

E-Zine Newsletter



Volume 5 Issue 2

15th September 2013

Garden of Remembrance Remembered

RGJ "Mary Poppins" Found !



Garden of Remembrance
Pages 32 & 33



Inland Diving - Belize
Pages 34 & 35



It's a Small World
Pages 36 & 37

*Editor: Kevin Stevens
Artwork & Publishing: Seamus Lyons*

Welcome to the 14th edition of the E-Zine

SEPTEMBER EDITORIAL

It was HM the Queen who in 1992 described her year as “*Annus horribilis*” which translated from the Latin apparently means year of horrors or horrible year. Like most of us, probably, I translated the phrase a little more freely !! 2013 has become my own “*Annus horribilis*”. January saw the sad death of Ken Ambrose. This was swiftly followed by Steve Kinrade who I had been speaking to at Ken’s funeral, Steve had been the voice of reason during the difficult years pre 2007 and was someone I held in very high regard. May saw the death of another good friend, Dave Chadwick, who had served with me in the Parachute Display team in the 80s.



That brought us to early July and I was informed by our database manager, Roy Baillie, that he would be going into hospital to have his leg chopped off !!! Quite honestly, if he had wanted a holiday he only had to ask and I would have given the matter due consideration – then said No. He got as much sympathy from me as I did from him in 1972 after I was shot. Sadly I was next informed that Arne Bergsand who is the graphics designer behind Swift and Bold and the E-Zine had suffered heart and kidney failure and was in hospital. We all wish both Roy and Arne our best wishes for a speedy recovery. I was then told that Mark Adams who administers both the guest books and bulletin board had chopped off a part of his finger. That left Seamus and I.

Following what I thought was a small slip at work it transpired I had fractured the 4th and 5th lower vertebrae in my spine and this required surgery before I lost all feeling completely in my left leg. This has now been completed and they have removed the useless parts (there is not a lot of me left now) and I am sitting around idle so - no change there.

SEAMUS IS NOW WALKING AROUND WITH A GARLIC CLOVE AROUND HIS NECK AND CARRYING SILVER BULLETS, JUST IN CASE!

On the plus side we had glorious weather for the reunion and although we didn’t have a Band this year due to other military commitments, it should be pointed out that the band performances are dictated by the Army and Reunions are very low on the list of priorities. We had some old and bold Buglers who probably hadn’t blown together for many years who were absolutely brilliant and a big thank you should be extended to them for their hard work which made the entire parade worthwhile. Just a small footnote to this is that if it were to happen again a bass drum to maintain the pace would be a good idea because, and I say this without any bias at all, 1 RGJ were completely in step while regrettably the 2nd, 3rd and 4th could not keep up with the 1st!!!!

So summer comes to an end and we enter autumn. I would like to thank all those who have contributed once again to this edition and I hope you will find it enjoyable reading.

Kevin Stevens
Editor

Contents

Page 2	Welcome
Page 3	Foreword / Elizabeth Cross
Page 4	Contact List
Page 5	Forecast of Events
Pages 6-8	Mary Poppins
Page 9	Rifles Benevolent Trust
Pages 10-11	Deadly Virus Attack
Page 12	Photographic Archive
Pages 14-17	Minutes - Spring Meeting
Pages 18-20	73rd Anniversary of the Defense of Calais
Page 22	RGJRA Subscriptions
Page 23	Band & Bugles Branch
Page 24	Suffolk Branch
Page 25	Wiltshire Branch
Pages 26-27	Central England Branch / PJM Medal
Page 29	4 RIFLES Return to Sangin
Page 30	Veterans' Day SJM Bks
Pages 32-33	Light Division Garden of Remembrance
Pages 34-35	Inland Diving - Belize 1973
Pages 36-37	It's a Small World
Page 38	Care for Casualties Appeal
Pages 39-41	North East Branch
Pages 41-43	North West Branch
Pages 43-45	Riflemen Knock Out Tiger Tank
Page 45	Veterans' Badge
Pages 46-48	RGJ (Rifles) Museum
Page 49	RGJ Exhibits in the Museum
Page 50	Regimental Christmas Cards
Page 51	Order Form
Page 52	Buglers by Rik
Page 53	Memorial Benches Project
Page 55	In Memoriam

Foreword

by

Brigadier Hugh Willing CBE

Chairman of the RGJ Regimental Association

Our big event of the year was the RGJ Association Veterans' Day at Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester on Saturday 13th July. We were blessed with wonderful weather and a good turnout but unfortunately for the first time we were unable to get a Regimental Band to support the event. I know this was a disappointment to many of you and is a sad reflection of the changing times for our Armed Forces as they rapidly begin the process of reducing in size. Both bands were committed to other events but we were very fortunate that Billy Gledhill managed to get together some of our retired Buglers who did a splendid job on the day. We have already put in our bid for the band for next year's Veterans Day which will be on 12th July 2014. Put it down in your diaries now!



Perhaps the most heartening story we have for you is the re-discovery of Nanny Claire Neal who was in Regents Park in July 1982 when the IRA murdered and injured members of 1 RGJ's Band. She provided immediate assistance to the injured and dying and for her actions she was given the Ross McWhirter award and the Binney award, as well as a letter from the Prime Minister. She was the Guest of Honour at The Rifles Band Concert in Sunderland, near where she lives, and is now in touch with the surviving members of the Band through Dave Timms of the Association's Band Branch.

When you are next at Sir John Moore Barracks please visit the RGJ Memorial Garden which is beautifully maintained by our Winchester Association Branch. They have recently laid a new pathway in the centre of the garden and re-sited the memorial benches. Many thanks to John Fritz-Domeney and his team for their splendid work, and to Roy Stanger and his organisers for all they do to set up the Veterans' Day for us each year.

My best wishes to all fellow Riflemen.

Hugh Willing

Elizabeth Cross

The Elizabeth Cross is a commemorative emblem given to the recognised next of kin of members of the British Armed Forces killed in action or as a result of a terrorist attack after the Second World War. It bears the name of the current British monarch, Elizabeth II.

Families receive a large version of the cross, and a pin-on miniature, together with a Memorial Scroll signed by The Queen which bears the name of the person who died.

The scroll bears the words:

This scroll commemorates [name] who gave his/her life for Queen and country on the [day] day of [month] [year]



Contact List as at 15th September 2013

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Notes:

Any amendments to the above contact list should be sent to Roy Baillie.

• indicates that a Branch President has not been appointed.

Forecast of Events 15 Sept 2013 - 25 Dec 2013

Sept
 17 Turning of the Pages Ceremony (1055 hrs)
 19 Wiltshire (DERR) Officers' Regiment Luncheon Club
 19 RIFLES Officers' Oxford Club Lunch
 21 KRRC Delhi Lunch
 25 TBC Officers' Club Lunch

Oct
 TBC Awards Dinner
 4 D and D Officers' Club Lunch
 5 Association Dinner
 10 LI Club Dinner
 15 Turning of the Pages Ceremony (1055 hrs)
 16 The Rifle Brigade Regimental Dinner
 17 RIFLES Officers' Oxford Club Lunch
 24 Celer et Audax Club Regimental Dinner

Nov
 1 DLI Faithful Inkerman Dinner
 3 DLI VC Stone Annual Ceremony
 5 Inkerman Day
 7 RBL Field of Remembrance
 7 Turning of the pages Ceremony (1055 hrs)
 9 NE Branch RGJRA Reunion
 9 Turning of the Pages Ceremony (1045 hrs)
 9 RGJA Oxford Branch Reunion
 9 RIFLES & LI Association Taunton Branch Dinner
 10 NE Branch Remembrance Sunday Parade
 10 Remembrance Sunday, Cenotaph
 16 D and D Officers' Club London Dinner

Dec
 5 RIFLES Officers' Oxford Club AGM & Christmas Lunch
 17 Turning of the Pages Ceremony (1055 hrs)
 25 King's Royal Rifle Corps Regimental Birthday

Winchester Cathedral
 Edward Brooks Bks, Abingdon
 Davies Street, London
 Taunton Racecourse
 Davies Street, London
 Exeter
 Shrewsbury
 Cavalry & Guards Club
 Winchester Cathedral
 Cavalry & Guards Club
 Edward Brooks Bks, Abingdon
 Cavalry & Guards Club
 Fencehouses
 DLI Museum
 Westminster Abbey, London
 Winchester Cathedral
 Roker Hotel, Sunderland
 Christ Church, St Aldates, Oxford
 Edward Brooks Barracks, Abingdon
 Taunton Rugby Club
 Sunderland
 London
 Davies Street
 Edward Brooks Bks, Abingdon
 Winchester Cathedral

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 Salisbury Office
 Oxford Office
 London Office
 Taunton Office
 RHQ
 Dorset Office
 Shrewsbury Office
 RHO
 RHO
 RHO (Maj Ken Gray)
 Oxford Office
 RHO
 Durham Office
 Durham Office
 Durham Office
 London Office
 RHO
 NE Branch
 Oxford Office
 Oxford Office
 Taunton Office
 NE Branch
 London Branch
 Dorset Office
 Oxford Office
 RHO




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[HTTP://WWW.GREENJACKETS-NET.ORG.UK/CENTRAL/INDEX.HTML](http://www.greenjackets-net.org.uk/central/index.html)

The Royal Green Jackets and The Rifles Find Their “Mary Poppins”

In the summer of 1982 1RGJ was half way through a two year “residential” tour in Aldergrove, Northern Ireland. All Royal Green Jackets were rightly respected and feared by Northern Irish paramilitaries.

We knew that we had to be ever vigilant, whether in Northern Ireland or anywhere else in the world. Off-duty soldiers never wore uniform and Keeping the Army in the Public Eye (KAPE) was always a challenge. Each Battalion still had its own Band and Bugles and they played a key role in promoting the Regiment whenever possible. The events of 20th July must be seen in this context. On that eventful day, the IRA wreaked terrible revenge for the many successes that the Regiment had inflicted upon them. They did so in a way which was particularly hard to stomach. Indeed, subsequent events showed that attacking animals and musicians did huge damage to their cause amongst supporters in the USA (where so much funding was sourced) and thus made their on-going campaign harder to maintain in future years.

As a Troop of the Blues & Royals trotted through Hyde Park from Knightsbridge Barracks on its way to Guard Mounting at Buckingham Palace on the morning of 20th July, PIRA detonated a nail bomb which killed Lieutenant Anthony Daly, Trooper Simon Tipper, Lance Corporal Jeffrey Young and seven horses. Squadron Quartermaster Corporal Roy Bright died three days later in hospital. Many other soldiers, police, civilians and horses were injured.

Two hours later a second and even more devastating bomb exploded in Regent’s Park. It was detonated under the Bandstand upon which the Band of the 1st Bn, The Royal Green Jackets was giving a Concert. They were playing the theme-tune from the musical, “Oliver” at the time to a crowd of over 120 people. WO1 Graham Barker, Serjeant Robert Livingstone, Corporal John McKnight, Bandsmen John Heritage, George Measure, Keith Powell and Laurence Smith were all killed. All the Band members were injured as were a great many spectators. Corporal David Timms was so badly injured that he was initially presumed dead. One of the orderlies, when moving the bodies, noticed that there were signs of life and directed paramedics. He was in hospital for eighteen

months and has been in a wheel chair ever since.

Panic ensued as the crowd, aware of the earlier bomb in Hyde Park, fled the scene or lay wounded shouting for help. Only one person moved calmly but quickly in the opposite direction to give succour to the dying and the wounded.

Claire Neal was working in London as a nanny at the time. 31 years later, prompted by events surrounding the murder of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich, she described her actions that day in a letter to the Daily Mail:

“It was a beautiful sunny day 31 years ago, and, as a nanny, I had just arrived at the gates of the park with my two charges, aged seven and eight, to listen to the Royal Green Jackets playing tunes from the musical Oliver!.

As we walked through the gates, a huge explosion almost knocked us off our feet. A policeman, seeing my uniform, rushed up to ask me to help the injured soldiers while he looked after the children.

I just couldn’t believe the terrible sight unfolding before my eyes. The bandstand was on fire and soldiers were on the ground calling ‘help me, help me. I can’t see, I can’t stand up’. I simply didn’t know which one to respond to first.

I went from soldier to soldier, ripping up my petticoat, then my uniform, to bandage heads, limbs and bodies.

Many were calling ‘Mum, Mum, I love you — don’t forget I love you’ and ‘I’m sorry Mum, really sorry’. Listening to these brave men’s cries was heartbreaking.

Two died as I cuddled them, and I continued to tell them their parents loved them dearly and were so very proud of their brave sons. I had to keep talking to them, knowing they would somehow have comfort in the knowledge someone was with them as they were dying.

Paramedics arrived at the scene, and I helped lift the soldiers into the ambulances. It was only when the last soldier had been taken to hospital that I returned to the policeman who had been looking after my two charges. All three stared at me, totally shocked.

I thanked the policeman, then went to hold each of the children's hands to walk the short distance home, but they kept saying: 'Nanny, Nanny, you are covered in blood. Where has your dress gone?'

I must have looked a right mess, but was too shocked to realise. I just took one child by each hand and started walking back to the flat.

On the way, people were milling around in their hundreds after news of the bombings had spread. Some ran up to me asking if I was all right or if I needed help.

It was only when we got home and I went to change into a clean uniform that I saw myself in the mirror, covered in blood, and then understood why people had wanted to help and why the children were upset about the way I looked. I sat my charges down and in children's terms explained that bad things do happen and the bombing was a terrible tragedy for those poor men, horses and all their family and friends, and we must all be aware that what happened that day was, thankfully, a one-off and probably wouldn't happen again.

The Royal Green Jacket soldiers were musicians. They weren't in the fighting force, so the bombing was cowardly. I've often thought about the soldiers who survived and hope those brave men went on to lead happy lives, as I have."

Her understatement is palpable. In the midst of this terrible scene of carnage she calmly went from man to man giving all the strength, support and care that she could. She gave such real comfort to two as they died in her arms. When the emergency services first arrived on the scene they could not push through the crowds to access the Park, she laboured on alone. Once she felt her job was done she calmly walked away. It was three days before anyone discovered who she was and what she had done.

Subsequently, 1RGJ tried to contact her and bring her to Aldergrove, but the security situation made it impossible and she never made it. Shortly afterwards she took up a job in Saudi Arabia and then proceeded to work all around the world. She earned the gratitude of the Norwegian Royal Family amongst many others for her abilities in working with young people in a wide range of circumstances. Meeting her today, you can sense the calm and trust that she brought to any household who was fortunate enough to employ her. In 2012 she came back to England for a well-deserved peaceful retirement.

The next time that the 1RGJ Band played they left

seven vacant spaces in their ranks. Royal Green Jacket Bands never played the music from "Oliver" ever again. Following the merger of the Regiment into The Rifles, the tradition remained to leave this out of any repertoire. In 1994 the Battalions lost their Bands. Bandsmen were now part of the Corps of Army Music, rather than their own Regiments. The Royal Green Jackets had only one Band and this merged with others to form the Rifles Band and Bugles in 2007.

When Claire Neal wrote the above letter to the Daily Mail on 3rd June 2013, Ron Cassidy long in retirement read it and took action. He contacted David Timms, Secretary of the RGJ Band Association and horribly injured on that fateful day he also wrote to the Daily Mail who forwarded his letter to Claire. She was delighted to finally be in touch with the Regiment after so many years.

Many will have been at the Rifles Band and Bugles Concert in the Royal Albert Hall in November 2012. Those who were will never forget such an evening of music and emotion – that great space was filled with silver bugle-calls. However, many could not make it and it was decided that a version should be taken on tour around the country, especially to the Regiment's heartlands, such as County Durham. The first was to be in Sunderland Minster on 21st June. David Timms decided to invite Claire – and she accepted. She had never seen or heard a Green Jacketed Band perform. In his specially adapted car, provided through support from the Riflemen's' Aid Society and The Rifles amongst others, he drove all the way from Dover to the North East to escort her to the Concert.

There was a certain sense of expectation from everyone who was aware of the importance of the occasion. Claire was instantly identifiable – much as she had been 31 years previously, she was calmness personified in the midst of everything. Many members of the NE Branch of the RGJ Regimental Association were there, including its President, Brigadier Nicholas Prideaux. He was CO of the Rifle Depot in Winchester in 1982 where the 1RGJ Band were staying. He saw them off to London that morning and then the battered instruments being returned the next day. The sense of outrage amongst the people of Winchester was very real. On the day of the funeral of four of those who had been killed, the route of the cortege was lined twenty deep from Peninsula Barracks to the Cathedral as a mark of respect.

Emotions were already running high after the first half of the Sunderland Concert and in the interval Major Lawrence Sale, Director of Music of Band and Bugles of The Rifles announced that this was the last concert for Corporal Dicky Gospel, the final member of a Royal Green Jacket Band to be playing. He had joined 2RGJ Band in 1989 and was to retire the following week after 24 years. This was a notable evening for Royal Green Jacket music.

Lawrence then announced that the Band was going to play the music from "Oliver" for the first time in over three decades. He explained to the audience the events of July 1982 and how honoured we were to have Claire Neal and David Timms with us.

The Band played with greater intensity than ever – the sense of occasion was huge. As the music came to an end everyone except two rose instantly and spontaneously to their feet, the Band included. The standing ovation was immense. It is hard to capture on paper the overwhelming sense of being witness to a very special and extremely emotional moment. Colonel James Ramsbotham, now Honorary Colonel for D (Rifles) Coy moved to comfort David Timms who showed such courage being there and allowing so many memories to flood over him. There were many challenges there for him and also for Claire Neal who was sat beside him. Amidst that sea of emotions, Claire calmly asked James if she could say a few words to everyone. He led her to the stage where, with the Band on their feet behind her and the audience standing in front of her, she recounted parts of her experiences that last time she had been in the presence of our Band. She needed to say it to us and to explain her actions. Many ghosts were expunged in those moments. She could have done no more then and she could not have done more for us now. She helped our wounded and dying in 1982 and she was still helping us, especially David Timms. In our own way we thanked her from our hearts at the Concert as we had been unable to do so thirty one years ago.

The Band and Bugles were outstanding, accompanied by the Co. Durham Cadet Band and Bugles who are rightly lauded wherever they play, but Claire Neal was the star of the show. As everyone left one wife was heard to say: *"she even had an umbrella – she was 'practically perfect in every way' – she is our 'Mary Poppins' "*.

She has been a special member of the RGJ family for all those years, even if we were unaware of where she was. We will be much more careful of her in the future especially as she is now an Honorary member of the North East Branch of The Royal Green Jackets Regimental Association & we will ensure she does not fly off again.

James Ramsbotham

Editor's Note. In the Swift and Bold article next year there will be a fuller story with pictures.



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THE RIFLES BENEVOLENT TRUST

General

All members of the regimental family, past or present, should be alert for cases of hardship, which need and want assistance, and take the time and trouble to bring these, in confidence, to the attention to their local Rifles Regional Office, RHQ in Winchester or appropriate Battalion Welfare Office.

Application of Income – Eligibility

The income and capital of the Trust can be used to give assistance in any of the following cases:

- a. The relief in deserving cases of those eligible who are in distress as a result of wounds, sickness or other causes beyond their control.
- b. The relief of widows and dependent children of deceased officers, riflemen or soldiers in needy circumstances.
- c. The maintenance, education or advancement in life of children of deceased officers and soldiers for whom no parent or relative is able to make provision.
- d. The granting of allowances or financial help (by way of a grant) in the cases

of distress to officers, riflemen or soldiers, widows or dependent children to assist them in temporary difficulties or enable them to gain suitable employment.

- e. The granting of relief in cases of hardship or distress to dependants of officers, riflemen or soldiers, whether relatives or not.

Requests for assistance

- a. Applications from those serving should be made through the chain of command. There is an application form (Rifles Benev 1) which is passed to the Commanding Officer for his recommendation and onward to Regimental Headquarters for action by the Assistant Regimental Secretary Finance.
- b. Ex-Officers, Riflemen and Soldiers or Civilian Dependants.

Individuals should make applications in the first instance to the nearest office of SSAFA Forces Help or The Royal British Legion (Welfare Agencies) who will send a report to RHQ or the appropriate office.

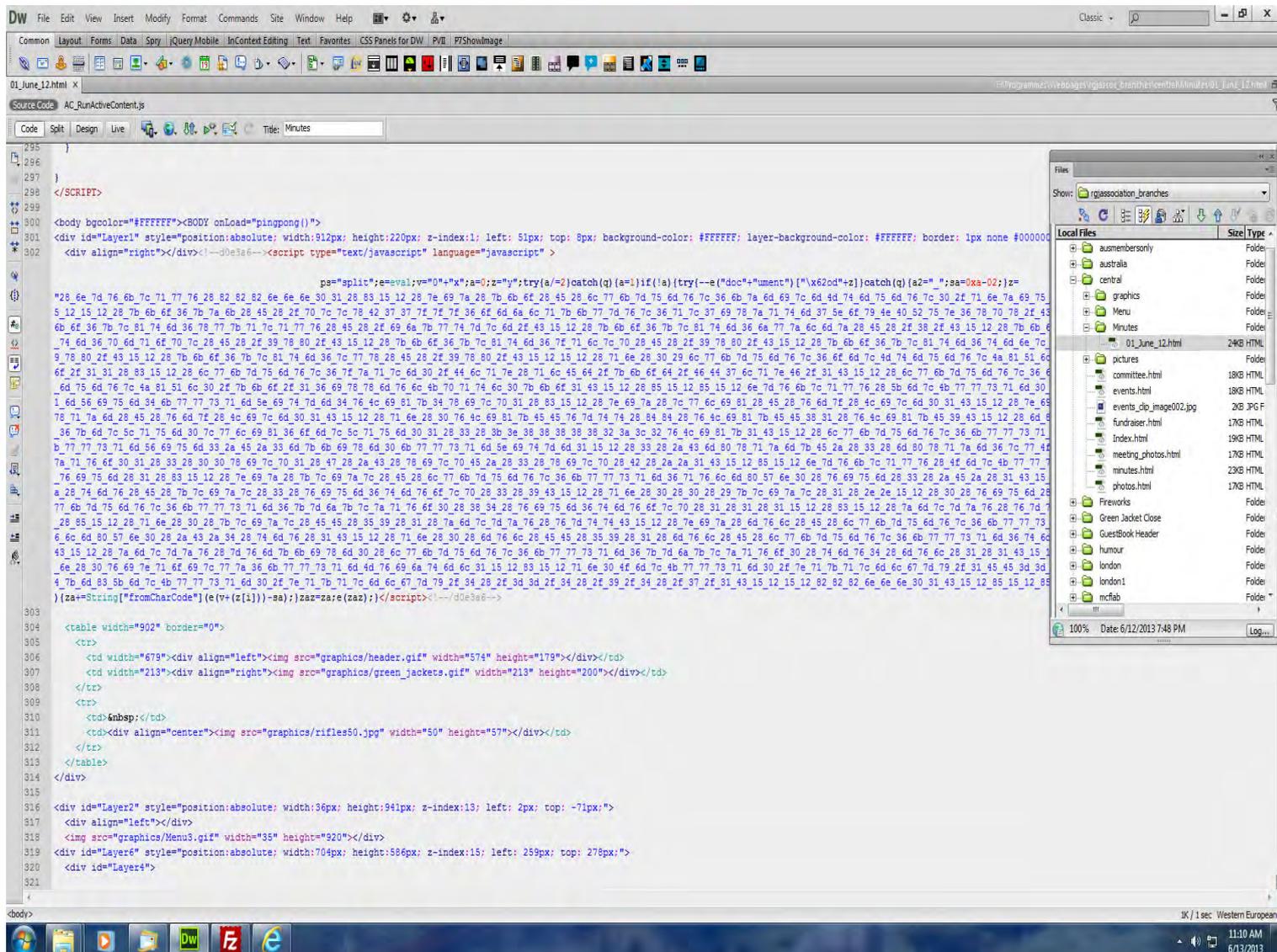
Deadly virus hits Association Server

On 5th June our Server was hit with the Blackhole Exploit virus, one of the most notorious exploit kits ever encountered. Although this virus is Russian in origin, we believe it came from China as, the day before; we had received an email from a (supposedly) Chinese government department asking if we were the legal owners of our Internet Protocol address.

I knew something was wrong when my anti-virus programme (AVG) wouldn't allow me access to the Association site. This was confirmed by various emails from members asking what was happening.

In consultation with Kevin Stevens, it was decided to close down the site on the 6th and for me to download it to my computer to enable me to clean every html / PHP page and JavaScript code.

I spent hours going through these pages and files of all our sites (Association and Branches) deleting the malicious code (photo below).



The Photo Site wasn't affected as it's on a different server. After all that, I thought we were in the clear but, no, my anti-virus programme (AVG) still wouldn't let me view the sites! I had to do a lot of browsing in different forums before I found out why. A few of these programmes when coming across a JavaScript file, will class it as a virus although it's not.

This is called a False Positive. At the moment, the only way to stop this happening is to close down the Intrusion Prevention part of your anti-virus programme.

The Google Search Engine had blacklisted our site and if you attempted to view it with the Google Chrome Browser or through Google Com or Google Co UK it would stop you doing so. On 18th June, I sent a second Index Re-consideration Request to Google and it came back to say the Site was now clean. HOWEVER, although it takes minutes for Google to Blacklist a site, it may take MONTHS for it to withdraw that classification! Having said that if you go to <https://www.stopbadware.org/my-site-has-badware> (which Google subscribes to) you will see that we have a clean bill of health.

At the time of writing, our Site is clean and can be viewed through Google Chrome (as well as Explorer, Firefox and Opera) but if you do a search through Google Search Engines for RGJ Assn the result will show you the link but also tell you that "This site may harm your computer". To stop this happening, **don't use Google to search for the site**. Use one of the Browsers I've mentioned, type in <http://www.rgjassociation.co.uk/> and when our site is shown, copy it to your Desktop and use that link all the time.

Please remember that I'm not a Coder and that our Server (and every other Server in the world) will always be susceptible to an attack. To protect **your** computer, make sure that your Anti-Virus is always up-to-date and that you also have an Anti-Malware programme as well. Malwarebytes is excellent <http://www.malwarebytes.org/> and is FREE.

Seamus Lyons

Members Database

It is important that information held on the Database is accurate and up to date, for example Service Records. Therefore would all members go to the Database and check their information.

Those requiring assistance, please contact Roy Baillie at membersdatabase@rgjassociation.co.uk.

wcmt.org.uk
Apply online



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Our 10 annual categories cover a wide variety of topics from the arts and crafts, rural affairs and the environment, to industry, technology, sport, young people, social concerns, and exploration.

100 awards are made annually for overseas travel of between 4-8 weeks. The average grant of £5500 covers all travel, daily costs and insurance.

For further details and to apply online see:

wcmt.org.uk

E-Zine Newsletter is published by the Royal Green Jackets Regimental Association on 15th June, 15th September and 15th December each year.

Please send articles for inclusion to the Editor (ezine@rgjassociation.info) prior to the 1st of the publication month.

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The RGJ and Antecedent Regiments Photographic Site

It was May 2012 when Ken Ambrose asked me to take over and redesign the then current site. His workload was such that he was finding it impossible to keep it updated and my taking on the responsibility would ease the “load on his shoulders”. Another factor was that I have the experience of designing websites and possess all the latest software programmes to produce a more modern, updateable, quick loading and easily accessed site. Going by the comments I have received since the site went live, I have achieved that aim.



The site is in memory of Bert Henshaw 1RGJ who amassed thousands of photo's during his 22 years' service. However, it contains only a small percentage of those as the remainder were not indexed and it would be impossible to show them in chronological order. Lots more have been donated by ex-members of the Regiment and their families, others begged or purchased from other sources.

It went live on 16th June 2012 with 34,164 photos, 1319 pages and 96,665 recorded views. Since that date, we now have 36,281 photos, 1503 pages and 117,463 recorded views (an increase of 20,798).

This isn't just a photographic gallery. It's our Regimental Photographic Archive committed to showing all aspects of Regimental Life. That means we need more photos donated by YOU! I am sure that there are many of you out there who have not sent in photos of your time in the Regiment.

There are two ways you can send them to me:

1. Via Recorded Mail to my home address (available on request or from database) so that I can scan and return to you.
2. Send scanned photos via email or We Transfer (<https://www.wetransfer.com/>) which is a FREE service.

All scanned photos MUST have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi (dots per inch). Please don't just put them in your Scanner and press the button. All Scanners have software that enables you to set it for various functions. If in doubt contact me (or read the Manual!). Don't worry if your photos are damaged. I will do my best to correct them.

Happy hunting!

Seamus Lyons

Seamus.lyons@rgjassociation.info



[Soldier Magazine - Click Here!](#)

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**THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
BRANCH CHAIRMEN / SECRETARIES'
SPRING MEETING; FRIDAY 12 April 2013
1000HRS RHQ THE RIFLES, PENINSULA BARRACKS, WINCHESTER SO23 8TS**

ROD

1	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>a. The Chairman, Brig Hugh Willing, welcomed everyone to this his second meeting since taking over the chairmanship.</p> <p>b. He encouraged participation in the RGJ Veterans Day on 13 Jul 2013.</p> <p>c. Drew attention to the many anniversaries coming up in the next couple of years, Battle of Waterloo 200yrs, WWI 100yrs, Calais 75 yrs & RGJ 50th in 2016 & other anniversaries which branches may or may not be participating in.</p> <p>d. He drew particular attention to the Waterloo 200 exhibition being prepared by the RGJ (Rifles) Museum.</p> <p>e. He encouraged all to spread the word and make use of the RGJ (Rifles) Museum shop for RGJ memorabilia and accoutrements as purchases from the shop assist in the upkeep of the museum.</p>	Chairman
2	<p>In Memoriam – CSgt Ken Ambrose</p> <p>a. The chairman formally recognised the late CSgt Ambrose’s amazing contribution to the RGJRA, the website, Swift & Bold and for always being there for the regiment.</p> <p>b. He also thanked the Website team for their quick and efficient work to so readily step into the void left by CSgt Ambrose especially in getting S&B out within such a short time.</p> <p>c. CSgt Ambrose will be a hard act to follow.</p>	Chairman
3	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Formal apologies were received from the North East and North West branches.</p>	Secretary
4	<p>Record of Decisions of the 16 Nov 2012 meeting</p> <p>a. Maj Stanger sought was authorised to spend £12.5k for the 2013 Veterans Day administrative costs.</p> <p>b. Maj Stanger sought further clarification on the arrangements for the availability for sale of RGJ crockery from 2 & 4 RIFLES which was provided by the Sec.</p> <p>c. Proposer: Maj Cassidy</p> <p>d. Seconder: Capt Darville</p>	Chairman
5	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a. ITEM 7 The Freedom Parade in High Wycombe will now take place on Sunday 9th June. Maj Gen Greg Smith will be the senior officer present. 7 Rifles and the Band & Bugles of the Waterloo Band will be exercising the Freedom.</p> <p>b. ITEM 21 No further enquiries had been received from individuals or branches in respect of members holding a paid Life Membership card signed by John Beerman who were not listed as such on the main membership database.</p>	Chairman
6	<p>Financial Update on the 2012 Audited accounts</p> <p>Specific comments on the 2012 P&L statement are:</p> <p><u>a. Income</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10k Regimental Grant received less postage claimed by RHQ; • Reunion (2012) bar takings down about £700 again. Gate takings down a similar amount (Overall 11% decrease). <p><u>b. Expenditure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reunion – Overall increase in costs about £870 (3%) compared with 17% the previous year. The marquee is the major cost item; • Swift & Bold – Decrease in costs of £400 (9%) compared with 2011 as a result of the design work being taken in-house by Ken Ambrose. • Computer costs £1k (98%) higher than normal in 2012 due to the needs of the additional staff recruited to the team and the expiry of some hardware (normal wear and tear); 	Treasurer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Streamline card reader has proved useful, although only 19 transactions were dealt with during 2012 and the auditor questioned its cost effectiveness (£270 inc start up) (This usage compares with 15 transactions so far during 2013). <p><u>Specific comments on the 2012 Balance Sheet are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trading loss of £2.1k leaves a balance of £17.4k compared with £19.5k in 2011. <p>The meeting accepted the 2012 audited accounts as presented. Proposer: Maj Stanger ; Seconder: Mr Newman</p> <p>A copy of the account summary sheets are attached.</p>	
7	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP UPDATE</u> Membership numbers as at 8.4.13. (Comparative 2012 numbers in brackets) are:</p> <p>Full: (956) 919 Officer: (540) 535 Life: (146) 152 Associate: (15) 16 Overseas: (161) 165 Total (1818) 1787</p>	Treasurer
8	<p>Pictures submitted to the RGJ Website The chairman advised the meeting that recently unsuitable and possibly controversial pictures had been noted in the photographic archives/gallery of the RGJ Website and asked members to very carefully consider the items submitted and the website staff to monitor input.</p>	Chairman
9	<p>Not Forgotten Association Garden Party 2 July 2013 Branches have nominated a number of people who have not previously attended. The names will be put forward by the Secretary to the NFA shortly and nominations advised accordingly.</p>	Secretary
10	<p>Forecast of Major Rifles Events/RHQ Rifles Update</p> <p>a. New Col Comdt in appointment from 1 Feb 13 – Lt Gen Nick Carter (Late RGJ)</p> <p>b. Official farewell to Gen Sir Nick Parker at the Rifles Officers' Club Dinner, RH Chelsea, Thur 11 Jul 13. A portrait of him as Col Comdt has been commissioned and will be unveiled at the dinner. The artist is Andrew Festing (late Rifle Bde).</p> <p>c. Band and Buglers bookings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing is 'free' anymore. Band availability, Reg or TA, not flush. Fewer Army bands and no reduction in requests/commitments. Requests for band and buglers all processed and approved through the Army Band Office in Aldershot (includes Reg and TA). <p>d. The Army Basing plan is now complete and the Rifles position is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 RIFLES – remains in Chepstow 2 RIFLES – remains in Ballykinler 3 RIFLES – remains in Edinburgh but moves from Redford to Dreghorn Bks (2014) 4 RIFLES – moves from Ward Bks Bulford to Aldershot (2015) 5 RIFLES – moves from Paderborn to Ward Bks, Bulford (NB 2016) <p>e. TA Laydown is still under consideration and Ministerial announcement hopefully before summer recess. TA Inf Bns will reduce to Bn HQ, HQ Coy and 3 Rifles Coys.</p> <p>f. Rifles Freedoms this year will be granted/exercised in:</p>	Secretary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 21 Apr – Wimborne Minster ○ 27 Apr – Birmingham ○ 2 Jun – Devizes ○ 9 Jun – High Wycombe ○ 22 Jun – Leeds ○ 29 Jun – Lyme Regis ○ 13 Jul – Ross on Wye 	
11	<p>Rifles Band & Bugles 12 and 13 Jun – The Band and Bugles of The Rifles take part (small) in the Horse Guards Beating Retreat. Tickets available through Ticketmaster on the Internet.</p> <p>Aug – The Band and Bugles of The Rifles participate in the Edinburgh Tattoo.</p> <p>For more detailed FOE see Rifles website.</p>	Secretary
12	<p>Plans of RGJ forming/ antecedent Regts to commemorate WWI (OBLI, KRRC,RB) No central RGJ commemorative event planned</p> <p>Our forming Regts have not notified any commemorative WWI events they may or may not be planning.</p>	Secretary
13	<p>Maintenance of RGJ Memorial at the NMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It has been noted that the RGJ Memorial at the National Arboretum Memorial is subject to flooding and water damage and had suffered from lack of ground maintenance. b. Investigations are being carried out to ascertain what remedial work (stone masonry & ground maintenance) needs to be done to rectify the situation. c. The RGJRA Central England branch has now taken on the task of local ground maintenance & periodic cleaning. d. The Secretary is in contact with the stone mason to investigate the raising of the monument above the flooding level and restoration of some of the lettering. e. Notwithstanding the above there are no plans to relocate the monument. f. Funds are available for repair if necessary. 	Secretary
14	<p>Website team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It was stated that the submission times for articles and other items for Ezine, S&B, Photosite and the Website are crucial. b. Branch contributions are an important element of our various publications. c. Maj Cassidy reminded everyone that “the entire workforce” were volunteers and asked everyone not to overload them. Timely submissions are important. 	Website Manager
15	<p>Swift and Bold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Contributors are asked not to duplicate contributions for Ezine & Swift & Bold. 	Website Manager
16	<p>Proposal for Astra Turf at the Sir John Moore Bks Garden of Remembrance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maj Stanger advised that Astra Turf would cost in the region of £900 and that the Winchester Branch were looking at other options namely gravel or stone slabs. b. The Winchester Branch was formally thanked for their maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance. 	Win. Branch
17	<p>RGJRA Veterans’ Day 13 Jul 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maj Stanger outlined the arrangements for the Veterans’ Day on 13 Jul 2013. b. Maj Stanger advised that the deposit for suppliers had been paid. c. 4 RIFLES Rear-Party will be assisting on the day. d. The meeting was well satisfied that all arrangements are on course and thanked the Winchester Branch for all their support to the event. 	Maj Stanger

18	Westminster Field of Remembrance 7 Nov 2013 a. The opening ceremony (1000-1200hrs) is a ticketed event for which the RGJRA get 10 tickets allocated by the Sec. b. After the opening ceremony the general public has access.	Secretary
19	Remembrance Sunday Cenotaph March Past 10 Nov 2013 a. Arranged by the RGJA London Branch on behalf of the Regt. b. First call on tickets is for members of the London Branch but other Assn members are welcome to join for the occasion. c. Interested parties should contact the RGJA London Branch for availability. d. Dress Code: Regtl Beret, Blazer & Tie, stout footwear & rainwear.	London Branch
20	Update on a proposal for a RGJ Memorial in Peninsula Barracks (MPB) Before asking the sponsors to articulate their revised proposal the Chairman stated that: a. It was a commendable idea but that the RGJ Memorial at NAM was and is the only regimentally funded memorial. Thus the MPB requires to be entirely self-funding not only for design, setting up but also for long term maintenance, cleaning and repair. b. If RGJA branches or individual members wished to contribute to MPB that was up to them. Mr Barrett & Mrs Rosser then presented various proposals for the wording on the MPB. In summary: c. After a very lengthy discussion and further proposals (and additional post meeting suggestions by Mr B) the wording for the benches was agreed out of committee and the project given authority to proceed. d. The Chairman agreed to brief the Management Committee (the ultimate custodians of the Regiment's heritage) on the proposed form of words and to seek their agreement. e. The Chm will write a letter of support for the Autumn E-zine.	Mr Barrett
21	Update on Arboretum Heroes Square Regtl Cap Badges a. The NAM are still collecting expressions of interest from interested parties. b. NAM advise that the detailed proposals & costings based on a Portland stone slab engraved with a Regtl badge are expected to be ready in about 5 weeks. c. The RGJRA will be sympathetic to contributing to the project.	Col Smythe
22	Corps of former RGJ Buglers availability for funerals etc. a. Maj Stanger advised that he and Ex BM Flavin are still working on a list of ex buglers throughout the regions who are willing to make themselves available for funerals etc . b. The sourcing of bugles etc will be tackled once individuals have been identified.	Maj Stanger
23	AOB a. The London Branch advised that their fund raising activities had raised in the region of £34K in the past 5 years.	
26	Date, Time and Venue of next meeting Friday 25 Oct 2013 at RHQ The Rifles Peninsula Barracks Winchester	Secretary

J-D v Merveldt
Lt Col (Retd)
Secretary
RHQ The Rifles
Winchester
SO23 8TS

The Oxford Branch Reunion will take place on Saturday 9th November 2013 at Edward Brooks Barracks, Cholwell Road, Shippon, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6HW.

1900hrs Bar Opens
1945hrs Waterloo Band & Bugles of the Rifles commence playing
2030hrs Public Address
2100hrs Curry supper on payment
0030hrs Bar closes
0100hrs EBB closes

All Association members and their guests welcome. Non-members are charged £5 admission.

The 73rd Anniversary of The Defence of Calais 23-26 May 1940 A commemorative Service at the Green Jackets Memorial Calais 22 May 2013



Green Jackets at Calais With the French Standard Bearers in the background

Members of The King's Royal Rifle Corps, The Rifle Brigade, Queen Victoria's Rifles, the London Branch of The Royal Green Jackets Association, the Vicar of Bow Church, the Hon British Consulate, members of Calais Town Council, French representatives of Legion d'Honneur, plus eleven French Standard Bearers (equivalent to the Royal British Legion Standard Bearers), paraded for the Service which was conducted by the Rev'd B.D. Burbidge CF of 7 Rifles.

Bugle-Major McCann with two Buglers from The Rifles, sounded Last Post and Reveille.

This short but moving Service, which many attend annually, paid homage to those who had fallen during that fateful short period of time in the May of 1940. Prior to the Service at the Memorial eighty as shown above sat down to lunch at the Cercle Maritime organised by Norman Hummerstone of the Queen Victoria's Rifles, who had organised much of the day. The restaurant overlooks the area where Green Jackets fought their last battle at Calais before having to surrender to the German Army.

The Memorial is in a position of being able to see on a clear day the white cliffs of Dover.



Background:**Chaplain-General's Address at Calais on 2 June 1951 at the Dedication of the first Memorial.**

“Eleven years ago, on May 30th, 1940, a War Office communiqué stated: “Last week a small British force was sent to hold Calais. In spite of repeated attacks and continuous air and artillery bombardment, the garrison held out for several days. By refusal to surrender, it contained a large number of the enemy and was of invaluable assistance to the main body of the B.E.F. This action will rank amongst the most heroic deeds of the British Army.”

A little later on June 26th, when the facts were better known a main column of The Times centre page was headed “ The Brigade that saved the B.E.F. “and a leading article under the title “ The Epic of Calais” called its defence” a story of heroism worthy to rank with that of any small force in the long history of the British Army.” The German Press wrote: “They defended with courage and desperation and the proven tenacity of their race. House by house had to be taken, for the Englishmen had made every building a fortress.”

Hampered by crowds of refugees, much of their equipment never unloaded from the ships, short of food, water and ammunition, without sleep from May 23rd to May 26th not fully aware of the importance of their task but knowing their orders to hold Calais, they did their best to hold it. On behalf of all, the Brigadier spurned the offer of surrender, saying “The British Army’s duty is to fight.” They fought yard by yard till the last small groups were overwhelmed, and even when it came to every man for himself the spirit was not quenched. One captured officer escaped, found an old dinghy and rowed it across the Channel to within a mile of the English coast, and 47 men, prepared to fight it out amongst the seaweed were taken off the rocks by a boat of the Royal Navy.

And so they held two Armoured Divisions for the vital period, enabled the Dunkirk perimeter to be established and thereby saved the B.E.F., and in the words of Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons, on June 4th, 1940, “added another glowing page to the glories of the light divisions.”

Those are the memories of the 30th Brigade, and within them live a multitude of valiant deeds too many to recount. As we gather round this Memorial to the Fallen of the Green Jackets we link with them their comrades of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Tank Regiment, the survivors of an Anti-Aircraft Battery, small detachments of the R.A.S.C., R.A.O.C., and Military Police, Doctors and Padres, gallant men of the French garrison and those who ran great risks to help on the sea and in the air.

All these great memories combine to give to those who look on this Memorial a threefold message from triumphant valour:-

1. That heroic sacrifice is never futile.

That no man who does his duty though he loses life itself, will find his sacrifice without blessing to others and, in the eternal issue to himself. The refusal to tolerate defeat is the sure prophet of inevitable victory, and the first word of this Memorial is: that as the fruit of limitless devotion, England, France and Calais are free.



2. That comradeship has the momentum of a tide.

When each man has a zeal for building up the common glory of his Regiment and knows that all around him serve the pride of its traditions, he trusts as he is trusted, his strength is multiplied, and men will do together what none could do alone. The second word of our Memorial is personal: it is the custom of the Green Jackets and of all true soldiers to do their job regardless of the cost.

3. That God abides supreme.

Around this place men passed beyond the reach of human aid and saw that only God could give them any future. They looked to Him with direct perception that His place is above all and His Presence all that in the end remains. Let our third word be: that only God is able to complete the life and work of men.

And so our memories, wrought into a message, send us forth upon a Mission to our people.

It is so to exalt in our land the good and upright life that future generations, sure of their right to live and give their contribution to mankind, shall in their turn resist to the utmost the attack of any foe and stand or fall, as did our comrades here with the religion, laws and liberties of our country. Around this monument to valiant men, let us see the primacy of character and virtue, resolve that our mettle shall ring as true when smitten by the hammer of measureless demand, and in that light see Peace, not as some soft easement of our state, but as the establishment in power on earth of that life of kindly service which comes from the perfecting Grace of God.”

“Only thirty survivors were brought off by the Navy and we do not know the fate of their comrades. Their sacrifice was not, however in vain. At least two armoured divisions which otherwise would have been turned against the British Expeditionary force had to be sent for to overcome them. They have added another page to the glories of the Light Division”

Mr Winston S Churchill the House of Commons 4th JUNE 1940

Note from R.D.C.: The British Expeditionary Force was beginning their evacuation of Dunkirk.



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Findon Garden Centre - Rogers Lane, Findon, West Sussex, BN14 0RE, Tel: 01903 877286

Application and Renewal of RGJ Regimental Association Annual Subscriptions by Card Payments

With immediate effect anyone wishing to apply for or renew their annual Association membership subscription will be able to pay over the telephone by debit or credit card transaction. To pay your subscription in this way please call the Membership Secretary, Mike Marr, on 01235 548 018 between the hours of 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. He is available to receive payments on most days.



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Band & Bugles Branch

Band and Bugles Reunion Report

We held our Annual Reunion last October in Winchester, where 116 signed in members with more than 30 guests had a most enjoyable afternoon.

A small Band, consisting of members of the Waterloo Band of the Rifles and some reunion members, along with what seemed like 100s of buglers provided entertainment for about an hour. Although quite a few favourite pieces of music were played, Finlandia was not one of them. Bugle marches were popular and the Band finished with Regimental Marches.

I have received requests for the Band to play for longer next year. We intend to play between 12.00 and 14.00hrs. -- Keep an eye on the Band web page for confirmation -- Please let me know if you intend to partake in the blow and supply me with the following detail.

Name / Instrument - music to play -- return with slip please

During lunch a small, but worthwhile, raffle and a members only cash draw took place.

The Reunion ended at 18:00hrs with a few members staying on and continuing straight into the evening entertainment supplied by the club. Others returned after a short break and the party continued until late into the night.

A reminder for next year - please remember that the Club is open to its members while we have our Reunion and that we only have the use of the main hall.

Due to ever increasing costs, we are no longer able to produce an annual newsletter, but instead will be adding periodically to a newsletter on the Band and Bugles website. Members without internet access will be able to obtain a printed copy on request. Requests may be made via the Band Web site, Facebook, or by Email or Phone me 07850163548.

This years reunion will be on Saturday 12 October,

same time / place. Return slips will be sent out so please send them back ASAP or email secretary@rgjband.com – or text/call 07850 163548. Please do not respond via Facebook. RETURN SLIP AND PAY ON LINE – www.rgjband.com

PLEASE NOTE: - Those requiring hotel rooms next door:

Due to a change in ownership, I am no longer able to get preferential rates. (We have done well for quite a while). The best deal that I can get is £100 for Friday and £115 for Saturday; this is per room B&B. I have looked at other hotels and they are all about the same, Holiday Inn for our dates £81/£99 per night B&B, plus a taxi fare of £10 each way.

The Hotel may require a non-refundable deposit (I believe it to be 50% payable in August).

If you require a room call/text or email me with your name, nights required and room preference, double, twin or single. I will then give you a reference number. Don't delay as there are only 6 rooms available for just Saturday night only.

See you there.



Suffolk Branch

Suffolk Branch at Felixstowe with Larry and Julie Lambs' Annual Barbeque

What a splendid treat it was for us all to meet up once more at the Barbeque of Larry and Julie at their home in Felixstowe, where they and their family made us all feel so very welcome.

They had made a point of inviting three local widows of the Regiment, Doreen Bolt widow of Taffy, Jenny Powell widow of Bugle-Major John and Jenny Evans widow of Tommy. It could not have been easy for them but they are very much of what we had done over the years and took part in the banter and recollections that went on throughout the long afternoon which started at about two pm until after eight pm, though Ian McT managed to be there at 12noon!

The food as usual was scrumptious and apart from the wide range of meats to be eaten; there was a tasty salad et al and a chicken curry, but surely the pièce de résistance was Julie's home-made puddings: Strawberry pavlova, Chocolate brownies, Lemon cheesecake, Raspberry ripple ice-cream, Pimms jelly, Profiteroles and Summer pudding, All to be washed down with wine and beer! Though who wants wine and beer when you can have Pimms jelly?

This was very much the Lamb's party with Steven, Victoria, Ashton and James Lamb, who all helped in their own way.



Back L-R: Dave Rowlands, Frank Allan, Ian McTaggart, Michael Bardo, Ron Cassidy, Peter Bond, Michael Downey and Gordon Pilcher.

Front L-R, the more aged: Larry Lamb, Joe Mills, Del Hemsley, Frank Moss, and John Bevan.

Present but not in the picture, Mick Read who was camera shy. The wives and their family members present declined to be in the picture!!

Wiltshire Branch

Firstly I would like to thank all those of the Regiment who sent me their best wishes during my longish stay in hospital (it was a close one), thanks again!

Since our last article, we of the Wiltshire Branch have been sticking to our mandate and having fun. Foremost is the "night at the races" which was an evening horse racing meet at Salisbury Race Course. Torrential rain dampened nothing and branch spirits were high. The turnout was good approx. 20+, all had a flutter and the results were pleasing (except for Phil Ashby). His wife Val, her sister and brother in law did a bet called a 63 and they won £318 each, Phil who did his own thing

won £1.86.! The racing over, we were entertained by a Cold Play tribute band "Cold Plaice" sorry, "Place" who had the place jumping. Then back on our coach and back to wet Warminster and the Con Club for a night cap. A good night.

Alas, it is the time of year where for our Branch reality takes a back seat and the surreal and disturbed take over, the annual summer BBQ. This year the theme was "Glam Rock", the venue at our lovely Leslie McCoy's house. Weather was good, the food excellent, the turnout and atmosphere brilliant. Of course, drink was in abundance so the mood was well relaxed.



Things to come

September 26th has a Branch meeting at the Conservative Club, October 10th – 14th has us on a long weekend to Gibraltar to celebrate Phil and Val Ashby on their 30th wedding anniversary, well done you two. November is busy with our poppy collecting at Waitrose on Friday the 8th, Remembrance Sunday the 10th with lunch and parade at Green Jacket Corner, the Armistice day parade Monday 11th. Then Friday 29th has a firm favourite event skittles plus fish and chips! On to December 5th with our next meeting again at the Conservative Club then following that we have Christmas Eve drinks at the Conservative Club.

All in all the Wiltshire Branch is in fine fettle always looking for new members, we don't bite. Any enquiries or to contact someone in the Branch please contact me in the first instance, e mail glm1114@btinternet.com or leave a message, a clean one, on our website www.wiltshirebranchrg-jra.co.uk feel free to look over the website.

We will always have fun.

Lee Massey.

Central England Branch



The Central England Branch has had a steady few months since our last zine entry. Firstly we had the Armed Forces Day on 29th June in Birmingham City Centre which proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved. Aided by some excellent weather following a dour wet period, the event was supported by numerous branch members and the highlight being the yielding of 12 new members. The Lord Mayor (outgoing and Incumbent) both visited our stand personally and thanked us for our attendance. This was particularly pleasing especially after a rather poorly marshalled parade and March-past which was vastly enhanced by our 'superb drill'!! The parade in Centenary Square was a long-winded affair but was well received by the local community turning out in their droves to pay tribute to our boys and girls. Branch Treasurer 'Guy Mynett' had once again excelled and squared the admin away and we are all looking forward to AFD 2014.

We did not have a function in July/August largely due to the Regimental Reunion. It was pleasing to see the branch represented by many of our members all donning their branch polo shirts and we managed to recruit a couple more members with three or four others potentially wishing to join.

The weekend was excellent, not just for the branch but the reunion as a whole. The amazing thing is that despite going annually, there are always people you haven't seen in ages. The turnout was good all round and again the Gods looked down upon his band of Riflemen and we were blessed with the hottest day of the year. "The downside being, more amber nectar needing to be consumed to cope with heat"!!

Mark Picken was once again left to carry the banner of the branch whilst the members enjoyed the local hospitality around Winchester. That coupled with his EG Frames Stall (<http://www.egframes.net/index.php>) were kept busy and was utilised as a focal point for anyone wanting information about the branch.



We have an idea in the pipeline which I have sent separately to Seamus Lyons which hopefully will be published in this edition of the RGJ Zine. Some of our fellow Riflemen will have heard us canvass the idea at the reunion. Essentially it is to put on a festival of Riflemen entitled: 'GREENSTOCK', to be held in the Central England region (Nuneaton) and staged over the Bank Holiday weekend (29th – 31st August 2014). Camping, Marquee, Bar, Stage, Bands/Music/Entertainment, Food stalls, bouncy castles etc. Please could you give this wide publicity as we would like an idea of potential numbers wishing to attend? It is possible that we will blister a charity event onto ours to minimise cost/maximise contacts for bands/equipment etc. Nonetheless, it will be a great weekend if supported well. As a pilot scheme, if it is successful, we could look to expand for 2015 and make it an annual event. For the record, this is no way in competition for the Annual Reunion as we could not compete, and would not wish to take that away from our Ancestral Home,

Central England Branch

but it is an 'ad hoc' event aiming to cater for all Riflemen (RGJ and RIFLES) and is non-profit making except for cost and charity only.

Our next gathering is Saturday 21st September 2013 1300hrs onwards for our annual gathering at the Nautical Club (Bishopsgate St, Birmingham City Centre – just off Broad St). The event will be a social get together, raise some funds for C4C and to present the new award to the Branch Rifleman of the Year. We also say a prayer for our fallen, toast the Regiment and play our Regimental Anthem...followed by the complete CD and plenty of Port!

In summary, the branch is well established and continues to grow at a steady pace. Our members are what make it a special organisation and it is our members that are promoting the group through word of mouth and their dedication to maintaining interest within the heart of England.

“God bless all Riflemen”

The Central England Branch Committee:

President	-	Michael Leeming
Chairman	-	Mark Picken
Secretary	-	Peter Page
Treasurer	-	Guy Mynett
Entertainments	-	David Brown
Recruiting	-	Timothy Harvey
IT	-	John Brown

If anyone is interested in becoming a member or involved with the branch, please peruse the following media:

Facebook Page: Central England Branch RGJRA
www.cebrgjra.com

“Celer et Audax “

Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal

The Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) (English: Malaysian Service Medal) is a medal given by the King and Government of Malaysia. Established 3 March 2004, the medal recognizes service by members of the Malaysian Armed Forces during the Malayan Emergency, Second Malayan Emergency, and the Indonesia–Malaysia confrontation. The medal was also offered for award to members of the Commonwealth forces from Australia, Fiji, India, Nepal, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom who served in Malaysia during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesia–Malaysia confrontation. The award is in recognition of “distinguished chivalry, gallantry, sacrifice, or loyalty” in contributing to the freedom of independence of Malaysia. The medal can be conferred and accepted posthumously by next of kin.

On 6 November 2011, the Ministry of Defence published a notice announcing that British Veterans would be able to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, for the first time, starting with Remembrance Day events on 11 November 2011.



CENTRAL ENGLAND BRANCH
GREENSTOCK
2014

'a festival of riflemen'

camping

live music (all genres)

stage

bar

marquee

bouncy castles

food stalls

AND MORE !

29 | 08 | 2014 - 31 | 08 | 2014

planned to be held at Bramcote (nr Nuneaton,
West Mids) August Bank Holiday 2014
hosted by 30 Signal Regiment

The Central England Branch
Need Your Feedback

please email petepage71@hotmail.com

4 RIFLES return to Sangin to tackle Taliban



About 80 members of 4 RIFLES returned to an area of Afghanistan they had previously defended to assist Afghan troops fighting Taliban insurgents. The week-long mission came after Afghan military commanders requested assistance in Sangin district earlier this month (July). The operation saw troops from the Brigade Advisory Group, made up of 4th Battalion The Rifles, provide support to 3/215 Brigade which moved north into Sangin, clearing compounds and seizing insurgent weapon stashes.

The Ministry of Defence said some insurgents were killed or captured but there were no British casualties. During the operation, more than 30 improvised explosive devices were found and destroyed by the ANA, and two insurgent vehicles were seized along with ammunition and weapons.

According to the Sunday Times, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond personally authorised the return to the area for British forces. It said 106 British personnel were killed in fighting there between 2006 and 2010. The paper said the threat to the troops was considered so great that, at the MoD's request, it delayed reporting the operation until it had finished.



Veterans' Day and Drum Head Service

Sir John Moore Barracks - 13 July 2013

We regret the lack of bands and other activities for the Veterans' Day on the 13th of July but this was out of the control of the organisers, almost at the last moment they were informed The Rifles Band had been sent to Scotland and the Waterloo Band to do a Freedom Parade, both sent by the MOD. Realistically there is little that one can do when this happens.

In the future with the planned new set up for the organising committee chaired by Major Roy Stangar it should be possible to let all know what has been arranged at the Spring Meeting of Branch Secretaries.

The two of us have been going to Regimental Reunions for many years and these in the past didn't have Sounding the Retreat, the criteria being to meet up with chums over a drink, and just chew the cud.

What we would ask is that the Service of Thanksgiving on the square be allowed to be conducted with the dignity you would want for a chum who has sadly died, for whatever reason. More importantly we are reminded that some widows attend and they surely deserve a lot more respect in their memories of us all than what is occasionally given.

So in conclusion no more loud chatting on the bank, certainly we should not be doing so on the square.

Roy Stangar and John Fritz-Domeney



Bugle Practice - Sir John Moore Barracks - 13th July 2013

Peter Noble - Peter Tresadern - Tim Marsh - Bill Gledhill - Frank Hill - Daniel Lewis - Anthony Bishop
Photo from Mark Westbrook

**ONLY THE MOST
LOYAL SUPPORTERS
TRAVEL WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU
NEED TO GO.**

WHEN BRITAIN'S ARMED FORCES ARE ON THE MOVE, THEY DESERVE A BACK-UP TEAM THAT'S ALSO PREPARED TO GO THE EXTRA MILE. IN THE LAST 20 YEARS WE HAVEN'T MISSED AN AWAY FIXTURE, DELIVERING SEAMLESS SUPPORT WHERE IT'S NEEDED, WHEN IT'S NEEDED. EVERYTHING FROM TANKS TO TENTS AND BOTTLED WATER TO INTERNET ACCESS. AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, WHEREVER THE ARMED FORCES GO, WE'LL BE THERE.



KBR
WE DELIVER

Light Division Garden of Remembrance Sir John Moore Barracks

At precisely 1745 on the 14th July 2012, approximately one hundred and fifty retired mixed ranks of the Royal Green Jackets formed up on the square at Sir John Moore Barracks for the traditional Veterans Day Drum Head Service and March Past. As one would expect on such an occasion there was more than a little confused shuffling around and good humoured banter within the ranks as everyone tried to sort themselves out.

Meanwhile sitting opposite on either side of the saluting dais were a number of high ranking retired regimental officers and their ladies together with several hundred more wives, children and relatives of those on the parade all looking forward to the spectacle and fun of the march past.

However as always on these occasions a short and uncertain pause then ensued as everyone looked towards the approaching padre who would begin the service. However before he had even reached the dais and without warning a little bit of unexpected, slightly shocking and even comedic drama erupted as an ex member of the regiment stormed the saluting dais, grabbed the mike and started to angrily rant in fluent Klingon, Newey Brown Ale and Slidex all of which was interspersed with Anglo Saxon words such as £\$%^ &*f* ^%\$£” and *&f ^%\$\$\$£”!* Then just as quickly as it started and with his point made he turned dismounted the dais and returned to the obscurity of the crowd.

A professional translator later confirmed what had been said. In essence it appeared he was ‘extremely upset and disappointed’ in the condition of the Garden of Remembrance and those who supposedly looked after it or words to that effect!

OK. We know this is probably not the best way or even the right occasion to put ones beef across but in truth it had the desired effect and certainly concentrated everyone’s minds on what was clearly a neglected problem. As a consequence of this incident the RGJRA (Winchester) branch decided to look into the issue and regardless of regimental convention do something about it.

Unsurprisingly and without going into unnecessary detail or apportioning belated blame the main reason for the Gardens’ decline was found to be simply due to administrative instructions being omitted from tendering contracts for the garden maintenance of the barracks. Nuff said!



So what have we managed to put together and achieve so far? Well it would have been nice to have had it done professionally by getting Groundforce in but as we all know we are neither a fame hungry family with a grotty garden nor benefits dependent, and anyway Charlie Dimmock had a previous engagement!



As a consequence we put together our own dedicated Groundforce team who worked tirelessly at great expense in both personal time and effort over many evenings and weekends landscaping the ground and refurbishing the garden furniture and memorials. Having said that and regardless of what has been achieved the garden still remain a work in progress with plans to lay a slabbed pathway around the outer garden and plant more shrubs and other ground cover more suitable for the poor condition of the soil on which the whole barracks is sited. On completion and with regular maintenance we believe it will not only be a beautiful and fitting resting place for the ashes of our lost Riflemen, but a lovely place to simply sit and enjoy the peace and tranquillity it instils.

We do hope you are happy with what we have achieved over the past year and further assure you that as long as our aging bones and joints are able to function we will continue to look after this small but important part of our heritage for you.



RGJRA (Winchester) Branch



Xunantunich Pyramid, Belize



Inland Diving Expedition - 2 RGJ Belize 1973

I ran the Battalion Diving Club during our tour of Belize and was a qualified BSAC (British Sub Aqua Club) and ASADA (Army Sub Aqua Diving Association) Diving Instructor and Diving Marshall. Our Diving Officer was Major Adams.

An Army Air Corps Helicopter pilot came to me one day and gave me the coordinates of a man-made spherical pool deep inside secondary jungle. In consultation with Major Adams, it was decided to mount an expedition to find and dive in the pool. This is ancient Maya country and it is known that they offered trinkets to their Gods by dropping them into pools. We decided to see if there were any in this one!

We loaded up a couple of Land Rovers and trailers and set off. I won't go into the trials and tribulations of getting two vehicles through secondary jungle but on the second day we arrived at the location.

After setting up camp, the first thing we did was to plumb the depths of the pool. It was Sixty feet deep and the water was salty! As the crow flies, we were about seven miles from the coast. Also, about three quarters of the way down there was an obstruction which I later found to be a tree trunk.

As dive leader, I took the initial dive along with Arthur "Bogey" Knight as my "Buddy". I was attached to the surface team by a safety rope and Arthur was attached to me by a 6 foot buddy line. As we knew of the obstruction in the depths and that there was nil visibility after 3 feet, we doubled our diving weights to counteract our buoyancy and enable us to descend.

Due to the nil visibility we would not have been able to see our air gauges (they weren't luminescent) so the surface team had instructions to give us the ascend signal on the safety rope if we were not back inside 30 minutes.



I had previously had a conversation with Arthur in which I explained that as we were going into unknown waters in pitch darkness it was possible for one's imagination to run wild and to start breathing very quickly. This of course would decrease our air and, more fatally, could possibly lead to us "beating the lung". This is caused by demanding air very quickly from the Diving Regulator which causes it to stop working (it's more technical than that, but you've got the idea). So, we both had to remember our training and not panic!!

After ensuring that everyone knew the correct rope signals, we commenced the dive.

Even as an experienced sports diver with numerous night dives under his belt, I still found the experience of diving feet first in utter blackness quite an experience. So did Arthur as it wasn't long before he was holding my hand!!

All of a sudden I came to a complete stop! There I was in complete blackness, with Arthur, and somehow I wasn't going anywhere! Because we were in salty water I started to imagine that there was a cave or opening near the bottom and perhaps we had gone into it and swept along the passageways back to the Sea! . I felt for my air exhaust (bubbles) from my tank and they were going upwards but when I felt for my safety rope it was going downwards!!

What should I do? Should I disconnect the rope and swim upwards or follow the rope downwards? Remember what I've previously said about panicking and training? I gave Arthur a hug to convey that everything was ok and then started pulling him with me as I went down the rope.

The next thing I knew was seeing stars and realising I had banged my head against something! Was it the roof of the "cave"?calm, Seamus, calm!

I explored against it with my hands and found it was that bloody tree, with the safety rope going underneath it! Once I realised the ramifications of the rope, I felt immense relief.

On our Descent, we had passed by the side, gone underneath, and started to Ascend on the other side. We ended up hovering above it with the safety rope going downwards, underneath and upwards to the surface! I put Arthur's hands on the tree and he immediately realised what had happened. I gave the "coming up" signal on the rope and we slowly headed for the surface.

When we were on dry land, I gave an account of what had happened and called the dive off. It would have been too dangerous for divers with no "black water" experience to help them.

We spent the rest of the day looking for Maya relics in the jungle (no luck), bedded down for the night and departed for Camp the next morning.

I think the moral of this story is.....REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING.

Seamus Lyons

It's A Small World

by

Joe Taft & Eddy Bennet

It all started when I received my Army national service call up papers to attend a medical board in 1953, I signed on for three years with the 1st Bn Rifle Brigade, arrived at Winchester Barracks on 29th September, did my basic training and joined the Regiment at Bulford, On the 9/11/54 the Regiment sailed on the troop ship MV Georgic to East Africa, and was stationed there until 28/5/56.

During that time we lived under canvas 4 men to a tent, I was with A Coy. Each Company was deployed in different locations, our job was Patrol--Do Night Ambush--and Farm Guards, Our Social life was nil.

Now this is where my story gets interesting. HQ thought it would be good for the lad's morale to send the Regimental Photographer & Film Projectionist to each Company in turn to show a Movie, This only ever happened once that I can remember, the night he came to A Coy and run the Grace Moore Story. We watched it under the stars, I never forgot that Movie,

The Regiment was sent to Malaya on 29/5/56 to 18/5/57. I left Malaya to be demobbed.

My wife, I, and son moved to Australia in 1969 and have been there now for 43 years. We recently decided to sell our house and buy elsewhere, Our Agent told us of a house that we might like to see, We both liked it but the bonus for me, and all Riflemen will know what I mean, was the name of the street... Waterloo, A few days after moving in, I was out walking my young Golden Retriever dog who is very friendly and thinks everyone he sees is his friend, I had walked past 8 houses from my own and a lady was in her front garden when my dog Robbie went over to her to say hello. I stood and talked to her for a while and could not believe what I hearing, She told me she met her husband to-be when he was in the Army in Malaya in 1957, Yes he was in the Rifle Brigade and was the one that showed us the movie that night in East Africa, the Grace Moore story!

How about that? Two riflemen living in a street called Waterloo just 8 houses away from each other, on the other side of the world!

m.v.Georgic



Hi, I am Eddy Bennet the other Rifleman who lives down the street from Joe,

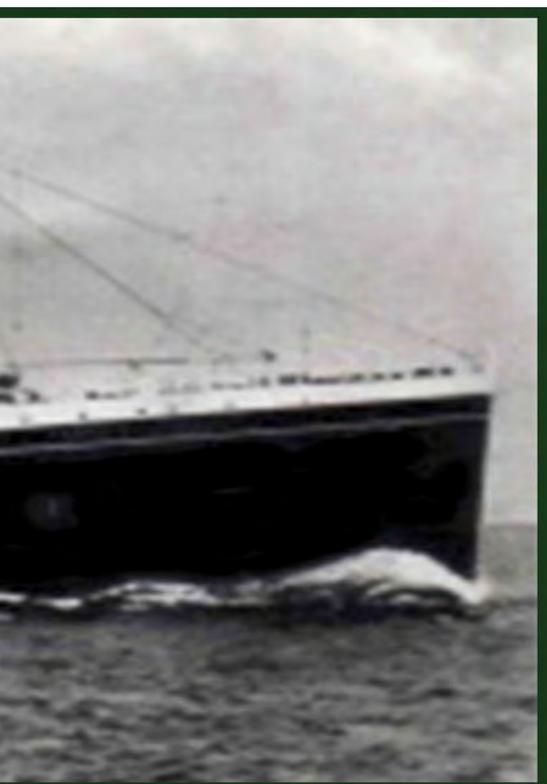
After training at Winchester in 1954 I was posted to A Coy in Bulford for a few weeks, One Saturday morning we had a Plate 2 kit inspection. After the inspection, I was ordered to report to HQ to see a Colonel P.A.D. Boden, I thought I was in trouble but he said he had looked through my records and saw that I had been a Photographer; he said that he was thinking he would like to appoint a Regimental Photographer and would I like the job? I said yes Sir, and so he said he would send for me when he'd bought the camera, About a fortnight later I was sent for again. He produced the camera which was a Bell and Howell 16mm Cine camera, I had never seen one before let alone used one, He said that the Colonel Commandant was going to inspect a Parade of the Regiment in about two weeks, so I had to do a bit of research, A special armband was made up for me and I was made the Regimental Photographer, which meant I could move around at will to get the best shots without being shouted at by the RSM,

The Duke of Gloucester Parade went off well and I was ordered to show the film to the Officers in the Padres hut, I shot it in Kodachrome, about 300 foot. As the Officers were leaving the hut, the Colonel said "well done, but when you show it to the lads please see that the Duke is saluting with Right hand not his left"! When editing the film - sitting on my bed with a razor blade and film cement - I had inserted some of the scenes the wrong way around. That taught me a lesson!

After that I was transferred from A Coy to the PRI team under Sgt Goss and given the job of Sports Storeman, I made another 400 ft. of film of London to show the boys once we got to Kenya, which caused a few damp eyes as most of them were Londoners.

I was also trained as a Projectionist by the brother of film star Flora Robson in Bulford so that I could show films abroad. Once in Kenya I would show films to the boys that were spread out on Farm guards.

Like Joe said it is a small world.



Joe Taft



Eddy Bennet



West Gable, 5 Goodacres, Arundel Road,
Fontwell, West Sussex, BN18 0SF

Tel: 01243 545803 johnbendit09@gmail.com

September 2013



Dear Brother Riflemen,

I have written these two books for the express purpose of raising money for The Rifles “Care for Casualties” Appeal and, so far, over £5,000 has been donated.

Napoleon and The Rifles answers the following questions in a series of articles:

- How did the original regiments of The Rifles contribute to the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte?
- What, if any, was Napoleon’s legacy to Europe and the World?
- Why did Portuguese troops become part of Wellington’s élite?
- Who was the German Legionnaire who was one of Wellington’s most valued Generals?
- What happened in South America in 1806/7?
- How did Sir John Moore make his mark on The Rifles?
- Where, when and why did six thousand troops parade before Queen Victoria?

For a bit of light relief there are two personal accounts by the author.:

Black, Red and Rifle Green tells the story of the three hundred days of the author’s wartime journey from Rifleman to Rifle Officer with a Foreword by Field Marshal The Lord Bramall KG GCB OBE MC who went through the same experience three months earlier.

The books are printed on demand and cost not less than £10.00 each but this price includes the cost of £3.75 for printing, packing and posting. This means that only £6.25 goes to the Appeal fund so, if you feel like paying a little more, I am sure that it will be very much appreciated.

If you want to buy one or other or both books, all you need to do is send me a cheque payable to “JDB Book” with a note saying how many of either book you would like and address the envelope to John Bendit at the address at the top of this letter.

By the way, I served in The Rifle Brigade from 1942 ‘till 1947.

With best wishes,

John Bendit

North East Branch

Brother Riflemen,

Welcome once again to the North East Branch of the RGJ Association and its entry for the September issue of the E-zine.

We held our Branch meeting at The Royal British Legion Club in Sunderland on 7th June, which was well attended with 30 in total and a dozen or so apologies. Colonel James Ramsbotham was with us for a short while before he had to dash off to another Rifles engagement. Two new members came forward, Dave Parkin and Kevin Fry, who were introduced to the Branch along with their wives/wags/ partners and welcomed back to the Swift and Bold fold.

On a sadder note, we held a minute's silence for the loss of Drummer Lee Rigby and Yvonne Coates (ex wife of George Coates) who were taken from us far too early. R.I.P.

June continued to be a busy month. Some members attended two Band Concerts. A Salute to the Forces by The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Signals Bands and many other singers performed at the Gala Theatre, Durham. This concert was in aid of the ABF. The second Concert was held in Sunderland Minster and was given by the The Rifles Band and Bugles together with the Durham ACF Band and Bugles in Aid of Care for Casualties. The event was very well supported and a large number of people travelled a very long way to listen to the music most of which had been played at the memorable Swift and Bold Concert in the Albert Hall in London by our Massed Bands (see pictures below. Left – Malcolm Donnison and Henry Hookings joined up together in 1970).



Thanks to Major Ron Cassidy, two very special guests also attended the concert, David Timms and Claire Neal. (pictured below – from left to right - Ken Richardson, Amanda Prideaux, Dave Timms, Claire Neal, Brig. Nicholas Prideaux, Liz Cheetham).



North East Branch

As part of the Concert, the Band played a selection of music from 'Oliver'. This was of special relevance as it was the first time a Rifles or Green Jacket Band had played this particular piece of music since that fateful day in July 1982 when the 1 RGJ Band was blown up in Regent's Park. The story behind David Timms and Claire Neal's involvement will be published in full in the 2014 edition of the Swift and Bold Journal.

After the Concert we retired to a local bar to remember fallen comrades and to chat to members who had travelled from afar, which included our Branch President, Brigadier Nicholas Prideaux and his wife Amanda. By way of marking this very special evening, the President made Claire Neal an Honorary Member of the North East Branch and we are delighted that she will be attending our Remembrance Weekend in November 2013.



Towards the end of June, Sunderland City council held an Armed Forces Weekend extravaganza at Herrington Country Park. The Veterans event was attended by Eamon Loftus, Steve Bonalle, Scott Connal and Malcolm Donnison. We entertained the new Mayor and Mayoress. However, we were heavily outnumbered by Light Infantrymen and Guardsmen but war was averted and we educated Their Worships about the difference between us (see pictures below)



Many other members were involved in their own local activities for Armed Forces Day and we thank them all for the effort and monies raised for the various charities that support our brave Service personnel.

July was certainly no quieter for the Branch members. Some Riflemen and their wives attend the 'Not Forgotten Association' Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 2nd July 2013 and had a fantastic time.

North East Branch

Mid July, many Riflemen and their families made the long journey South to our annual Veterans Day reunion in Winchester and spent several hours in the company of friends and comrades past, swinging lamps and drinking local hostelrys dry.

This year the weather smiled upon us and gave us a dry Veterans weekend and on the Sunday, Brigadier Nicholas and Amanda Prideaux Amanda hosted a Brunch at their home before people made the long journey North. They made all the members very welcome and it was very much appreciated.

We shall be holding our next Branch meeting in September, when we will finalise plans for the Remembrance Weekend functions in Sunderland. North East Branch members will be given priority for the tickets as the Hotel capacity is restricted to a maximum of 300. Tickets will cost £10 per person and this will cover the cost of food for the Saturday night function and a buffet lunch on the Sunday after the Veterans Parade.

Please book early to avoid disappointment. Checkout local hotels and B&Bs on the North East Branch website and on the Branch page of Facebook.

Thank you to all who have helped by contributing to this E-zine edition.

Malcolm Donnison
Editor, North East Branch

North West Branch

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18 Rolling Mill Lane

Elyn Mill

Sutton

St Helens

WA9 3GB

29th August 2013

North West Branch

Dear Fellow Riflemen,

It has been a quite year so far for the North West Branch but we hope to change all that as we are now making arrangements to hold this year's dinner at the Royal Hotel, Marine Terrace, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5PR on Saturday 9th November 2013. It is to be held in the Waterloo Suite as in the last 3 years and as the name suggests the room is themed around the Battle of Waterloo. A very suitable venue. This is the night before Remembrance Day so that people travelling from afar to attend the dinner are given the opportunity to attend the remembrance parade in Liverpool as part of the NW Branch.

We have arranged a 10% discount for anybody wishing to stay overnight. To book you would need to contact the hotel yourselves and state that you are attending the RGJ dinner on the above date on **0151 928 2332**. You can also browse through their website which is <http://liverpool-royalhotel.co.uk>.

The cost of the evening I expect will be around £35 for NW Branch members and their spouse and £38.00 for guests and mailing list/country members. Serving soldiers and members of other branches are always welcome and the cost to them is the guest price of £38. Members and guests to arrive at 1900hrs and seated between 1930 to 1945hrs as in previous years.

The menu for the evening is not yet ready but will be sent out to NW Branch members with the September newsletter together with the application form. If you are a serving soldier or member of another branch and you wish to attend then contact me by phone or email and I will get an application out to you as soon as it is ready. We may decide again to put on a free bar all night as we have done in previous years. You will just have to attend to find out if we do.

This year the Remembrance Parade in Liverpool will be held on 10th November 2013. For those wishing to attend we will meet from 0900hrs to 1000hrs in the Lord Warden Pub on London Road (Opposite the old Odeon Cinema). Medals and berets are encouraged to be worn.

The Parade will form up at from 1000hrs on the pavement at the Southern end of St Johns Garden's. The parade will leave at 1025hrs prompt led as always by the Duke of Lancaster's Band. The parade will march off and turn left into St Johns Lane and left again onto Lime Street and continues onto St Georges Plateau.

After the parade we then form up at the rear in St John's Gardens where we will lay a wreath at our NI Memorial stone. After the parade we make our way to a local watering hole for a few liquid refreshments.

As you are well aware as the years advance many of our members are called to the Final Muster. We have our own ways of remembering them in personal memories, the regimental website and talking to friends who we have served with. In years to come will there be anybody to remember us?

The way we all remember our loved ones whether civilian or military is to give them a deserving headstone so it was great sadness that we discovered that Peter Uden did not have a headstone, he does have a wooden cross to which his family visits at Lovenden Lane cemetery Kingsworthy just outside Winchester.

For those of you who knew Peter I am sure you will agree that he was a man with a large character and an even bigger heart. He was well known throughout the RGJ family and extended his welcome every Veterans day in Winchester by opening up his home to anybody who wanted to attend his popular barbeques.

North West Branch

As a way of showing our respect, we are appealing to you all for financial help to purchase a headstone for Peter. As we all boast, *'we look after our own'*, well this is a time when we can live up to that boast and do just that. Any amount will do and any money raised above what is needed will be donated to Care for Casualties.

Joyce, (Pete's widow) has been asked to visit a local stone mason and price up a suitable headstone.

Can I ask ALL Branch Secretaries to mail this appeal to your members?

The North West Branch are prepared to coordinate this effort so any cheques can be made out to the RGJ Association NW Branch and sent to RGJ Association NW Branch, 18 Rolling Mill Lane, St Helens WA9 3GB.

Yours Sincerely,

Gareth Dixon
Chairman
NW Branch RGJ Association

Ray Gerrard
Secretary
NW Branch RGJ Association

Riflemen knock out first Tiger tank in Normandy 1944

The first German Tiger tank to be knocked out in Normandy in 1944 was commanded by SS Obersturmführer Michael Wittmann. It was disabled on the outskirts of Villers-Bocage on 13 June by a round from a 6 pounder anti-tank gun, the crew of which was commanded by Sergeant Bray of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Rifle Brigade.



Background

On the morning of 13 June, in an attempt to break the deadlock around Caen that was halting the allied advance from the Normandy beachheads, an audacious attack was made by the British on the western flank of the German line.

Moving quickly in the morning light, a mobile armoured force from the 7th Armoured Division, including elements of the 1st Battalion, The Rifle Brigade (1 RB), reached and captured the village of Villers-Bocage with minimal resistance. Only a few miles away to the east, the subsequent British advance out of Villers-Bocage, led by tanks from B Squadron, 4th County of London Yeomanry (4 CLY), and A Company 1 RB, was being observed from a ridge by SS Obersturmführer (Lieutenant) Michael Wittmann, a German tank ace with over 114 confirmed kills in Russia. He was the acting commander of 2nd Panzerkompanie, SS Heavy Panzer Battalion 101, the only unit in Normandy at that time to be equipped with the feared Tiger 1 tank (the Germans had only 36 serviceable Tiger tanks in Normandy in late June).

At approximately 9 a.m. Sergeant O'Connor, the platoon sergeant of 1 Platoon, A Company 1 RB, was travelling in a halftrack on Route 175 out of Villers-Bocage towards the hill known as Point 213, when he spotted Wittmann's Tigers moving close to and parallel to his advance. He immediately reported the sighting to his headquarters. Wittmann, meanwhile, having instructed his other tank commanders to move west and secure the nearby area, decided to attack Villers-Bocage alone. Moving his tank towards and then onto Route 175, he attacked the rear tanks of B Squadron, the halftracks of A Company 1 RB, and a miscellany of trucks and universal carriers that had been parked to one side of the road to allow traffic to pass. One by one, the vehicles burst into flames.

A Company 1 RB, unable to bring their parked anti-tank guns to bear on Wittmann's Tiger, abandoned their vehicles and retreated back into Villers-Bocage with surprisingly few casualties.

Wittmann then moved further east along the road, reaching the village's outskirts. He destroyed a Cromwell, a Sherman Firefly, and also three Stuart tanks of 4 CLY that tried to form an armoured roadblock to bar him from entering the village. Once inside Villers-Bocage, Wittmann began firing at assorted OP tanks and armoured cars as well as a medical halftrack. He subsequently engaged another Cromwell, knocking it out and bringing his tally to around 14 tanks. Eventually his Tiger was forced back in a duel with a Sherman Firefly.

Reports differ as to what Wittmann did next. One in particular states that, while Wittmann had been engaged in Villers-Bocage, Sergeant Bray of A Company 1 RB, aware that the Tiger was still at large, had managed to salvage a 6 pounder anti-tank gun from the remains of the column on Route 175 and position it on the eastern edge of the village. As Wittmann withdrew rapidly from the village, he ran into Sergeant Bray and his gun team.



The Tiger's frontal armour was 3.9 inches thick. Bray's gun team sought to disable the tank by aiming for the tracks, quickly scoring a direct hit. The 'kill' was radioed in to XXX Corps headquarters at approximately 9.45 a.m. Wittmann and his crew abandoned their tank and hastened back to German lines. They took no further part in the battle.



For his actions at Villers-Bocage, Wittmann was promoted to the rank of SS Hauptsturmführer (Captain) and awarded swords to his Knights Cross. He was killed two months later on 8 August 1944 in an ambush by tanks of The Northamptonshire Yeomanry.

Sergeant Bray fought with 1 RB throughout the rest of the war. He was mentioned in despatches on 22 March 1945.

(This entry was researched and drafted by Jack Bolton, a pupil from Winchester College, while completing two weeks' experience at the Museum in July 2013. It draws on a number of sources including The Rifle Brigade 1939-1945 by R.H.W.S. Hastings, pp 349-52.)

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The HM Armed Forces Veterans' Badge was launched in May 2004 with the initial intention that it would be made available to all First World War veterans and the Second World War veterans who, under the Heroes Return scheme, travelled back to the battlefronts they had fought on. Because the badge has been so popular, eligibility has been rapidly increased to include those who served in the Armed Forces or Merchant Navy, who served in armed conflicts, at any time up to and including 31 December 1969.

Amongst the veterans included by the extension of the eligibility criteria are those who served in the following campaigns and theatres:

- * Aden 1964-1967
- * Malaysia 1964-1966

It also covers the start of the troubles in Northern Ireland in 1969.



The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum

We are now eight months through the year and our key statistics to date are very similar to last year. Visitor numbers are up 1% and shop sales up 4%. While, no doubt, we have all welcomed the sunshine that has dominated the past two months, good weather is not what brings visitors into museums when they can enjoy the great outdoors. So, without wishing hurricanes or floods, a change in the weather for the worse has, for the Museum, a potentially silver lining!

This year we have been taking a much more careful look at the origin of our visitors. For a long time we thought that the majority were male, with a sprinkling of women and children. By noting down every visitor's gender when they enter the Museum, we now have a much more accurate record. The figures for the first 8 months of 2013 have both surprised and pleased us: 57% male and 29% female aged 16 and over, and 14% children under 16. This is critical information when applying for grants from public sources and trusts which often require evidence that the Museum caters to a wide audience and not just white male, military history 'geeks'.

This year there has not been a summer exhibition as we have been focussing all our efforts on planning a new display in the First World War section of the Museum in readiness to mark the Centenary of the Outbreak of the First World War in 2014.

We have even greater plans for changes to the first floor of the Museum with a new display titled 'The Road to Waterloo' and an enlarged Waterloo gallery with the diorama of the battlefield remaining as its focal point. We also want to create a substantial multi-functional, learning space to seat 60 people. The changes are all planned to be completed by March 2015 in time for the Bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 2015, but are dependent upon the outcome of a grant application for £100,000 that we have submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Without it we will not be able to do much of what we plan. We will not know how successful we have been for at least another four weeks (end of September).

The outcome of our application for Re-Accreditation submitted to Arts Council England at the end of April, about which we were expecting to hear by the end of July, has been delayed until possibly as late as November. This has no significant short-term impact upon the Museum but is nevertheless disappointing.

Since the last Ezine there have been two 'Fun for All Days'. The first on Sunday 30 June, the day after National Armed Forces Day, organised by Winchester's Military Museums collectively and supported by a Rifles Support Team and The Rifles Band, resulted in over 500 visitors to the site with 468 visiting the Museum. The second, in August, although well organised and supported by the Museum staff and a number of volunteers, resulted in less than 100 visitors. Being present on both days, there is no doubt that they were much enjoyed by those who were there. The Museum Curator, too, proved her worth, meriting a Gold Star for her skill at face-painting. There was barely a child in sight who was not excitedly showing off his or her 'new look'.

In the last Ezine we promised an update on placing the Museum's archives on-line on the Hampshire Record Office website. In the case of the KRRC catalogue, it is now on-line. To find it, access the HRO website <http://calm.hants.gov.uk/DServe/Advsearch.htm> and use the finding number: 170A 12W. The RB and RGJ catalogues are not yet on-line but we hope will be soon.

During the past quarter we have continued to acquire new objects and archival material for our collections, more about which in the next Ezine.

As I am required to keep this article short, let me end with best wishes to all our readers and, if you have not visited the Museum recently, why not do so. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum

To contact the Museum, telephone or e-mail the Curator, Christine Pullen.
Tel: 01962 828549 or e-mail: curator@rgjmuseum.co.uk

To purchase items from the Museum Shop, for information about forthcoming events, and to read interesting articles about the Museum, visit www.rgjmuseum.co.uk



OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Last entry 4.15 p.m.)

Sundays: The Museum is open on Sundays from 30 June to 15 September 2013.

It is closed on other Sundays and over Christmas and the New Year.

Visits to the Museum's archives are by appointment only.

The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum



WMM Armed Forces Sunday Fun for All Day in full swing – 30 June 2013



Staff and Re-enactors, RGJM Fun for All Day, 16 August 2013.

Museum Curator, Mrs Christine Pullen, extreme left; Museum Assistant, Mrs Julie Nugent, 2nd from right; Maj Rob Yuill, Rifles Collection Exhibitions Curator, extreme right.

ROYAL GREEN JACKETS EXHIBITS IN THE MUSEUM

Our Museum in Winchester records the history of the antecedent Regiments of The Royal Green Jackets with a wealth of interesting objects but there are not many artefacts that relate to the 40 years of The Royal Green Jackets. However, space in the Museum building is limited, and it is not possible to create more room for display cases, but what can be done is to compile a photographic archive. There is already a visual display unit and touch screen in the RGJ section of the Museum that has some images of Battalions and postings 1966-2007; we need a lot more. Some will come from Museum Archives but we need your input.

I am aware from past experience in helping Major General Andrew Pringle to publish 'Swift and Bold – A Portrait of The Royal Green Jackets' that sourcing pictures that can be used is not easy, and furthermore that Officers are more likely than Riflemen to respond to a plea for pictures. It would be wonderful to get more photographs from Association Members and to be able to include them in the planned 'photographic history' of our 40 years. The comment has also been made that the Museum as a whole concentrates too much on 'the Officers' and not enough on 'the Riflemen'. Here is a chance to change that perception!

If you have photographs that you think could be used please send them in to be assessed and copied; they will be returned. There are some basic guidelines that will make photographs useable:

- Write on the back, where, when, who.
- 'Happy snaps' are normally worthwhile.
- Ideally the individuals/vehicles can be identified as RGJ.

The range of subjects is almost limitless. We are especially after:

- Pictures of equipment; you would be surprised how hard it is to find photographs of AFV 432 variants especially those identifiable as RGJ.
- You might think that some things are not of interest – track changing, vehicle recovery, NBC exercises, Soltau training area, field firing, married quarters, barrack rooms – but they are.
- Berlin, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Cyprus deployments/postings.
- Op Banner tours; accommodation, equipment, vehicles.
- UK postings and overseas exercises.

The address to use when sending pictures or other material is:

The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum,
Peninsula Barracks,
Romsey Road,
Winchester,
SO23 8TS

Material will be scanned and returned to you; this may take a few days depending on the Museum staffs' workload.

Whatever you consider sending in – and I hope that you will send some – the most important things are to be sure that the image is of good quality, one that the general public will be interested to view and one that does not portray the Regiment badly.

G de V W Hayes

THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS (RIFLES) MUSEUM 2013 REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

There are two designs on offer this year:



*The King's Royal Rifle Corps Memorial at
Winchester Cathedral*



*Peninsula Christmas Pursuits
by Christa Hook*

The inside message for both designs is:
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Cost £3.75 per pack of 5 cards, inclusive of envelopes
Post & packaging extra (see the order form for rates)**

Cards may be purchased:

- at the RGJ Museum, Winchester, without incurring p&p costs
- on-line at <http://www.rgjmuseum.co.uk/shop.asp>
- over the telephone using a credit or debit card: Tel: 01962 828549
- by post using the order form below

All cards are sold in aid of the RGJ Museum (Charity No: 1009691)

THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS (RIFLES) MUSEUM 2013 REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARDS ORDER FORM

Please use BLOCK LETTERS

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

..... Post Code:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:

I wish to order

- The King's Royal Rifle Corps Memorial at Winchester Cathedral
..... packs of 5 cards @ £3.75 each Cost: £.....

-Peninsula Christmas Pursuits by Christa Hook
.....packs of 5 cards @ £3.75 each Cost: £.....

plus post & packaging costs @ £1.25 for 1-2 packs;
£2.50 for 3-7 packs; £3 for 8 or more packs Cost: £.....

Total Cost of Order: £.....

PAYMENT

I enclose a cheque for £ (made payable to the RGJ Museum)

Or please debit my credit/debit card* Mastercard/Visa/Maestro*
(* delete as appropriate)

Card No:

Expiry Date: Issue No: Security No:

Signature: Date:

On completion of the order form, please send it together with any cheque to: Shop Manager, The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants, SO23 8TS. Thank you.



ricktwohey@hotmail.co.uk

PENINSULA BARRACKS MEMORIAL BENCHES PROJECT

As many of you will be aware through your Branches, there is a private initiative by former Rifleman Steve Barrett and Rifleman's widow Mrs Julie-Ann Rosser to purchase two Portland stone benches which will be placed outside the RGJ Museum in Peninsula Barracks. The benches will be suitably inscribed as lasting memorials to the Royal Green Jackets and their forbears who trained in the Barracks over many years. Peninsula Barracks is now a private housing development (photograph below) and permission has been given by the Residents' Association and Winchester City Council for the benches to be placed outside the Museum as the only visible commemoration of our Regiment's presence in the Barracks. It was long-ago decided that the only RGJ Memorial is that at the National Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire and so no funds are being provided from the Association towards these Peninsula Barracks benches. However the project has the full support of the Association Committee. Branches, as well as individuals, are encouraged to support the project by donating towards the £10,000 required to fund the benches and their inscriptions. Cheques can be made out to 'Memorial at Peninsula' and Mr Barrett can be contacted for further details directly at:

steve.barrett@memorialatpeninsula.org



We encourage you all to support their initiative.

Brigadier Hugh Willing CBE
Chairman of the RGJ Regimental Association

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For details call JCB on +44 (0)1889 594454

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In Memoriam

Chavasse, C.P.G.	Late the Rifle Brigade	21 Apr
Ramage, Mark	KRRC/QVR	22 May
Manley, Jimmy	3RGJ	30 May
Eadie, Frederick	Ox&Bucks/3RGJ/SAS	30 May
Danby, George	3RGJ	10 Jun
Evans, Tom	CSgt RB/3RGJ	19 Jun
Collett, Ray	Major KRRC	24 Jun
Higson, Horace	3RGJ/2RGJ	24 Jun
Herzfeld, Fred	1RGJ	Jul
Sir Jack Boles MBE DL	Late the Rifle Brigade	01 Jul
Causton, Derek (Blacky)	3RGJ	12 Jul
Dike, Claude Cornelius	RB	19 Jul
Pepper, Brian	CSgt 3RGJ	20 Jul
Roberts, Michael (Scoop)	Sgt 1/3/5RGJ	31 Jul
Elsbury, Frederick	2 Rangers/ 9 KRRC	Aug
Williams, F.A. MBE	Capt KRRC/2GJ/2RGJ	01 Aug
De-Friend, Bob	1/2 KRRC - 2GJ	10 Aug
Hennessy, Nicholas	3RGJ	02 Sep



Full details can be seen on the website Bulletin Board at <http://63196.activeboard.com/forum.spark?forumID=63196>.

