

The Sharpshooter



NEWSLETTER 2004

60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS IN NORMANDY EDITION

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Incorporating 18th, 21st & 23rd Bns (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry, 3rd County of London (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry,
3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), 23rd London Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters), 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters),
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The KCLY (Sharpshooters) Association (Bexleyheath and Brighton Branch)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our lives are shaped by experience. Our knowledge by the things we read, the people we talk to, the things we see around us and inevitably watch in the media. John Humphreys, the broadcaster, in a recent lecture spoke against the dumbing down in the media and the potential damage of so called "reality programmes" upon the current generation. I know there is the off switch on the box, but many do not appear to know where it is and indeed enjoy this genre.

As the generations change, each has to make its own mark and way in the world. Each of us has to make choices and decisions. I noticed a change in the City during the eighties. It was the last time I saw the act of a gentleman with the resignation of Lord Boardman from the hot seat at *NatWest* during the "Black Arrow" crisis. This seemed to me to mark a point in time where the need to take responsibility for actions (in this case not his own but of his subordinates) started to become lost in a new world of hype and spin. The key for me is that he had served and was shaped by his experience and the values that it gave him with which to live his life.

It is true that our opinions are often formed from an outsider's perspective. We are not there; we do not know what is actually going on. They grow and develop from our experiences of life and the sources that we choose to use, the papers we read and the circles that we move in. We have expectations of others and of ourselves; sometimes they are too high when applied to others. We only have to look back at the hype over Paula Radcliffe and the tumble that she has experienced in the eyes of many. None of us will ever know what really went on, but "England Expected". Life does not always bring what we expect - Kelly Holmes to the rescue!

But we can learn from the past; we can share experiences and pass them onto the next generation. Values and attitudes

that will help them find their own way and make their mark. John McCrae wrote in his famous poem "*In Flanders Fields*" the memorable lines "...to you from failing hands we throw the Torch; be yours to hold it high." For 60 years the *Association* and our serving units have formed a bond with "the Torch" that lights a path for the generation today. It provides certainty that in a small corner of life's rich tapestry, there will always be young men and women who are prepared to take responsibility, based on a history and memory of things past and the history that they write and will continue to write in the years ahead.

This year saw the *Association* return to Villers-Bocage in June for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day and the memorable action on 13th June 1944 in that small Normandy town. The veterans are immensely proud of our serving units and the things they are doing at home and abroad, and of the families that support them. It was summed up in the letter (see inside) sent from those currently in Iraq on Operation TELIC to those gathered for the service of remembrance in Bayeux. It was about the importance of the past and the traditions of the *Sharpshooters*, as part of the values carried into the field by the *Sharpshooters* of today.

It is sad to view (from the outside) that this linkage between the past and the present to ensure the future, appears to be completely lacking inside HM Treasury where the letters GB are no longer associated with Great Britain, but with Gordon Brown's balance sheet that does not value "non-cash releasing" assets such as those I have described above. TB and GB need to be on notice that they cannot continue to keep writing cheques around the world against a rapidly increasing overdraft that the armed forces will eventually be unable to cash for them. A recent briefing paper issued by "Sir Humphrey" included in the Newsletter is black humour as it is probably too near the truth.

DAVID HANNAM

THE EL GUBI ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 19th November 2004

The El Gubi Dinner - this year celebrating the 60th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in Normandy and the return of the Sharpshooters from Iraq will be held in the wonderful surroundings of the WOs' and SNCOs' Mess of The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge.

Timings are 6.15pm for 7.00pm. Dress is Lounge Suits (with miniatures). Photos of the Villers-Bocage 2004 trip will be on display for those who were unable to make the viewing on September 5th at Sharpshooter House.

This dinner promises to be a superb evening with several distinguished guests including our guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Fattorini QRL, former Commanding Officer of the Queen's Royal Lancers (with whom the Sharpshooters were attached in Iraq during 2004).

We will enjoy a three course dinner including wine and port for £ 35 per person. There will, of course, be a collection taken after the dinner to support the SYA General Fund.

THE SYA YEAR

Annual General Meeting

This was held at Civil Service Club, London on Monday, 19th July 2004.

Election of Committeemen.

Tony Bentley, Phil Moore and Brian Mulcock retiring under Rule 6(F), were re-elected.

Geoff Gardner retired, but did not offer himself for re-election.

The new OC 265 (KCLY) Signal Squadron, Major Keith Wrate was welcomed onto the Committee.

The President, Major A.N. Gillman MC FCA, expressed the gratitude of founding members to the younger generation of Sharpshooters for the efficient and enthusiastic manner in which they have handled the Association's affairs. He was happy that the future of the Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association was in such safe hands.

The A.G.M. for 2005 will be held at the same venue on **Monday, 18th July 2005** at 18.30 hrs.

65th Annual Get-together No2 Troop B Sqn 4CLY

This event continued its unbroken run on 18th March 2004 when thanks again to Bob Moore's three line whip, another re-union of old friends took place at *The Elephant* pub in Fenchurch Street. The very subheading gives pause for thought - the first such meeting having occurred in 1940 when the average age of the participants was twenty years!

Dick Tryon (91) sent his apologies and good wishes from Sheffield via son Geoff.

As always the time passed far too quickly, but thanks to excellent catering, nostalgia was given full rein and very few lamps remained unswung.

On parade were: Neville Gillman, Eric Cornish, Bob Moore, Clifford Pace, Walter and Margaret Allen, Philip Moore, Geoff Clarke, Roy Cawston, Gordon Tidey, Graham Ketcher and Geoff Tryon.

Parade of Homage

The Federation of O.C.A.'s of London Territorial and Auxiliary Units Annual Parade and Service of Homage took place this year on Sunday 6th June. The parade commanded by Major David Hannam TD and led by the Band and Corps of Drums of

HAC and the OCA Standards marched along the customary route from Lothbury to Armoury House in City Road via the Royal Exchange Memorial where wreaths were laid by representatives of individual Associations.

On arrival at Armoury House the Parade was inspected by Air Commodore Philip Miles BSC RAF, Air Commodore, Logistic Policy and Plans, Headquarters, *RAF Strike Command*. The Service of Homage was conducted by Rev'd Group Captain Richard Lee, AKC DS FRSA RAF, Principal, The Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre, Ampport, Andover, Hampshire. Luncheon was taken in the Long Room after the Service.

SYA was represented by David Hannam, Eric Cornish, Gordon Tidey, Terry Bodman, Roy Cawston, Keith Wrate and Standard Bearer Tim Rayson.

REMEMBRANCE

The 2003 Remembrance Day Service was held with C (KSY) Squadron *RY* at Fairfield Halls, Croydon followed by wreath laying and lunch at Sharpshooter House.

Remembrance Day, **Sunday 14th November 2004** will be with the Sharpshooter Squadrons at Bexleyheath. The Service at the Bexleyheath Memorial will be followed by wreath laying and lunch at the TA Centre.

A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the 7th Armoured Division Memorial in Thetford Forest on **Sunday 14th November 2004**.

Field of Remembrance

On Thursday 6th November 2003, the annual service was held at the Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance. The Sharpshooters' plot containing 390 crosses in memory of Sharpshooters who fell in two World Wars was well attended by Association Members and relatives. We were again honoured by the presence of Her Majesty the Queen who, after planting her personal cross, visited all the plots and chatted briefly with the various associations' representatives.

Among SYA members who attended were: Neville and Nancy Gillman, Eric Cornish, Bob Moore, David Hannam, Terry and Pam Bodman, Roy Cawston, Tony Jewell, Tim Rayson, Mr & Mrs Bill Harrison, and George Milford-Cottam. Lunch was taken afterwards at the Civil Service Club, Whitehall at the invitation of Tim Rayson.

We look forward to meeting old friends at this year's Field of Remembrance Service which will take place on **Thursday 11th November 2004**.

Ladies' Night

We are pleased to announce that the 56th Ladies' Night Dinner will take place on **Friday 24th September 2004** at the Civil Service Club, Gt Scotland Yard.

Cavalry Memorial Parade

The Parade took place in Hyde Park on Sunday 9th May 2004. Our Hon. Secretary is disappointed that despite the provision of wheelchairs for incapacitated members, he was the only one to avail himself of the facility!

Next year the Parade will take place on **Sunday 8th May 2005** in Hyde Park as usual, but will be organised and led by the Yeomanry as opposed to the Regular Army. *Sharpshooter* Cadets will be on duty to push you around the course in wheelchairs if you feel unable to march. The Parade will be followed by a buffet lunch at a venue to be notified. We hope that as many as possible will attend.

Orwell Park

Veterans of *22nd Armoured Brigade/7th Armoured Division* made what has become an annual event in their calendar, a visit to Orwell Park School, on Saturday, 11th September 2004. The hospitality extended to them was warm and generous.



Three Generations of Crowley Sharpshooters

This historic group shows Fred Crowley flanked by son Peter and grandson Alex.

Fred Crowley joined *23rd London Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters)* later *3rd CLY*, in November 1930. He served with *3rd CLY* throughout the Desert, Sicily, and Italy Campaigns during which he was awarded the Military Medal and commissioned in the field. He landed with *3rd CLY* in Normandy on D+1 and remained with them until Carpiquet in August 1944 when he was posted to Lulworth as an Instructor. He remained a badged *Sharpshooter* until demob in 1946 when he joined the Control Commission in Germany.

Peter Crowley joined *C Squadron (KSY) RY* in July 1974 and served with them until 1976.

Alex Crowley joined *KSY* as a recruit in September 2003 (now Trooper), and is also a member of the Lancaster cadre of *Liverpool University OTC*.

A Family Occasion

Saturday 7th February 2004

Mike Shaw and I and our wives were invited to attend the party held at Sharpshooter House, Mitcham Road, Croydon, for the families of the C Squadron contingent due to depart for Iraq. At one time it looked as though Nancy and I might not have been able to attend. I can only say how glad I am that after all, we did not miss what we all felt to be, one of the most moving and memorable Sharpshooter gatherings we had ever attended.

The drill hall was splendidly decorated; a bouncy castle had been provided for the children, a disco for the present generation and the usual excellent buffet. The disco and the bouncy castle were made available by local well-wishers; the provider of the disco told me "I would do anything for these boys".

The Mayor of Croydon, a charming lady, said that she had attended the evening somewhat reluctantly, thinking it would be just another official reception. She added "as soon as I stepped into the hall, I knew this was going to be something quite different". After we had spoken for a few minutes, she said "I must be going now, which is just as well, because if I stayed talking to you much longer I would have burst into tears."

It was poignant to watch the small children enjoying themselves and to speak to some of the families, but it was heart-warming to capture the sense of duty and steadfastness of those who had volunteered and of the tremendous backing they were getting from those staying behind. A very strong committee had been formed to provide all kinds of support for these families.

The evening epitomised the feeling expressed by John Morrison in his remarkable speech at the Villers-Bocage Dinner in Bayeux in June, in which he stressed the humanity of the Sharpshooter family.

At the time of writing there have been, mercifully, no Sharpshooter casualties in Iraq, and we can only pray that this continues to be so.

NEVILLE GILLMAN

ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE HUSSARS

Over the past twelve months I have maintained the liaison, through Gordon Jones, Hon. Secretary of the Cheltenham Area of the *RGHY Association*. We have kept each other posted on the activities and events of our respective Associations.

Doug Drake MM, Gordon Jones and Paul Morgan represented *RGHYA* at the Sharpshooters' Annual El Gubi Dinner at Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment's Hyde Park Barracks on 21st November 2003.

On Sunday, 23rd November 2003, the *RGHYA's* Annual El Gubi Remembrance Service was held in the Chapel of Badminton House. *SYA* were represented by Neville and Nancy Gillman, Andrew Gillman, Pat and Mary Shurmur, Roy and Pat Cawston and Richard and Margaret Cotton. The service was followed, as is customary, by tea in the Great Hall with Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort.

Diary Note: The 2004 *RGHYA* El Gubi Remembrance Service will be held in the Chapel of Badminton House on Sunday 28th November at 3pm. Any member of the *SYA* able to attend will be very welcome. Details from me on 01865 372175.

PAT SHURMUR

Desert Rats for sale!

Our very good friend Doug Drake of *R.G.H. Yeomanry Association* can supply *SYA* members with 'Desert Rat' (Divisional sign of WW2 *7th Armoured Division*) lapel badges at a cost of **£2.50 each including p & p**. The badge measures 1.5cms x 1cm. Apply to: D.Drake Esq MM, Larchwood, Culver Hill, Amberley, Glos. GL25 5BB

LADY SHARPSHOOTERS

Since we introduced the feature "Sharpshooters' Ladies and Lady Sharpshooters" two years ago, both of the published entries have been in the former category. Now we are proud to present an entry which fits the "Lady Sharpshooter" title to a T. Our very own Brenda Traylen TD was awarded the MBE in this year's Birthday Honours List. Citations in the Press are necessarily brief and understated but in her case, 'for services to the community through policing and charity work' is more explicit than most. Many congratulations Brenda - EDITOR



First Aid Nursing Yeomanry by Brenda Traylen MBE TD

"Are you a *FANY*?" the receptionist enquired at Arborfield Camp medical centre. I had had to attend the centre during annual camp in 1982 to have some stitches taken out of my finger (another story!). I was still a Berkshire Yeoman at that stage, and this was my first camp as a (quite elderly) newly commissioned officer. I didn't know what the receptionist (older than me) meant, but we finally got things, and my stitches sorted out, after she had given me a brief definition of *FANY* (*First Aid Nursing Yeomanry*).

Jump another 12 years to Windsor Great Park 1994 - the 200th anniversary of the formation of the first *Yeomanry* Regiment. The Queen and Prince Phillip are to review the *Yeomanry* units by driving past the whole line of us, in an open top *Landrover*. I am standing in front of my squadron which is the last but one in the long line of units, (*71 Yeomanry Signal Regiment* being the last numerically). I am now OC *HQ (KCLY) Squadron* - and a *Sharpshooter*! One of my vehicles has had to be hot-wired to get it into position (yet another story! - I didn't ask how they knew how to do it!).

Next to me, the last unit in the line, are what I could only describe at the time as ladies in a strange combination of

combats, stable belts, cravats and even stranger hats! There was a lot of laughter, before the drive-past of course, and I was curious.

Once we had been reviewed, I spoke to one of these ladies, who gave me a brief history of the *FANYs*.

It was founded in 1907 when a small band of mounted nurses was trained, with unofficial military help, to move wounded from the Front to Field Hospitals. *FANYs* worked as nurses and ambulance drivers in the First World War and later drove officially for the British Army. Between the wars, The *FANY* added *Women's Transport Service* to its name, and in 1939 the motor companies were mobilised as the transport wing of the newly formed *ATS*. Many *FANYs* served in Special Operations Executive and others with the *Free Polish Army*. Many decorations followed, including three George Crosses, two awarded posthumously.

The *FANY* now specialises in communications, supporting civil and military authorities in times of crisis, and has close links with the *City of London Police*, the Army casualty desk, the *Royal Signals* and the Foreign Office. Their unofficial motto is - "*I cope*".

During the rest of my time with the *Sharpshooters*, and during my time as an SO2 with *HQ 2 Signal Brigade* at Corsham, I came across the *FANYs* several more times. The more I found out about them, the more I felt that I would like to join them one day, when I left the *TA*.

I remember talking to a *FANY* called Margaret once, after one of our comms exercises at Corsham.

Me: "What's the cut-off age to join the *FANY*?"

Margaret: "45"

Me (being older than that already!): "Maybe they'll take me on, as I have been with a *Yeomanry* Regiment for 16 years or so, and also *Royal Signals*. How long can you stay in?"

Margaret, with big smile: "Oh, until you die!"

That's for me, I thought. Uniformed (and useful) 'til I die!

When I left the *TA* in November 2001, I spoke to *FANY* HQ in London and an interview was arranged. I duly attended. However, because of my age (nearly 54 by then - no secrets here!), it was decided that I would become a '*Friend of the FANY*', and go up to London once a month for training with the *City of London Police* to 'man' the Casualty Telephone Bureau, in the event of emergencies.

I dutifully turned up each month, but on one occasion, we were all at HQ and all the new recruits were being issued with, and discussing how to wear, their new uniform. I told Joan, the Adjutant, how disappointed I was not to be able to be a uniformed *FANY*, especially with the lovely second World War hat. She persuaded me to keep turning up, and they would 'slide me in!'

I didn't need to be told twice! I took leave, time off my earned 'time on the card', and even changed shifts! (Trust me, I never took a 'sickie'!), as I live in Dorset, and have to get a bus up to Victoria. I kept turning up most weeks, and loved it, and them. By June 2002, I was invited to join and I must have been the proudest recruit some months later, when presented with my own uniform hat at a passing out ceremony.

I've been on three camps so far. One of these was in France to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first *FANY* parachute drop into France (yet another (wonderful) story). I love the training and have even learnt quite a bit about signalling!

Although there are many constraints on my time, at work and in the community, and I cannot attend as often as I would like, retirement from *Dorsetsbire Police* is due in the next two to four years. I hope then to be able to give much more of my time to the *FANY*, and to stay uniformed (and useful), 'til I die!

Oh! I almost forgot. It's brilliant fun too!

I never think of the future, it comes soon enough.
Albert Einstein

Another day at the office . . .

Late on 16th August 2004 6th Troop *QRL* (including *Sharpshooters* L/Cpls Marcus Robson, Phil Mason, Trprs "Eric" Bristow, Darren Miller and "Noodles" McNeill) were detailed to venture off to CIMIC¹ House and what an adventure that proved to be.

We assembled at the tank park at 2130 to meet up with our transports, the *PWRR's* finest *Warriors*. 2200 we were due to set off. Typical army hurry-up and wait, "on the bus off the bus". 0200 arrived and we finally departed for a 20 minute journey, more like an hour and a half.

0300 the warriors rolled into the drop off 900m from the gates of CIMIC House. A company of hot, tired, sweaty soldiers debussed and prepared to run, 6th Troop with the unenviable task of bringing up the rear. We steeled ourselves for a gauntlet of fire, our sergeant bellowing orders, flashbacks to his training days. With lungs bursting we bolted through the gates, ready to fight to the death, defending the place with our lives. All was silent so we went to bed.

The first day - incidentally the same day we arrived. Nothing much happened, a few mortars fired but nothing to write home about. So we didn't.

The next few days disappeared in a haze of sleep-deprived guard duty. Every day merging into the next, our only relief being arcane conversations about superheroes.

It all changed at 1615 on Friday 20th. "Contact. Wait out! Incoming mortars and gunfire" - well it was 'O Group' day after all. Our brave boys in *Sangar 3* returning fire with grim determination. Apparently a tree saved their lives, diving into the way of a sniper's bullet. A selfless act of Mother Nature. Up on the rooftop the distinct crack of sniper fire was joined with the steady staccato of a *Gimpy*. No quarter asked and none given. After half hour or so it petered out. Was this to be an indication of things to come?



(L to R: George McNeill, Darren Miller, Marcus Robson, Phil Mason, Phil Bristow)

Saturday and Sunday saw us take over duties at Pink Palace. We traded in our air conditioned rooms, our comfy beds and one daily fresh meal for eating 'rat packs' on the hard floors of the stifling rooms that make up this inappropriately named palace. Not exactly 5 star comfort but then nothing much is these days.

Once again it was two days of humdrum guard duty punctuated by surprisingly accurate incoming mortar and rifle fire. One lad found out first hand that the ballistic plate in his body armour worked. One can't help feel he would have preferred not to have tested it. At least he now knows what colour adrenaline is! The only other thing of note happening was the inclusion of *Jedi Knights* to the superhero fold and the fact that *Robin* could indeed accompany *Batman* to the *Superhero Christmas Party*. I hope he enjoys himself.

¹ CIMIC is the acronym for *Civil Military Co-operation*. CIMIC House is in Al Amarah, typically guarded by a rifle company, reinforced by a 12-man multiple from 'A' Squadron *QRL*.

Monday, back to CIMIC House. Back to our beds, back to baiting the insurgents. In other words back to clearance patrols followed by blast bomb attacks and shootings. We didn't mind, we had fresh food and a bed. Why should we be bothered?

That level of serenity ended at 17.00 the next day. Someone upset the bad guys in a very big way.

The contact started much the same way as all the others. Patrol went out. Patrol came back in, nothing to report. Fifteen minutes later, mortar rounds heading our way. Five minutes after that, incoming small arms fire. This time it went on. Mortars falling inside the perimeter. Iraqi snipers opened up. Rifle fire intensified, automatic fire from all angles. The skies criss-crossed with tracer, shrapnel whizzing passed our ears. Over the radio, "Sangar 1, contact wait out!" "Sangar 3, contact wait out!" Accurate fire was being returned. 7.62mm bursting from the sangars, eagerly supported by 5.56mm fire. Minute after minute, hour after hour it went on. Firing points low on ammo, out of breath but full of life. Any slight lull in the fire and it was a blur of frantic activity. More ammo to the sangars, do they need water? Every movement greeted by a hail of bullets, but the sangars had to be re-supplied. The reliability of every weapon tested fully. All passed, all that is, bar the assorted weapons used by the QRL's Corporal Stevens.

Over the cacophony of battle a new sound could be heard. After three hours of sustained contact, the whine of Pratt & Whitney turbo jets could be heard. Air cover had arrived. What a sight to behold, the F-15 swooping over the city. The roar of its engines deafened by the sigh of relief from those on the ground!

The insurgents appeared to lose interest after that. Sangars ceased fire as one by one the bad guys slunk off into the evening gloom, licking their wounds and counting the cost.

TROOPER PHIL BRISTOW

KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST 2003

Trustees : G J O Farage, (Chairman), Major D Kemp, Capt A J Jewell, Capt H Jones The honorary colonel, chairmen of regimental associations and serving squadron commanders and sergeant-majors are ex-officio trustees.

Hon Curator : Capt C T A (Tim) Hammond

Hon Curator (Croydon) : Tony Bentley

Hon Curator (Bexleyheath) : David Whitehouse

Curatorial Adviser : Major Boris Mollo

Hon Secretary ; Capt Huw Jones

Hon Treasurer : Michael Donnelly

We have now been open at Hever Castle for nearly 20 years and the time has come to consider updating our displays there. We are therefore entering into a license agreement with the National Army Museum to gain help and advice from their Design Department towards this end. We hope to be able to circulate proposed plans with the next year.

As part of its responsibility for the care of regimental property, the Trust has continued with its programme of silver refurbishment and has also arranged for the repair and conservation of the Regimental Guidon (now over 40 years old).

Among other recent acquisitions are:

Copies of 172 photographs collected by Lt Dick Tryon, 4CLY, 1939-42. The gift of Mr Geoff Tryon (son).

90 photographs of 3/4CLY, KCLY and KSY, 1950-77, collected by the Late Col W.J.D. Bradfield. The gift of Mrs Ellie Bradfield.

12 photographs of 3/4CLY 1954-55 collected by Tpr Mike Last. The gift of Mr M.J. Last.

Pewter Mug presented to the Sgts Mess by Lt-Col C.W. Pearce, CO 3/4CLY.

1956-60, Provost Sgt's stick, KCLY, 1961-67 and other items of regimental interest. The gift of Mrs W. Stone, widow of Sgt W. Stone (formerly Provost Sgt).

Croydon Curator's Report 2004

The New Year saw the museum undergo a much needed spring clean and maintenance, following the completion of building and redecoration works at the drill hall in Croydon in 2003. Raised plinths have been introduced into the rear of the two uniform display cabinets, the tiers significantly enhancing the display appearance. Headdress has been lifted off the cabinet bases with the use of small stands. The display has also seen the introduction of a recently gifted *Sharpshooter* uniform tunic, complete with busby and plume.

The 11th June 2004 presented the opportunity for the museum to open up to the members of the combined Associations and Squadrons, as they passed through Croydon on their way to Normandy on the Villers Bocage pilgrimage. As usual the various photograph albums proved to be immensely popular. This year has also seen a number of enquiries for information relating to archived material. This always proves to be a most interesting aspect of museum work and is particularly rewarding when we are able to respond satisfactorily to the enquiry.

The Trust wishes to acknowledge a very significant contribution towards the costs of the recent conservation of the Regimental Guidon (ready in time to be used on the Villers Bocage 2004 pilgrimage this summer), promised by the Croydon Branch of the Association, for which the Trust is extremely appreciative. This of course allows the Trust to direct more of its funding towards acquisitions for the museums and the enhancement of displays.

Quite often we find it is the case that we would have appreciated the assistance of some helping hands. If you think helping in the museum would be of interest to you, with the occasional run down to Hever to change over displays, clean, polish, repair etc do please contact us. We are ever appreciative of the support we receive from the C Squadron and their enthusiasm for the museum and the Trust's activities, and also the support we receive from the Associations. Finally, visits to the museum site at Croydon should be arranged through Tony Bentley, who can be contacted either on telephone No 01483 506391 or by e-mail museumtrustsya@ksy.org.uk

Tony Bentley
Assistant Curator

Bexleyheath Curator's Report 2004

As stated in the last report, of the Model 25-Pdr (EDKSY 7202) was in need of urgent repair and refurbishment. This work was completed in time for the piece's welcome display at the Villers Bocage 60th Anniversary Dinner in June. The aged transit case for the model is now unserviceable, and so a suitable replacement will be manufactured at the earliest opportunity.

The small display case made for the Sharpshooters Centenary Medal (donated by Tony Jewell) has now been hung in the Museum Room. I have also completed the manufacture of a similar display case for two medal groups; one being the newly acquired medal group of Maj H.M. Matthews (EDKSY 2003-1).

The recently acquired collection of photographs and documents, formerly belonging to Quartermaster Arnold of the West Kent Yeomanry, has now been placed in the archive at Bexleyheath. I have made colour copies of some of this material, and placed them in books containing clear sleeves, for display at Bexleyheath and Croydon.

I continue to receive external enquiries on a regular basis. More recently interest has been expressed in both the

Sharpshooters and Kent Yeomanry, via internet based forums. In these cases, not only have I been able to provide specific information, I have also directed those concerned to our own websites.

With Major Wrate newly promoted to OC together with a new PSAO (ex Coldstream Guards), the profile of the museum and the work of the trust is being raised to new heights, and I am indebted to both for their support. I must also acknowledge the continuing assistance of Capt Steve Slaney, PSAO HQ Squadron.

David Whitehouse
Assistant Curator

***Sharpshooter Veterans
– You have a story to tell,
But have you told it yet?***

THE AGIUS COLLECTION INTERVIEWS

David Hannam and Tim Rayson has undertaken the daunting task of creating an audio-visual record of Sharpshooters' wartime experiences to augment the already extensive archive of Sharpshooter records and artifacts held by the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Trust.

If you have not already done so, please get in touch with David on Tel: 01689 819574 or 07879 025067. Email: chairman@sharpshooters.org.uk

He is awaiting your call.

To reassure reluctant interviewees, the following are some of the comments made by previous 'customers':

"This is the first time I have talked about things. I thought it time I did so."

"It was much easier than I feared and I am glad I took the time to do it."

"It brought back happy and sad memories, but I did the interview as a tribute to my friends who did not come back."

"If he can do it, then I thought, so can I."

OBITUARIES

We regret to announce the passing of former Sharpshooters and extend our sincere sympathy to their relatives.

Attempts are made by Association Members to attend funerals/cremations whenever possible.

R.F.H. Frith Po.W., el Gubi, November 1941 C Squadron 4th CLY	January 2004
F. Clarke 3rd/4th CLY	18th June 2003
S. Robinson 10th Hussars & 3rd/4th CLY	2004
Lt.Col W.J.D. Bradfield OBE MC TD FRCS 5th KRIDG & 3rd/4th CLY	October 2003
K. Fox, 4th CLY	June 2004
J.R.E. Cole RHQ Squadron 4th CLY & 3rd/4th CLY	July 2004
W.D. (Eddie) Edwards Just after his 60th Wedding Anniversary C Squadron 4thCLY & 3rd/4th CLY	July 2004
V. Rose Prisoner of War, 'The Cauldron', June 1942 A Squadron 4thCLY	7th August 2004
J. Fryer Po.W., Sidi Rezegh, Nov.1941 Survived sinking of Po.W.ship by RN, A Squadron 3rdCLY	July 2004
H.A. Moore Joined A Squadron 3rd CLY in January 1943 in Cairo, Later 3rd/4th CLY to 1947	November 2003
A. Keay Believed to have been 3rd/4th CLY	11th June 2003

Lieut. Col. W. J. D. Bradfield OBE MC TD FRCS

Address given by Lieut. Col. H. S. L. Tottenham at the Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Lieut. Col. W.J.D. Bradfield** held at St Nicholas Church, Fisherton de la Mere, Wiltshire on Friday 28th November 2003.

Two months ago Bill came to my 80th birthday party. A month later he was rushed to hospital, and now we are here to honour his memory, and give thanks to God for a life of service to medicine and two Regiments.

Bill and I served in two of the finest Regiments in the Army. The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, the Skins and the 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry, later the Kent and County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters).

I touch on some of the influences which I suggest may have formed his character.

I joined the Skins in May 1943, and Bill later in the year. As part of 9th Armoured Division we trained in Yorkshire, Northumberland and Norfolk. It was an alarming milieu to enter. A Regular Cavalry Regiment of the highest distinction that had fought a successful rearguard action in 1940, and extricated itself from the clutches of the Germans. We discovered at once that nothing but the best was expected of us as to turnout, leadership and soldiering. The subalterns were more frightened of Colonel Hook Sangster than any possible enemy. But 'on parade on parade' gave way to a strong desire for partying 'off parade' with the Fife & Forfar Yeomanry and the XV/XIX Hussars. Bill certainly approved of that and always did.

In July 44 we crossed to France in landing craft and were soon in action. Bill was a Troop Leader in B Squadron. Life in the turret of a tank in a troop, breeds intense loyalty, as one fights, lives, eats, and sleeps together in a shallow hole under the tank.

At Bourneville on the 27th of August Bill won the Military Cross. The citation reads in part 'After two of his tanks were knocked out by two 88mm guns Lieut Bradfield took up a position with his remaining tanks and carriers, maintaining it for over four hours, beating off a number of counter attacks by enemy infantry and himself directing the fire of supporting artillery to great effect. The patrol was isolated in country thickly infested with enemy, and the remainder of B Squadron encountered considerable opposition on the way to his relief. Throughout recent operations Lt Bradfield has shown an exceptionally high degree of leadership and skill, and in his determination to destroy the enemy on every possible occasion has set an excellent example to his comrades and the troops under his command.' Bill Shelton, another B Squadron Troop leader, who was listening on the wireless, described the action as seriously exciting.

I welcome M. René Millet, Ancien Maire de Bournville, M. Gérard Raine, Président des Anciens Combattants de Bourneville et M. Noël Berthou Maire de Boissy-le-Châtel.

Four days later the Skins set off at dawn with Recce Squadron in the lead from the Chateau de Groveron, as the operation order had it to 'Liberate the Low Countries'. In the depths of the very hard winter that followed Bill's troop was surrounded for two days at Montfort in Holland and it took a Battalion of the 1st Queens to get them out.

From Dulwich College Bill had gone to St Thomas' to start his medical training in 1942. Released early in 1945 he returned there, qualifying as a Doctor and Surgeon in 1950 and as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1953. For two years he was Resident Assistant Surgeon at St Thomas, a prestigious post and a rehearsal for consultancy. In the 60s he became a Consultant Surgeon at the Kingston Group of Hospitals, retiring in 1989. Bill was a keen rugby player at St Thomas, and was a member of the seven-a-side which was runner up at the Middlesex Sevens in the 50s. As you would expect he was a brilliant teacher and keen thespian. (Not for nothing is it called the Operating Theatre.) For a period he was a Governor of the Star & Garter Home at Richmond for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen.

Bill joined the Sharpshooters as Medical Officer in 1951 and I followed in 1954. The Skins also served in 22nd

Armoured Brigade in 7th Armoured Division. So both Regiments could say with pride 'We were Desert Rats'.

The 3rd and the 4th County of London Yeomanry had earned a very distinguished reputation in the Desert, Italy and Europe and all ranks were Territorial soldiers of great skill and experience.

At annual summer camps we explored the training areas on Salisbury Plain, Thetford, the Lulworth ranges, Castlemartin etc. After the Band had played for a guest night and we were in the anteroom, I can see him with his medical bag ready to mend potential casualties after a steeplechase over the rearranged sofas. If enemy was needed on an exercise, I could rely on Bill in the MO's jeep to flit from point to point and create mayhem amongst the leading troops of the advancing squadrons. I have a picture of him on the Maidstone parade, with his usual cheerful grin and ears pricked to listen, (and his feet in characteristic pose left foot at right angles to right), when Princess Alexandra presented a Guidon to the Regiment.

A quotation from 1644 sums up his character. 'He was a complete cavalier, a child of honour, a gentleman born and bred, of a clearer countenance and bolder look than other men because of a more loyal heart...amiable in his behaviour, courageous in his undertakings, discreet and gallant in all his executions.'

His service to the Associations of both Regiments has been outstanding, both as Vice Chairman to General Henry Woods of the Skins, and also to the Sharpshooters.

From 1967 as a Lieut. Colonel he was Medical Officer to the Royal Yeomanry. His active service ended after 27 years and his continuous service and devotion to duty were marked by the award of an OBE. From 1985 he was Honorary Medical Officer to the Royal Commonwealth Ex Services League, the link that binds together all the British Legions throughout the world. He also worked with the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

Marriage to Ellie in 1969 rounded off their life together to the admiration of their friends, with their base here in the village and at Lennox Gardens. He would not want us to mourn, but would say 'weep if you must, parting is hell, but life goes on, so sing as well.

'Fare thee well Inniskilling Fare thee well for a while', 'Fare thee well Sharpshooter'. You were indeed John Bunyan's Mr Valiant for Truth. 'When the day that he must go hence was come, many accompanied him to the riverside, into which as he went he said 'Death where is thy sting? And as he went down deeper he said 'Grave where is thy victory? So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side'.

J.R.E. Cole RHQ Squadron 4thCLY & 3rd/4thCLY

Jack volunteered to join the Sharpshooters in early 1939 bamboozling the enrolling officer at Allitsen Road, as he was four months short of his eighteenth birthday.

He was posted to RHQ Squadron, and as a tank driver, went into actions commanded by Ronnie Aird, Lord Cranley, Lt.Col George Kidston, Lt.Col Arkright and others.

He was wounded at El Alamein on 25th October 1942 having survived four previous knocked out and disabled tanks in battle. Returning to the Regiment in Tunisia in April 1943 he served in Italy and was in Recce from Normandy through Europe, finishing in Hamburg.

After the War Jack became a stockbroker, making a great success in his profession. He was a partner in a leading firm of London Stockbrokers when he retired in 1999.

A resolute member of the *Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association*, he became a Committee Member in 1985 and Vice Chairman in 2000 which office he held for three years until 2003 when he moved to Cirencester.

The *Association* were represented at Jack's funeral in Cirencester by Neville and Nancy Gillman, David Hannam, Eric and Pauline Cornish, Tim Rayson (SYA Standard Bearer), Pat Shurmur, Eric and Peter Barnes.

SHARPSHOOTER SHORTS & REMINISCENCES

Sharpshooters Commemorative Whisky

Harold Currie, former member of B Squadron 4th CLY, survived the Battle of Villers-Bocage to become Managing Director of *Chivas (Seagrams)* and *House of Campbell (Pernod Ricard)*. On his retirement he set up *Isle of Arran Distillers* which has become a dynamic new force in the Scotch Whisky market. Based at Lochranza on the beautiful Isle of Arran off the West Coast of Scotland between Ayrshire and Kintyre, the company is one of the few independent distillers in the industry.

The sublime combination of *Sharpshooter*, Distiller and Villers-Bocage 2004 has produced *Sharpshooters Single Island Malt Whisky*. A regiment with its own whisky label - can you beat that?

The Combined Sharpshooters Yeomanry Bus Company's official tasting party (lucky shovellers!) sent back drooling messages about the product after their Scottish reconnaissance and we are very happy to report that the Whisky's only fault is that it keeps but it does not last!

The Distillers of Sharpshooters Single Island Malt Whisky

Arran is a unique island known as 'Scotland in Miniature', for it has all of the scenery of Scotland, with mountains and lowlands, glens, lochs and royal castles (including one at Lochranza). Early in the 19th century there were more than 50 whisky distilleries on Arran, most of them illegal and carefully hidden from the eyes of the taxmen. The malt was acclaimed at the time as the best in Scotland, only rivalled by those from the 'Glen of Livet'.

Opened in 1995 in one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland, *Isle of Arran Distillers* use only the traditional methods of distilling, with wooden washbacks and copper stills designed to the Malt Master's exact specification. The location offers perfect water for whisky production, cleansed by granite and softened by peat as it comes down from the mountain above. The atmosphere of sea breezes and clear mountain air matures the Arran Malt to perfection in earth floored warehouses.

In 1997 they opened an award winning Visitor Centre which was officially opened by HM The Queen as she took her last voyage on the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. This has achieved the 'Highly Commended' category from the Scottish Tourist Board, marking it as one of the country's top attractions. The restaurant has been named as one of the 'top 100 in Scotland', is listed in '*Taste of Scotland*' and has been awarded an AA rosette.

Sharpshooters Single Island Malt Whisky brings together the taste and delight of The Arran Malt with the fine history and traditions of the combined *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanries* on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of D-Day and The Diamond Jubilee of the *Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association*.

Slàinte chugat!



Have you forgotten something?

Strange as it may seem, Tim Rayson still has Whisky that people ordered before 'V-B 04', but have not yet collected. PLEASE get in touch with him asap to collect. Cut off date is Remembrance Sunday 2004!

Shades of 1944

While holidaying in Canada, Terry Bodman thought he had stumbled into a time-warp when he came upon this Sherman *Firefly* parked outside the *British Columbia Regiment* Drill Hall in Vancouver. He was told that it was the chosen abode of a local homeless person. Apparently the vagrant enters the tank each night via the escape hatch in the bottom of the hull. This begs several questions. Is he able to lie down? Are there any old shell cases in the turret? Does he have his Social Security cheque delivered to him there? Has the *SYA* Visiting Officer been informed?



Terry Bodman has provided us with a ‘bounteous’ list of Annual Camps he has attended with **71 (Y) Signal Regiment (V)** since 1969. Rather wistfully he has added a further list of the Camps he has missed since ‘retirement’.

1969 Scarborough
 1970 Scarborough
 1971 Penhale
 1972 Church Crookham
 1973 Scarborough
 1974 Folkstone (265 HQ Sqn)
 1975 Nesscliffe
 1976 Thetford (890 TP Hartland Point)
 1977 Milton Bridge, Scotland
 1978 Knock Camp (890 TP North & West)
 1979 Scarborough
 1980 Shoburyness (890 TP Presteigne)
 1981 Penhale
 1982 Folkstone (265 (KCLY) Sqn)
 1983 Otterburn
 1984 Thetford (265 Gateway 4)
 1985 Folkstone (265(KCLY) Sqn)
 1986 Penhale
 1987 Wathgill
 1988 Lydd
 1989 Longmoor
 1990 Penally, Brecon, Wales
 1991 Westdown
 1992 Penhale / Oakhampton (MY LAST)
 1993 Cultybraggen, Wales; 1994 Proteus, Notts; 1995 Fremington; 1996 Wathgill; 1997 Belgium; 1998 Penhale; 1999 Hullavington; 2000 Wathgill; 2001 Gibraltar; 2002 Leek, Staffs; 2003 Czech Republic.

Defence of the Realm

We are confronted almost daily by the ambivalence of the Government’s defence policy. While the demands on our Regular and Reserve peace time forces are increasing, they are accompanied by a disproportionate reduction in those very same forces and the money to sustain them.

This is, to say the least, confusing to the Man/Woman in the street. It now appears that this state of affairs is equally confusing to members of the Civil Service concerned with Defence matters. It has come to our attention (leaked) that it has been found necessary to issue guidance to staff on the subject. We give below the salient points of the document we happened upon in the Men’s Toilet at Waterloo Station (price 20p).

We have no reason to doubt the authenticity of this document despite the fact that a page seems to be missing. However, it is obvious that our whistleblower hopes to conceal his identity by using a false, but somehow familiar address.

An official in the Department, who refused to give his name, admitted that an internal inquiry into the leak has been ordered by Sir Humphrey.

“STAFF GUIDANCE ON DEFENCE RESTRUCTURING

- 1 This guidance is issued to remedy a perceived difficulty experienced by Staff at all levels in understanding the rationale behind recent Defence re-structuring. Many Staff Officers seem not to understand how reducing the numbers of aircraft, ships, tanks, artillery and soldiers results in a more flexible, robust and effective fighting force.
2. It seems that much of the confusion stems from a systemic misunderstanding of military terminology. A list of common terms and their meanings follows.
3. An explanation of the key assumptions embedded within the Defence Review is also given. All Staff Officers are encouraged to seek clarification through their Chain of Command if they still have questions.

Glossary of Staff Terminology used in the new Defence Plan

Term	MOD meaning
Flexible	a. Smaller b. Unable to operate unless under US protection
Robust	a. Smaller b. Lacking reserves or regeneration capability
Networked	Smaller, but still unable to talk to each other
Capable	Smaller
Agile	Really, really small
Deployability	Method of making the Forces, primarily the Army, able to send higher percentages of their manpower to a distant location. This is achieved by reducing the overall numbers involved, i.e. “In future the Army will be able to send 50% of it’s manpower to Africa in the back of a <i>Cessna</i> thus achieving greater <i>deployability</i> ”.
Reach	The distance the American’s are willing to fly us
Efficient	Much, much smaller
Streamlined	Just unbelievably small
Integrated	Process by which all three services get to brief against each other in public leaks, attempting to justify and defend their own budget against cuts, thereby doing the Treasury’s work for them. Taken to extremes by the Army in which Corps and Regiments fight each other, and perfected within the Infantry.
Technically ambitious	a. Slang, as in “He was being a bit <i>technically ambitious</i> when he tried to drive that car through the wall” b. Description of the far future
Reserves	Integral part of current Operational Manning.
Rationalisation	a. Cuts b. Psychological term, meaning to use complicated arguments to avoid facing unpalatable truths, i.e., “we

don't need to pay for both expensive servicemen and equipment, because we will be *networked, agile, and technically ambitious*".

Rapid Used in a comparative sense, as in "The *rapid* erosion of the Himalayan Mountains..."

Modernisation Cuts

Radical Deep Cuts

Transformation Really Deep Cuts

Sustainable Assuming zero casualties, no leave and no emergencies.

Sentences such as "these proposals capture our aim for a speedy deployable, agile, joint and integrated, technically ambitious defence capability" will make more logical sense to the experienced Staff Officer once the above definitions are applied.

4. It will also help if Staff Officers bear in mind the following Planning Principles. Point C will be of particular relevance in explaining the rationale behind restructuring to Junior Staff.

***** PAGE MISSING *****

h. High divorce rates within the Services will solve manpower crises, by ensuring all service personnel will be happy to conduct back-to-back tours forever, as no one will have any families or friends to miss.

i. Savings will be ploughed into the purchase of large numbers of hats. This will be essential as in future everyone will be at least treble or quadruple hatted. Wars will be fought in rotation on a strict "first come, first served" basis.

k. Future savings will be made by abolishing all training for the Chiefs of Staff. After all they haven't proven remotely as effective at manoeuvre warfare, disruption, dislocation or divide-and-rule as the Treasury.

l. Successive efficiency measures can be made to reinforce each other. For example, each time troop numbers are cut, a unit can then be tasked to conduct the same jobs as before. Provided there are no actual massacres of Friendly Forces, the new troop numbers can be seen to have been fully as effective as the previous numbers, and so can form a baseline for achieving efficiency cuts to new troop numbers. Savings can then be invested in new equipment, in the same way that British Airways fires half its pilots every time it needs to buy a new plane. The ultimate aim is to have one man, but equipped like Dr Octopus. He will sleep with one eye open at all times to replicate full manning.

m. *Key Assumptions*: Current levels of operations are an aberration, will never be repeated, and should form no guide to current manning requirements, let alone future ones. Gerry Adams has embraced peace, there is no more requirement for crowd control in Northern Ireland, the FBU have forsworn strikes along with all other key public workers, Osama Bin Laden is about to hand himself in and the Easter Bunny will be providing Area Air Defence for London.

5. More detailed guidance can be found in JSP 4708- "Magic Mushrooms, their consumption, effects and results in the MOD" and Minister Hoon's Autobiography "What Colour is the Sky in My World?"

I M Promoted
SO2 Spin, Ministry of Truth
1984 Orwell Bldg

You're making progress if every mistake is a new one.



Desert Vixen

This young lady has featured in our 1998 edition, but not her picture.

Her name was "Noball" and she was the mascot of No.1 Troop B Squadron *4CLY* whose code name at the time (April 1942), was "Highball". Purchased by Troop Leader John Cloudsley-Thompson in Cairo for one piastre and two over-ripe bananas she stayed with the Troop until just before the Gazala battles when she was returned to the LOB camp. John heard later that she had decamped into the desert during a heavy barrage. Presumably she had decided she was old enough to give up her diet of bully beef and condensed milk and look after herself in her native environment.

Any computer program that runs right is obsolete.



Just don't say you're English

Goodbye to my England - so long my old friend,
Your days are now numbered, being brought to an end.
To be Scottish, or Irish, or Welsh, that's just fine,
But don't say you're English, that's way out of line.

The French and the Germans may call themselves such
As may the Norwegians, the Swedes, and the Dutch.
You can say you are Russian, or maybe a Dane,
But don't say you're English ever again.

At Broadcasting House that word is taboo
In Brussels they've scrapped it, in Parliament too.
Even schools are affected, staff do as they are told.
They mustn't teach children about England of old.

Our pupils don't seem to learn any more,
Of writers like Shakespeare, Milton and Shaw.
Of Agincourt, Hastings, Arnhem and Mons.
Where England lost hosts of her very brave sons.

We are not Europeans, how can we be?
Europe is miles away over the sea.
We're the English from England, so let us be proud.
Stand up and be counted; shout it out loud.

Let's tell our government and Brussels too,
We're proud of our heritage and the Red, White and Blue.
Fly the flag of St George, or the Union Jack.
Let the whole wide world know, we want England back.

With acknowledgment to the *London Police Pensioner*

John Morrison

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dorothy Morrison in February of this year and our sympathy goes out to John and his family in their great loss.

We are pleased to report that John is making steady progress towards recovery from his second knee operation. His disability did not deter him from taking part in the Villers-Bocage Pilgrimage 2004 albeit in a wheelchair. In that connection John sends his grateful thanks to Mr Sid Jones and other friends and *Sharpshooters* who helped to carry him on and off the coach throughout the trip.

John's speech at the Dinner in Bayeux was very well received - so well in fact, that he received many requests for copies of it from members of the party. Unfortunately, as he said, "I could not oblige because nothing had been written down - everything was from my head." However, John has now committed his thoughts to paper and asked if we could include the speech in the Newsletter. We are only too happy to oblige, John.

Speech by JOHN R. MORRISON BEM

Villers-Bocage 60th Anniversary Dinner

Chateau Bellefontaine, Bayeux on Saturday 12th June 2004.

Colonels, Mr President, Honoured Guests, Sharpshooters.

Our Pilgrimage is to the War Memorials and the last resting places of our comrades and to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings. As a member of the *Friends of War Memorials*, I support the opinion that War Memorials should be preserved and maintained as important parts of our National Heritage. Their spiritual, historical and architectural significance should be publicised to encourage and inspire people of all ages to cherish them and Honour the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the defence of the Nation.

Lt. Colonel Bill Bradfield, who sadly died last year, conducted my medical into the Regiment. He commented on some large scars on my legs and wanted to know how I got them. I told him that I had been involved in an air crash. The aircraft had overturned and caught fire. I saw a crewmember in the flames and tried to rescue him but the heat was so intense that the fuel tank exploded and sprayed my legs with 100 octane fuel and set them on fire. Colonel Bill said he was sure that the crewmember was grateful for the rescue. He was sad when I said that he had not survived.

Afterwards we met several times on Squadron and Regimental Exercises, and over a good number of years at Annual Camps. He referred to me as the Spirit of the *Sharpshooters* and I referred to him as the St. George of the Regiment because they shared similar qualities, - NOBLE, COURAGEOUS, UNTIRING and BRAVE.

Normandy is one of the areas where the bravery of the *Sharpshooters* was shown. Some of them sacrificed their lives in so doing and we will visit their last resting places.

*How sleep the Brave, who sink to rest,
By all their Country's wishes blest,
By fairies' hands their knell is rung,
By forms unseen, their dirge is sung.*

I carried the *Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* Standard for the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Major General Pip Roberts in the Royal Military Academy Chapel at Sandhurst. After the Service we formed a Guard of Honour outside the Chapel. One of the overseas guests came up to me and asked what Regiment? I replied, *Sharpshooters*. He said, "Where did they fight?" I said, "The *Sharpshooters* fought in the Boer War, First World War and in the Second World War they fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Europe". He said, "Sharpshooters, what Tribe are they?" I said, "A Tribe of Brave Warriors". I asked if he had ever heard of the *Sharpshooters* before, he said that he would get a book and read about them. I told him to read '*Sharpshooters at War*'. With that he went away.

For the many years that I served with the *Sharpshooters*, I observed that they are not just a Tribe of Brave Warriors, they

were full of HUMANITY. It is the HUMANITY of the *Sharpshooters*, which led to the formation of the *Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* in which we enjoy such happy comradeship today.

When the *Sharpshooters* pursued the enemy in North Africa, they not only left their tank tracks in the sands of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, the fields of Normandy and Europe but Sirs you also left your footprints in the Sands of Time so that future generations of *Sharpshooters* can follow in your footsteps with Pride and Courage.

The Courage, we have inherited from you, because we know that Courage is the Talisman of the Conqueror. With it nothing is impossible, the seeming impossibilities will fade away before us if we march toward them carrying the Gleaming Sword of Courage.

I end by saying: - SIRs, WE SALUTE YOU!

BOOKS FOR SALE

The Sharpshooters 1900-2000 by Boris Mollo

A new edition bringing that of 1970 up to date. There is important additional coverage of the last 30 years of C (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry and HQ and 265 (KCL Y) Signal Squadrons of 71st Yeomanry Signal Regiment illustrating how well Sharpshooters have adapted to the changing demands of territorial soldiering into the 21st century.

The book is fully illustrated from the impressive collection of photographs built up by the regimental museum including a large selection from the photographs of Lt-Col Arthur Weston Jarvis for the Boer War and World War I and of Major W HJ Sale MBE MC for World War II. A4 size, card covers, pp64, 212 illustrations including 59 in colour.

Additional copies of this book are available for sale at £7.50 including postage & packing. **Cheques** should be made payable to the "**KSY Regimental Museum Trust**". This publication can be purchased from: Tony Bentley, 8 The Crossways, Onslow Village, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7QG. Tel: (Home): 01483506391 E-mail: tony@onslow8.freereserve.co.uk

Sharpshooters at War

The story of the 3rd, 4th and 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) in World War n including their mobilisation in 1939, training in the UK 1939-41, battles of the Western Desert and North Africa 1941-43, Sicily and Italy in 1943-44, return to UK and training for D- Day in 1944, the invasion of Normandy and campaign in NW Europe 1944-45.

Price £15.00 (inc. p & p). Hardback, A5, 252 pp, 32 illustrations. **Cheques** payable to the "**Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association**". Obtainable from: Brian Mulcock., 30 Salcott Road, Beddington, Croydon Surrey CRO 4PR. Telephone (Home): 020 86802754 E-mail: ann.mulcock@btinternet.com

Memory Diary by Harry Ramsbottom

A Record of the Desert Campaign from Egypt to Tunisia from November 1941 to May 1943 with 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters). An account by the late Harry Ramsbottom of his service with 4 *Squadron Middlesex Yeomanry (Signals)* attached to 4th County of London Yeomanry (*Sharpshooters*).

Price £14 including postage & packing. **Cheques** payable to "**R.F H.Cawston**".

This book (A4 spiral binding) first published by Roy Cawston in 1995 ISBN 0 9520592 1 5 is still in print and available from him at 15 The Mount, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT171LZ Telephone (Home) 020 8393 3398

VILLERS-BOCAGE Normandy 1944 by Henri Marie

Henri Marie, resident historian of Villers-Bocage and our newest Honorary *Sharpshooter*, has written this penetrating appraisal of the Battle. In both French ~English, it is essential reading for all students of the Battle for Normandy 1944. It is extremely well researched and illustrated and, for English readers, is even better than Henri's earlier work on the subject, *VILLERS-BOCAGE - TIGRES AU COMBAT* which was written solely in French.

Published by *Editions Heimdal* (E-mail: EditionsHeimdal@wanadoo.fr), in hardback, 160 pp ISBN 2-84048-173-1 Most recently quoted price 25.

Villers-Bocage Through the Lens by Daniel Taylor

A superbly detailed analysis of the battle of Villers-Bocage brought to life through countless photographs and diagrams. Copies available from the author, Daniel Taylor, for £17.95. Telephone 07957 154596.

VILLERS-BOCAGE 2004

The Pilgrimage

Where have all the years gone?



Ever since D+7, that fateful day of the *4thCly*'s battle in the town, an *entente cordiale* has existed between Sharpshooters and the people of Villers-Bocage. Therefore, the decision that the SYA should celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings in Villers-Bocage was an easy one to make.

The prime movers in organising the pilgrimage, Tim Rayson and Mark Hodson, set about their task with tireless enthusiasm. No campaign ever succeeded without good reconnaissance and this there was in abundance. The success of the venture was assured.

The Combined SYA Bus Company was launched with Tim Rayson as Chief Conductor. From the outset communications between the *Company* and its intending passengers were excellent and explicit, and thanks to excellent PR the project ran smoothly with no hint of the many difficulties that cropped up behind the scenes.

Day 1

On the morning of Friday 11th June the Bus Station (Sharpshooter House, Mitcham Road Barracks), was a hive of activity. Luggage labels were issued together with a variety of 'Ration Cards' for meals *en route*, and most importantly, pre-ordered bottles of *SHARPSHOOTERS Isle of Arran Single Malt Whiskey* (see separate article on Page 7) were eagerly collected. An excellent buffet lunch was provided to stay three coach loads of us on our journey to Portsmouth. Our first stop was at *HMS Dryad* to see the D Day Map Room then on to the *Royal Sailors' Rest Home* for a buffet meal and a presentation on "*Wittmann and the Battle of Villers-Bocage*" by Daniel Taylor, author of '*Villers-Bocage through the lens*' (a superb read, do have a look at a copy if you have not had the chance to do so already). Thus, well fed, watered and 'genned up' we boarded our coaches for Port Solent and embarked on the overnight ferry to Le Havre. (Incidentally, the first O group of the trip took place at around 0100 ship's time in the Cinema Bar on deck 9 during which the final details of the following day's parade were reviewed and briefed to the Honorary Colonel).

Day 2

Disembarking after a smooth crossing our coach convoy set off post-haste for Villers-Bocage via the Europa Bridge over the Seine and the Caen Canal to *Pegasus Bridge*. Thereon to our destination the journey was made more interesting by commentary on the Normandy battlefields we were passing through by Julian Humphrys of the *National Army Museum*. On arrival at Villers-Bocage, rather breathlessly, we fell in on our smartly battledressed *Sharpshooter* marker (Dave Carter). Then, under the command of Captain David Brown *RNSWL, C Squadron KSY* (Sqn 2iC) and headed by the Town Band and SYA Standard Bearer, Tim Rayson, we marched off to the Villers Bocage War Memorial accompanied by members of the local French OCAs and their standards. At this point we

wish to thank all those friends of the SYA who nobly provided the motive power for the wheelchairs conveying our disabled members, both for the march and throughout the trip, particularly Col. I.W.M. McRobbie ADC OBE TD DL, *Deputy Lieutenant for Croydon*.

At the memorial, flanked by the French and Union flags, command of the Parade passed to Col. Julian Radcliffe OBE QRVM TD. The Guidon was paraded and the Remembrance Service was conducted by John Fisher and Mike Shaw. Wreaths were laid by Walter Allen, a V-B veteran of B Sqn *4CLY*, by the Mayor on behalf of the people of Villers-Bocage and by members of *Les Pompiers* the French Fire Service. The French and British national anthems were played (numerous times!) and, preceded by the cavalry Last Post and ended by Reveille, a two minute silence was held. At that point one sensed that the *entente cordiale* was almost tangible.

The parade returned to the *Richard Lenoir Centre* and to the accompaniment of the admirable Town Band, *M. Le Brun*, Mayor of Villers Bocage, presented *Normandie Memoire* commemorative medals to veterans of the Normandy invasion of June 1944. After a brief pause, the *Sharpshooters* were to enjoy a presentation by the Mayor, of the special Villers-Bocage town medal to British veterans who took part in the battle for the Town on 13th June 1944 (D+7). This ceremony was followed by an exchange of gifts between the *Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* and the Town Council of Villers-Bocage. Due to safety regulations, and as previously arranged, part of the assembly retired across the road to *Hotel du Marché* for a Reception and Luncheon hosted by Major D.A. Hannam TD, *SYA Chairman*. The Reception and Luncheon for those remaining in the *RLC* was hosted by Major N.A. Gillman MC FCA, *SYA President*.

The Civic ceremonies over, Daniel Taylor gave a walk and talk review of the battle then the touring party retired to their respective hotels in Bayeux and Caen for a much needed albeit short, break before embussing for the Villers-Bocage 60th Anniversary Dinner at *Hotel Chateau de Bellefontaine* outside Bayeux.

A beautiful summer's evening enhanced the setting of the Chateau and enabled the guests to take pre-dinner drinks of Kir Normande, *al fresco* before being ushered in to take their places for a highly successful and truly memorable Dinner. Our French guests of honour were M. Henri Marie, Mme Marie-Odile and M. Philippe Bernouis.

TOASTS & SPEECHES: Jack Eley (aged 10) - "*The Loyal Toast*"; Harold Currie - TOAST "*The President of the Republic of France*"; John Morrison BEM - SPEECH "*Sharpshooters in UK*"; Roy Cawston - TOAST "*Absent Friends*"; Major Neville Gillman MC - SPEECH "*Friendship between town of VB and the Sharpshooters*"; M. Henri Marie - SPEECH & TOAST "*The Sharpshooters*"; Major Neville Gillman MC - CLOSING SPEECH "*Thanks to key people for making the day possible*". Then followed the presentation of gifts to our three French Guests of Honour by Neville Gillman, Tim Rayson & Mark Hodson respectively. *By special request we give the text of John's speech on Page 10.

So ended the second very full day of our pilgrimage.

Day 3

The day began with an open air Service of Remembrance, Thanksgiving and Dedication at the Bayeux War Cemetery. Here the names of twenty six *Sharpshooters* are remembered with Honour inscribed on gravestones, or on panels of the Memorial. Twenty four are from *4thCly*, one from *3rdCly* and one from *3rd/4thCly*. Twelve of the *4thCly* were killed in the action on 13th June 1944 at Villers-Bocage.

The Service conducted by John Fisher and Mike Shaw was simple, but very moving. The Guidon was paraded and together with the SYA Standard, was laid on the central Memorial stone while wreaths were laid and crosses planted. After The Last Post came the Act of Remembrance followed most appropriately by a message from our *Sharpshooters* serving in Iraq, read out by David Hannam and reproduced here.

continued on page 14



“...like all soldiers deployed many miles from home, our thoughts are with those whom we have left. In the run up to the sixtieth anniversary of Villers Bocage, our thoughts turn not just to those of our families, but to our Old Comrades too.

The *Sharpshooters'* deployment on Operation TELIC serves as a poignant reminder of the inextricable link between the serving members of the squadron and our Old Comrades. The experience and knowledge passed down over the years is serving us proud as we crew tanks and Land Rovers, patrolling in an environment which fluctuates continually between the extremes of war fighting, counter terrorism and peace enforcement operations.

Carrying out long range escorts, moving through terrain that varies from lush green river valleys to arid inhospitable plains, we can but try to imagine what previous Sharpshooters have endured to grant future generations the safety and security that we take for granted today at home.

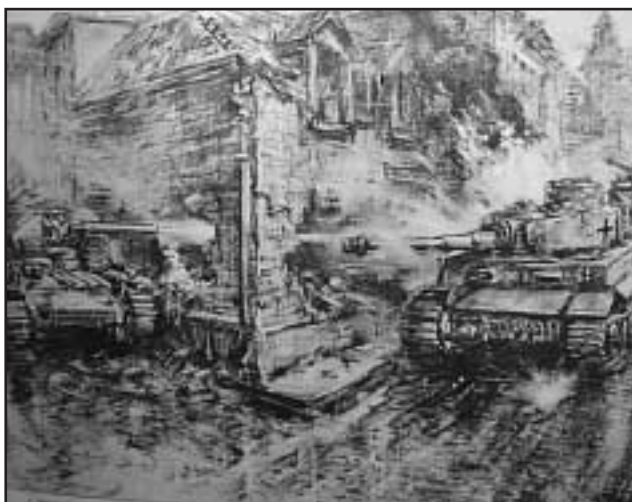
Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of you, whether on parade in Villers Bocage, or remembering quietly in England...as our tour continues, we will strive to uphold the fine reputation of the Sharpshooters.

We will remember them. ”

In the Silence that followed these memorable and highly emotive words, we were able to reflect that the need for a strong *Association* is as great now as it was in 1943 over sixty years ago. The survivors of the founding members can rest assured that the *Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* is in the safe hands of the present generation.

After the Service we were taken to view the Longue-sur-Mer Battery, part of the Germans' Western Wall defences. Julian Humphrys gave a graphic on-site account of the battery's participation in the actions during D+1 and D+2. Our 'Beach-head' tour via Arromanches and Le Hamel (*4thCLY's* landing), La Rivière (*3rdCLY*) and Courseulles to the former German radar installation at Douvres.

Here we enjoyed a delightful picnic in the shadow of the vast radar dish while being regaled by Julian Humphrys with details of *3rdCLY's* part in the capture of this important site and Derek Hawkins's personal memories of the attack.. Having been wined and dined we departed for Borguebus Ridge, the scene of actions involving both 3rd and 4th CLY during Operation GOODWOOD. Personal reminiscences of the actions they were involved in were given by Walter Allen



Artist's impression of Bobby Bramall's action at Villers Bocage, 13 June 1944 from a contemporary edition of *Illustrated London News*.

(*4thCLY*) and Derek Hawkins MM MC (*3rdCLY*) greatly reinforcing Julian's talk.

The convoy then dispersed to the hotels in Bayeux and Caen and members of the party had the evening to dine at leisure. One small blemish on an otherwise perfect day was the adverse result of England's game with France in the Euro 2004 Soccer Championship.

Day 4

This was the day of our long 'home run' across the Seine and Pas de Calais to the Ferry Port of Calais to embark for Dover and the finishing line at Croydon. This journey took us through countryside where nearly every signpost bore evocative names of battlefields of two World Wars such as the Somme, Abbeville and Dieppe.

We stopped for luncheon near St Valery-en-Caux, a place full of proud but unhappy memories for our *Kent Yeomanry* friends of what took place there in June 1940. The long journey home was a bit of an ordeal for several of us who were stricken in the early hours of Monday morning, with what can only be described as "Wittmann's Revenge". 'Sharpshooter House' was a welcome sight after the drive up from Dover. However, all were agreed that V-B Pilgrimage 2004 had been a huge success and a great credit to Tim Rayson, Mark Hodson and the 'staff' of *The Combined SYA Bus Company*. Praise is also due to the smart turnout of the Guidon Party which contributed greatly to the dignity and solemnity of the ceremonies they took part in.

As on so many previous occasions at home and abroad, our thanks go to Rev'd John Fisher and Major Mike Shaw TD for the sympathetic manner in which they conducted the Services at the Villers-Bocage Memorial and the Bayeux War Cemetery. These semi-formal ceremonies require a great deal of preparation and co-ordination and must never be taken for granted.

Finally we send greetings to those survivors of Villers-Bocage 1944 unable to come on the trip. Among them are John Cloudsley-Thompson, Bobby Bramall MM, Bob Moore MM, John Philip-Smith MC, L.R.Hedges, Peter Symes, Jack Geddes, Marshall Hubbard, Lester Lawrence MM, L.Payne, G.Necker, M.Lindrea, K.K.Weightman, Peter Wilson, V.C.Dickens and Ellis Slack.

(Grateful thanks to our photographers, the two "Freds" - **Frederique Cifuentes**, a professional photographer who joined us with her husband, Eric Morgan, just after their honeymoon; and **Fred Batten**, friend to us all, who tirelessly took photos and video throughout the entire trip).

The Battle of Villers-Bocage 13 June 1944

Memorable quotes

"Villers-Bocage has a special significance in the Battle of Normandy" **Daniel Taylor** *Villers-Bocage Through the Lens*

"...where's my **** boots? I'm not walking all the way to **** Berlin without my **** boots." **Arthur Cranley's** last transmission.

"... I then decided to follow the *Tiger*, as it's thinnest armour was at the back, and that was the best chance of killing it." **Pat Dyas**

"...about the bravest thing ever..." **John Cloudsley-Thompson** on Dyas's decision to follow the *Tiger*

"...bloody Moore!" **Pat Dyas** on finding the *Tiger* coming back.

"...George Horne did one of the bravest things I have ever seen. He entered the German column in the middle, knocked out one of their tanks and then dashed up a side street." **Bill Cotton**

"...due to the limited range. Bramall lined up the shot by sighting down the barrel." **Daniel Taylor** *Villers-Bocage Through the Lens*

"...the sacrifices made by the British Soldiers were not in vain..." **Henri Marie** *Villers-Bocage Normandy 1944*

"The hardest blow had fallen on A Squadron... for all that the *Sharpshooters* with support from the *Queens* had given an excellent account of themselves..." **Andrew Williams** *D-Day to Berlin*

"...the shared experience has created a strong bond between the *Sharpshooters* and the people of Villers-Bocage..." Neville Gillman *Speech 50th Anniversary 1994*

SHARPSHOOTER CADETS

Annual Report 2003-2004

Association members will wish to know that this is our first newsletter article and that there are two *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry* badged cadet units as follows:

- a. **93 (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Detachment** (re-badged from RA), **South East London ACF.**
 OC: AUO D Barlow.
 Training night: Tuesday



93 (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Detachment seen here with Honorary Colonel, Col. Julian Radcliffe OBE QRVM TD, Col. Norman Edgar OBE, Commandant S.E. London ACF and Guidon Party on the occasion of their Re-badging Parade at Mitcham Road, 30 August 2003.

- b. **Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Detachment, Royal Russell School Combined Cadet Force.**
 OC: Lt Col P Green.
 Training night: Mondays

In addition there is a further unit

- c. **107(Royal Signals) Detachment, South East London ACF.**
 OC: 2Lt Lewis.
 Training night: Weds/Sun.

Although not badged as *Sharpshooters* and not able to include the *KCLY* bit in their title they are possessed of the *Sharpshooter* spirit.

The *Sharpshooters* are therefore well represented in the *Cadet Forces* and it is to be hoped that some might graduate and join the seniors either at Croydon or Bexleyheath.

These last 12 months have seen a lot of activity at all three detachments where the turnover has been high in the *ACF* units. This is a factor of young people growing up and can be one of the more frustrating aspects of Cadet life at the detachment level. A common factor with cadets though is that recruits are more likely to be friends of those already serving. It is therefore very pleasing to see this nascent *Sharpshooter* family trying to grow and it is something that the Adult Instructors do their best to encourage.

The most rewarding feature of cadet life is to see your cadets successfully passing their Army Proficiency Certificate courses to gain their star badges, and for the senior cadets, passing their senior instructor and Master Cadet courses which are very demanding and run to a very high standard.

The highlights for this year for the *KSY* units were:

- Visit by *SYA* members to Royal Russell School in November,
- Participation in the Combined Cavalry Parade in May,
- Visiting *HMS Kent* our affiliated ship,
- Annual camps.

The visit to Royal Russell School was led by Neville Gillman and ably supported by Messrs Harold Currie, Phil Moore, Mike Shaw, David Hannam (king of the video recorder) and Tim Rayson.

The Cavalry Day parade was achieved with unprecedented co-operation between both *KSY* units – there is always a degree of rivalry between the *ACF* and *CCF*. All those who took part were warmly congratulated for the standard of turnout and the success in the tasks they carried out, the most important of which was to provide a ‘cab rank’ of wheelchairs for veterans unable to march but who wished to participate in the Parade. Both units are looking forward to next year (8 May 05) when an increase in business for the cab rank is fully expected. If any of you wish to avail yourselves please do let Tim Rayson know as soon as you can.

The visit to *HMS Kent* was enjoyed by all who attended it and the ship looked after us all very well. There was an exchange of plaques and it is hoped to arrange a further visit when the ship returns from deployment before going into refit.

Finally Annual Camps form the main highlight of the year and are usually action and fun packed events. The *ACF* units went to Penhale in Cornwall for a pretty tough ten day package of star boards and adventure training and were blessed by excellent weather throughout. The *CCF* went to Nesscliffe for a very busy seven days and of course as part of a school they more or less closed down for school holidays on return. The *ACF* detachments are on a stand down so a fuller report will not be forthcoming until next year.

In the meantime all three units will for the remainder of the year be focussing on individual training with Regimental camps planned for the school half term breaks. The forecast for next year includes a steady build up of training including Regimental camps during all the usual school term breaks.

TIM RAYSON

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KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY - “C” SQUADRON, THE ROYAL YEOMANRY

Sharpshooter House, Mitcham Barracks
 Mitcham Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 3RU.
 Telephone 020 8688 2138
www.ksy.org.uk

Squadron Leader: Major D B Turner *RY pmsc*
 Second-in-Command: Captain D Brown *1st/15th RNSWL*
 Squadron Adjutant: Captain D J Davies late *RHG/D*
 Squadron Sergeant-Major: WO2 C Eley

Foolishly, last year’s report was signed-off with the aspiration that, following the excitement of the Op TELIC 1 deployment, 2004 would be a quieter year. Hardly had the ink dried on the report than RHQ started trawling for names to support the *Queen’s Royal Lancers* on Op TELIC 4. After plenty of rumour, counter-rumour and hype (the last undoubtedly fuelled by festive spirit), brown envelopes landed on the door mats of 32 members of the squadron early in the New Year, and all duly reported to the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre at Chilwell in mid-February. Two unfortunately “failed the vet” but the remaining 30 were accepted into service and started their pre-deployment training alongside 27 other *Royal Yeomen*, from the *SRY* and *LDY* Squadrons. With a total of 40 *Sharpshooters* mobilised since the beginning of 2003 (Lt Justin Crump served on Op TELIC 3 as Intelligence Officer for the *Queen’s Royal Hussars*), the burden borne by the squadron has been considerable.

Those who have followed the squadron’s monthly newsletter, “*Sharpshooter News*”, will have seen a reasonably detailed account of the pre-deployment training common to most if not all mobilised reservists. A short and sharp package

at a frosty Grantham honed basic ITD skills and provided a briefing from the Operations Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG) on working in Iraq. Thereafter, the *Sharpshooters* were released to the *QRL*, with the exception of Cpl Ken Stevens of the *REME* who had been posted to *HQ 1 Mechanised Brigade LAD*. The majority then found themselves immersed in further intense training packages, including public order training at Lydd and introductions to the *SA80-A2*, the *Minimi* (the new Light Machine Gun) and the Underslung Grenade Launcher. The deployment to Iraq started in early April, spearheaded by Capt David Fisher and a newly-engaged SSM Mattie Webb. By mid-April the *Sharpshooter* contingent was complete in southern Iraq with the exception of Sgt Dave Tomlin who had been mobilised to replace one of the lame and was consequently playing "catch-up".



Dressed up for a night on the town, Al-Amarah May 2004. (L to R) L/Cpl Mason, Tpr Bristow, L/Cpl Robson, Tpr Millar

In theatre, the bulk of the *Sharpshooters* have been split between the two *QRL* squadrons which have deployed. 'A' Squadron *QRL* was based at Camp Abu Naji, just outside Al-Amarah in Maysan Province, forming part of the *1 PWRR* Battlegroup. 'D' Squadron *QRL* was based at Umm Qasr on the coast, as part of the *1 RWF* Battlegroup. Within 'D' Squadron, Lt Toby Howell commands a troop made up completely of *Sharpshooters*, with Sgt Chris 'Gunnery God' Chadwick as his troop sergeant. This troop is believed to be the first complete *Yeomanry* troop deployed operationally outside the NBC role since 1945. The remaining *Sharpshooters* within the *QRL* Squadrons were split between various sabre troops, the SHQs and the Civil Military Co-operation (CIMIC) cells. Although originally destined for 'D' Squadron, Capt Fisher and SSM Webb found themselves diverted to Brigade Headquarters in Basra where they became respectively SO3 G3 Borders and SO3 G1 Borders - titles which effectively disguise a key role in setting up and training the Iraqi border security apparatus - and from where they were able to monitor Cpl Stevens' body building/re-shaping programme.



A few rounds lighter: SSM Mattie Webb relaxes as he models the latest "must have" eye accessory while returning on a Royal Navy RIB from a contact with smugglers in June 2004.

As most will know, the arrival of the *Sharpshooters* in Iraq coincided with a serious phase of civil unrest, inspired mainly by Mr Al-Sadr. Capt Fisher's sleep on his first night in Basra was disturbed by the explosion of a mortar round in the Brigade HQ compound - an event which SSM Webb contrived to sleep through, much to his embarrassment. While much of

the hullabaloo passed by those serving with 'D' Squadron, life for those serving at Camp Abu Naji was anything but dull. For their first three nights they experienced mortar fire of dubious accuracy. Thereafter, and no doubt for variety, the mortar fire was replaced with daily 107mm direct rocket fire - an innovation described as a "not very preferable swap". By June, *1 PWRR* BG had been in constant contact with insurgents since its arrival in theatre - according to the UK national media this was a longer period of continuous contact than that experienced by any unit of the Army since the Korean War.

If it was hoped that the transition to Iraqi government at the end of June would result in a calmer second half to the tour, events in August suggested otherwise. 2Lt Field did, however, make a significant contribution to the sleep patterns of those at Camp Abu Naji when a patrol he was leading captured four men who between them were carrying no fewer than twenty-seven 120mm mortar charges. Many if not all of the *Sharpshooter* contingent will return in October having experienced direct and indirect incoming artillery and mortar fire as well as small-arms firefights; others have been inside buildings which received direct hits from mortar rounds. Thus far, and God willing, all our soldiers have been fortunate. They have calmly and professionally gone about their duties in the most difficult of circumstances and continued to display great humour throughout.

Duties in Iraq have been hugely varied. While those at Brigade HQ continued to run down the flying hours of the Support Helicopter fleet (ostensibly on account of the importance of checking the border security efforts of the Dutch and Danish contingents on a weekly if not daily basis), the majority have experienced a diet of guard, quick reaction force, vehicle and foot patrols and border OPs. Lt Howell's troop quickly established good relations with the collocated *RN* Training Team and have spent many happy hours patrolling Iraqi coastal waters on the latest and fastest of small boats - fortunately none were involved in the unplanned and involuntary excursion to Iran by the Navy which hit the headlines in late June. Capt Matt 'Golden Bullet' Douglas, aided and abetted by Cpl Barrie Stallard, reached new levels of expertise in the ferrying of police cars from Basra to Al-Amarah - typically 25 new patrol cars would leave Basra on a weekly basis and travel in convoy at ridiculously high speeds with sirens wailing - apparently such tactics are a necessary pre-requisite for coping with the incidental dangers of Iraq's roads and have nothing to do with the security situation!



Tpr Banwat, L/Cpl Francis and Lt Howell - enjoy a day powerboating off Kuwait, June 2004.

Deployment has not dulled the social instincts of those mobilised. Tpr 'Eric' Bristow has become the Entertainer in Chief for the *1 PWRR* BG, organising camel spider races, camel races, land yacht races, mountaineering courses in the Euphrates valley (an area devoid of contours) and is alleged to be negotiating rights with Bernie Ecclestone for the introduction of F1. Meanwhile Capt Fisher managed to organise a 60th Anniversary 'Villers-Bocage Dinner' at Basra Palace which was attended by over half of the contingent and selected guests.

And what of those at home? Capt Jim Davies has once again organised a full and varied programme of monthly events for the families, as well as tapping his contacts for perks such as

tickets to Beating the Retreat at Horseguards. Jim's dedication to the squadron and its families is boundless and all owe him an immense debt of gratitude for his selfless industry. His efforts would not have succeeded, however, without the support of others. Chief amongst those who also deserve our thanks is Kathy Eley who has again taken on the mantle of acting as the point of contact for all of the families and who has played a key role in the organisation of family events - she has acted as an inspiration to the whole *Sharpsbooter* family. We have also received critical help and moral support from others including - but by no means limited to - the Squadron Honorary Colonel, the Croydon Branch of the SYA, headed by Peter Blake and including in particular Tim Rayson and Bill Lovell, the whole O'Hare family, the Wadsworth family, David Hannam, Canon Simon Bloxam-Rose (the RY padre), Sgt John Ellis (the RY Welfare SNCO), Brigadier Arthur Gooch (who made a morale-boosting visit to 'D' Squadron QRL before its deployment), Mike Shaw and, of course, the SYA President, Neville Gillman.

The Iraq deployment has not lessened the demands on those in the non-mobilised Main Body. In fact the weight of commitments has seemed to grow over the course of the year. We adjusted to the absence of many of our key players by reforming with two troops: the first, *Alamein* Troop, for trained ranks; the second, *Normandy* Troop, for recruit training. Our aspirations for training have required moderation due to the lack of experienced soldiers left behind and it was not until June that *Alamein* Troop really started to generate momentum with an excellent OBUA exercise on STANTA organised by the SRY. A busy weekend assaulting buildings left most many pounds lighter and all exhilarated. This was followed by a superb Regimental FTX in July at Copehill Down on which Public Order skills were taught (for the first time in living memory to non-mobilised members of the TA), Molotov Cocktails were thrown and OBUA skills confirmed. The same weekend saw nearly 60 members of the squadron training or mobilised on full-time service - an extraordinary achievement from the platform of our small establishment of only 64.

Shortly after the Regimental FTX, most of our Op TELIC 1 veterans paraded at the Merchant Taylors' Hall for a visit by HRH The Princess Alexandra, our Royal Honorary Colonel. Campaign medals were presented to the *Sharpsbooters* by Colonel Radcliffe, with Cpl 'Pete' Peters of the LAD receiving his on behalf of the other *Sharpsbooters* from the Princess. Charlotte Douglas (aged 3) performed to the exemplary standards expected of all *Sharpsbooters* when presenting the bouquet to Her Royal Highness.

By the time this article is published, the *Squadron* will have deployed on Camp. Dreams of playing Hunter Force on a Special Forces' exercise (in Denmark) were dashed by present budgetary constraints. Instead we will be heading back to STANTA for a 7 day Counter Insurgency exercise, followed by *Challenger 2* live firing, trade training and a small-arms ranges package at Lulworth and Bovington. The overall balance of the camp looks promising and all should have an enjoyable and challenging time. Looking further ahead, we await the detailed announcement of the Future Army Structures in so far as it affects the TA with interest - and the hope that it will bring a much needed single role to the *Royal Yeomanry*. All should be clear in time for the Festive Season.



Squadron R&R! - sailing in the Solent, October 2003.

On the personnel front, Op TELIC 4 has resulted in the normal round robin of changes being somewhat muted. We have welcomed Sgt Jeff Penfold and S/Cpl (SCM) Nick Hemming as the new Gunnery and Signals PSIs respectively. S/Sgt Chris Eley took over as SSM in February - marking the culmination to many years dedicated service. Capt David Brown of the *1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers* arrived at Easter to take up the position of Squadron 2IC, with Capt Wayne Bergin of the *4th/19th Prince of Wales' Light Horse* joining as troop leader of *Alamein* Troop. The Australian invasion will be completed if and when Capt Rebecca Hornsby of the *Australian Army Legal Corps* receives authority to train as troop leader of *Normandy* Troop. One glaring structural problem which has increased over the year is the lack of Young Officers joining both the *Regiment* as a whole and the squadron in particular. While measures are in hand to address the shortfall, if anyone in the wider *Sharpsbooter* family knows of any potential officers or recruits, please encourage them to contact the squadron. On a happier note, Guy Bonser (OC 1997-8) left the RY on completion of his tour as Regimental 2IC for an SO1's post in HQ ARRC and, with it, promotion to Lt Col - we assume both he and Louise are looking forward to the imminent deployment of HQ ARRC as the HQ for the new EU force taking over from SFOR in Bosnia.

And as for 2005? After last year's report it would be folly to tempt fate again. What is clear, however, is that the *Squadron* will need a prolonged period of rebuilding before any further, major operational commitment. One can only hope that the *Squadron* is given the time and space it so badly needs.

SQUADRON ORBAT

SHQ

Maj Turner, Capt Brown, Capt Davies, Lt Phillips, WO2 (SSM) Eley, S/Cpl Hemming, Sgt Penfold

Alamein Troop

Capt Bergin, Sgt Shardlow, Cpl Hunter, Cpl Luck, L/Cpl Proudfoot, Tprs Amole, Beaumont, Bellamy, Cooper, Crowley, Draper, Duviau, Garrett, Gholami, O'Regan, Pumfrey, Relf, Smith 780, Smith 947, Watson

Normandy Troop

Capt Hornsby, Cpl Meader, Cpl Day, Cpl Smith, L/Cpl Sesay, Rcts Richards, Durham, Goodman, Heritage, Frankland, Dorey, Swallow

Admin Troop

S/Sgt Skidmore, L/Cpl Hayward

LAD, REME

S/Sgt Wadsworth, Cpl Batten, Cpl Peters

Op TELIC

Capt Douglas, Capt Fisher, Lt Howell, 2Lt Field, WO2 (SSM) Webb, Sgt Chadwick, Sgt Consadine, Sgt Ellis, Sgt Tomlin, Cpl Kentfield, Cpl Stallard, Cpl Stevens, Cpl Trew, L/Cpl Hastings, L/Cpl Francis, L/Cpl Robson, L/Cpl Mason, L/Cpl Paine, Tprs Abbott, Abdilla, Allwork, Banwat, Bristow, Faytaren, Kimpton, McNeill, Millar, O'Hare, Smith 060, Yakub

ERE

Lt Smyth

What price literacy?

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg.

The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabgride Uinetrisvy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the msot iprmoatnt tinhg is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. And I awlyas thgugot slpelnig was ipmronat!

KENT & SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION (Croydon Branch)

Our *Association* year commenced with an organisational change with the post of Assistant Secretary being dispensed with and the post of Vice Chairman being created, aligning us more with the structure of the *SYA*. Tim Rayson having previously held the post of Assistant Secretary was elected Vice Chairman. The other change to occur was the election of Chris Eley (SQMS) as Welfare Liaison Officer following the resignation of Bill Lovell.

Following quickly on the heels of the AGM the branch participated in the normal run of events for November with our newly elected Vice Chairman (Tim Rayson) organising branch participation at The Field of Remembrance - including a well attended lunch at the *Civil Service Club* afterwards - as well as Remembrance Sunday and wreath laying at Croydon where the weather was most definitely unkind. It was also Tim's first outing as the *SYA* Standard Bearer. Onwards then to the El Gubi dinner at Knightsbridge ably organised by Mark Hodson to which a number of members went. The dinner was excellent but overshadowed by rumours of *C Squadron* being mobilised for service in Iraq under Op TELICÁ.

No sooner had the last *Alka Seltzer XS* finished fizzing than it became clear that rumour control was NOT working overtime and that there was a high likelihood of the *Squadron* being mobilised but on a much larger scale than previously. In anticipation, the Committee gathered at short notice at Tim Rayson's home on a dark, cold winter's evening in December to discuss what the future might bring and how we should prepare. With David Hannam representing the *SYA*, and the SSM representing the *Squadron*, we agreed on procedures to be implemented in the event of 'intelligent' mobilisation happening, and how the Association could play its part by supporting *Squadron* families while the boys were away. Intelligent mobilisation it seemed was also likely to take our newly elected welfare officer with it. Fortunately, and in true *Yeomanry* style, Chris' wife Kathy volunteered to take on the role since she was already running the Squadron Families Association and could combine the two roles on a temporary basis. How could we refuse! With that we moved forward into a period of waiting, with a plan and our lines of communication established. In the meantime, it was agreed that Tim Rayson would be the official representative from *KSYA* on the *Squadron Welfare Committee*, which Committee would run and deal with, all activities and eventualities arising from any deployment. Some weeks later, a few days after mobilisation of *Squadron* personnel had occurred; we learned that Chris Eley had failed his mobilisation medical on the grounds of having a hernia. But alas we were not to regain Chris as our *Welfare Liaison Officer*, as he was promptly promoted to SSM (SSM Mathew Webb having also been mobilised) and thus his responsibilities quickly focussed elsewhere.

Capt. Jim Davies, who once again assumed the role of *KSY Families Welfare Officer*, very quickly set to the task of establishing a welfare fund. There soon followed a request for *KSYA* to put out a request for donations. Tony Bentley took on the task of distributing a circular to which there was both a swift and very generous response from our Membership. The appeal on behalf of the *Squadron Welfare Committee* raised just over £500, which funds have been set aside until drawn down by the Committee.

It is timely to mention at this juncture, Members of the *Association* who have taken it upon themselves to make individual contributions to the *Squadron's* welfare activities. Bill Lovell volunteered his services to the *Squadron Families Association* and has been actively engaged since in helping with the monthly events that the *Squadron Welfare Committee* has been organising for the wives and families. Fred Batten has taken to getting his photographic equipment

out of his old kit bag and takes the odd snap when attending the organised events as a friend of the *Sharpsooter* family and someone who has experienced the situation previously, his son having deployed to the Gulf region last year.

May heralded the annual pilgrimage to Hyde Park to take our place in the Cavalry Memorial Day parade as part of the *Royal Yeomanry* contingent. Numbers on the parade this year were again noticeably depleted, particularly amongst the *Sharpsooter* ranks. In order to encourage those who are not as agile as most of us, Tim Rayson arranged for the loan of wheelchairs and volunteers from his Cadet Unit to act as attendants. Albeit the take up was less than anticipated, two volunteers (Gordon Tidey being one) did risk carriages and their reports of their experience were very encouraging, albeit it is said that one was involuntarily unsaddled - but he was a *Westminster Dragoon* so enough said! Tim plans to have wheelchairs available in future years and we hope this will persuade more of our less mobile *Sharpsshooters* to take up their rightful position on the parade, mounted (in carriages). The Cadets thoroughly enjoyed themselves and their help was very much appreciated.

A major focus of activities this year has been the preparations for the Villers-Bocage trip, which finally came to fruition over the weekend 11th - 14th June. The organisation of the trip depended heavily on Tim Rayson and Mark Hodson together with Richard Bond on the accounting side. The three of them together became almost a separate entity (*Sharpsooter Enterprises* might be an appropriate name) and made all the arrangements on behalf of the three *Associations* and the three *Squadrons*. And what a weekend we were treated to.

About two dozen members from *KSYA* (including *C Squadron* personnel) attended, with a few more independent runners joining us at various times over the weekend. *KSYA* made various contributions, including Michael Petit who acted as the 'Trip First Aid Person' and a few middle aged gentlemen lending a helping hand. The overall feeling was the fun had by everybody on the trip and the willingness of everybody to pitch in. It was the way that all the age groups came together from across the *Sharpsooter* family made the weekend so memorable. And all of that, accompanied by good food, wine and plenty of sunshine!

As an integral part of the trip, our *Association's* annual Villers-Bocage Dinner was held on the Saturday evening at the very pleasant venue of *Hotel Chateau de Bellefontaine*, at which 137 persons took their places at table. It will probably be the first and last time that we as an *Association* do not have to do any organisational work for the dinner, but perhaps it won't be the last time the Dinner is held in a foreign field. One delightful aspect was that we had news from Iraq that as many of the deployed *Squadron* personnel as could be mustered were having their own Villers-Bocage Dinner that same evening in the Gulf. To us this was a very poignant signal that this Dinner has quickly become the adopted Dinner of the *KSYA*.

Our hearty appreciation goes to both Mark and Tim for being the major players in organising what was a most enjoyable weekend. Also to Richard and his wife Margaret who, over the course of the year, became one of their local *NatWest Bank's* best customers with numerous trips to the bank with the paying-in book. It is rumoured that Tim may have another trip or two up his sleeve. We'll have to wait and see.

As ever, we are indebted as an *Association* for the support that we receive from the *Squadron*, and particularly the use we have of the Drill Hall facilities for our meetings and social events. This year, it was particularly appreciated that the Squadron Leader delayed the *Squadron's* departure on exercise one Friday evening in April, in order that those from the *Squadron* who wished, could attend our meeting that evening. We of course also benefited from a very full and up to date briefing from the Squadron Leader of events that had occurred to that date about Operation TELIC.

The *Association* this year is making a significant contribution towards the cost of the recent conservation of the Regimental Guidon organised by the *Museum Trust*. The Guidon's first parade in its newly restored condition was at Villers-Bocage, which was both a privilege and honour for those who attended. Our thanks go to the *Squadron* for fielding a commander and escorts for the Guidon despite the depleted *Squadron* ranks.

What of the future for our branch of the *Association*? We see our ties with the *SYA* becoming ever closer and particularly over last few years, we have seen a greater cross fertilisation of members between the *Associations*. This is particularly so with some of the *KSYA* membership taking up senior roles within the *SYA*, which roles have previously been the domain of *SYA* members. One of our next tasks is to align us constitutionally more closely with the *SYA*, with the adoption of the *SYA* constitution tailored to suit our particular needs.

At long last, we are very pleased to be in the position to advise that the website is now fully functional and has now been running for nearly a year. The direction we had been taking in creating a website of our own, changed a year ago when Sgt David Tomlin of *C Squadron*, took it upon himself to create a joint website with the *Squadron*, which he was also developing at the time. This was the best thing that could have happened and it has now evolved into a very active site. It is particularly popular with the younger members of the *Squadron* and is constantly in use. Amongst various links on the site, are links to the *SYA* and the *Museum Trust*, creating a fully integrated site. The address of the website is www.ksy.org.uk. A spin off from the website is that the *Associations* are also now fully integrated into the *Squadron* e-mail system. Thank you David, for all the effort put into the creation of a very good website.

We ask every year, but it is the very essence of our ability to communicate with our Members - PLEASE keep us informed of any change of address. If you change your e-mail address, please advise us either on ksyasn@ksy.org.uk, ksya@ksy.org.uk or dc@descampbell.freeserve.co.uk DON'T FORGET to tell us in the e-mail who you are, as the sender information and the e-mail address do not always disclose your identity.

Last but not least our *AGM* this year is being held on Friday 29th October 2004 at the drill hall in Croydon and will commence at 20.00hrs. We look forward to seeing as many of you as are able to attend. On behalf of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Committee of the *Association*, our good wishes to everyone.

Tony Bentley
Hon. Secretary



71ST (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT

A SHORT REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Although 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment has only existed as a major unit since the reorganisation of the Territorial Army in 1969, it nevertheless retains many long and glorious links with the past. Through the Yeomanry squadrons under its command, the Regiment is the proud guardian of many

centuries of bravery, tradition and committed volunteer service.

The Regiment was formed on 1st April 1969 with Regimental Headquarters in Bromley and the following sub-units:

68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

265 (London and Kent) Squadron, later 265 (Kent and County of London Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Sharpshooters)

The role of the Regiment was to provide Home Defence Communications for the South East of England. Initially, 265 (London and Kent) Squadron acted as the Regiment's Headquarters Squadron, but in 1970 it gained a communications role, as well as the title 'Kent and County of London Yeomanry'. The role and organisation of the Regiment remained steady until 1987 when Regimental Headquarters moved from Bromley to join 265 Squadron at Bexleyheath. At around the same time, Headquarters (Kent and County of London Yeomanry) Squadron was raised at Bexleyheath and 348 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Home Service Force) was raised at Lincoln's Inn, although the latter was relatively short lived.

In 1992, as a result of Options for Change, 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron were moved to another regiment and 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment took under command 57 Signal Squadron (Volunteers). This arrangement lasted until the Territorial Army restructuring of 1994 when 70 Squadron came back under command and 57 Squadron moved on.

In 1995, 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron was given an independent role in support of the Combat Service Support Group (Germany). They then ceased to be part of the Regiment's order of battle, although the Regiment still retains close links with that squadron.

In 2002, 60 Signal Squadron (Volunteers), which had been an independent Squadron since its foundation in 1999 came under Operational Command of the Regiment.

The Regiment's order of battle is as follows:

HQ (Kent. and County of London Yeomanry) Squadron (Sharpshooters)

60 Signal Squadron (Volunteers)

68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

265 (Kent and County of London Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Sharpshooters)

The Regiment has taken an active part in current operations, with personnel being deployed on OP TELIC in Iraq and on OP FINGAL in Afghanistan. Currently there are a number of personnel still deployed in support of OP TELIC4 with five postings for TELIC 5 in the pipeline for Iraq.

THE SQUADRONS

60 Signal Squadron (Volunteers)

The Squadron was formed on 1st July 1999, from A Company, Mortar Platoon, 5 Royal Green Jackets, based in Aylesbury, and the Permanent Staff Instructors of 55 Signal Squadron (Volunteers) from Liverpool. This was part of the Strategic Defence Review. Originally the Squadron moved from Liverpool to Aylesbury to allow the amalgamation of 60 Signal Squadron, 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron based in Windsor, 42 Signal Squadron based in Colerne and 5 Signal Squadron based in Oxford to form 72 Signal Regiment (Volunteers). This plan was amended and the Squadron became independent.

The Squadron took up the responsibility of a Combat Net Radio Squadron from 55 Signal Squadron (Volunteers) and was under Operational Command of Headquarters 11 Signal Brigade based in Donnington. The role of the Squadron is to

provide the Combat Net Radio capability for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, a role that the Squadron still fulfils today.

On 30th September 2002, the Squadron became Operational Command of 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment and now has drill halls in Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

The Squadron is based on an amalgamation of two Yeomanry Regiments, the Inns of Court Regiment (The Devil's Own) and the City of London Yeomanry (The Rough Riders). They combined in 1961 to form the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry).

The Inns of Court Regiment

In 1584 the loyal Inns of Court formed associations to support the Crown. From then until 1859 the four Inns of Court, in time of national crisis, raised bodies of men for the defence of the country. In 1584 the Inns formed associations to defend the realm against the threatened Spanish invasion. Gentlemen from the Inns also formed part of the Royalist Army in 1644. In 1745, the Regiment prepared for service against the Jacobite invasion and in 1780 it restored order during the Gordon Riots. (During this time, William Pitt was a member of the Lincoln's Inn Company.) At a Royal Review in Hyde Park in 1803, George III gave the Regiment the nickname 'The Devil's Own' which is still proudly used to this day.

A detachment from the Regiment joined the Imperial volunteers in South Africa in 1900 - 1901 and during the First World War the Regiment trained and commissioned no less than 11,000 officers. From 1918 to 1939 it was roled as a Cavalry Regiment.

During the Second World War, the Inns of Court Regiment was reformed as an Armoured Car Regiment. It landed in France on the morning of D Day and served with distinction throughout the remainder of the NW Europe campaign.

City of London Yeomanry

The City of London Yeomanry Regiment was raised in 1900 as the 20th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry) and took the name 'Rough Riders' in 1901 after volunteer horsemen who had fought in the Spanish American War of 1898. From 1907 to 1914 Regimental Headquarters was in Finsbury Square. During the next 60 years it changed its role no less than eight times, from Cavalry, to the Machine Gun Corps, to Royal Horse Artillery, to Field Artillery, to Light Anti Aircraft Artillery, to the Tank Regiment, to Infantry, to Signals. During the Second World War it saw active service in the Middle East and North West Europe.

The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry

The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Regiment was formed in 1961 and their Royal Honorary Colonel, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, presented the Guidon in 1963. In 1967 the Regiment was placed in 'suspended animation' following the TA reforms, but was reborn in 1969 in its current guise of 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron. It now has drill halls at Lincoln's Inn and Whipp's Cross.

Squadron March: "*Nancy Dawson*".

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

Whether as cavalry, gunners or signallers, the Essex Yeomanry has been a County Regiment from the eighteenth century through the Boer War and two World Wars to the present day. By 1798 there were 15 troops in Essex with an establishment of 640 men. In 1830 a Regiment of the West Essex Yeomanry was raised, with two troops of artillery later being added.

In 1889 an Essex Troop of the Loyal Suffolk Hussars was raised and went to South Africa as mounted infantry with the Imperial Yeomanry. Following the Boer War, the Essex Imperial Yeomanry was formed in 1902.

The Essex Yeomanry went to France in 1914 and served with particular distinction during the second Battle of Ypres and the Advance from Arras with the 8th Cavalry Brigade. Many awards were earned, including the Victoria Cross to a Lance Corporal who kept his machine gun in action despite two broken legs and other wounds. After the war the Essex Yeomanry converted to artillery as 104th (Essex Yeomanry) Royal Field Artillery.

In 1939, prior to the Second World War, the 147th (Essex Yeomanry) Regiment was raised and served with distinction throughout the war. 104th (Essex Yeomanry) Regiment served in the Middle East and took part in the battle of El Alamein and the siege of Tobruk. 147 (Essex Yeomanry) Regiment was converted to 25 pounder guns and landed on D Day to fight through to Germany.

The Essex Yeomanry was re-raised in 1947 to form the 304th (Essex Yeomanry) Field Regiment TA. In 1969 after a brief period as infantry, the Essex Yeomanry assumed its current guise as 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron. It now has drill halls at Chelmsford and Harlow.

Squadron March: "*Coggeshall Man's Wedding*".

265 (Kent and County of London Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Sharpshooters)

Although the squadron can trace its history back to 1583 through the Yellow Company of the London Trained Bands and Camberwell Association, the true history began in 1794 with the raising of the East Kent Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry and the West Kent Yeomanry Cavalry. The 3rd County of London Imperial Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) were raised in 1900 as Imperial Yeomanry for the Boer War where they served with the Kent Yeomanry regiments. The Kent Yeomanry became one single Regiment at the outset of the First World War and served with the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) in the Yeomanry Division at Gallipoli and at the capture of Jerusalem. Both Regiments also served in France and Flanders until the end of the war.

In 1920 the Kent Yeomanry converted to Royal Field Artillery and the Sharpshooters to the 23rd (London) Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters).

During the Second World War the Kent Yeomanry served as Royal Field Artillery and saw action in France, North Africa and Normandy. The Sharpshooters were expanded to two tank regiments, the 3rd and 4th and latterly the 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters). They saw service in North Africa, Italy, Normandy and Germany. In 1926 the London and Kent Artillery were constituted as 65th Field Brigade RFA and they became the first Territorial Army Regiment to be mechanised. As such they fought at Dunkirk, in North Africa and in Western Europe.

In 1961 the Kent Yeomanry and the 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) amalgamated as an armoured recce Regiment. The London and Kent Artillery consisted only of 265 Light Air Defence Regiment.

In 1969 elements of all three Regiments amalgamated once again to become **265 (Kent and County of London Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Sharpshooters)**, with a Headquarters Squadron being added later on. The Squadron is now based at Bexleyheath and Brighton.

Squadron March: "*The Sharpshooter*"

FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

For correspondence: chairman@sharpshooters.org.uk

For *Newsletter* articles: editor@sharpshooters.org.uk

Websites

For Association: www.sharpshooters.org.uk

For Museum: www.ksymuseum.org.uk

HQ (KCLY) SQUADRON (SHARPSHOOTERS) 71ST (Y) SIGNAL REGIMENT

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ANNUAL REPORT – August 2004

HQ (KCLY) Squadron has had a year of consolidation and constructive activity. The *Squadron* has continued to fulfil its training commitments, and has made a serious attempt to address challenges such as recruiting, equipment care and the management of Man Training Days. In particular much attention has been directed towards sorting out the *Squadron's* role in "Integrated Contingency Planning" (ICP) Operations (that is - what happens when the balloon goes up somewhere in the UK). As part of this, the PSAO, Captain Slaney, has worked hard with his team (i.e. Bev) to prepare for the possibility of "Rapid Compulsory Mobilization". In addition to all this, the members of the *Squadron* have attempted to have some fun.

With regard to personalities, two key members of the LAD (*REME*) have left in the past year. In June 2004 the OC LAD, Captain Karl Basey, was posted to the RLC after three years with *71 (Y) Signal Regiment*. Karl had been a dynamic and enthusiastic OC, leading his troops to many notable successes in various competitions, and maintaining the LAD's high reputation within *REME*. He worked in close cooperation and friendship with the *Squadron* OC, Major Mickey Mustoe, and - when he left - he stated that this had been his best ever posting. In recognition of Karl's contribution to the *Squadron* and *Regiment* he was presented with a "Jimmy" at his dining out, an honour rarely accorded to anyone not in the *Royal Signals*. Another LAD personality to have left in the past year was the PSI, SSgt Marcus James, who was promoted to AQMS and posted to the *RA* in July. Marcus was with the *Squadron* for just over a year, but in that time he impressed everyone by his calm, professional approach and his wealth of experience; his replacement does not arrive until later in the year.

The positions of OC LAD and AQMS LAD are currently being "gapped", as is the position of second in command of the *Squadron*. If anyone wishes to be considered for any of these positions then please beat a path to the OC's door; age is no barrier since, in *HQ Squadron*, it is felt that experience, enthusiasm and good looks can always conquer age and infirmity!

Unlike some other units, *HQ Squadron* has not been hit too hard by current operations. One member of the LAD, LCpl Chris Larney actually served in the Gulf during the war itself, returning after six months, thankfully in one piece. Ironically he subsequently broke a leg playing football with his mates, and was out of action for a while, but has now returned to duty with the *Squadron*. His gift of a camel (battery operated) still has pride of place behind the *Squadron* bar. Two members of LAD have served on OPTELIC, and subsequently returned; Cpl Mickey Pearce served his time in the UK (and returned as a Sergeant), and LCpl Dave Brand served in the Gulf. At present there are still two members of LAD deployed on OPTELIC: Cpl Andy Vaughan is serving at the Mobilisation Centre at Chilwell, and LAD's Military Clerk - LCpl Caroline Hunt - is serving in the Gulf, where it is reported that she is finding the experience interesting and rewarding.

With regard to training, the past year has seen the usual variety of *Squadron*, *Regimental* and *Brigade* exercises. Annual Camp 2003 was held in Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic, and - as Lt Col Malik's "last stand" - was largely speaking a military extravaganza as opposed to a communications exercise. Members of *HQ (KCLY) Squadron* participated in a number of ways. Certain individuals

performed key roles back at base (an old Warsaw Pact facility). The PSAO was more or less the Camp Commandant, with tasks ranging from sorting out the hot water to haggling with the local food suppliers. Sgt Jones, the Master Chef, did sterling work in the kitchens, marshalling his team of chefs as they wrestled with unfamiliar foodstuffs in the very basic conditions. Meanwhile - out front - WO2 SSM Lapidge and his oppo, SSgt Twose, fulfilled admin, provost and driving duties, while behind the scenes WO2 (RQMS) Church and his oppo Sgt Conn kept a firm control of the Quartermaster's stores, and Sgt Davenport ran a surrogate *NAAFI*.

Away from the *Squadron* the OC undertook hush-hush duties with the *Regimental* planning team, much of which involved stooging around in camp making sand-tray models, or swanning about the countryside in a Russian land-rover, with a Czech soldier for a driver and a U.S. National Guard Officer, Major Spillers, as an observer. (Major SPILLERS later presented the OC with an engraved US Army Leatherman tool and an invitation to visit him in Hawaii; in return the OC gave him a nylon Union Flag from *Woolworths* and an invitation to visit him in Motttingham. . .).

Other members of the *Squadron* assisted with the training packages, with Captain Basey, WO1 (SVWO) McHenery and Sgt Woo helping to run the ranges, and WO1 Humphreys acting in the role of senior Warrant Officer until the arrival of the RSM later in the Camp. Those without a task in the admin or training teams found themselves in infantry sections, and participated with an enthusiasm which belied the hurtful notion that *HQ* is a *Squadron* of "Telly Tubbies" . . .

Overall Annual Camp 2003 was a Camp that was interesting, challenging and sometimes frustrating, but it was of great training value in teaching the *Squadron* how to function in unfamiliar surroundings and with unfamiliar procedures and equipment. Also, the activities after hours, and the visits to Cesky Krumlov itself and - particularly - Prague, were to provide much additional material for the tales and legends that form the *Squadron's* folklore, to be trotted out in years to come whenever the lamp is swung and the beers are sunk. No more need be said.

HQ (KCLY) Squadron was responsible for organising the Remembrance Day Services in November 2003, and made a special effort to focus attention on the background to Remembrance. In addition to the service at the War Memorial in Bexleyheath, there was a *KCLY* service in the TA Centre, which had been decorated with commemorative posters and photographs for the occasion. The latter service was accompanied by appropriate music, and included a poem about the Battle of Alam El Halfa, read out by the OC. Apart from the lack of the traditional post-service curry, the whole event was well received, and achieved the aim of remembrance without undue sentimentality.

Throughout the first eight months of 2004 Exercises have come and gone with the usual challenges and mixed results. The concept of Integrated Contingency Planning Operations has been an underlying theme, and the whole subject was thoroughly aired at a *Regimental* Weekend in January. During this weekend the OC gave a presentation on the *Squadron's* role in such ops, which - for some reason - had the *Regiment* rolling in the aisles with laughter (not quite the effect that he had intended!). Apparently it was not so much what the OC said as the way he said it; at least it broke up the afternoon and injected an element of humour into what can be a very depressing subject.

Another underlying theme has been the attempt to get on top of Equipment Care and the maintenance of vehicles. Certain weekends and drill nights throughout the year have been devoted to this, and key individuals such as WO1 Paul Humphreys, WO2 (RQMS) Andy Church, Sgt Jackie Morse, Cpl Barry Morse and Cpl Bob Myers have put in an enormous amount of work behind the scenes in order to address what seems to be the never-ending task of keeping the equipment and vehicles serviceable, so that the *Squadron* can remain fit for role. The possibility of a sudden mobilisation has given added urgency and importance to this task. With regard to

Equipment Care there has been good liaison with the Regular Staff, the LAD and the civvy fitters, and there is a feeling that, at last, the *Squadron* has “turned the corner”.

In April the LAD achieved excellent results at the *REME* Annual Competition known as “Southern Craftsman”, bringing back a cabinet full of silver trophies; the LAD shooting team brought back another clutch of silverware from the Skill at Arms competition (CORPSAAM) that same month. Year after year *71 (Y) Signal Regiment's* LAD has consistently done well in these competitions, and is regarded by *London District* as a Model LAD; no wonder it was a wrench for Captain Basey to leave. Throughout the whole Unit morale was running very high when, at the end of April, *HQ Squadron* deployed to Dibgate Camp to practise its role in replenishment and equipment support. The attendance was the highest of all Squadrons, and at the CO's final parade the *Squadron* basked in praise and sunshine. It was a similar story on a Squadron Exercise in May when, despite it being Cup Final weekend, there was a good enthusiastic turn out for a map reading and driver training exercise (which also featured a barbecue).

Pride comes before a fall! In June there was an unusually low attendance at a Squadron Range Weekend. Then, at a tactical Regimental Communications Exercise in July, the *HQ Squadron* turn out was so low that the SSM was on more or less permanent guard duty and the Command Post team loaded and unloaded the trucks and put up the tents. Meanwhile the LAD troops were taken away and used as enemy. There was some fear that the Squadron was starting to suffer the problem of routine poor attendance, which has been experienced and much discussed throughout the *TA*. However, at the Squadron MT Exercise in July – during which the Squadron worked with a *Warrior* Recovery Vehicle, a *Foden* and military quad bikes, and practised cross country driving – the majority of the *Squadron* turned up, and a great time was had by all. There was a guest appearance from Captain Basey (who had been posted a month before), and that night he and SSgt James were dined out in classic LAD style.

There is no doubt that *HQ (KCLY) Squadron* remains a healthy, lively unit, which is ‘fit for role’ and able to function well in a variety of circumstances. It comprises experienced, enthusiastic individuals who are keen to participate in military activities, and who have good morale. Teamwork, mutual respect and professionalism remain the cornerstones of the *Squadron's* approach. However, there is also no doubt that the members of the *Squadron* are getting older, with the average age probably nudging 35-40, such that over the next few years there will be a steady trickle of leavers. Over the past year the *Squadron* has had very few new recruits, so the mathematical inevitability is that – unless recruiting is addressed – the *Squadron* will go into decline. The PSAO, Captain Steve Slaney, has “seen the writing on the wall” and, as a result, “grabbed the bull by the horns” (to mix a few metaphors!). He has embraced the whole issue of recruiting with a degree of enthusiasm and expertise that is almost frightening to witness, and has created a complete recruiting team within the *Squadron* (whereas recruits used to trickle in via other Squadrons). As a result at least half a dozen new recruits are currently in the pipeline, and – as a spin-off effect – several existing members of the *Squadron* have become so enthused by the recruiting process that they have started turning up more regularly, “smart as carrots and keen as mustard”.

Therefore, notwithstanding OP TELIC, “Integrated Contingency Planning Ops”, “Rapid Compulsory Mobilization” and the possibility of Armageddon – not to mention endless equipment and vehicle checks and the squeeze on Man Training Days – there is a bright future for *HQ (KCLY) Squadron*.

Mickey Mustoe
Major
Officer Commanding
HQ (KCLY) Squadron (Sharpshooters)

265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (SHARPSHOOTERS) 71 (Y) SIGNAL REGIMENT

TA Centre, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QQ and
TA Centre, High Croft,
198 Dyke Road, Brighton,
East Sussex. BN1 5AS

Annual Camp

Camp last year was a great success! The *Squadron* deployed with *71 (Y) Signal Regiment* to a battle camp just outside Czesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic. Working closely with the Czech Army, we enjoyed the use of their range and training facilities before deploying on a four day battle exercise to a training ground which had hosted many eastern block tank exercises. The ranges, run by WO1 (SVWO) Stuart McHenerey, were unusual to say the least. A 1.5 kilometre strip carved out of native woodland hosted a variety of targetry which may or may not fall win hit! The extensive support from the range staff was very welcome as we had a habit of inadvertently shooting the wiring and control mechanisms along with the targets. They also let us test their own personal and issue weapons.

The training ground was one of the largest I have seen and contained a number of lakes with crossing points for amphibious tanks as well as dug out firing positions and dummy villages to use as live firing practice. We managed a cultural visit to Prague which allowed us to take in the National Army Museum as well as look at the Church where the remaining Czech Commandos held vastly superior German forces at bay for a considerable time after their successful assassination attempt on Heidrich. We also managed to sample some of their exceptionally good beer!

This year, we are looking at training on more familiar ground in the South East of England where we will focus on ITD training and range packages to improve our military skills before deploying on regimental and brigade exercises to practice our communications role.

Personnel

As we sadly waved goodbye to Lt Col Simon Malik, we were to say the least pleased that his replacement was yet another ex-squadron commander of 265 in the shape of Lt Col Hugh Robertson.

The command of the Squadron has also changed with Major Penny Wood having left at the end of March. On taking up command, it was always Penny's intention to give it her all for two years and then move over for somebody else to have the pleasure of commanding the *Squadron*. I am very pleased to have taken over that role.

Our Sergeant Major, Steve Shelley has now returned from his six month staff course and settled back in his familiar role. All thanks to S/Sgt Feather for standing in during his absence.

Sadly, our numbers are down on last year. The *Squadron* currently has 67 personnel on strength which represents 71% of our establishment. This is consistent with the other Squadrons in the *Regiment* and demonstrates the problems that many units in the South East in particular are having in attracting new recruits. Of the number on strength, 43 are fit for role, the vast bulk of remainder are recruits undergoing their training programme. In conjunction with *HQ (KCLY) Squadron*, we are now making an even more determine effort to attract new recruits with visits to local schools and business and recruiting stands at local events.

We have two personnel on FTRS. Sgt Andy Keeler is undertaking a second tour of duty with *97 Signal Squadron* based in Bosnia. This Squadron is made up entirely of *TA* personnel and, following the success it achieved two years, has been deployed once again. One of our technicians, Cpl Matt Cox is also serving in Bosnia and is enjoying it so much that he has elected to stay for a second tour. We all wish them both well.

KENT & COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS) ASSOCIATION

(Bexleyheath and Brighton Branch)

President: The Earl of Onslow

Chairman: Captain A.J. Jewell, T.D

Committee

Secretary: Vicky Baynard

Assistant: Liz Wrate

Treasurer: Maj Leon LeBesque TD

Membership: Webmaster Bob Andrews, Terry Mundy,
Michael Warren

Duke of Connaughts Own (Kent Yeomanry): Bill Daley

Curator Recruits Museum Room: David Whitehouse

Ex Officio: 265 & HQ Squadrons' OCs and SSMS

Contact Tony at, Glebe House, 15 Fitzroy Mews,
London W1T 6DP

Telephone 0207 388 1920 Mobile: 07831 451637

Email: jewell@beejou.demon.co.uk

Range Weekend

For me, one of the highlights of the Annual Training Programme will always be this weekend. It is one of the main opportunities for the *Squadron* to train and socialise together within an intensive programme all of which is designed to qualify them for their Bounty. This year, following on the success of last year's deployment to the Hon Col's farm, we spent the weekend in my mother's (rather extensive) back garden just outside Charing in Kent. This also allowed our SHQ to practice their skills in setting up in the field. As well as the usual training, we undertook a series of vehicle navigation exercises which were enjoyed by all.

Social Events

Op Fresco having forced the cancellation of our reunion dinner in 2002, we had another successful function last year attended by over 70 Old Comrades and serving members which also managed to raise funds for the *Branch Association*. 884 *Signal Troop* based in Brighton has hosted its own troop ball for a number of years and this year was once again held in the *Ramada Jarvis Hotel* in Brighton. Mess kit and black tie being the order of dress for the evening. Lt Simon McMenemy, Officer Commanding 884 Troop, played host to old Comrades as well as individuals who had helped us out during the year. A number of themed social nights are planned for the year as well as sports evenings against local firms.

Training

One of the most important events in this year's calendar has been the delivery in the communications system in REEBOK. This is a satellite communication system designed to give staff users immediate messaging facilities via what, to them, looks like an email system. Already successfully deployed on one brigade exercise, both troops are now undergoing an extensive training programme to bring their soldiers up to speed. This is one of only three such systems within the *Brigade* and heralds a new era for the *Squadron* in developing our current role.

Sport

The 265/HQ football team reached the final of the *London District TA Cup* losing 2-1 to 144 *Para Regt* in a close fought game.

In conjunction with 68 (ICCY) *Squadron*, members of 265 took part in this year's *Courage Trophy* at Longmoor in March. The combined team finished a respectable 7th out of 15. The 265 *Squadron* Cross Country running team was one of only a few to take part in this year's *London District TA Cross Country Championship*. Finishing 5th out of 6 Teams.

All in all, it has been a particularly challenging year for the *Squadron* and I am sure that we can look forward to another interesting 12 months.

Keith Wrate

Major

Officer Commanding

265 (KCLY) Signal Squadron (Sharpshooters)

As we go to press, the newly approved KCLY cap badge for C Squadron and their Cadets, and for the pouch belts of HQ and 265 Signal Squadrons is in production.

Souvenir badges will be available to SYA members at a cost of £10 (inc p&p).

Apply Tony Jewell on 020 7388 1920/25

Dear Friends,

Since the last Branch News, the Armed Forces and especially the *Territorial Army* have been praised and glorified by our Government and the MOD for their dedicated service and bravery in Iraq and other regions of the world. These postings have sent them to cauldrons of poverty, discontent, anarchy, political and religious persecution and potential use as aid to the Civil power at home.

Reserve call-up has now reached TELIC 5, which could achieve double figures by this time next year. As this letter goes to press, three more soldiers have been called up from *71st Yeomanry Signal Regiment*.

Sadly service in Iraq has caused diminishing recruitment and retention in the TA owing to the published and verbal news of cases of unfair dismissal and sidelining of soldiers returning from the Gulf by their employers, thus resulting in several Tribunal hearings. This is bad enough, only to be followed by news that the 'top brass' of the Navy, Army and Air Force, whilst under threat of dismissal, have agreed to more cutbacks and amalgamations reducing the Army to 103,000. The above decisions hang in the balance of who is to be the 'executioner' - the Prime Minister or the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Confusion is rife owing to a recent spate of Army recruiting advertisements in the National Press; for Regular and Territorial Army soldiers, compounded by headlines such as; 'Cuts betray those who risk their lives', and 'Hoon is making a mockery of improving the Forces'

Facts such as these seem to trivialise OUR efforts during the year, but the influence of the Honorary Colonel, Presidents and Chairmen of the Old Comrades Committees has never been so important since World War 2, as the content of these newsletters illustrates, and our two Squadrons have responded with tremendous loyalty, professionalism and spirit.

Branch News Update

We thank Major Penny Wood for completing her Stewardship of 265 *Squadron*, and we congratulate Keith Wrate on emerging somewhat frazzled from the bureaucratic maze of open selection to command the Squadron.

We also give a warm welcome to his newly appointed PSAO (Adj.) Captain Mick Gajda, *Coldstream Guards*. This will take the heat off HQ *Squadron* who have been hosting our branch for some months, with thanks to Michael Mustoe and Steve Slaney - including organising an excellent Range weekend for us at Hythe, where I shot the legs off my target with the SA 80, sadly it was zeroed by another soldier. Unfortunately the Squadron was unable to complete the 'Walk and Run' fitness test, owing to the lack of a qualified PTI,



Keith and Liz Wrate seen here with Lt.Col Hugh Maltby RA on May 14, 2004 on the occasion of the Dinner at Woolwich of London & Kent Artillery RA in which we were 265 Battery at Bromley.

and the REME had to ditch their adventure training through lack of a qualified Mountaineer; even though they were only Cross Country Walking! So Health and Safety at Work and 'Risk Factor' legislation for all Military activity has once again proved very destructive and disruptive. This of course has to be taken into account when planning training weekends and Camp - I did ask the question "What was the risk factor for service in Iraq?"!

Quarterly Committee meetings have been held during the year at Bexleyheath with the added bonus of an excellent supper as there is newly appointed Squadron Chef.

These meetings have a relaxing informality with senior ranks from the two Squadrons joining us as and when they are available. This also helps us with the planning and participation in the joint events of the year.

November 2003 Annual Reunion and Dinner at Bexleyheath was attended by 120 people. Staff Sergeant Martin Feather must be praised for the success of this happy evening, which will be repeated on Saturday November 12th 2005, ticket application info will be arriving in due course.

Remembrance Day. The Squadrons led the parade of Bexleyheath organisations through the town to the memorial, followed by wreath laying and lunch at the TA Centre. The same format for this year, Sunday 14th November 2004, when we will be hosting the main SYA Remembrance Day parade and service.

The Lord Mayor's Show. Terry Bodman organised the crew of the Sherman *Firefly* astride the low loader in the Parade. He will be asking for volunteers for this year's Parade shortly.

December 2003 KCLY Association 'Te Deum' Dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, in order to lift the spirits of the previous Commanding Officer of 71, Simon Malik and the current incumbent, Hugh Robertson, (both *Sharpshooters*), and also to celebrate the success of the *Sharpshooters* during the year. The Dinner will be repeated on December 6th 2004.



Lt Col Hugh Robertson and Tony Jewell at the 'Te Deum' Dinner, December 2003.

April 2004 IC and CY Regatta, Isle of Wight. The *Sharpshooter* boat was one crew member light but Terry Hackett and Simon McMenemy must be congratulated for winning the 'Rusty Shackle' for last place, owing to winning the 'Rusty Shackle' for last place, owing to misnavigation during bad weather. Volunteers for crewing are needed for next April.

May 2004 Cavalry Memorial Parade. A brilliant sunny occasion where all OCs attended the luncheon afterwards at The Duke of York's Barracks, hosted by the *Westminster Dragoons*. Most likely to be the last luncheon.

The London and Kent Artillery Ladies' Night at Woolwich. A glittering evening for the successors of this Regiment, including 265 Battery and 265, *Headquarter Squadron*, and the *London Regiment*. Over 100 people attended. Next year's dinner will be held at the Tower of London.

June 2004 The D-Day trip to Normandy proved to be of much magnificence. Brilliantly organised and led by Hodson, Rayson and Hannam the trip included a brief visit to St. Valery on behalf of the *Kent Yeomanry*. The Bexleyheath Branch sends profuse thanks to the organisers.



John Spencer and David Bluett in *Kent Yeomanry* headgear at Villers-Bocage 2004.

August 4th being the 90th Anniversary of the start of WW1 and remembering so clearly a number of Veterans from that war and the Boer War when I enlisted at St John's Wood in 1954, I went along to the Cenotaph where a commemorative service was being held. After the short ceremony I was wafted away by Viscount Slim and Lady Mountbatten to watch the Burma Star ceremony being held around the statue of Field Marshal Lord Slim of Burma. It was of course, also the anniversary of the dropping of the Atom Bomb that brought to an end the War in the Far East. Lord Slim went over and placed his hand on the statue's gaiter exclaiming "they've put the straps back to front!" - at that moment his features were a mirror image of those of the statue.

As I write, there are several social events in the diary for the rest of the year. Most imminently is this evening's *KCLY* Normandy celebration on the Amphibious D-Day landing craft *-DUKW-*. Thirty guests will visit key sites in London and then go by river to the Houses of Parliament and back on dry land to the Tower of London for the Ceremony of the Keys, followed by supper in the Yeoman Warders Mess.

Hopefully the next outing could be to the House of Lords, by the kind auspices of our President, Michael, Earl of Onslow.



PARISH NOTICES

Light Cavalry, Honourable Artillery Company

Recruiting of Troopers for Mounted and Dismounted ceremonial duties for this select unit is under way. We have three *Sharpshooters* currently serving. For younger recruits who require exciting, patrol soldiering and an amazing social life, The Honourable Artillery Company would like to meet you. Contact Trooper A.J. Jewell on 0207 338 1920.

Military Tailoring etc.

Mr. Chowdry, visiting from Pakistan, is again offering his services for reproducing guidons, crossbelts, stable boots, epaulettes, uniforms and blazers including badges and buttons. Phone 0208 509 2093