whilst operating under sporadic small arms fire from the insurgents. It was the most challenging area that the Afghan security forces have operated in. It showed an increase in ANA capability and confidence, an excellent understanding of the use of ground and considerable resilience in the face of an extremely high IED threat.



“The area that we must focus on now is institutional development. The low level tactics and logistics are proven, however the links to higher headquarters from Brigade to Corps and higher must be improved. The Afghan forces have done an exceptional job generating the Army, now the focus must be on sustaining the force. Two areas in particular need of attention include improving their equipment and spares supply and taking

control of their own infrastructure and its maintenance; especially pertinent as we redeploy our forces. We maintain the access to specialist capabilities, such as casualty evacuation, however there is now a real focus on training their own forces to provide their own integral life saving skills. They are rapidly realising the areas of concern and are working hard to develop them.

We will continue to take a more hands off approach, in a graduated fashion, as we approach the cessation of combat operations in 2014.

The story so far is one of great success. We have laid the foundations and now plan to build on their confidence and specialist capabilities. There are future hurdles to overcome, yet we remain steadfast in the 12th Mechanized Brigade motto for our deployment – With the ANSF – For the people – Against the Insurgent.”

Other Notable Events in 2012

In a year when Britain re-discovered the “Great” with pageantry of HM The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and success of the Olympics, a rare victory over the All Blacks at Twickenham in November and a cricket series win in India in December, The RIFLES also notched up some “firsts”.

3RIFLES have impressed Scottish folk, particularly in Edinburgh and returned from Afghanistan to be awarded the Freedom of Edinburgh – the first for an ‘English’ Regiment – on 3rd November. In July as part of the bi-centenary of the Battle of Salamanca 1812, the Rifles all of whose forming regiments fought there, were granted the Freedom of Salamanca

All Battalions, less the 3rd deployed on operations, were involved in Op OLYMPICS, the security plan and it was the 1ST & 4TH Battalions who were mobilised at very short notice when G4S failed to find sufficient manpower. The public have been most complimentary about the bearing, turn out and cheerful good manners of the Riflemen who achieved ringside seats at some notable events. The luckiest amongst them were 5 RIFLES who drew duties at the ladies beach volleyball event on Horse Guards Parade.

Finally the **Musical Extravaganza at the Royal Albert Hall** on 28 Oct 12 which was the celebration of the Regiment’s first 5 years, saw the massed Bands and Bugles of The Rifles, supported by guest artists Wynne Evans, The Ghurkha Pipes and the Rifles Fijian choir take over the Albert Hall for an outstanding evening of entertainment which was attended by Prince Phillip and five of our Royal colonels and many members of the regimental family. Of the 4500 seats available only 160 tickets were left unsold when the performance started!

SALAMANCA 2012

Bi-centenary celebrations, Battlefield Tour & Freedom

The RIFLES were the lead element for Peninsula War 200 (PW200), the organising group for the celebration of the Duke of Wellington’s pivotal encounter with the French Army under Maréchal Marmont on 22 July 1812. Considered Wellington’s greatest victory, the battle proved that Napoleon’s Army could be beaten and was the turning point in the six-year Peninsular campaign. [*Ed: a brief history of the battle was published in the 2012 Newsletter*]

Serving personnel from the RIFLES, the Royal Dragoon Guards, the Coldstream Guards, the Scots Guards, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment whose forbears fought in the battle, travelled to the Spanish city

to participate in the battlefield tour and a Freedom parade.

The Battlefield Tour, organised by the RIFLES, was part of a series of events to commemorate the bicentennial. A plaque, dedicated to the memory of those who Fell, was unveiled on a hill overlooking the battlefield at Arpiles before a colourful re-enactment of the battle by more than 100 actors in early 19th century uniforms brought the history to life.

The day culminated with Salamanca extended the Grant of Freedom to the RIFLES in an event that saw 75 Riflemen parade through Salamanca with Spanish troops from the 11th Engineer Brigade. The Colonel Commandant, General Sir Nick Parker KCB CBE presented the city with a Silver Bugle.

On the eve of the Battle, the Colonel Commandant hosted a dinner for 200 guests that included the Mayor of Salamanca and his wife and Lord Douro

Manning & Recruiting

Uncertainty over the future Army structure, continuing redundancy programmes, the switch to outsourced recruiting streams and recruiting moratoriums has not dented confidence in the RIFLES: the Regiment remains in fine health. An all-up establishment, including TA Battalions, of almost 4000 sees a shortfall of 80 at the end of the third quarter of 2012. Set against this figure is a cohort of 87 'Chosen Men' currently held awaiting training vacancies at ITC Catterick with 7RIFLES and even more potential recruits in the pipeline. This strong position is to be tested when, in 2013, the RIFLES loses a uniformed presence in 6 x Army Careers Information Offices – all but two in the North East (where 49% of Riflemen come from!)

Future Army Structure

Army 2020

The future Army structure was announced in early summer with two Papers: Army 2020 and FR2020.

Army 2020 sees the regular element reduced to 82000 by 2020 with an increased Reserve Force of 30000 to be recruited to retain the present strength. The Army will reconfigure into two elements: **Adaptive** and **Reactive**. The essence of this is that Adaptive Forces will be Light troops capable of rapid deployment reinforced by embedded Reserve Force elements while Reactive Forces will retain a heavy manoeuvre capability deployable for planned war fighting operations. Reactive Forces will also have embedded Reserve Force elements.

1st and 2nd RIFLES will be in the Light Role with 3rd RIFLES to have Limited Protected Mobility with Bulldog vehicles in the Adaptive Force. 4th and 5th RIFLES will be in the Reactive Force where 5RIFLES will retain the Armed Infantry (WARRIOR) role and 4RIFLES TO HAVE High Protected Mobility in Mastiff vehicles re-roled from Afghanistan. There is still much detailed work needed, not least on the suitability of the vehicle variant options.

Reserve Forces 2020 (FR2020)

The Reserve Force will see a reduction in Combat Units in favour of Combat Support and Combat Service Support. This is likely to mean that both 6th and 7th RIFLES may lose a company and, simultaneously, place the independent companies - E (Rifles) Coy 4 MERCIAN and D (Rifles) Coy 5 RRF - under threat. This could mean that, with the loss of uniformed recruiters in the North, the RIFLES footprint there is weakened.

The Reserve Force concept is for the Reserve units to be twinned with a regular unit and to 'mobilise' individuals to be embedded for up to a year thus reinforcing the deployable strength. However, there are many issues yet to be resolved particularly compensation to employers for the loss of the employees time.

Sport

There is much to restrain serious competitive sport in the Army today. Current operational tempo does not allow time and location impinges further. It is not easy to participate in team sports from NI or Germany whilst the number of potential opponents not deployed or training for deployment imposes further limitations. Yet 4 RIFLES have carried the flag in both cricket (losing finalists in 2011 and QF in 2012) and Boxing (winners Novice Championship in 2011 and SF in 2012) have tried hard to maintain balance.

7RIFLES are to be congratulated on winning the TASAM Major Units title in 2012.

DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL TO THE ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE, BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE REGIMENT AND ANTECEDENT REGIMENTS - NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM 12 JULY 2012

In the presence of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, over four hundred members of the Regimental family gathered together at The National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire to dedicate the memorial to The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (RGBW) and our antecedent Regiments - The Gloucestershire Regiment (28th/61st), The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire & Wiltshire), The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) on 12 July 2012.

Organised by the RGBW Regimental Trustees with the support of the Executive Committee of the Regimental Association of the Rifles and the RGBW, the event aimed to provide a focal point for all our Regiments to honour the fallen, to reflect on times past and in memory of those who served in the distinguished Regiments.

The ten foot high Memorial is constructed in Portland stone resting on a plinth of Forest of Dean sandstone. It was carved by Diana Lee-Browne, the wife of Colonel Martin Lee-Browne, a former GLOSTER. The Regimental cap badges (including the Back Badge), names and dates are carved on six faces. Depending upon the time of year, month and day as well as the vagaries of the British weather, the sun will shine on

each Regiment's face in turn. The stone was supplied and erected by Wells Masonry, specialist stonemasons at Tetbury, in Gloucestershire.

The day itself proved to be uncharacteristically glorious in comparison to the remainder of the summer of 2012. However despite the weeks of coordination and preparation, factors well beyond the control of the organisers had an immediate impact. The late notice military requirement to support the Olympic Games negated the planned support from 1 RIFLES as well as the presence of The Rifles Colonel Commandant. In addition the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) notified the Project Leader three days before the event that the site was two feet under water after the adjacent river had flooded following unprecedented rainfall. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh has been Colonel in Chief of our Regiments for 59 years as well as Patron of the Regimental Association of the Rifles and RGBW. His Equerry informed the Project Team that The Patron had no intention of cancelling and a decision was agreed with the NMA to adjust as necessary on the day of the event.

As the Regimental family converged on the heart of England, driving north in brilliant sunshine, a hastily assembled 'senior' work party assisted by the NMA staff hurriedly sought to mop up and ensure that the original plan could be followed, albeit with minor modifications. Although the water had receded, large areas of the NMA were unusable due to the soft ground. Luckily the site chosen for the Regimental Memorial lies adjacent to a hard-core track, oak barn and the Shot at Dawn Memorial. This combination allowed the team to drive direct to the site, placing stepping-stones for the Regimental family to use to navigate the flooded areas and the construction of a 'Regimental lily pad' surrounding the Memorial.

The Regimental family responded magnificently in significant numbers. In bright warm sunshine, assembled beside its new Memorial, a Bugle call heralded the arrival of The Patron who chose to wear his own Regiments tie for the day. The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Brigadier Davidson-Houston, President of the Regimental Association, Brigadier Welch, Chairman of the Regimental Trustees and Colonel Oxlade, Chairman of the Regimental Association met HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on arrival at 1500 hours. The Venerable Alan Jeans CF (V), Archdeacon of Sarum and Chaplain to the Regimental Association conducted a Service of Dedication accompanied by The Band and Bugles of The Rifles. General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue delivered the Reading, and after the sounding of Last Post and The Reveille each of the Regimental Collects was read by all present. At the same time, a Regimental wreath was handed by former Quartermasters to former Colonels of the Regiment or their senior representatives. Major General Grist, Brigadier Vine, Brigadier Mackereth, Major General Crabtree and Colonel Ridley each in turn laid the wreaths below their own Regimental cap badge.

Afterwards as the Regimental family negotiated the flooded obstacles *enroute* to the marquee, the Royal Party drove to the Armed Forces Memorial. In a short ceremony after the sounding of Last Post by the Colonel in Chief's Bugler, in the presence of an RGBW Standard, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh laid a RGBW wreath on the central plinth, after which Brigadier Welch laid a Rifles wreath. The Royal Party then examined the latest addition of names to the fallen engraved on the walls.

Afternoon Tea was taken in the marquee to musical accompaniment from the Rifles Band and Bugles. The Patron, hosted by the Regimental Association appeared to

miss no one, as he talked to all present in an informal atmosphere. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh departed receiving a salute from the Regimental Standard Bearers and applause from all present at the end of what had been a memorable day. As the Regimental family started individual long drives home to the counties, the heavens opened and the 2012 summer weather returned.

Simon Gray

MAJOR GENERAL SIR ISAAC BROCK KB

Readers of the 2012 Newsletter will recall the critique of a book on Brock by Major General Grist CB CBE where he situates the events leading up to the Battle of Queenston Heights and Brock's death in that Battle on 13th October 1812.

In brief: Brock was born in St Peter Port, Guernsey in 1769, the same year as two other notables, the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon. Isaac Brock had originally followed an elder brother into the Army, purchasing a commission into the same Regiment, the 8th of Foot. He later transferred, by purchasing a Captaincy, into the 49th of Foot and gradually purchased his commissions eventually become the Commanding Officer in 1797. He commanded the 49th on operations during the Helder Campaign of 1799 -1800, where the 49th gained the Battle Honour Egmont-op-Zee, and in 1801 at the Battle of Copenhagen, where again the 49th won a Battle Honour, as well as the right to play "Rule Britannia" as a Regimental March. In 1802 he took the 49th to Canada and remained in command until 1805 leaving as a result of his promotion to Colonel. Brock remained in the British North America (Canada) and gradually gained promotion, on merit, to Major General as the Governor and Commander of Upper Canada, year or so before the outbreak of the 1812-14 War with America.

Since 1811 Brock, like any professional soldier was itching to improve his reputation by fighting in the Peninsular War under Wellington, but it was to be his fate to stay and fight in Canada. His death and the victory at Queenston Heights saw the Americans strategy of "merely marching in" destroyed and Brock recognised as the Hero and Saviour of Upper Canada.

In 2007 Isaac Brock was recognised as the most influential "Canadian" in a national poll even though he was never a Canadian. There are towns, university and schools named after him and the Regimental Depot of the Royal Berkshire Regiment is still today called 'Brock Barracks'.

It was not surprising, therefore, that **both Guernsey and Canada** sought to commemorate the bi-centenary of both General Brock's death and the saving of Upper Canada. The articles below record these events that took place on 13th October 2012 while, lest it be overlooked, the **RIFLES honoured Brock** with a wreath laying ceremony at his memorial in St Paul's Cathedral.

Homage by Members of the Royal Berkshire Regiment to Guernsey 13 - 14 October 2012

Colonel Mike Vernon-Powell, in response to an invitation from the Bailiwick of Guernsey, called brother Berkshire men to travel to Guernsey to be on parade in Guernsey over the weekend 12- 14 October to participate in the Bailiwick's celebrations of one of their most famous sons. These celebrations were being organised **Lieutenant Colonel John Silvester**, a former DERR officer.

Having made our respective journeys from homes, via sea and air, the Royal Berkshire Regiment party assembled in the Old Government House Hotel on the evening of the 12th October and were joined by **Colonel and Mrs Paul Keddy, the Canadian Royal Air Force Military Attaché to the Canadian High Commission**. At the pre-dinner drinks Colonel Mike Vernon-Powell made a presentation to **Mr Bob Scott**, a former Royal Berkshire soldier, who has played a pivotal role in initiating the 200th Anniversary exhibition in the Museum at Salisbury. His diligent searching of the Canadian web sites for like-minded organisations and individuals wanting to mark the 200th Anniversary reaped many dividends for the Museum staff/volunteers working on the exhibition project. The presentation over we all sat down to an excellent dinner.



At 09h30 on 13th October the assembled Berkshire men were on parade to join the marching troops at the site of Brock's birthplace, the present day premises of Boots the Chemist. Here the Bailiff raised a wreath of Maple Leaves, to rest just underneath the plaque denoting the building as being Brock's birthplace. A brief address was given by the Bailiff - his first of four that day before the whole parade, which now included the Royal Berkshire Regiment veterans, marched the final 400 yards to St Peter Port Church for a Service of Dedication to Major General Sir Isaac Brock KB. During the service four wreaths were laid on the beautiful wooden frieze commemorating Brock, itself **a gift from the People of Canada**. The wreaths were from The Bailiwick of Guernsey (laid by the Bailiff), The Canadian Nation (laid by Colonel Keddy), the 49th of Foot (laid by Colonel Vernon-Powell) and the Brock family (laid by Mr Christopher Brock).



The Church service over, the younger elements, led by the island's Band, marched to Castle Cornet; the rest, not quite up to this challenge, were transported by bus. The Castle, overlooking the Port, with historic naval guns emplaced, hosted a 15 Gun salute with due formality to Brock: two Berkshire men were privileged to be members of the 7 gun teams - Colonel Mike Vernon-Powell, representing the Regiment, and Major Piers Dunn, whose ancestor had signed the 1811 Proclamation forbidding trade between Upper Canada of British North America and The United States.



Prominent during this activity was the Brock Standard, especially commissioned by the Bailiwick of Guernsey, carried by a Standard Party from Elizabeth College CCF which is affiliated to the RIFLES, wearing their green Beret and Cap Badges. The linkage was that Elizabeth College had been Brock's Alma Mater.

After the 15 Guns Salute, everyone at the Castle repaired to a Commonwealth Society Reception given in honour of General Brock and hosted by the Chairman of the Society, Lieutenant Colonel John Silvester.

Later than evening, in the Old Government House Hotel approximately 140 people gathered for a dinner to honour Brock, and again speeches from the **Bailiff**, **Colonel Keddy**, and **Colonel Vernon-Powell** paid tribute to Brock. This time although Colonel

Mike V-P was yet again third in the speech line up, he was the star of the show by being able to read out a text from Canada sent during the course of the meal. The crowning glory were messages from various parts of the world passing on their congratulations; the last one drawing the most applause, as it was from HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, who had been the Colonel in Chief of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) and is of course the Colonel in Chief of the Rifles.

Simultaneously to the dinner, celebrations were happening on the Canadian side of the border at Niagara where the VIP Guest of Honour was the Canadian Defence Minister with the British Defence Advisor in attendance.



Major General Sir Isaac Brock KB

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS ON THE FACTS SURROUNDING GENERAL SIR ISAAC BROCK, 'SAVIOUR OF CANADA'

Requested by Colonel Vernon-Powell, **Zig Misiak** wrote the following article on to his collective thoughts on the meaning and relevance of the commemorations which were to mark the death of the 'Saviour of Canada'.

***Zig Misiak** is a lecturer/author of First Nation studies and still sees himself as a student of their history and culture specifically Haudenosaunee (Six Nations/Iroquois). In, 2012, **Zig** received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, for his contributions to Canadian history and heritage.*

'With the American Revolution over, the British army, loyalists and First/Native nations allied to the crown migrated north of the lakes and rivers. Mostly Mohawks

of the Haudenosaunee had to leave their traditional lands around the Finger Lakes as they were the hardened allies to the British and despised by the Americans. The Butler's Rangers who were very closely tied to the Haudenosaunee, committed and loyal men in arms, were among the refugees in the exodus north.

Most of the Haudenosaunee settled along the Grand River Basin with the hope of rebuilding their lives far from future wars not of their making. The Haudenosaunee were now physically separated by the Niagara River from their kin who had stayed on the east side in several communities surrounded by the Americans. As much as all the Haudenosaunee tried to maintain peace between them after the war broke out their physical separation was one factor that moved them into opposing camps.

Upper Canada, now known as Ontario, became an active area for settlement by newcomers. There were no expectations of renewed armed conflict between Britain and the fledgling Americas however the British army still maintained frontier fortifications along the Detroit and Niagara River. When General Brock made his presence known in this area he took a very aggressive offensive defensive posture. He gained the respect of many of the First Nations especially Tecumseh in the west who was desperately wooing the British in order to support his military actions against the Americans that were relentlessly encroaching on the western Native lands.

When war broke out the western nation's prayers were answered as Britain immediately expelled the Americans at Fort Detroit and Mackinac. General Brock's actions were applauded by the Native people out west and in this area along the Grand River. He was a warrior with a heart and mind like theirs. Unfortunately his unique unorthodox style of leadership was to actually get in front of his men which led to his quick demise at Queenston Heights in 1812. He was mourned by the Haudenosaunee with the placement of a "black wampum belt" on his coffin which is hoped to be there still in the towering monument named in his honour at Queenston.

This October 13, 2012 was the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights. An unprecedented 1500 historic re-enactors were at the event almost the exact number of British soldiers as were there in 1812 supported by nearly 20,000 spectators. First Nations attended to commemorate this battle and the warriors that died fighting shoulder to shoulder with the British army and militia in the common defence of this land. I was honoured to have marched 12 kilometres from Fort George to the top of Queenston Heights along side a descendant, from Australia, of General Sheaffe as well as my son who portrayed John Norton. This allied triumvirate was like a tapestry wherein three necessary fibres were interwoven.

The War of 1812 commemoration has skyrocketed this summer in its general appeal to the public in Canada, the United States and First Nations Territories. Thousands of events have been planned by communities large and small. Two hundred years of peace between Canada and the United States is the theme however it must be remembered that a third necessary force played a very significant role; the First Nations People.

Within a few paces of Brock's towering monument will soon rise a new artistic structure dedicated to the First Nations. Raymond Skye, my friend, has been selected as one of the two artists that will create a moving and celebrated interactive piece for the world to enjoy. The ancestors will be appeased in part by this public demonstration of their value, suffering and losses.

Reaching across the ocean to The Rifles and Old Comrades of the RGBW Regiments in collaboration with the events and connections to Canada and First Nations People

is moving, appropriate and historic in its own right. Our common histories are inseparable. It is up to us collectively to make sure that after the “gun powder” settles when all the celebrations are over we leave a strong legacy of understanding, clarity and future justice for all.’

Ed: Interested readers may delve deeper into your Regimental History at www.warof1812rph.com

Wiltshire ACF

[Ed: Having been privileged to march behind the Drums & Bugle Platoon at both the Freedom of Salisbury and Devizes Reunions, Readers will be aware that Wilts ACF has it's county affiliation with The RIFLES.]

Today the Bugle Cap Badge is worn proudly by all members of staff

The County ACF has **20** thriving Detachments with **130** Adult members and **600** Cadets that demonstrates a strong commitment to youth engagement, which is, today, a Military task.

Over recent years the ACF has been an ever present force for modernisation of out-dated cadet practises and training innovation. The County has engaged with local councils in support of troubled areas within Salisbury and Swindon and now runs 2 thriving detachments (at no accommodation cost to defence) within state schools. The take-up has been tremendous, and these projects add to what our volunteers are doing to provide an annual OUTREACH programme for the disadvantaged.

Our cadets participated in at least 30 weekend activities this year: some field craft, some AT, and some community engagement. In 2011, Wiltshire ACF celebrated 150 years of the Cadet movement and in 2012 its B and C Coys impressed a large public audience at Trowbridge's Armed Forces Day demonstrating a full section attack complete with indirect fire support from a Cadet gun crew armed with 105mm blank and a Light Gun; this appeared on the BBC National website later the same day. It then competed against the Sea and Air Cadets in a naval-style field gun competition ... and winning! The year was then topped off by a self-funding Cadet Expedition to Everest Base Camp, which had the advantage of being able to raise nearly £10k for “Help for Heroes”. Next year a similar expedition takes off to climb Jebel Toubcal in the High Atlas range of Morocco.

Summer Camp 2011 was at Crowborough West Sussex, and despite poor weather, a great deal was achieved in advancing cadets through their star syllabus by adopting star group cadres. Although at first a shock to many Cadets who were parted from their Detachment friends, to join others in similar capability cadres, the experiment was a huge success, with the mix prompting new friendships across the County. This has aided progression in shooting, first aid and other training disciplines where collective training is now delivered.

Wilts ACF full bore (7.62mm) shooting team, which now draws Cadets to Swindon from all points of the County, goes from strength to strength. We have been well placed

at national level (Bisley) and have won the London & Middlesex Cadet competition twice in the last 3 years. Our commitment to ensure every Cadet has an opportunity to shoot starts at low level and to do this Wilts ACF have worked with UK industry and led the Cadet movement in introducing modern Air Rifles and a 3 position portable shooting screen that can be used in Detachments without ranges. Rumour has it that RMAS is now using the kit we developed. In advertising the training value of the air rifle equipment we set up a range in a corridor of the new staff college and invited every Regional Bde commander and AG to shoot. No comment on the results of the shooting, but our aim (excuse the pun) to secure a Cadet weapon system for all was achieved.

We said farewell to Maj Alan Johnston last year after many years as OC C (Arakan) Coy. He will not be forgotten and we wish him well in his new business endeavours in Westbury.

We face the future with confidence. We have tremendous adult instructors, many from the old and bold of regular army retirement, that can still 'cut a dash', and many more from other walks of life without former military service. All add value to the friendly and very capable organisation we support. For those would consider giving something back to society, we leave you with an invitation to join us when you finally 'fall out'.

Mark Cray
Chief Executive

The Lincoln & Welland Regiment - Affiliated Canadian Regiment 2012 - Year in Review

This year saw the operational tempo for the Canadian Forces and the Regiment much reduced. With minor exceptions, the members of the Regiment were able to focus on career development and training within Canada as opposed to operational deployment training. This fact, however, presented challenges to the leadership in that soldiers no longer had a clear mission to look forward to and train towards.

Fiscal issues were not as prominent this year as in the past but this was largely due to the implementation of managed man-days. Soldiers were only allowed to parade 60 days in the fiscal year. These 60 days included 37.5 days which were pre-programmed with mandatory training and did not include employment on career courses or casual employment for routine unit tasks.

Recruitment of both the Officer's and NCM's was severely limited this year with zero intake of Officer's for the second year in a row. Attempts to commission soldiers from the ranks were not successful in the short term. One issue affecting recruitment was the high number of members on release. The recruiting issue is starting to show on the parade square floor. While the numbers of MCpls and Sgts is now strong, the number of privates and junior officers is woefully inadequate. It was noted on the Bergen-op-Zoom parade that there was not a single private in either guard.

The New Years Levee, a joint effort between the Regiment and the City of St.Catharines,

was held on Jan 01 2011 and was a major success. This was the third time that the City participated with the Regiment and the numbers grew considerably as did co-operation between the hosts. This is a relationship that continues to build strong ties to the Niagara community at large. Community Day at Butlers Barrack's continued to be a well attended and appreciated event.

Early in the year it was announced that the Regiment would be among the first Canadian Regiments to be granted the battle honour "Niagara". In September, new colours bearing these honours will be presented by the Honourary Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Sophie the Countess of Wessex.

In April the Regiment ceased to be part of the London based 31 Canadian Brigade Group and became a part of the Toronto based 32 Canadian Brigade Group. This move occurred as part of a larger plan to ensure that all Reserve Brigade Groups have land border crossings with the United States which will in turn improve training opportunities and connection to US Reserve and National Guard units.

Appointments

CO - LCol Allen Stoyka

DCO - Maj Bruce Mair

Adjt - Capt Charles Ohlke

OC A - Maj Sean Ahern

OC C - Capt Chris Canavan

OC Training Coy - Maj Chris Cincio

Ops O - Capt Kombo Hassan

RSM - CWO Gord Romard

DSM - MWO Randy Stewart

RQMS - WO Sam Hardie

CSM A - MWO Brian James

CSM C - WO Steve Ward

CSM Trg Coy - Sgt Tim Caudle

Ops WO - Sgt Brazeau

THE RIFLES COUNTY OFFICE NEWS

Gloucester

The past year has been very varied for the Gloucester Office. Lesley Bradshaw held the fort on her own for much of the year following the departure of the County Secretary, Major (Retd) Chris Willis, in June 2011. Lesley has done an outstanding job here in Custom House and we are all eternally grateful to all that she has done, often totally on her own, during this period of transition. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of all things Glosters and RGBW is a thing of wonderment. Lesley's lonely vigil finally came to an end in mid May when Major Tristram Carter arrived as the new County Secretary. Tris has come into the job from the TA side of The Rifles, having been OC HQ Company of 6 Rifles in Exeter. More recently he served as part of the Rear Ops Group of 1 Rifles in Beachley Barracks, Chepstow whilst they were on their tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2011. Much of his work was to liaise with the civic leaders and regimental family in Gloucestershire, so he was able to come into the job already knowing many of the key contacts within the county. Tris is still soldiering on in the TA, as a staff officer at HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade in Tidworth, so do not be surprised to occasionally seeing him in uniform. Tris has now been in post 7 months and shows no signs of leaving!!

We have been kept busy with a variety of events in support of the regiment. In May we hosted a very moving ceremony in which a team of former RGBW soldiers, led by Colonel Ian Harris, announced their intent to return to Bosnia the original memorial stones that had been placed in Gorazde following the tragic death of four soldiers serving with 1 RGBW in Bosnia in 1994. The event was well received with interest from the local media, including the BBC, who continued to follow the return of the stones to Gorazde and their subsequent re-installation, with the support of the local community. The project also involved the delivery of much needed medical training equipment to the local children's hospital in Gorazde on behalf of the charity MCAI (Maternal and Childhealth Advocacy International).

On 30th May the Rifles Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) John Poole-Warren presented to Ray Peart with a laptop, complete with software for the blind, as a thank you for the many thousands of pounds he has raised for regimental charities. Ray was blinded whilst serving with 1 Glosters in Northern Ireland in 1973, but, to his credit, he has not let this disability hold him back. We applaud Ray for all that he continues to do in support of the regiment.

On 12th July the Gloucester team went up to the National Memorial Arboretum for the unveiling of the RGBW Memorial. We had a great day, helped by the first glimpse of sunshine after many weeks of torrential rain. For the new County Secretary it was a great opportunity to meet many from across the Rifles and RGBW family.

In September Custom House formed the backdrop to the start of a charity motorcycle ride to Bosnia. The 'Ride for the Fallen' raised money to support the charities that provide much needed support to our fallen and their families. Six motorcyclists headed off from Gloucester and they were joined by more bikers as they passed through The Hague in Holland.

On 8th November the Gloucester team got the early train to London to be in place for the opening of the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey by our Colonel in Chief. In all of her 20 odd years at Custom House Lesley had never actually been to this event, so for her it was a very special day. It was great to see the crosses in place to commemorate our fallen from recent conflicts and our Colonel in Chief took a keen interest in the combined Rifles and RGBW plot as he walked round. We are pleased to state that 3 days later on 11th November a strong RGBW contingent marched at the annual Remembrance Sunday parade at the Cenotaph.

County Secretary

Salisbury

2012 has been an interesting year. A potent mixture of High Visibility events and the traditional Reunions appears to have been the Association Branch focus, limiting even the dynamic Bournemouth Branch peripatetic activity. But then an event cannot get more High Visibility than planning and executing a visit by **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** (1st May).

The Diamond Jubilee Tour (South West)

The first inkling that the Diamond Jubilee Tour by their Majesties was to take in Salisbury was the invitation of the **Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Sarah Troughton**, to the County Office to join the planning team for this momentous occasion. The initial planning conference sought a suitable venue in the Salisbury area which could host two discrete social events in a secure environment and, with the experience of hosting two Homecoming and one Freedom Parade, the County Secretary had no hesitation in proposing the Wardrobe as fit for purpose. And so it was that the spring became frenetic as the logistics of providing two areas – one for a Reception and one for a Lunch as well as infrastructure support to the Salisbury District Council Celebration event within the Cathedral Close – took over. Fortunately the tame marquee provider could not have been more willing; caterers fell over themselves for the honour of serving Her Majesty; 4 RIFLES in the face of military inertia demonstrated exactly what “*Swift and Bold*” means in mounting a Step Guard and the Bugles deployed both the Colonel Commandants (**Cpl Clark**) and Colonel-in-Chief’s Bugler (**LCpl Merchant**); but above all the support of the Salisbury Branch of the Association who turned out to man security desks was a critical plank in making the day a success.

And a success it was: after days of torrential rain, the sun broke out as **HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** drove into the Cathedral Close through a cheering throng many ranks deep all the way to the Wardrobe. While a line of Wiltshire’s finest were presented to HM, the Vice Lieutenant, Lord Lansdowne, invited HRH to meet His Bugler (**LCpl Merchant**) for the first time.

Once inside the Wardrobe HM and HRH moved through the Reception to lunch meeting a broad cross representation of the County: **a fuller report can be found in the Rifles Wardrobe Museum article elsewhere in this Edition** . On departure, HM was invited to sign the visitors book which allowed an opportunity for the Step Guard Commander, **Sjt Benton** to be presented.

It was only when the dust had settled; HM had departed; the mind had got round the fact that the Cathedral Close had played host to 18 – 20000 people that the Office was able to understand that, while **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** had visited the Museum previously, it was the first time that **HM Queen Elizabeth II** had done so and that it should have been chosen to launch the Diamond Jubilee South West Tour was a singular honour.

And the result the **WARDROBE** & **The RIFLES** are ever more firmly embedded in Salisbury psyche.

It has not been all Wiltshire and Berkshire activity, however. There has been a steady stream of **RIFLES** events within the two Counties. **3RIFLES** briefed families before their tour to Afghanistan (Op **HERRICK 16**) in January while **5RIFLES** visited the **Wardrobe** to brief families on potential impact family life that the imminent return of Riflemen would have. This was a departure from previous practice designed to be better targeted and more useful to families. This was a **5th Battalion Welfare Office** initiative and was a significant improvement on the practice and very well received. This new direction has been taken forward by the **RIFLES** and formed the model for the **3rd Battalion's Homecoming Brief** on **4th September**. While on **24th January**, the Office shall host a **Pre-Deployment brief** by **4RIFLES** who depart on Op **HERRICK 18**.

Earlier in the year, the County Office hosted an event for the presentation of a cheque for £84000 by the **Bowman Family** shared between the Rifles C4C, the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the ABF, The Soldiers Charity. Readers will recall that **Major Josh Bowman**, seconded to the RGR, was shot in Afghanistan whilst asleep in his bed in a Green on Blue incident. His parents, John and Barbara, and siblings David, Louisa and Brian with friends **Captain Andrew Pengelly** and **Major James Cousens** both **RIFLES** had entered the International (cycle) Race Across America to raise funds for regimental charities. This event is a gruelling non-stop cycle race starting in Oceanside California and finishing 3000 miles away in Annapolis Maryland. It took the team – “Swift and Bold” – an impressive 6 days, 4hours and 36 minutes to complete and ... along the way collected a stunning sum of £84000. Representatives of the ABF (The Soldier's Charity) and the Brigade of Gurkhas were in attendance with **General Sir Nick Parker KCB CBE ADC, Colonel Commandant**, who received the cheque on behalf of the **RIFLES**.

Lieutenant Colonel George Woolnough MC

There was one sad occasion when, in January, **Lieutenant Colonel George Woolnough MC** Died following a long illness. A stirring obituary was published in both the Daily Telegraph and the Times and is re-published in the Obituary Section here. However, it is fair to report that the number of Old Comrades who turned out for his Memorial Service in Salisbury Cathedral where **Major General Derek Crabtree CB** represented the Colonel-in-Chief at the express command of **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**, spoke volumes of the respect and affection with which George was held by all.

2013

The major event for this year is the Grant of Freedom of Devizes to the **RIFLES** on Sunday **2nd June**. The date has been carefully choreographed to coincide with the annual Wiltshire Reunion thus placing the Old Comrades at the centre of event. The Rifles Waterloo and Salamanca Bands will support the occasion and the **RIFLES** are

seeking a marching contingent of 6 Guards while this office will seek to involve the Wiltshire ACF as well. It should be a grand occasion and the Salisbury Office is excited by the possibilities.

County Secretary

REUNIONS

The loss of military Bands in 2011 has forced the County Office to seek alternatives which, in 2012, gave a surprisingly high standard of support. Once again the Wiltshire ACF supported the Wiltshire Weekend in Devizes while the Salisbury City Band of the Royal British Legion demonstrated both a singular breadth of musical excellence at the Salisbury Reunion both playing hymns and Regimental Marches - on the march! The Berkshire Reading Weekend coincided blissfully with the 7 RIFLES Salamanca Parade allowing the Rifles Waterloo Band & Bugles to support the Church Service and Parade ... gratis!

Devizes Reunion

The RGBW Association [Wiltshire] annual Reunion took place in Devizes on Sunday 27th May. The traditional date was forced forward this year as Devizes, along with the whole country was celebrating HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee the week later. 87 Old Comrades and their guests and partners took part in a Remembrance Service, a parade and sat down to lunch in the Assembly Rooms in the Town Hall. This was a modest increase on 2011 though the numbers marching fell noticeably. The Parade was firmly marshalled by **Lieutenant Colonel Norman Minty MBE**, elegantly commanded by Lieutenant Colonel **Vivian Ridley MBE QGM** and the Standards of the Bournemouth, Salisbury, West Wiltshire and Windsor Branches were proudly carried. **Lieutenant Colonel Lofty Graham OBE**, Chairman the WILTS Committee, once again laid a wreath and Colonel **Stephen Oxlade MBE**, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, took the salute.

The Association Padre, **the Venerable Alan Jeans**, Archdeacon of Sarum, led the worship. He is now well recognised, highly respected by the Old Comrades and his interaction with all present during lunch endeared him yet further. It was to be his only Reunion in 2011 for he had been called to the General Synod in York and missed Salisbury though he returned to Devizes to lead the worship for Ferozeshah Day in December.

The Wiltshire ACF Bugles & Drums Platoon again supported the Parade in excellent fashion under their **Bugle Major**, **SMI Richard Bingham**. Evidently RIFLES drill is becoming the norm for these cadets as the County Secretary had twice to invite them to mark time to allow the Old Comrades to catch up! **Frank Cowley**, sounded Last Post on his cornet and the **Cadet Buglers** a rousing Reveille: the juxtaposition of a WILTS man 'saying farewell' and the young cadets heralding a new dawn was well received.

Salisbury Reunion

The RIFLES Office hosted the Salisbury Reunion weekend on 7th & 8th July. Attendance was strong – a reaction to the focus on events regimental perhaps but nonetheless most pleasing. 73 members and guests attended the annual Dinner & Dance at the South

Wilts Golf Club on the Saturday evening. The meal was even better than previous years, more quickly served, and the Full Circle Quartet from Hereford produced an excellent musical programme.

The following morning, the Old Comrades stood on the edge of the unknown. The Committee had decided to move the church service of Remembrance away from St Thomas' in the High Street for a more personal drumhead service in the Garden of Remembrance at the Wardrobe. With confidence (blind belief) in the weather forecast, the regimental drums were placed and chairs arranged and **Canon David Linaker**, Rector of St Thomas', led the worship with the support of the Salisbury City Band of the Royal British Legion. 138 Old Comrades and their guests participated. **Major General Robin Grist CB OBE**, Hon Vice President of the Association, read the lesson and presented the President's Award Certificate to **Richard Dunscombe** and **Bob Giddings**.

The Old Comrades then 'Fell In' outside the Wardrobe and stepped off behind the Band and the Standards to march around Choristers' Green attracting many spectators from the Tourists due to the catchy marches – Farmer's Boy and Dashing White Sergeant – and bearing of 44 on parade. **Major General Robin Grist CB OBE** took their salute and the Troop 'Fell Out' and into a good lunch.

The sun had shone; the crowds impressed and the Committee's decision vindicated. There is strong support for continuing with this format into 2013 and beyond.

Reading Reunion

A newly constituted planning group of our President **Lt Col Barry Paddison MBE DL**, **Dave Smith**, **Stan Knipe**, **Steve Bennion** 7 Rifles and **Chas** from the Dragon Club gave much needed drive to build up attendance saw their efforts vindicated with some 70 Old Comrades of the Royal Berkshire and Associated Regiments who gathered at Brock Barracks over the 21/22 July.

The weekend started on the Saturday afternoon with the AGM: over 50 members attended. This was followed by the traditional trip Forbury Gardens and the Act of Remembrance before the Maiwand Lion statue. The Service was led by Reverend Michael Crowthergreen of Reading, **Mac McCarthy** recited the ode to the Fallen and the Kohima Epitaph, **Dave Smith** sounded Last Post and Reveille and a Wreath was laid by **Lt Col RB Paddison MBE DL** on behalf of the Old Comrades.

The Saturday evening entertainment in the Dragon Club was led by Jack Connors who got everyone in the mood. He introduced the main act, the Some Swell Sisters, an Andrews Sisters tribute group, whose first session featured all the old favourites from the 50s. For their second session, they changed into military style uniforms and sang all the old wartime songs encouraging all, even **Bill Bayliss** and **Stan Knipe** - *it must be a first* - to join in the singing. There was a very good buffet and raffle to round off the evening.

A bright sunny Sunday Morning allowed the Remembrance Service at the Brock Cenotaph concentrated minds. **Mac McCarthy** gave the Kohima Epitaph and wreaths were laid including one at the Kohima Plaque. **Lt Col Paddison MBE DL** took the

salute and **Major General Crabtree CB** presented the President's Certificate to –

Mr Fred McCarthy, Mr John North, Mr Ray Povey and Mr Chris Green

Before the Parade was dismissed 91 year old **Mr Tinkler** who had made the trip from Staffordshire with his son and grandson presented his medals to the Reading Branch Chairman **Mr Dave Smith** for display in the Royal Berkshire memorabilia cabinet in the Dragon Club.

Ferozeshah Day

Devizes 9th December 2012

The annual ceremony commemorating the “Charge” occasioned – indeed necessitated at **The Battle of Ferozeshah** was returned to Devizes this year – home of the Wiltshire Regiment to whom the Battle Honour was granted on 21st December 1845. It proved to be a master stroke. The Wyvern Club, an old TAC, hosted the occasion which is across the road from St James' Church – previously the Regimental & Garrison Church and where a number of the Wiltshire Regiment Colours were laid up and hang proudly today alongside regimental memorabilia and the WILTS Book of Remembrance.

Response from the Association was fantastic: 92 members attended including Major General DT Crabtree CB and his wife Daphne. Guests included hosted the Mayor & Mayoress of Devizes, Kelvin & Pam Nash and Major Rob Yuill, OC HQ Coy 4 Rifles and Major Mark OC A Coy 6 Rifles, with their families.

Confusion over start times saw members arrive at the Wyvern Club (the old TA Centre) from 11h00 though the Club Steward 'stepped into the breach' and catered for All though he was working on a midday start.

At 13h00 the Reunion moved the short distance to St James' Church for the commemoration service. The Church authorities were very supportive and pleased to see its association with the Regiment re-established. The organist 'marched' the members in to 'The Wiltshire' ('The Vly') and out to the 'Farmer's Boy'. The service, led by The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum & Honorary Chaplain to the Association, was pitched perfectly for the day and obviously well received by those attending for complimentary comments about his sermon made it on to Facebook later in the day.

A superb curry lunch followed the Service and the short ceremony representing the handover of the colours was completed. Col Mike Cornwell OBE, County Colonel The RIFLES, recited the “Charge” and The Colours, represented by the Regimental Standard, carried by Lt Andy Crocker were handed over to Dave Smith (Reading Branch) then they were laid for display during lunch.

The success of the day was made possible by the Standard Bearers, expertly marshalled by Capt Toby North; the ladies who catered for the event giving voluntarily of their

time and skills; Alan Jeans our Padre; Mike Cornwell who read the Lesson and the "Charge"; and Devizes Town Council for allowing the overflow parking on the Town Green.

Lt Col Minty

[Ed: Ferozeshah Day will take place on Sunday 8th December 20131 – see Flyer]



L to R: Lt Andy Crocker, Lt Col Norman Minty, Dave Smith, Col Mike Cornwell

BRANCH NEWS

Bournemouth

The Branch celebrated its 10th Anniversary in April and, with the Committee re-elected, continued through the year to remain a dynamic, peripatetic group travelling the length and breadth of the country.

The Branch continues to attend the Devizes, Salisbury and Reading Reunions in the middle of which a strong cohort attended the Dedication of the RGBW Memorial at the National Arboretum: the coach started in Bournemouth, picked up 'stragglers' in Salisbury, Warminster and Newbury to help ensure the success of the occasion. A 'long-distance' member, "**Dutchy**" **Holland** was there to meet the party which added to the occasion. Another cohort managed to fit in a visit to the Royal Hospital for Founders Day while another group attended the Burton Veterans' Day parade.

The year started with attendance in strength at the Newbury, Salisbury and Somerset Branches Dinners where, still smarting from their last defeat, Somerset threw down the gauntlet for a return skittles match later in the year (they never learn)!! The eagerly awaited return skittles match was held at the Sandford RBL Club and, in spite of some devious rule bending by Somerset, the Branch won AGAIN. It has been decided to stage a rematch in 2013 just to stop insinuations of foul play - as if!

Closer to home, the Branch held its annual Standards Anniversary Church Service in St Peter's Church Parkstone which was again led by Padre Roger Baildon. 60 members from various branches including Salisbury, Newbury and Reading and Warminster attended; 6 Standards were 'on parade', for the march led, for the first time, by the Meridian Corps Band - what an excellent choice they proved to be. After the parade they stood in the car park and played a variety of tunes which kept everyone enthralled and the Band was immediately booked for 2013.

The **Brandywine Buffet**, the highlight of the year, was attended by 76 including members of other Branches and was a great success. The buffet was as usual supplied by our resident caterers **Ronnie and Pete** and was really superb and to top it all off our Social Secretary **Mrs Joan White** provided a really nice cake as a centre piece.

Sadly two Branch members have been lost in 2012, **Ray Brown and Brian Saunders** - both ex-Royal Berkshire men, they will both be sadly missed.

The year will round off another of our "Nomadic Travels" with our own Christmas dinner with a toast of thanks to all Branches who have supported us on our travels and have entertained us so warmly when we visited them and wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Les Devine

Bristol

2012 has been an eventful year, more so than of late. A well organised outing to Portsmouth which included a magical mystery tour around Salisbury looking for that

elusive pre-booked 'stop' that added to the general feeling of enjoyment. The other, overshadowing this, was the trip to attend the Dedication of the RGBW Memorial at the National Arboretum in July where many old friends, some from 55 or more years ago, were rediscovered.

Back home, the Branch continued to wander around Bristol seeking rooms for its Meetings. With evening Meets and all the pressures of time, darkness and drink, this was neither very successful nor attractive to potential 'recruits'. So, for 2013, Branch Meetings will return to the old site of the RBL Club at Staple Hill and will be held at mid-day on the first Tuesday in the month: the first such Meeting will open on 5th February at 13h00. The 2013 emphasis is to be on recruiting!

There was a strong turn out for Remembrance Day and wreaths to the Regimental Fallen were laid. This was a highly charged occasion for the Branch Secretary, Lawrence Whittle, whose son, Guardsman Karl Whittle, had been killed on operations in Afghanistan on 7th September. (*Ed: condolences and heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Whittle family from all in the Association*)

Lawrence informs the Readers that the website www.glostersregiment.co.uk has been updated and that approximately 4000 photographs of GLOSTERS ex-Servicemen may be found there.

Lawrence Whittle

The Forest of Dean Branch

Branch membership remains static around 20 and since July, the Branch meets in the Orepool Inn, Sling near Coleford with regular lunches on the last Tuesday of each month. The November lunch was the Christmas social and included former GLOSTERS with a global service record: specifically Burma (Mike Baldwin and Geoff Aldridge), Korea (Roy Mills) and Kenya, Aden, Persian Gulf, Cyprus, Germany and Northern Ireland.

The Branch has been active in 2012 supporting various events that include:

- Providing the Branch Standard and a guard of honour at the funeral of Alan Mowatt, a former soldier of The Wiltshire Regiment and an active branch member until shortly before he passed away in February. (*Ed: Alan was the keeper of 4th / 5th WILTS memory and regular Readers of the Newsletter will have followed his support of commemorations of the WILTS & 43 Wx Div in Holland*).
- A pig roast and skittles evening at Drybrook Rugby Club in July;
- Laying a wreath on the grave of Private Miles VC, GLOSTERS in his home village of Clearwell, on Remembrance Sunday. The children of Clearwell School had also honoured this local hero by placing their own wreath on the grave, a grave that is carefully tended throughout the year by Branch members.



Presentations were made to Roy Mills (Korean Veteran) and Jack Long, two of the original founding members, for their long standing and dedicated support to branch activities, and to Major Leslie Ramsden, MBE, and his wife Jean, upon his resignation as President, Les and Jean having played a significant part in the continuation of a thriving Branch. Tony Linker now takes on the responsibility of President.

John C Roberts

Kent

The Branch continues to thrive even though it appears divorced from the centres of gravity in the South West. Representation at the various Reunions grows: two in Malta – the Branch thanks **Leon and Hank** for organising this latter reunion, three in Salisbury who all had a great time – the highlight being the golf buggy trip around a tactical barrier of the fallen tree, and four who attended the Remembrance Day parade in Canterbury. It was sad that the Branch Standard was never on parade as **Dave White**, the Standard Bearer, underwent a major operation and was not fit enough to carry the standard: Best Wishes for a speedy and complete recovery Dave.

The Branch continues to meet every two months with numbers remaining static and a new 'recruit' - **Roy Ingleton** ex GLOSTERS, and is busy organising the annual social in January which celebrates the founding of the Branch and (its) commemoration of the Battle of Ferozeshah.

Newbury

The Branch continues to thrive though routine activity in 2012 was not as dynamic as in previous years with members focussing on the Dedication of the RGBW Memorial at the National Arboretum. Even the regular sporting contests with the Bournemouth Branch yielded to this pressure!

However, **John North** and Secretary **Chris Green** carried the flag for the Branch, both figuratively and literally, at the National Arboretum in July and at the Dedication of a Memorial by HRH The Princess Royal in September to US Servicemen based at Greenham Common who lost their lives.

It is sad to record that the Branch lost one of its longest serving members, Sam Frost, who passed away in August.

Chris Green

Reading Branch Notes

The Branch's MAIN EFFORT this year was to ensure that the Reunion weekend was more attractive and thus a success. The establishment of an energetic Committee did just that – see “Reunions” above – and it was a success. The format is set to run and the Branch looks forward to developing it in 2013.

It was heartening to see greater attendance at the Remembrance Service this year though the Committee recognises that the occasion being broadcast live on Berkshire Radio may have had something to do with it!

Lastly, the Branch notes the sad loss of an active and supportive member, **Brian Saunders** who died this year.

Dave Smith

RGBW Stroud Valleys

The branch meets on a quarterly basis at the Carpenters Arms, Westrip, Stroud. We welcome any new members from around the Stroud area including ex Glosters, RGBW (including TA), Rifles and Gloucestershire Army Cadet Personnel.

The Branch continues to punch above its weight for though small in numbers it found itself present at many functions throughout the year. A strong contingent made it to the National Arboretum for the unveiling of the RGBW Memorial and each month **Roy Watkins and his wife Val** and **Scott McBryde** meet up with the Forest of Dean Branch. **Dave Timbrell** and members attended the Gloucester Branch Open Day in September and enjoyed a performance by the Gloucester Corps of Drums while Scott and Jenny attended the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and our Chairman, **Graham Wicks**, laid an RGBW wreath at Park Gardens in Stroud on Remembrance Sunday with **Morris**, **Carl Vizor** and **Scott McBryde** marching with the RGBW contingent at the Cenotaph – in London. A busy year was celebrated at the annual Christmas Dinner.

New members from the GLOSTERS, RGBW , RIFLES and ACF are most welcome. Branch meetings are quarterly starting with the AGM on 5th March.

Jenny McBryde

Salisbury Branch Notes

Greetings to all our friends in the Regimental Association.

2012 has been a busy year with much to be sad about, much to be proud of and much to laugh about.

The year had hardly opened when **Lt Col George Woolnough MC died**. He, together with Maj George Reed, had resurrected the Branch in 1966 when he took over as the County Chairman of the OCA – a role he proudly held for 36 years. He then became the Branch President until 2009 when his illness took hold and he felt unable to be an appropriate representative. Both his funeral in Middle Woodford and the Service of

Thanks giving in the Cathedral were well supported by Branch members and his soul marched out to a medley of Regimental Marches.

Throughout the year, starting with George's funeral, the Standards have been in evidence: Reunions in Devizes and Salisbury, for the visit of HM The Queen & HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to the Wardrobe (Salisbury) on 1st May, the civic Diamond Jubilee Parade a month later and the Jubilee Concert, The Fovant Badges Drum Head Service in July and, of course, at the dedication of the RGBW Memorial at the National Arboretum. Not surprising, therefore, that **Bob Giddings**, who was ever present at all these events, was awarded the Association President's Certificate; presented by Major General Robin Grist CB OBE at the Salisbury Reunion.

Social events, a Quiz and Fish & Chip evening in April; a Ploughman's supper in July; and the annual Dinner | Dance in November, were well attended and enjoyed by the many members. **Diane, Julie, Lesley and Elsie's** efforts were splendid and, together, with **Rita and Jill's** raffle collection helped the Secretary, **Richard Dunscombe**, make the year's fun a huge success. Richard Dunscombe's continuing efforts to make the Branch a thriving family group was recognised, also, with the award the Association President's Certificate and also presented by Major General Robin Grist CB OBE at the Salisbury Reunion

Bob Giddings

Severn Branch

The Branch was busy in 2012 attending Armed Forces Veterans Day in Weymouth and the Brandywine Lunch in Bournemouth as well as the Dedication of the RGBW Memorial at the National Arboretum - thanks in no small part are due to the Somerset Branch who arranged to pick members up from Gloucester *en route*.

There was a strong outing to the Berkshire Reunion weekend - 27 members attended, one of whom brought along his musician partner; part of a Band, she entertained (musically) members in the Bath Hotel before they all went to the Reunion which was considered the best in living memory and there is an eagerness to attend *en masse* in 2013. Well Done Toby and the Committee.

The Passing of two popular members, **Fredrick Lloyd Evans** who served with 2nd and 4th WILTS in Africa, Italy, France, and Germany and **Ron Prewer** who served with the R.BERKS and RAOC is sadly recorded: both will be missed.

John Orpin

West Wilts Branch Notes

The Branch continues to enjoy numerous social and support semi-military events; Armed Forces Veterans Day, Remembrance Sunday and Ferozeshah which are always well attended.

Simultaneously, the Branch continues to support "Combat Stress" as its preferred charity. A total of £850 was raised this year and donated to buy Hi-Fi and art equipment at Audley Court: £480 by a coast-to-coast walk from St Bees to Robin Hood

Bay was undertaken by Standard Bearer **Clive Gunning** and **Simon Ledbury** with the Secretary **Steve Shaw** support driving; £295 from a Tombola stall and a NAAFI Tuck Shop, run by members' children, at the Armed Forces weekend in Trowbridge; and £80 from sponsorship of gift boxes for those veterans suffering from PTSD who will spend Christmas at one of Combat Stress' treatment centres.

Bill Sherman

The Farmers Boys (DERR) Golf Society

The weather might have drenched everyone, but it could not dampen the spirits of the 21 members of The Farmers Boys (DERR) Golf Society who met on 21/22 June 2012 for their annual meeting to fight their way around Erlestoke Sands Golf Club (just outside Westbury, Wiltshire). Indeed conditions were so bad that we broke a 53 year old regimental record held by David Murray (who at 80 years of age is still a regular attender) and John Hill for winning with the lowest score. In 1959, as Royal Berkshiremen playing at the invitation of the Wiltshire Regiment in their annual meeting, they won with 26 points at Frilford Heath GC. This year Arthur Christian won with 24!! Numbers were a little down this year compared with the previous few years – injuries, family commitments and funerals from regulars who have all assured me of their intention to attend in 2013 as well as some new recruits who have just taken up the game means I am not concerned. Nevertheless, it does highlight that there is no room for complacency and I am keen for serving soldiers to attend, particularly 1 and 4 Rifles due to their geographic proximity.

The format, which has been developed over many years, works well and caters for golfers of all standards. Day 1 is a “warm-up” (particularly important for those who enjoy the game but don't have the time to play as much as they would like) with the team events of a Texas Scramble and Fensome Pairs in the morning and afternoon respectively. On day 2 the individual competitions take place with Medal (gross and nett) and Stableford (high and low handicap categories) competitions. Throughout, we are extremely well looked after by the helpful and attentive club staff. The beauty of this format is that it has the flexibility for members to attend a single day if they wish, and even for non-playing members to join us for lunch on Day 2. This year we were delighted that Tim Lerwell, the county secretary from the Wardrobe was able to join us.

As ever I am hugely indebted to Robin Wilson for all his assistance in liaising with the Club and for starting us off so efficiently on the Thursday; to Andy Fontana who yet again kindly volunteered to act as the prizes secretary and to Sue Nelmes from the Wardrobe for her outstanding administrative support.

Prizes were won as follows:

- Medal Gross:
 - 1st - The Gilson Trophy – Roy Evans.
 - 2nd - The Bone Beaker – Tony Dixon.
 - 3rd – John Ledgister.

- Medal Nett:
 - 1st - The Gilson Bowl - Tony Flay.
 - 2nd - The Gamble Cup - John Ledgister.
 - 3rd - Roy Evans.

- Stableford Singles:
 - 1st (20 handicap and below) - The James Cup - Nigel Barker.
 - 2nd (20 handicap and below) - The Shorncliffe Cup - Bob Luckwell.
 - 3rd (20 handicap and below) - Tony Flay.

 - 1st (21 handicap and above) - The Education Cup - Arthur Christian.
 - 2nd (21 handicap and above) - Andy Fontana.
 - 3rd (21 handicap and above) - Jack Thompson.

- Fensome Pairs:
 - 1st - The Wiltshire Regimental Golfing Society Regimental Foursomes Cup - Bob Luckwell and Alan Ladds.
 - 2nd - Nigel Barker and Andy Fontana.

- The Texas Scramble: John Marsh, Andy Fontana and Arthur Christian.
- The Texas Scramble (Orange Ball): John Ledgister, Nigel Barker and Alan Ladds.
- Nearest the Pin (7th) - Tony Dixon.
- Nearest the Line (14th) - Ron Cooke.
- Longest Drive (18th) - John Ledgister.
- Most Golf Played - The "Frog" Trophy - Trevor Ongley.
- And the "Bandit" trophy, nominated and awarded by the previous year's winner, was presented to Nigel Barker - whilst 33 points is not usual Bandit Territory, it was in the conditions.

Burma Cup

This year it was our turn to host the Slashers at the annual Burma Cup competition which was held at Cumberwell Park Golf Course on 28 September 2012. Thanks go to our team captain, John Ledgister, for organising the team and laying on an excellent day's golf - another hard fought close match with the Slashers yet again piping us at the post to emerge as the winners. Well done to them. John is standing down as the Burma Cup team captain and Steve McIntyre has kindly agreed to step into the breach for 2013. We also, for the 4th year in a row, entered a team into the Rifles

Regimental Golf Day at South Winchester Golf Club on 8 October 2012. We were unable to repeat the success of 2011 and did not hold onto the winning trophy, but we still had Farmers Boys representation in the winning 5 Rifles team in the form of John Marsh who helped them out with their numbers. Outstanding performances from Garry O'Doherty who won the individual medal competition, from Paul Johnstone (playing for 7 Rifles) in coming 2nd in the stableford and winning the longest drive, and from Danny Simmons (playing for 6 Rifles) in winning the nearest the pin kept the Farmers Boys in the spotlight. Other team members were John Ledgister, Steve McIntyre, Dave Gardner, Robin Simmonds, and Bob Luckwell.

Matches 2013

The Farmers Boys (DERR) Golf Society is in fine form and continues to be one of the small but important elements of the Rifles' 4th Pillar. Please make a note in your diaries now of the dates of the meetings in 2013 which are:

- **12 June** Devon ABF Golf Day at Dainton Park Golf Club.
- **20/21 June** Annual Meet - venue tbc.
- **19 July** The Burma Cup at Brickhampton Golf Club
- **2 August** Slashers Annual Meet at Brickhampton Golf Club.
- **14 October** The Rifles Regimental Golf Day at South Winchester Golf Club.

SOCIAL NEWS

RGBW Officers Lunch

93 Officers of the RGBW Officers Association, guests and partners sat down the annual lunch in the Wardrobe on Saturday 7th July. This was a table lighter than the previous year but, nevertheless, a magnificent turn out of friends who braved monsoon conditions to arrive let alone enjoy the occasion, which was very convivial - just as well because there was no more room in the 'beer tent' for pre-prandial drinks!

Those attending were [93]: Maj Henry & Mrs Joy Bailey, Maj Roddy & Mrs Scilla Bennett, Maj Robert & Mrs Jane Bewell, Mr John Biggs, Maj Steven & Mrs Allyson Bowkett, Mr R Butler, Maj Richard Butt & Mrs Helen Shayle, Maj Simon Cook, Maj Gen Derek & Mrs Daphne Crabtree, Mr Andrew Crocker, Capt Mike & Mrs Rachel Curtis, Col Terry Daly, Mr Paul Davies & Mrs Rosemary Davies, Brig Patrick & Mrs Angelina Davidson-Houston, Mrs Liz Diacon, Maj Mike & Mrs Margaret Draper, Maj Piers Dunn & Mrs Renee Eade, Maj Jo & Mrs Monica Edmonds, Maj Paul & Mrs Sue Flavell, Maj Dick Foster, Maj Sandy Fraser & Mrs J Currell, Maj Mike & Mrs Cheryl Gibson, Lt Col Lofty & Mrs Lal Graham, Lt Col Simon Gray, Capt David & Mrs Frances Hall, Maj Phil Hall, Col Basil & Mrs Molly Hobbs, Capt Ted & Mrs Ann Hobday, Mr Christopher Kaye, Mrs Sue Kenway, Lt Col Anthony & Mrs Ann Lake, Mr Peter & Mrs Maureen Lawrie, Brig Bill Mackereth, Mr Philip & Mrs Azalea Mayhew, Maj Doug Mortimer, Col Christopher & Mrs Jean Newbould, Mrs Rosemary Parkes, Lt Col Colin & Mrs Kathryn Parslow, Mrs Jean Paxton, Lt Col Andrew & Mrs Val Ravenhill, Maj Clive & Mrs Clare Rendle, Lt Col Vivian & Mrs Stephanie Ridley, Mrs Fleur Robbins, Lt Col John & Mrs Eileen Silvester, Capt Chris & Mrs Margaret Smallbone, Col Tony Snook, Maj David & Mrs Wendy Spackman, Capt Ian & Mrs Rosemary Spence, Lt Col David & Mrs Prue Stone, Lt Col Colin & Mrs Jill Tremellen, Mr Alister & Mrs Liz Turtle, Col Mike & Mrs Liz Vernon-Powell, Brig Nick Welch, Maj Robin & Mrs Jane Wilson, Maj Jon & Mrs Sue Wort

The date for 2013 is **Saturday 13th July**, again in the Wardrobe. All members are asked to put this date in the diary noting that it is a week earlier and will be part of the Regimental Association Salisbury Reunion weekend with a Drumhead Service in the Wardrobe garden on the Sunday.

ATDL

The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) Officers Luncheon Club

The annual reunion took place at The Rifles, Salisbury Office, The Wardrobe, 58, The Close, Salisbury on 20th September 2012.

The Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton was the Guest of Honour at this year's annual reunion in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the formation of the dining club by the 4th/5th Bns. of the Regiment.

Major GRA Pickford, presided at the Lunch. Officers attending were Lt Cols. VH Ridley, GTLM Graham, Majors PAJ. Brown (Chairman), JW Loe, DC Mortimer, DC Ryan Captains DJ Waters, WWR Vallis, IJ Knight and Lieuts. MCJ Barnes, MC

Copp, J Money-Kyrle, OHF Guillebaud, PJ Mayhew and AJ Pettitt. The Rt. Revd. John Kirkham, former Bishop of Sherborne and former Bishop of the Forces attended as a guest of a Club member.

Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty and the Colonel-in-Chief were warmly acknowledged.

The next reunion will be held at The Wardrobe
Thursday 19th September 2013.

Capt IA Knight

Fifty Nine-Ninety Four Club

(A Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Officers' Club)

The 59-94 Club's winter and summer lunches continue to be held in the welcoming 'Mess' atmosphere of the Rifles Officers' London Club in Davies Street.

On 27 January a total of 28 officers met, an impressive number in view of the fact that some of the most 'senior' now attend only in the warmer season. It was very good to see Tim Carr, Chris Higgs, Ant Hurst and Chris Knights at their first 59-94 reunion. The sitreps provided by more than 50 of those unable to be present proved that the world-wide scatter of former DERRs continues, with Africa still a popular spot with serving and retired alike. It also showed that the latter category is increasing by 3, Dickie Davis, Paul Flavell and Richard Preece having been successful applicants in the voluntary redundancy lottery.

Those attending were: John Biggs, Tim Carr, Simon Cook, Terry Daly, Farren Drury, Jo Edmonds, Paul Flavell, Chris Higgs, Ant Hurst, Clive Ireson, David Jones, Chris Knights, Anthony Lake, Jeremy Lillies, Charlie Maconochie, John Marsh, Gordon Muir, Barry Paddison, Chris Perkins, John Rylands, Ian Spence, David Stone, Patrick Tomlinson, Richard Vaughan-Payne, Nigel Walker, Russ Wardle, Adam Westlake and Jon Wort. Barney Haugh and Paul McLeod joined later at The Barley Mow, as did - a first - 3 'children of the Regiment': both sons of Nigel and Katie Walker and the youngest son of Graham and Estelle Barlow. Though use of the term children could be misleading as they towered over everyone present.

The second lunch was programmed for 25 May, slightly earlier than usual to keep well clear of the major weekend of celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. On this occasion, amongst the 18 who lunched, the first-timer was Tony Snook who most had not seen since he left 1 DERR at the end of his short service commission in 1968. The theme of the reports from those who couldn't make it seemed again to be 'anywhere but Blighty', with many of our number overseas - albeit a fair few swanning rather than working. The announcement that Charlie Maconochie was one of 3 Riflemen selected for promotion to Colonel on the Blue List released that morning was greeted warmly.

Those attending were: John Biggs, Simon Cook, Derek Crabtree, Andy Crocker, Terry Daly, Farren Drury, Piers Dunn, Jo Edmonds, Simon Gray, Robin Higgs, Colin Parslow, John Rylands, Tony Snook, David Stone, Richard Vaughan-Payne, Russ Wardle, Adam

Westlake and Jon Wort, with Chris Knights joining us for the follow-on.

In 2013 there will be lunches at Davies Street on Friday 25 January and Friday 07 June.

TMAD

THE BACK BADGE LUNCH

On Sunday 7th October former officers of the Glosters and RGBW, together with their wives, met at the Officers' Mess, Imjin Barracks for an informal lunch. The Back Badge Lunch had been a regular event on the regimental calendar but the last one was held in 2010. We are indebted to Brigadier Simon Firth for resurrecting the event. He did much of the liaison work with Imjin Barracks and, ably supported by Lesley in the Gloucester Office, sent out the invitations.

Sadly, just a few days before the Lunch Simon was rushed into hospital and thus was unable to attend the lunch that he had done much to reinstate. Our new Gloucester County Secretary, Major Tristram Carter, stepped up to the plate, and, supported by his wife Janette, was on hand to greet all who arrived for the Lunch.

45 former GLOSTER Officers and their wives sat down for lunch, including General Sir John and Lady Waters and Lieutenant General Sir Kevin and Lady O'Donoghue. The unanimous conclusion of all who attended was that the event was a resounding success. The food was of the highest quality and so many enjoyed being able to catch up with old friends again. The choice of venue in Imjin Barracks Officers' Mess was generally agreed to be just right, and we hope that we will be able to go back there again in the future. Simon is on the mend and we hope that, under his leadership, the Back Badge Lunch will find its way back onto our regimental calendar as an annual event

Lesley Bradshaw

MUSEUMS

The Wardrobe and The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum

The highlight of the last 12 months resulted from the decision of HM Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton, to accept the Trustees' offer of The Wardrobe as the venue for her to host HM The Queen at a reception and luncheon during the Wiltshire Celebration Event to mark the Diamond Jubilee, to be held in the Salisbury Cathedral Close on 1st May 2012. The visit started just after noon when Her Majesty and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh were driven into The Wardrobe through a guard from 4 RIFLES, Wiltshire's adopted battalion. The Royal Standard replaced the Rifles flag and a royal salute was sounded by a pair of Rifles Buglers. HM and HRH were welcomed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Colonel (retd) T M A Daly, and introduced to the staff of The Rifles Wardrobe and Museum Trust and the Rifles County Secretary for Berkshire and Wiltshire.



**The Chairman of Trustees welcomes
The Queen to The Wardrobe.**

'Bobbie of the Berkshires', one of the museum's most popular exhibits, was then presented to a Queen of England for a second time as the Manager Curator, Simon Cook, explained the significance of the dog, described by Queen Victoria in her diary as "a bit of a Pomeranian", which was the pet of Sergeant Kelly of the 66th Regiment. He and Bobbie were at the battle of Maiwand which took place on 27th July 1880 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. They survived the battle, the retreat to and subsequent battle at Kandahar, and the sea voyage to England. Both Sergeant Kelly and Bobbie were presented to Queen Victoria when she awarded Distinguished Conduct Medals to 5 members of the 66th (retitled 2nd Battalion The Berkshire Regiment from July 1881) for their bravery in the battle.

Meanwhile a couple of hundred of Wiltshire's 'the great and the good' had gathered in marquees in The Wardrobe garden, some to attend a reception and others to sit down to lunch serenaded by the Wiltshire Youth Jazz Orchestra. By the time HM and HRH departed to tour the mass of other activities being held in The Close and Cathedral the morning rain had been replaced by brilliant sunshine. Another notable contribution to the entwined histories of the Regiment and The Wardrobe.



The Manager Curator tells the story of Bobbie of The Berkshires



Bobbie with the 5 soldiers from the 66th Regiment, and one Northumberland Fusilier, at Osborne House after the Presentation of Distinguished Conduct Medals by Queen Victoria 1881

Seven months earlier The Wardrobe had been the setting for another reception, this time for the charity DecAid, a name chosen to mark 10 years of military involvement in Afghanistan. A national appeal set up by a team of students from Exeter University, Decaid had 3 aims: to increase awareness of the work and involvement of the Armed Forces in Afghanistan, to remember those men and women of our Armed forces who have lost their lives serving in Afghanistan, and to raise over £350,000 for two service charities, BLESMA and SSAFA Forces Help, who work with casualties from Afghanistan. The Duchess of Cornwall was their Royal Patron, and HRH attended their final reception held at The Wardrobe on 2nd October 2011.



The exhibition marking the bicentenary of the War of 1812 and celebrating the life and achievements of General Sir Isaac Brock of the 49th

The Museum has mounted 2 significant exhibitions this year. The first, marking the bicentenary of the War of 1812 and celebrating the life and achievements of General Sir Isaac Brock of the 49th, later 1st Battalion The Berkshire Regiment, was opened on 23rd May 2012 by General Jonathon Riley who has recently written a biography of General Brock. Isaac Brock was born on 6th October 1769 in St Peter Port, Guernsey. In 1785, at the age of 15, he joined the 8th (The King's) Regiment of Foot, but 6 years later as a captain he transferred to the 49th and commanded the Regiment from 1797 - 1805. In 1811 he was promoted to Major General and made Administrator of Upper Canada. Thus it was that in the War of 1812 with the United States of America he was the head of both the Army and the civilian administration in Upper Canada. General Brock was allocated relatively few soldiers and then tasked with defending the long frontier of Upper Canada. He took the offensive and captured Detroit. He was killed on 13th October 1812 at the head of the light company of the 49th leading his forces at the battle of Queenston Heights. For his aggressive and successful defence he is known as "The Saviour of Upper Canada" and the people of Canada are marking the 200th anniversary with much celebration.

The second exhibition was titled "Our Sporting Heroes". It was opened on 29th June 2012 by Claire Perry MP, the member for Devizes. Prompted by the Olympic Games the exhibition aims to show the part sport has played in the Army, and the

achievements in the sporting field of soldiers who are serving, or have served in, the infantry of Berkshire and Wiltshire. Names that may be familiar include Ken Barrington, Wiltshire Regiment and Surrey and England cricketer; Robert Jardine, England cricket captain and Royal Berkshire Regiment; Paul Merlich, DERR Army light weight boxing champion, Teekaram Rajcoomer, DERR Olympic boxer, and Peter Underhill Rifles and Peter Martin DERR who both shot for Great Britain.

The Museum helped the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre in their work of bringing together the families of soldiers who were killed years ago and whose remains are found today. The remains of Private Curtis 5th Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment ,who was killed on 2nd October 1944, were found in Holland. The Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre, part of the Services Personnel and Veterans Agency, are responsible for re-interring the bodies of such soldiers and for informing the family. The family of Private Curtis came to the Wardrobe on 11th August to learn something about what the battalion was doing in October 1944 and to make arrangements for attending the re-interment. This was filmed for a BBC documentary on the work of the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre.

The museum, in particular the Assistant Curator Jackie Dryden, contributed to a six part television series for Channel 5 "Hero In My Family" that was broadcast in April 2012. In each hour long episode a celebrity explored one of their ancestor's experiences in The Second World War. In our case Chris Tarrant, the television presenter, followed the route and experiences of his father Major Basil Tarrant MC Royal Berkshire Regiment who served with the 5th Battalions of both the Royal Berkshire and The Wiltshire Regiment.

The Museum also contributed to "The Lion of Afghanistan". This was a programme made by Radio Berkshire which was broadcast on Remembrance Sunday about Rifleman Cyrus Thatcher 2nd Battalion The Rifles who was killed in Afghanistan. His mother Helena Tym, from Reading, compared the life that Cyrus Thatcher led and the lives led by soldiers who fought at Maiwand.

In 2013 the Museum has an exhibition on The Victoria Cross and is beginning to think about the way to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War.

SGC

Would you like to Volunteer at your Regimental Museum?

The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum is in The Wardrobe at 58, The Close, Salisbury. It is run mostly by volunteers, currently 23 people, some of whom are members of the Regiment but most are not. We are looking for people who could help with the front of house for 4 hours a week or who would like to do a little gardening for anything from a couple of hours a week. We are also looking for someone to manage the shop. If you think you could do any of these tasks and would like to help your regimental home please contact the Manager Curator Simon Cook 01722 419419 or curator@thewardrobe.org.uk or write to him at The Wardrobe, 58, The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EX saying how you would like to help.

The Wardrobe 100 Club

You can support your Regimental Museum by joining The Wardrobe 100 Club.

The Wardrobe 100 Club supports the Rifles Wardrobe and Museum Trust in its aim to provide and maintain a public museum for the exhibition to the public, of documents, artefacts and other items connected with the former regiments (the Regimental Collection) so as to educate the public and members of the former regiments in the history of the former regiments and to promote military efficiency.

Members of the Club subscribe £1 per month or £12 per year. All members are entered into a prize draw in March, June, September and December. There will be one prize for each draw which will be funded from the subscriptions. The draw will take place at The Wardrobe during the last week of each quarter. Winners will be notified by post and their names published in the Association newsletter.

The remainder of the proceeds will be given to the Rifles Wardrobe and Museum Trust. Each subscriber may purchase as many memberships as they wish by making out the Banker's Order for multiples of £1 per month or £12 per year.

Should more than 100 apply for membership then further Clubs of 100 will be formed. For every complete Club of 100 members the quarterly draw will be £100. It will be proportionately smaller for an incomplete Club.

The aim is to add to the present 100 Club a series of 100 Clubs and thus produce a regular income for the Trust which can be used to improve and expand the present facilities.

£1 a month is only 25p a week, but 500 such contributions would make a helpful contribution to the continued improvement of the Museum in this time of austerity.

Membership will start on the first day of the month after your application is received at The Wardrobe. Banker's Orders should be dated accordingly and sent to:

The Curator
The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum
The Wardrobe
58, The Close
Salisbury
SP1 2EX

Membership is invited from anyone who would like to see The Wardrobe and Regimental Museum succeed, whether a member of the Regiment, a parent, relative or friend. If you would like to help,

**please join by completing the enclosed Standing Order and sending
it to the Curator.**



The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

2012 has been an exciting year for The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. Visitors have been hard to come by during the recession but much time has been spent on plans for the future and at the end of November we opened a Modern Army Display. The 'Modern Army Display is based around The Rifles serving in Afghanistan and is set against a dramatic photograph of a patrol which is over five metres long and dominates the room. There are flip books covering *Who Are The Rifles?*, which includes a description of the role of each of the Battalions, the Characteristics of the Rifles and much more. Another flip book focuses on *Care for Casualties*, which describes what happens from the moment of injury to recovery, with much of the text kindly supplied by Colonel Tim Hodgetts, one of the Army's leading trauma specialists. The third flip book details all the equipment that a soldier is issued with. In addition visitors can try on much of the kit, children will enjoy the helmet and no doubt many will discover just how heavy the Bergen is.

At the same time we believe that good as the Museum undoubtedly is it needs to be refreshed after over 20 years, which will allow us to bring in the latest technology and at the same time better integrate the collections of the Glosters, the RGBW and the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. We have applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant and were successful at Stage 1, which has allowed us to carry out funded research and submit a detailed proposal for Phase 2. We shall hear if we have been successful in March.

During the last year we have published a "A Tommy's Sketchbook", This is the remarkable First World War diary of Henry Buckle, who served in 5th (Territorial) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Henry Buckle came from Tewkesbury and was a skillful watercolourist and later professional photographer. His record of life with 5th Battalion in France is highly amusing and poignant. It shows a different aspect of service at the front, that would surprise many.

Our collections continue to grow, but we are always interested in new material. If you are having a "clear out" and stumble on a relevant items please bear us in mind as we always trying to enrich collections and fill the inevitable gaps.

Meanwhile over the winter, we look forward to seeing you in the Museum. It is your Museum and the more we all use it, the stronger it will become. Please encourage your friends and acquaintances to visit - if they get onto the museum website www.glosters.org.uk and they can take advantage of our **Two for One** offer, which makes a visit very good value. We hope to see you soon.

MISCELLANY

PRIVATE LEWIS JAMES CURTIS

1924 – 1944 – 2012

Lewis was born on 21 December 1924 and had not married by the time he enlisted on 4 March 1943 and transferred to the Wiltshire Regiment less than two weeks later. In March 1944 Lewis moved from 7th Wiltshires to 5th Wiltshires and disembarked in France on 18 June. He was wounded twice, at Baron on 16 July and whilst crossing the Seine on 26 July. On 2 October he was killed in action by enemy artillery shelling at De Laar Farm in an area a few kilometres south of Arnhem known as 'The Island'.

I have been involved previously with the identification and re-interment of soldiers of 4th & 5th WILTS who Fell in Holland during the latter stages of WW2: Thomas Venn, William Raison & Thomas Woolf; and I was determined to be involved with that of Lewis Curtis. Together with Jeff Matthews, I have got to know WO1 Geert Jonkers, Royal Netherlands Army Recovery & Identification Unit and it was Geert who alerted me, in 2006, to the discovery of the remains of an unmarked body in the area of De Laar Farm: the area that 5WILTS had reached by late September 1944. Though the body had been discovered in 2003, lack of personal effects delayed the identification until 2011 – the story of this compelling forensic search is told by Geert below.

This process had suffered due to the discovery of the mass grave at Fromelles in 2011 to which all available resources had been thrown and, as it is MOD Policy to not contact a family until there is a target date for the funeral, the formal notification was held back. Understandable but frustrating for me, for Geert and the staff at the Wardrobe.

In 2011, the body was formally identified as Pte Lewis Curtis from Cornwall. I set about locating the family and found it still local to Liskeard. Curtis had not married and though his sister, Alice, had died in 1990, there were two children now with families of their own. Alerting the Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre / Post Death Administrative Team leader, Sue Raftree, contact was made and both families were invited to the Wardrobe to be briefed by Sue Raftree and Lynne Gammond, Army Media Ops on the re-interment process. The visit allowed the families to view objects and documents relating to 5WILTS whilst, for me, it was a pleasure to meet them and to note that the name 'Lewis' had been passed down through the generations in respect of an uncle they never knew.

At the briefing, JCCC confirmed the date as 3rd October 2012 and The RIFLES Office coordinated the Regimental support: an Honour Guard, Bearer & Firing Party would be found from 5RIFLES in Paderborn, whilst I drew together preparations for the proper WILTS representation. Sadly neither Jeff Matthews who holds the 5WILTS Standard or Bob Giddings who has the Salisbury Branch WILTS Standard were able to carry but the fall-back plan was that Colonel Mike Cornwell would carry the 5WILTS Standard and I would carry the Branch Standard.

Closer to the date for departure, Geert alerted me to Cpl Robert Purver, 5WILTS who had written in the 2012 Association Newsletter that he had been at de Laar Farm and the Railway Crossing at the time that Curtis had Fallen. SO I invited Robert to join the caravanserai assembling in Salisbury on 1st October. I was to find that Robert had a very

good memory of his service with the WILTS and that he was keen to be able to visit the De Laar Farm area once again, never having travelled across the Channel since demobbed in 1946. Robert was accompanied by his son-in-law joined us from Derby and the Party – myself, Mike Cornwell, Robert Purver and son-in-law, Mack Macarthy and Chris Bacon – set off for Arnhem and were joined in the Hotel Dreyoord in Oosterbeek by the Curtis family (10) that night. Jeff Matthews and Jean Brind (5WILTS widow) having driven from Devizes also joined us.

At the rehearsal the following morning, we met the 5RILFES Padre, Reverend Mike Thomason, RSM Pete Burney QGM and the Honour Guard. Geert Jonker briefed us All in the afternoon about the events that led to Lewis' death and indicated where his remains had been found. This was the real start of the journey for family members, but also of real interest to the young men from 5 RIFLES. The coffin was sealed and dressed at the undertakers in the presence of the Padre, RSM and some of our party but not before one of Lewis' childhood possessions was placed inside - an item the family had kept for decades never knowing that eventually this personal treasure and Lewis would be reunited. The family then said 'farewell' and the coffin was blessed by the Padre.

On Wednesday 3rd October, the vast golden thread of The RIFLES became visible when Rfn Richard Edwards, great nephew of Lewis Curtis, joined us from Paderborn. MOD had only been informed of the 'connection' a few days previously and even his comrades were unaware that he would be attending the funeral.

The funeral, conducted with full military honours, was attended by over 300 people that included the Mayor, other civic dignitaries, Defence Attachés of allied nations, bands, two further (local) Standards and the international media. Dutch interest in such ceremonies underlines a continuing sense of gratitude for liberation. Wreaths were laid and primary school children, well aware of the reason for this sacrifice, laid posies; Robert Purver laid a WILTS wreath in memory of his absent comrades; Silver Bugles sounded Last Post and Reveille; and the Firing Party fired a volley over the grave. It was a solemn yet uplifting occasion.

At the Reception that followed the interment, there were addresses from dignitaries and Geert who concluded by presenting the family with a case containing some of the objects found with Lewis, clearly having been painstakingly cleaned and conserved.

We all then moved to de Laar Farm and the WILTS Memorial where a brief Remembrance Service was held by Padre Mike Thomason. It was another emotive moment with the Standards flying, Bugles sounding and the placement of many Legion crosses and flowers. The Curtis family returned to the grave on their way to the airport to find that the CWGC had the headstone already in place and the floral tributes laid out and that it was positioned next to Thomas Venn – Comrades together again.

Meanwhile, the WILTS party joined Geert for some refreshment whilst Robert Purver was interviewed with local secondary school children by local media. That over, we drove to the site of the level crossing, now an underpass, where Robert had fought. This was his quiet time to reflect and remember. There only remained a quick visit to the cemetery the following morning to bid 'farewell' to all WILTS Comrades before returning home.

Finally, thanks to the generosity of the RGBW Trustees who made this homage possible.

Dave Chilton

Ex-Cpl Robert Purver wrote

Hello David

This letter is grateful thanks for organising our recent trip to Arnhem. Nick and I thoroughly enjoyed our experience, albeit a sad one, but an experience that we shall never forget and would not have managed without your expert organising (and driving!!!).

Please give our regards to Michael, Chris and Mack who's company we enjoyed.

A big thank you to Chris and whoever created the DVD - my family are eager to see it!!

Nick and I hope this will not be the last time that we shall meet - upon this - I have the feeling that we shall meet again sometime!

Grateful thanks goes to whoever funded this operation and trust that you personally were not out of pocket due to it.

If you should be in contact with Jeff Matthews I would like to thank him for Information that he provided to purchase the book "D Day" and the book relating to the 4 Wessex Div "The Fighting Wyverns" or something.

My son in law Nick has been in contact with Geert through texts, we were delighted to have met *him*.

All for now Sir. Keep up the good work.

Robert Purver

WHO ARE YOU? THE QUEST FOR A LOST CORNISH MOONRAKER.

Or: "How perseverance is not a race, but many short races one after the other."

An account of how detailed forensic search eventually returns a name to a British soldier. The author, WO1 Geert Jonkers, Royal Netherlands Army Recovery & Identification Unit, describes the painstaking steps taken by the Dutch Army to honour allied soldiers who Fell liberating Dutch soil.

Construction of a new residential area in Schuytgraaf, South Arnhem, was carried out on the site of a WW2 battle involving units of 43 Wessex Division. It necessarily required the removal of unexploded ordnance and so it was that the remains of British soldiers started to be unearthed. The first, on 5th September 2001, was that of a Wiltshire Regiment soldier near the level crossing. Wearing a named silver Queen Victoria pendant, it was identified as Pte Thomas Venn, D Coy 5WILTS from Portsmouth and he was re-interred in November 2006 by 5RIFLES. This was a simple case.

On 20th October 2003 another body was discovered, lying on his right side in a shallow field grave just outside a barn of what used to be De Laar farm -B-Coy HQ & defensive position. Most probably his grave had been marked with an improvised marker which has washed away when the area was flooded by German engineers in December 1944. He was wearing just his battle dress, his great coat, his helmet and a German leather belt. The compressed cardboard identity discs had rotted away a long time ago and, despite the heavy fighting, someone had carefully removed all personal effects in order to return them to the family. A set of rusted mess tins was found which had probably contained the Army Pay Book or other identifying documents: standard procedure when leaving casualties in temporary field graves. However the mess tins had been buried the wrong way up and water had ran into them, destroying any documents there contained. This lack of ready identity started a nine year long search requiring detailed forensic analysis that would involve many false dawns.

The soldier's remains were taken to our forensic laboratory where it was established that he had a large amount of extracted teeth but no artificial denture work; that he had been a rather muscular man of 5 feet 9 inches in height. Age markers in the skeleton suggested he had been between 26 and 30 years of age. The regimental flash of red markings on a light backing on his MKII helmet had strong similarities with the Royal Berkshire Regiment flash, the Red China Dragon and many R. BERKS soldiers had been serving with No. 8 Beach Group in Normandy who were then transferred to the WILTS. Question: was he an ex-Royal Berkshire Regiment soldier?

The Battalion roll and service records were scrutinised. All missing soldiers below the age of 26 and those with non-matching heights were withdrawn from the investigation. This left us with only two Wiltshire men; Pte William Raison and Pte Albert Woolf who by happy coincidence had served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment with No. 8 Beach Group and his height was spot on: Success or not?

Unfortunately there were no dental treatment cards with held service records to compare with the remains. So it was time for some DNA testing. Here Lt Col David Chilton, curator of the Wardrobe Regimental Museum, was of great help; he traced Albert Woolf's brother Fred and I travelled to in Leighton-Buzzard, Bedfordshire, accompanied by Mrs Sue Raftree of the UK MOD in order to collect a DNA sample. However, there was no match and so it continued. Months later I went to Newquay, Cornwall, accompanied by Mrs Sue Raftree, and collected the DNA from the son of Pte Raison with, again, no breakthrough. The impasse obliges us to send the remains to Netherlands Forensic Institute for a second opinion on the age reconstruction.

Meanwhile there had been a small advance: an Army Service Number had been scribbled in an Army issue Bakelite razor: could this be the key? It was a General Service Corps number, indicating late entry into the forces and found in the Wiltshire Regiment enlistment books. It had been issued to 19 year old Pte Robert Long of St. Pancras, London who had been severely wounded at De Laar farm on 2nd October 1944 but he had been discharged in December 1945 being declared permanently unfit for any form of military service. It is likely that how this came to be in a dead man's grave will never be learnt: friends, a trade or simple trench mates at De Laar farm?

The Netherlands Forensic Institute proffered the results of their second opinion: the

soldier could be slightly younger than the standard anthropological tables showed due to accelerated skeletal development, to be between 20 - 25 years. This was confirmed by Tooth Cementum Annulation (TCA). Now a new group of soldiers MIA could be considered and, in September 2008 a further seven sets of service records were reviewed. There was immediate excitement: only three army dental treatment cards were included but there was one full match: Pte Lewis James Curtis from Liskeard, Cornwall and our body had a name. This was not confirmed, however, until 2011. The feeling of achievement of my tiny, obscure section in the Dutch Army demanded a party!

Our research into Lewis Curtis showed that he appears to have been keen on soldiering: there is a photo of him wearing a leather belt embellished with all sorts of regimental badges though this belt was replaced in Normandy by one he 'liberated' from a German soldier who no longer needed it. Keen he may have been but his conduct sheet (below) suggests a poor attention to detail(!):

- 16 Aug 43: 2 days CB for losing a pair of anklets and a PT vest;
- 01 Sep 43: 7 days CB for not complying with his room duty roster;
- 14 Sep 43: 3 days CB and paying for the loss of one mess tin;
- 09 Sep 44: 3 days CB for absenting himself from inspection parade;
- 12 Sep 44: 3 days CB for failing to report the loss of a great coat and a g/sheet.

If there is one thing the CSM does not like, it is a sloppy soldier!

The 9 year search for a name touched me personally and it was much emotion that I was finally able to give Lewis' personal effects to his family after the re-interment. Lewis came from Cornwall and this verse from the poem "Memories of Cornwall" by Carey Lenehan keeps me close to Lewis:

*My Cornish memories blanket me and little have they frayed
The freedom of a childhood where freedom always stayed
A place where I could grow and stretch and never need to fear
The cruellest moors, the kindest shores, always will be near*

Lewis Curtis, rest in peace.

**Warrant Officer Class 1 Geert Jonker
Head of Recovery and Identification Unit, Royal Netherlands Army**

LATE NEWS

Ed: It is with sadness that Jeff Matthews informs me that **Ray Hare, Pte 4WILTS 1943-47**, died on 18th January. Jeff reports that he has been too ill to travel to Holland these past two years and so had been unable to attend the re-interment of Pte Lewis.

JOHN MARSH RAISES £2580.00 FOR THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

John Marsh has raised £2580.00 for the Royal British Legion by cycling from London to Paris. The 4 day, 280 mile trip culminated in a moving memorial service at the Arc de Triomphe on Sunday 2nd September 2012 where wreaths were laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

“It was a fantastic experience” says John, who left the Army in 2007 and now runs his own Defence Consultancy Company. “Everything about the trip was memorable – the camaraderie from a shared activity that required a bit of effort, the beautiful countryside, the warm welcome in every village and town, the many services of remembrance, the rolling road closures and in particular cycling through Paris with no traffic and all brilliantly pulled together by the Legion’s cheerful support crew”.

“I am delighted to have raised so much and am very grateful to everyone for all their support. It was a real morale booster on the steep hills and the days when it appeared to be raining horizontally”. The money will go towards the Legion’s vital welfare work which covers a range of services including grants to those in need, benefits and money advice, employment and retraining support, home adaptations and hospital visits as well as the provision of full nursing care.



John Marsh and Gendarme discussing arrival at the Arc de Triomphe, Paris

SEARCHING FOR CPL HARPER "H"

I'm Luis Fonseca "Fonzie" from Norway. I was amongst others working as a signalist in Gorazde at the time of the two tragic accidents that claimed four of your men in 1994. In my month-long stay in Gorazde I got several good friends amongst the Brits. From the Norwegian contingent we were about 15 soldiers that became members of honour of the British Desert Rats since we 15 supported them not only in Bosnia, but also in the first Gulf war in 1991.

Unfortunately I do not recall so many names of the guys I became closer to but I do remember a medic Cpl Harper "H". a medic Troy.

Together with another Norwegian, we were two Norwegians in charge of eliminating the dog problem in the camp. I got special friends with the A Coy when I shot their mascot on the Chef's request!

From all my INTOps tours, the stay in Gorazde is the one I remember best, also with pleasure. I've tried to find your website for so long, but never had any luck before I found it through Wikipedia.

If there is any chance I can get in touch with Cpl "H" Harper I would be very grateful. He sent me a letter a while after that tour but when I replied he had changed his address.

A pity your Regiment is no longer. In Norway there has been big changes also: not for the good!

With friendly greetings

**Luis "Fonzie" Fonseca,
UNPROFOR II - Normedcoy - Blue Factory (NORWAY)**

ED: The Rifles Gloucester Office last known address for former Cpl Harper was in Washington DC, USA. If anyone knows of his whereabouts please contact the Gloucester Office either via email.

REGIMENTAL BENEVOLENCE IN 2012

The Salisbury and Gloucester County Offices supported 84/80 Benevolent Cases in 2012 and disbursed **£56,622.85** from The Rifles Benevolent Fund. These figures do not take annuitants or other welfare cases supported by specific Bequests.

Extracts from Benevolence Thank you letters:

Mrs V....

Thank you so very much for The Rifles most generous assistance in helping to meet the cost of my recent home removal. I do not know how I would have managed without this kind of financial help and would be most grateful if you could pass on my thanks to all those concerned in agreeing to this wonderful gift.

Mr B....

Thank you so much for your assistance to help me with the funeral costs for my late wife I don't know how I would have managed without the help. I know you must get lots of requests for assistance like mine and I'm very grateful that you took the time to consider my case, once again thank you.

Mr P....

I would like to give my sincere thanks for your generous grant. This will leave my family in good stead for the future.

Mr K....

Thank you for your generous contribution to the fund to provide me with a new central heating boiler. After a suitable trial period I can say with confidence it is working very well. I'm happy to say a hot bath and a warm home this coming winter will be very much appreciated.

Mr P....

I would like to thank all members concerned who were responsible for arranging to get me a mobility scooter, which has been a great help for me to get about locally as I have a hip and back problem which are on going.

Mrs A....

I would like to acknowledge to the Rifles, who made a grant towards my mobility scooter and made my life a lot easier to get about.

THE RIFLES CASUALTY CAPABILITY

Although recently we have suffered fewer casualties, recent fatalities still take the total number of those KIA in the five years since formation to 62. Eight of those fell in Iraq but the remaining 54 have died either in Afghanistan or as a result of wounds sustained. In addition, the total number of NOTICAS has been well over 300; of these 30 are amputees, 2 are permanently blinded and approximately 20 more have incurred life changing injuries.

Readers are reminded that The Rifles Casualty Capability (RCC) Aims are to ensure that all wounded Riflemen are given every opportunity to realise their full potential whether within the Army or in civilian life and if the latter, are given assistance towards their transition out of the Army and beyond. As part of a Land Forces trial, Lt Col (Retd) Mike Smith, the Rifles Casualty Officer, co-ordinates the RCC and has been in post since January 2010. He has been working closely with the emerging Army Recovery Capability to ensure the Regiment is able to influence Army thinking on casualty care. Part of his remit also covers the enduring requirement to provide support to the families of the wounded and to the families of the fallen. He is doing an outstanding job and we are looking to incorporate his role into the core capability of the central RHQ hub.

As part of this Regimental support, the Care for Casualties Appeal has now raised in **excess of £2,000,000** of which **over £300.000 has been disbursed**.

None of this would have been possible without the superb help it gets from the other Service Charities, in particular the ABF-The Soldier's Charity, Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion as well as the plethora of other smaller organisations, especially mental health charities on whom we rely for assistance. However our primary support must come from our Regimental network and so we look to **our family of Associations to:**

- **help us with raising funds; and**
- **keep an eye out for any of our family that might be struggling and inform the Salisbury and/or Gloucester County Offices.**

Lt Col Mike Smith MBE

Welfare Agencies



www.veterans-uk.info

Pay, Pensions and personnel support for the Services and veterans.
Tel: 0800 1692 277 | 0800 0853 600



<http://www.careforcasualties.org.uk/>

The RIFLES own charity designed to help all Riflemen injured in the course of their duty and their families. You may donate on-Line or through your local RIFLES County Office.



www.armybenfund.org

The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) is the Army's national charity. They provide financial and practical support to soldiers, former soldiers and their families in times of need. Tel: 0845 241 4820. Email: enquiries@armybenfund.org



www.britishlegion.org.uk

The Royal British Legion provides financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces, and their dependants. For general enquiries Tel: 08457 725 725.



www.combatstress.org.uk

Military charity specialising in the care of Veterans' mental health including depression, anxiety, a phobia or PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) related to

their Service career. Telephone: 01372 - 587000 Email: contactus@combatstress.org.uk
Postal address: Combat Stress, Tyrwhitt House, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey
KT22 0BX



www.ssafa.org.uk
Tel: 0845 1300 975. Email: info@ssafa.org.uk

thewarriorprogramme

reconnecting the disconnected

'The Warrior Programme enables ex Service and Serving men and women to take control of their lives through an educational and motivational training programme.'

The programme helps vulnerable people who are ready and able to commit to changing their lives for the better. In particular, it has been found especially appropriate for homeless clients, ex-Service and Serving personnel. The programme will benefit those suffering from depression, anxiety, lack of confidence, despair, sadness and increased levels of stress and PTSD.

For more information contact
www.thewarriorprogramme.org.uk
Tel: +44(0)560 2043 180

USEFUL LINKS



OMEGA RESOURCE GROUP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RIFLES

Welcome to the dedicated Rifles section of Omega Resource Group's website, a specific area designed by Riflemen for Riflemen. Omega Resource Group plc is a recruitment business that has partnered with The Rifles to provide expertise in the daunting process of job hunting.

The process is swift and, hopefully, the outcome bold. If you are looking for employment the registration process will take less than 2 mins. Simply complete the boxes and drop down menus and then up load your CV. This will allow a dedicated Omega Consultant to review your details, with a view to recommending and sourcing employment opportunities where possible. You also have the option to attend an accredited job search workshop to improve your job search skills, including CV writing, interview technique etc. To learn more please click 'enhance your CV'. Discounted charges have been negotiated with Omega, and with a 90+% recommendation rate, these courses represent excellent value.

If you are an employer looking to offer ex Riflemen jobs the process is equally simple. Just upload your details or request a call back and a Consultant will be in contact to discuss your requirements.

What does it cost? If you are seeking to register for job opportunities there is no charge, but there is a small charge for attending the job search workshop. If you are an employer, an exclusive discount on a placement fee has been negotiated, and in addition Omega will donate 5% of any placement fee to Care for Casualties.

The E-Bugle



A forum for up-to-the-minute information on the RIFLES

E-Bugle will be emailed to all those with known email addresses (Regimental database). Have a "Go". Once you have read it and should you wish to cancel, you may do so on line: just follow the instructions

CWGC

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

www.cwgc.org

A valuable resource for those seeking information of the graves of lost service personnel from WW1 to date. Contact at: 2 Marlow Road Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 7DX.
Tel 01628 507200 / 01628 634221



The VSC is an all ranks, tri Service Military Club, which is open to retired and serving members of the Armed Forces located at Marble Arch, London. Rooms vary from single to family rooms, mostly all en-suite! For further information: Tel: 0207 723 4474 or e-mail: info@vsc.co.uk



www.ujclub.co.uk

The **Union Jack Club** is a private members club for serving and ex-serving military personnel of Her Majesty's Armed Forces. We also welcome military personnel of many countries, together with the emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance, including the UK civil service and their families to make use of its excellent facilities.

Address: Sandell Street London SE1 8UJ - Telephone: 020 7902 6000

Alabaré – help us raise £2.5m for veterans



www.alabare.co.uk

Alabaré works with homeless and vulnerable people towards a vision of a society where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a fulfilling life.

Already supporting veterans across all Forces some of whom have served in Afghanistan, the Gulf Wars, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, the Falklands and other theatres, it provides:

- Dedicated Housing & support to veterans
- Training
- Front line support
- Move-on-Homes
- Helping veterans in accommodation keep their home
- Befrienders & Mentors

Tel: 01722 322882

Fax: 01722 341657

Web: www.alabare.co.uk

[Ed: At the time of writing, the Salisbury Office is engaged with Alabaré to house an Old Comrade in difficulty and has discovered an enormous well of professionalism, encouragement and help.]

In Memoriam 2012

Alcock RH	1 Glosters 1950-52	Hurley JA	1 Glosters 1954-57
Baker CA	Wilts/1 Glosters 1950-55	Hutton P	1 Glosters 1975-79
Bailey T	1 DERR 1965-75	Jones A	DERR
Barber GA	Wilts 1944-48	Kendall AJ	R Berks 1945-55
Capt Barker JD	1 Glosters 1946-57	Kirk R	R Berks Band Sgt
Batchford A	1 Wilts 1952	Lenk LG	R Berks 1942-47
Beveridge A	1951-54	Lt Lewis RM	1 Glosters 1953-56
Beville FR	R Berks 1940-48	Capt Mallet MH	2 Wilts 1939-56
Bickell T	R Berks 1947-49	Marles B	R Berks
Bilton KD	5 Wilts 1940-46	Maj RJ Martin MC	1 Glosters 1946-68
Blackwell F	1 Glosters 1947-49	Mobley D	1 Glosters 1954-59
Blagg E	Sherwood Foresters/ 1 Glosters 1947-53	Lt Col DED Morris	R Berks
Blow RD	R Berks 1950-55	Morris RA	R Berks 1950-52
Bradley S	1 Glosters 1944-53	Mustoe DDJ	1 Glosters 1946-59
Capt Boyes G	Glosters 1943-69	Nicholls WF	2&1 Glosters 1935-59
Breen A		Maj RPM Oldfield	Wilts
Brown R	R Berks 1950-52	GD Over MM	2 Glosters 1940-45
Bye RD	R Berks 1952-75	Lt Col RJ Parker	Wilts/DERR 1958-68
Lt DF Carr	R Berks 1942-46	Peacock JJ	Glosters 1930
Carruthers RJB	R Berks 1940-42	Pemberton HG	1 Glosters 1950-53
Collis EM	5&11 Glosters 1936-46	Petherick D	1 Glosters/RGBW 1976-96
Coleman BF	Wilts 1939-46	Phillips-Turner DF	R Berks 1961-72
Cooper N	1 Glosters 1951-53	Prewer RJ	R Berks 1954-57
Cox WP	1 Glosters 1958-60	Prowton MJ	D&D/1 Glosters 1961-66
Lt GRJ Cummings	R Berks 1943-46	Reavley JW	4 Wilts 1940-46
Capt AWCuthbertson	R Berks 1945-48	Reeves RJW	RERR 1962-68
Davey HE	R Berks 1950-52	Ridout FJ	4/2 nd Wilts 1944-47
Deakins LH	Wilts 1951-53	Robertson GF	DERR 1976-91
Dunford JW	Wilts/DERR 1942-69	Lt RJWG Rudd	1 Glosters 1950's
Dr EV Dulson		Capt T Sales	2 Wilts 1936-46
Lt PJC Dymoke -Marr	R Berks 1953-54	Saunders BF	R Berks 1957-59
Eaton GA	DERR 1964-78	Sayer FGW	R Berks 1939-46
Edney DF	Glosters 1946	Smallman RJ	R Berks 1945-47
Eldrid J	Wilts 1943-47	Spacey J	Glosters 1940-46
Freegard P	DERR	Maj BF Stephens MC	2 Glosters 1939-45
Fry RJ	Glosters	Stockley R	4 Wilts 1959-67
Green V	AAC 1952-61/ 1Glosters 61-74	Vanderkar CJ	Wilts
Gulliford RJ	Glosters 1945-48	van Maurik	Wilts
Maj D Hart	Wilts	Ward JE	Wilts 1931-57
Hall WJG	6&2 Glosters 1941-48	Webb CA	1 Glosters 1951-54
Hawken HB	Wilts 1932-41	Weston CJ	1 Glosters 1950-54
Hayden R	DERR	Lt GF Woolnough MC	Wilts/DERR 1935-65
Hayworth M	DERR	Wright LV	Wilts 1945-48
Hill DJG	1 Glosters 1950-53	Young HG	1 Glosters 1952-59
Howells J	1&2 Glosters		
Hughes RE	1 Glosters 1947-49		
Hunt MH	R Berks		
Capt Hurford-Jones DJ	1 Glosters 1954-65		

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GEORGE WOOLNOUGH MC
7th December 1914 - 5th January 2012



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GEORGE WOOLNOUGH, who has died aged 97 after many years of a debilitating illness, was awarded a Military Cross after leading an extremely hazardous night attack in the Italian campaign.

In September 1943, Woolnough landed in Italy, north of Reggio, with 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment (2 WR). The following month he was commanding a company which was ordered to capture a daunting hilltop position considered key to the battalion attack on Cantalupo, south of Isernia. The assault was made in darkness and in dense, thickly-wooded country intersected by deep ravines. Two platoons became detached from the main force, and Woolnough found himself approaching his objective with only one rifle platoon and his company HQ. Despite strong opposition, he pressed forward and drove the enemy off the hill. The missing platoons did not arrive and it was impossible to reinforce him. One section of the remaining rifle platoon was overrun and all its men either killed or captured; but Woolnough held on to the position in the face of heavy mortar fire and a series of determined counter-attacks. He was awarded as Immediate MC.

George Fredrick Woolnough, the son of an Army schoolmaster, was born at Aldershot on December 7 1914. The family lived in India for four years but returned in 1923, and George was educated at the Bishop Wordsworth School in Salisbury. He gained a scholarship to the RMA Sandhurst, passed out third, and won a half blue for Athletics. He also represented the Army in the Inter-Services Championships.

After being commissioned into the Wiltshire Regiment, in 1936 he accompanied 2nd Battalion to Palestine during the Arab Revolt. On the outbreak of war he went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. During the withdrawal to Dunkirk, with the Germans hard on their heels, a fellow officer with lofty concepts of military strategy suggested they construct a roadblock by moving a hedge to the middle of the road, then add a road sign to direct the enemy into a nearby pond.

After evacuation, for which Woolnough was mentioned in dispatches, in March 1942 he took part in the campaign in Madagascar against the Vichy French. They captured the town of Antsirane after a 17-mile forced march in darkness.

The invasion of Sicily followed, and in June 1944 the battalion took part in the breakout from the Anzio beachhead. When they were pinned down by intense machine-gun fire, Sergeant Maurice Rogers led a charge and knocked out two of the posts before being killed. Woolnough, who was a witness to this gallant action, contributed to the award of a posthumous VC.

After the battalion was withdrawn from Italy it joined the British Second Army for the final phase of the war in north-west Europe. Woolnough then served in BAOR, Singapore and Cyprus. He was on the directing staff at the Iraqi Staff College, Baghdad, before returning to Cyprus in 1958 to command 1st Battalion during the Eoka campaign. He and his men had to deal with more than 50 incidents involving bombs, mines, ambushes and armed assaults. He was again mentioned in despatches.

He was the last CO of 1 WR and the first of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment after the Wiltshire's amalgamated with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1959. A number of staff appointments followed before he retired from the Army in 1965. He then moved into a cottage in a Wiltshire village and became secretary to the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral, a post that he held from 1966 to 1980. He was also a regional superintendent for St John Ambulance, a member of the parish council and a stalwart supporter of his local church. He remained in close touch with his friends in the regiment. He was unmarried.

George had borne with fortitude and good humour a debilitating illness that had forced him reluctantly to leave his beloved cottage in the Woodford Valley for Nursing House in Amesbury. A memorial service was held in Salisbury Cathedral with over 200 members of his former Regiment, their Standards and Regimental Marches paid tribute to a loved and respected Officer.

[Courtesy of the Daily Telegraph Obituaries]

ERNEST VAN MAURIK
24th August 1916 – 21st January 2012



Ernest Henry van Maurik was born in London on August 24 1916. The son of a Dutchman who ran a cigar business, and an English mother, he was educated at Lancing and then spent several months in Germany.

As he perfected his German, he saw some of the excesses of the burgeoning Nazi regime. He then went to Switzerland to improve his French before moving to sell tea in London where, in 1936, he joined the Artists Rifles as a territorial.

In 1940, Van Maurik was commissioned into the Wiltshire Regiment and, after several months on coastal defence duties, was recruited by SOE and sent for commando training at Lochailort, in the Scottish Highlands. After being posted to Arisaig as an instructor, the soldiers who passed through his hands were taught a wide range of skills, including fieldcraft, orienteering, unarmed combat, handling explosives and sabotage. Two were young Czechs who subsequently took part in the assassination of Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich, the sadistic "Protector" of Bohemia and Moravia. The Nazis carried out savage reprisals on the local populace, and van Maurik felt bad about his involvement for many years.

After moving to SOE HQ in Baker Street, he worked in the Air Force Liaison Section. He would join agents for dinner at a house near Tempsford, Bedfordshire, and then accompany them to the airfield. There the conducting officer would make a final check of their kit for any incriminating article or document before they boarded the aircraft. On one occasion he took two Russian NKVD agents back from the airfield to London. His car, which was driven by a young woman in FANY, kept breaking down and he expressed his mounting irritation with some force. A row developed between the two as to how the engine could be kept running. The young woman later became his wife and, in his memoirs, van Maurik wrote that their argument lasted another 40 years

The SOE sent van Maurik to Malta to help with an operation to parachute a British liaison officer and four agents into Yugoslavia. The island was under siege, and their Whitley bomber was strafed on the runway, but van Maurik was able to brief them and the plane got away.

Colonel Maurice Buckmaster, the head of "F" Section, Special Operations Executive, needed to replace his man in Berne, and van Maurik (always known as "Van") was selected for the mission. In January 1944 he was dropped by Halifax bomber into the Ain district about 40 miles from the Swiss frontier. His equipment included a Colt .32 revolver and a code sewn into his belt.

It was a fine night, and he landed in thick snow to be met by a reception committee which included Richard Heslop (known as "Xavier") and Henri Romans-Petit, commander of the local Maquis. The first night was spent on damp straw in a disused farmhouse and, during a stay of several days, he visited the Maquis camps, made a careful note of their requirements and organised airdrops of stores, guns, explosives, medicines and clothing which they had been struggling to obtain.

He and Roman-Petits then headed for the Swiss border in a "*voiture gazo*". Van Maurik's French was not good enough to stand up to an interrogation, and his cover story was that he was an RAF airman who had been shot down in Belgium and captured by a German patrol - but had jumped out of a truck and got away.

At Annemasse, on the Swiss border, they were given bicycles and told to follow a customs official at a discreet distance. They cycled past German soldiers and, on

reaching the bridge, when their way was blocked by barbed wire, managed to cross over on a narrow outside ledge and escape into Switzerland.

In Berne, having taken over the "F" Section work, his main task was to assist agents operating in France who were sending couriers into Switzerland as a way of communicating with London. In 1945, after the fall of Berlin and by now promoted lieutenant-colonel, he led a mission to find and repatriate SOE agents in German captivity. He was joined by Yeo-Thomas, who had been captured and had endured brutal treatment at the hands of the Nazis. Yeo-Thomas had been asked to interview a member of the medical staff from Buchenwald's "Guinea Pig Block" on behalf of the War Crimes Commission; but he had been so appalled by his experiences that he refused to speak German, and van Maurik interpreted for him.

In the course of his work, van Maurik got to know Brigadier (later Major-General) Colin Gubbins, Buckmaster as well as Vera Atkins and agents who were to become famous – among them Peter Churchill, Odette Hallowes and Forest Yeo-Thomas (The White Rabbit).

On demobilisation he joined the Foreign Service and was sent to Cambridge on a one-year course to read Russian. A posting to Moscow followed. Every move that he made was monitored, his flat was "bugged" and an attempt was made to ensnare his wife in a "honey trap". Van Maurik was subsequently posted to Cologne, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Copenhagen and Rio de Janeiro.

On his return to England, van Maurik, then close to retirement, began taking American visitors on tours of Britain. Appointed OBE in 1945 and, later, a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, he was a founder member and trustee of the Special Forces Club, an institution that he was to value and support for the rest of his life. In retirement at Sevenoaks, he enjoyed golf and walking .

"Van" Maurik married, in 1945, Winifred Hay. She predeceased him, and he is survived by their son and daughter.

[Courtesy of the Daily Telegraph Obituary]

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RODNEY PARKER
2nd May 1941 – 1st July 2012-08-20

Rodney Parker joined the Band of the Wiltshire Regiment as a boy soldier in 1958 and went on to serve with the WILTS then the Duke of EDINBURGH'S royal Regiment (DERR) in Tidworth, Malta and Minden before attending the Bandmaster's Course at the Royal School of Music, Knellar Hall and receiving a commission as Director of Music of the DERR. He retired from the Army – and the Regiment - in 1997.

Major DESMOND HART
25th October 1912 – 18th April 2012

Desmond Hart, who saw war time service with the Dorset Regiment but unable to enjoy a full career due to an operational injury, joined the WILTS (TA) in 1947 and was a keen supporter all his life.

Desmond, one of seven children, was born in Dublin in 1912 to an Anglo-Irish family. One of his earliest memories was of being saved by his nanny from charging horses in the streets of Dublin during the 'Uprising'. His Father died when he was still a boy and, at age 8 years, he was sent to the Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover where he was required to parade daily before breakfast whatever the weather and recalls having his tonsils out without anaesthetic !

Back in Dublin to attend Trinity University, he played rugby for the Wanderers Club at Lansdowne Road and remained a fervent supporter all his life. But his passion was for walking and wildlife and he often recalled the day he spent trekking in the Wicklow Mountains with WB Yeats. However, after only a term at Trinity, he decided that the strictures of academe was not for him. He took a boat to the north of England and walked the length of the country, sleeping in haystacks and deserted buildings – always making sure he shaved and put on a clean shirt each day – eventually reaching Dorset where he became a pupil farmer near Dorchester.

After wandering the land and with war inevitable and imminent, Desmond Hart joined the Dorset Regiment. He was seconded from his regiment to the SOE and in 1943 joined Fitzroy McLean in Yugoslavia to "learn who was killing most Germans". In an engagement with German forces hunting the Partisans, he lost an eye and was posted to train agents in Scotland prior to their deployment in the war zones of Europe. In 1944 he rejoined the Dorset Regiment in Belgium and remained with it until the end of the War. Though keen to remain in the Army, having lost an eye Desmond was demobbed in 1946 and immediately joined 4WILTS (the merged 4th & 5th Bns who had fought through the Normandy Campaign & Op MARKET GARDEN and were returned to the TA post WW2). This was to remain an important and focal part of his life becoming a regular attendee at the Wiltshire Officers' Luncheon Club.

Following his demob, Desmond took up insurance by way of a career that was to last the rest of his life: he still practiced well into his 90s. In 1944 he married Phyllis and together they had four children Carolyn, Erica, Jonathan and Joanna followed by seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Major ROBERT JAMES MARTIN MC
27th June 1928 – 18th October 2012

Major Bob Martin, who has died in Canada aged 84, was one of the more remarkable officers to serve in The Gloucestershire Regiment following the Second World War. Born and brought up in the City of Bristol he was educated at Bristol Grammar School, and was a member of Intake 1 at the RMA Sandhurst, successor to the old RMC. In 1948 he joined the 1st Glosters in Jamaica, who returned in 1950 to Colchester as part

of the 29th Infantry Brigade Group. Almost at once the brigade was ordered to Korea. At the capture of Hill 327 and at the battle of the Imjin River in April 1951 he was the second-in-command of the MMG Platoon and in the final stages of the fighting was in an isolated position with a section of guns. On the order to break out through the encircling Chinese he and his section immobilised their remaining guns and joined D Company under Captain Mike Harvey, the only element of the battalion to head north. Despite considerable casualties most of the party reached safety and he was therefore one of only four officers who fought through the whole three day battle and was not killed or taken prisoner. Following reorganisation Martin became Intelligence Officer to Colonel Digby Grist.

His conduct throughout this period was so outstanding that he was awarded the Military Cross. **His citation stated:** *"In February 1951, during the attack by 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, on Hill 327, Captain MARTIN led the forward medium machine-gun sections with the leading rifle companies, and sited them with coolness and efficiency while under enemy fire. From 23rd - 25th April 1951, during the battle of SOLMA-RI, Captain MARTIN maintained his medium machine-gun section in action as long as physically possible, and then assisted Captain HARVEY in his successful withdrawal through the enemy lines. During the intensive patrolling period of July and August 1951, when employed as Battalion Intelligence Officer, Captain MARTIN's briefing of patrols and assessment of information has been of the highest quality, his coolness and accuracy giving confidence to newly arrived platoon commanders who lacked battle experience."*

The Glosters returned to England to serve as demonstration battalion at the School of Infantry in Warminster where Martin commanded their Mortar Platoon. After the battalion made a further move to serve in Co Durham he was posted to join the staff in Kenya as an IO during the Mau-Mau insurgency. For his service in the colony, which involved considerable danger, Martin was Mentioned in Despatches. Between 1957 and 1960 he became Adjutant successively to the 5th and then the 1st Battalions of his regiment. An outstandingly competent regimental officer, he shone in both appointments. Although scrupulously fair he is mostly remembered for the severity of the punishments he meted out to transgressing subaltern officers, now the stuff of legend.

In 1960 he attended the Staff College, becoming a DAA & QMG in the Persian Gulf in 1961. Two years later he assumed command of D Company of the Glosters, by now stationed in Cyprus. All who served under him enjoyed his independent and fearless style and would have followed him anywhere. During the civil unrest in Cyprus in 1963/64 it became necessary to create a buffer zone between the Greek and Turkish communities in Nicosia. Ordered to clear out a police station the heavily-armed occupants refused to leave. Calling up an anti-tank gun he had it loaded and aimed at the building; its crew kneeling beside it ready to fire. The venturi of the gun was a few feet in front of a wall and the crew well knew that, should they fire the gun, they would suffer physical damage from the back blast. Luckily for all concerned the Greek garrison left their posts in great-haste. The surviving gun commander still insists that they would have fired "Had the major said so".

Having served as brigade major to two Territorial brigades between 1965 and 1967 Martin's final appointment was as Second in Command of the 1st Battalion of the

Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in Germany. When they were sent to Libya in 1967 in the wake of the 6 Day War he found himself commanding half the Battalion running a refugee camp for several thousand European civilians and all embassies in Benghazi.

He retired in 1969 to pursue a career in industry and moved to Canada. Quietly-spoken, tall, bespectacled and almost scholastic in appearance he was nevertheless a first class fighting soldier, totally without fear of any kind. He probably found the confines of peacetime soldiering a little dull. Late in life he married Patsy, with whom he lived very happily in Canada. He died on the 18th of October.

CPTR

MAJOR BASIL FLETCHER STEPHENS MC 28th August 1917 – 1st November 2012

Major Basil Stephens, who has died at Salisbury aged 95, was one of the last survivors of the 2nd battalion of the Glosters who landed in France on D Day 1944. He commanded B Company, who fought with distinction at Tilly-sur-Seulles and at Lingèvres, where the company was sent forward on bicycles to relieve elements of the 9th DLI, who were in danger of encirclement by a counter attack. The Regimental History records that they rescued a part of wounded Durham's and captured forty or fifty Germans "as they peered cautiously from ditches and hedges". On 30th July at St Germain d'Ectot Stephens assumed command of a Glosters' battle-group that was attacking a strongly-held enemy position when it's leader was killed. The enemy were protected by extensive mining and booby-traps, and were supported by heavy mortar and MG fire "*Despite this handicap*", the **citation for his MC states,** "*Major Stephens was able to reform the attack and by his personal example under fire and by leading the men through the minefield he was able to regain the momentum of the attack with the result that shortly afterwards the objective was captured*".

Leaving the Army in 1945 he worked for the UN in South America, but in retirement he occasionally attended events at the Wardrobe in Salisbury, looking remarkably young for his age. We extend our condolences to his widow and family in their loss.

Major CPT Rebbeck



Captain DAVID HURFORD-JONES 18th April 1933 – 16th November 2012

British Representative to the British Aden Protectorate with the Yemen, David Hurford Jones and the Sheikh and tribesmen of the Audli Tribe

David Hurford-Jones, who has died in Devon aged 79, came to The Gloucestershire Regiment in a most unusual manner. Educated in England at the Oratory he then joined the Australian

Royal Military College at Duntroon, his mother being Australian. However, his brother Peter had fought with the 1st Glosters in Burma in 1942, losing an arm and both his Vicary uncles had served in the regiment with very great distinction. Accordingly, after his graduation he transferred to the British Army and his family regiment. Two years later his cousin Bill Vicary joined the regiment as well.

David joined the 1st Glosters in Kenya, posted to the highly successful C Company. He later commanded the Mortar Platoon during the Suez crisis, serving in Aden, Bahrain and Cyprus, the latter in the grip of the emergency. After a short spell at the Depot in Gloucester he was appointed in 1958 to be ADC to the Governor of Victoria, a posting that he thoroughly enjoyed and which gave him a fund of stories. Two years later he rejoined his regiment, serving as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion to Colonels Soames and Varwell in Dover, Lydd and Cyprus. Finally in 1963 David went as an instructor to Sandhurst. To general regret he retired in February 1965 to pursue a career in business.

To this he brought the dash, energy and endless good humour that had endeared him to everyone. His subsequent successes and reverses made no apparent difference to him. As a talented games player he represented his regiment at cricket, hockey and rugby, taking up golf in his later years. David also had a remarkable singing voice, a talent that he had managed to conceal from his brother officers whilst serving. His younger brother having been a prominent politician in Australia, it was no surprise to find that he became involved in politics in Oxfordshire, lecturing on the virtues of the EU. He married Cecilia Walshe in 1962, with whom he had three daughters. Cecilia predeceased him, as did many of the very dear friends he had made at Duntroon in the "fifties", but his last years were made very happy by Jennie Vass, who nursed him through his long and harrowing final illness. We extend our condolences to her, and to his three daughters.

Major CPT Rebbeck

**WO2 HB Hawken
15th June 1914 – July 2011**

WO2 Hawken started his military career with the WILTS, then DERR Band before his musical skills attracted praise resulting in promotion and postings to RCT and REME Staff Bands – his last appointment was as the Band Sergeant-Major of the REME Staff Band. Later in life he became a Chelsea In-Pensioner and through the annual visits to the Royal Hospital by Regimental Staff kept in touch with the Regiment though latterly, he chose to be visited by REME Corps staff and as such, it was not until the Rifles County Secretary (Wiltshire & Berkshire)'s visit in December 2011 that notice of his death was made.

OLD NEWS
(missed the 2012 Newsletter)

Captain JAMES (Jim) BARKER
- September 2011

James Barker, who sadly passed away in September 2011, was educated at Clifton College and commissioned into the Welsh Guards before a transfer, in late 1946, to the GLOSTERS. He started with the 61st at Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester then moved with the Regiment to Jamaica (HQ Company). Sent on the RSO Course at Catterick in 1947, he returned to Jamaica to grapple with the knotty problem of maintaining Battalion communications with 18 dilapidated sets that were unreliable in the hilly country around Moneague – Sgt Smythe saved the day with his motorbike!

In 1949 he left the Regiment to study at Oxford and rejoined it on its return from Korea moving with the Regiment to Barnard Castle then Kenya before being posted to the Regimental Depot as Adjutant in 1955. Two years later he resigned his commission to become a teacher at Clifton College Prep School where he spent the next 30 years, 15 of which were as Housemaster. He retired in 1987.

James was a keen sportsman participating in many Battalion sports – hockey, swimming, athletics and rugby. This latter he played for Exeter College, Oxford, and his home club, Clifton.

In 1954 Jim married Stephanie Walker who joined him in Kenya with their new baby, Jeremy.

We send our condolences to his family.

BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Branch President & Branch Chairman	Branch Secretary & Standard Bearer RGBW Regtl Association Web Page	Meeting Place & Time
CITY & COUNTY OF BRISTOL Lt Col JM Blundell	Mr LK Whittle 53 Withymead Road Marshfield, Chippenham, SN14 8PB (01225 – 891623) lawrence@computer-direct.org.uk	First Tuesday each month at 7.30 pm Kingswood RBL, 104 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8HP
BOURNEMOUTH Col MR Vernon-Powell Mr L Devine	Mr L Devine Ground Floor Flat 39 Windsor Road Boscombe Bournemouth BH5 1DT (01202 – 397878) devine1937@talktalk.net	Last Monday of every other month (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov) at the Poole Royal British Legion, North Road, Poole at 7.30pm.
CHELTENHAM Lt Col DR Dixon OBE Mr R Mitchell	Mr AP Hide 64 Joyner Road, Cheltenham Glos GL51 7PF (01242 – 692863) (07921 – 838088) ade.hide@blueyonder.co.uk	Last Sunday each month at 12.30 pm. Albion House, North Place, Cheltenham.
CIRENCESTER Mr R Marshallsay	Mr MG Dix 22 Eastleach Cirencester Glos GL7 3NQ (01367 – 850217) mauricedix@btinternet.com	Last Friday of Feb, May, Aug, Nov at 8pm at Cotswold Club, Watermoor Road, Cirencester, Glos.
FOREST OF DEAN Maj LA Ramsden MBE Mr RG Walker	Mr JC Roberts Little Orchard, Tump Lane Much Birch, Herefordshire HR2 8HP (01981 – 540198)	Last Tuesday each month at 12 noon at The Royal Oak, Parkhill, Whitecroft, Lydney, Glos GL15 4PG
GLOUCESTER Mr RJ Neale	Mr RJ Neale 25 Sandalwood Drive Hempstead, Gloucestershire, GL2 5XD (01452 - 424504) r.neil052@btinternet.com	Third Monday each month at 8 pm. Naval Club, 18 Commercial Road, Gloucester.
THE HEART OF ENGLAND Brig G Coxon CBE Mr PG Mallows	Mr PG Mallows 16 Rock Farm Road, Whittington Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9LZ (01543 - 432112) Mob: (0791 - 2447764) petermallows1@virginmedia.com	Quarterly in Mar, Jun, Sep & Dec. At the Lichfield Rugby Club, Tamworth Road, Lichfield, Staffs.
ISLE OF WIGHT Mr A Williams	Mrs K Gibson 2 Hope Mead, Langbridge Newchurch, Isle of Wight PO36 0NP (01983 – 865664) rgbwiw@hotmail.co.uk	Fourth Wednesday Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov at 7.30 pm The Conservative Club, Newport, Isle of Wight.

KENT Mr MJA Bryant	Mr MJA Bryant 10 Priory Grove Ditton, Aylesford, Kent ME20 6BA (01622 – 202977) bryant.mick@yahoo.co.uk	St Stephens Community Centre, Canterbury, Kent.
NEWBURY Maj PT Dunn Mr CC Green	Mr JA North Ferndown, 19 Sanden Close Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0LA (01488 - 683591)	Last Thursday each month at 8 pm at the RBL Club, Newbury.
READING (R BERKS & DERR) Lt Col RB Paddison MBE DL Mr DE Smith	Mr DE Smith 35 Dyson Close Newbury Berkshire RG14 5QD (01635 – 551165) Mob: (0771 - 7471761) readingbranch.chairman@gmail.com	First Tuesday each month at 7.30 pm at the Dragon Club, Brock Barracks, Reading.
SALISBURY Lt Col VH Ridley MBE QGM Lt Col SJ Venus MBE	Mr WR Dunscombe 36 Sling Road, Bulford Camp Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 9AR (01980 - 556289)	Quarterly, at the end of Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct at different venues.
SEVERN Mr WH Bayliss	Mr AGS Knipe 39 The Hollygrove Quedgeley, Gloucestershire GL2 4UX (01452 - 728823) stanknipe39@talktalk.net	Quarterly at different venues.
SOMERSET Lt Col MJR Motum Mr J Bishop	Mr PA Miller 45 Coleridge Gardens Burnham on Sea, Somerset TA8 2QA (01278 781592) someset@rgbw-association.org.uk	Quarterly, Last Sunday Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct at 11.30 am RBL Club, 29 Old Main Rd, Pawlett, Nr Bridgwater, TA6 4RY
STROUD VALLEYS Maj DL Hudson Mr GFJ Wicks	Mr S McBryde 9 Beale Close, Bussage, Stroud Gloucestershire, GL6 8DF (01453 – 885513)	Please contact Secretary for details.
SWINDON Mr CM Snee Mr P Mallinson	Mr CM Snee “Lahurne” 14 Wanborough Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4HQ (01793 – 829205) colinsnee@sky.com	Last First Friday each month at 8 pm at the Navy Club, Swindon.
TEWKESBURY Mr AA Franklin	Capt GD Smart Lilac Cottage Corse Lawn Gloucestershire GL19 4NB (01452 – 780303)	Second Thursday, each month (except August) at 8 pm. The Royal British Legion Club, Tewkesbury.

WARMINSTER Maj GRA Pickford TD Mr J Case	Miss Marian Barton 4 Emwell Street Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 barty.warminster@btinternet.com	Last Thursday Jan, May and Sep at 2 pm at Warminster Town Football Club.
WEST WILTSHIRE Mr T Watton BEM Capt WH Sherman	Mr S Shaw 5 Burnett Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire,BA14 0QA (01225 - 769927)	Bi-Monthly on the last Saturday of the month at the Wesley Road Club, Trowbridge, Wilts.
WINDSOR Mr P Langford	Mr P Langford 75 Greenfields Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1BB (01628 - 621516)	Second Thursday each month at the Grenadier Guards Club, Windsor.
Association Contacts		
Birmingham	Mr JE Shorter 43 Kintyre Close Ruberry, Birmingham B45 0HZ	
London	Mr DA Tomlinson 20 Baston Road Hayes, Kent, BR2 7BE (020 - 8462 - 8769)	
Marlborough	Mr A Gray 114 High Street, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 1LT (01672 - 515530)	
Other Gatherings		
VLV CLUB (4TH Wilts Bn)	Mr JA Matthews 2 Jubilee Buildings Avon Terrace, Devizes, Wilts SN10 2BJ (01380 - 720377) jeffamatthews@talktalk.net	

E-mail

We have the technology, even within the Regimental Association.

To enable ease of communication and to help us keep you up to date with regimental affairs please let your County Office have your e-mail address (and of course any changes) via:

aogloucester@the-rifles.co.uk
or
aosalisbury@the-rifles.co.uk

Regimental Websites

There are various websites connected to the Regiment. These are:

Regimental – The Rifles

www.the-rifles.co.uk

Glosters & RGBW Regtl Association

www.rgbw-association.org.uk

Farmersboys

www.farmersboys.org

Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

www.glosters.org.uk

The Rifles (Berks & Wilts) Museum

www.thewardrobe.org.uk

RGBW Association Website

The official website for the Regimental Association is: www.rgbw-association.org.uk

Each Branch of the Association has its own dedicated web page giving contact details, venues, and dates of regular meetings. There is also provision for Branch Secretaries to submit for inclusion details of forthcoming social events, Branch news, photographs etc.

There are also pages for the Association Chairman and Secretary to keep members informed of important events and much more. If you have access to the internet you are advised to make regular visits to www.rgbw-association.org.uk to check out your Branch page, News Page, Events page, Admin Pages etc. to see what is new.

Branch Secretaries are especially requested to keep in touch and to submit Branch news to the Webmaster, Phil Miller at postmaster@rgbw-association.org.uk. Members who find that their Branch page is not being fully utilised are advised to have a word with their respective Branch Secretary to encourage participation. More news of activities, special events and photographs will be most welcome.

A note to Secretaries who are themselves not on line. May I suggest that you try to nominate a branch or family member who has the facility and is willing to accept e-mails on your behalf? If this can be arranged would you please supply the Webmaster with the appropriate e-mail address. Hard copy for inclusion can be mailed to Phil at 45, Coleridge Gardens, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 2QA

Photographs can either be e-mailed in JPEG format as an e-mail attachment or hard copies sent to the above address. Please remember to add names or suitable caption in

the body of the e-mail or accompanying letter. Photos to be returned to sender should include a SAE.

Members may also use the website to let County Office know if you change your home address or contact details.

Phil Miller, Webmaster

Business & Services Register

Former members of our antecedent Regiments who, in civilian life, are running their own business, trade or profession are able to submit an entry into the "Online Directory of Businesses and Services Provided by Members" hosted at www.glosterg.org/trades.htm thus enabling those of us seeking such a service to give first consideration to one of our former colleagues before looking elsewhere. The Directory is also linked to the official association website: www.rgbw-association.org.uk

To view businesses already listed or to add your own details go to www.glosterg.org/trades.htm you will find a form to complete that will provide sufficient information for the webmaster to get your business listed on line at no cost to yourself. Members without internet facilities may have their details added to the Register by contacting County Office Gloucester.

Donations & Bequests

The Managing Trustees would like to thank all those who made donations to Regimental Funds during 2010. They are most grateful for any help given to meet the aims of the Charity.

For those who wish to leave money to the
Regimental Association
Form of bequest for inclusion in a will or codicil

I give the sum of £ _____ pounds (£ _____) free of tax.

to: the ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & WILTSHIRE REGIMENTAL CHARITABLE FUND (Charity Registration Number 1038526)

and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer for the time being shall be sufficient discharge for the legacy.

Fund's Address:

The Rifles Gloucester Office, Custom House, 31 Commercial Road, Custom House, Gloucester, GL1 2HE

