

The
Regimental Association
of
The Queen's Own Buffs (PWRR)

Albuhera 1811 - 2011



THE JOURNAL



Number 22

Summer 2011

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THE STANDARD BEARER OF THE BUFFS

*Steep is the soldier's path; nor are the heights
Of glory to be won without long toil
And arduous efforts of enduring hope;
Save when Death takes the aspirant by the hand,
And cutting short the work of years at once
Lifts him to that conspicuous eminence,
Such fate was mine,-The Standard of the Buffs
I bore at Albuhera, on that day
When covered by a shower, and fatally
For friends misdeem'd, the Polish lancers fell
Upon my rear, Surrounding me, they claim'd
My precious charge, -"Not but with my life" I cried,
And life was given for immortality.*

*The flag which to my heart I held, when wet
With the heart's blood, was soon victoriously
Regain'd on that great day. In former times
Marlborough beheld it bourne at Ramillies;
For Brunswick and for liberty it waved
Triumphant at Culloden; and hath seen
The lilies of the Caribbean shores abased before it.
Then too in the front of the battle did it flap exultingly,
When Douro, with its wide stream interposed
Saved not the French invaders from attack,*

*Discomfiture, and ignominious rout.
My name is Thomas: undisgraced have I
Transmitted it. He who in days to come
May bear the honour'd banner to the field,
Will think of Albuhera, and of me*

*Front Cover
Standard Bearers at Albuhera 2011
Joe Correa and Ray Cox*

EDITOR'S PAGE

You can expect a few changes to the profile of The Journal after the next issue this December/January. The details are given in 'Final Word'

The trip to Albuhera, from all reports, went extremely well as is evident in Colonel Crispin's report and the many photos that are featured in this issue. We owe a huge 'Thank You' to Barry Duffield for providing such great photos of the event and also for always attending the reunions and other special association events to take the professional photos which so enhance the Journal- Barry thank you.

As we go to print there are still some vacancies (8) on the Trip to the Normandy Beaches from 23rd to 26th September. If you would like to attend then please give me a ring to check availability. The trip promises to be a memorable one and costs only £205 per person for Association Members and their wives and partners, and £235 for Non Association Members. Don't miss this one.

Next year there is a two day/one night trip, 16th/17th May, being organised to visit the grave of Lieutenant (later Captain) Latham of Albuhera fame. With an overnight stop in a four star hotel in Amiens with a celebratory Albuhera dinner on the evening of 16th May this trip offers excellent value at £120 per person. This may well be reduced depending on how many people wish to attend and the level of subsidy negotiated with the Regimental Association. You will find a booking form enclosed.

This year has been a special year celebrating the 200th anniversary of the battle of Albuhera and the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation of our two forebear regiments, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regt) and the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt to form The Queen's Own Buffs (The Royal Kent Regiment).

Next year sees the 440th anniversary of the raising of the 300 men from the trained bands of London to fight in Holland in 1572, the date from which The Buffs can trace their ancestry. I am

sure that this anniversary will be suitably marked with some celebrations-watch this space.

The sale of the Albuhera notelets has been successful and we have now covered the production costs. The 'Notelets' are still available and you will find an order form enclosed.

We are now on countdown to the reunions and as you will see the Maidstone Reunion has been beset by a few problems, the Hazlett Theatre not being available and the possibility that Week Street may be closed thereby curtailing the march. Major Dennis Bradley, on whose plate these problems have landed, quickly made alternative arrangements and the reunion will now be held in the Ramada Hotel, Hollingbourne near Leeds Castle. Coach transport has been laid on for those who are dependent on public transport to get you from All Saints Church, after the service, to the Ramada Hotel for the reunion. We must thank Dennis for his sterling efforts in reorganising this important event and overcoming the problems.

You will see the full details of the reunion within this issue.

It is an important year so do try your best to get to one of these very special annual events.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

My contact details are:

54 South Eastern Road,

Ramsgate,

Kent CT11 9QE.

Tel: 01843 580914 (*Please not after 8 pm*)

Email: peter@warner-white.com

Skype: peterw81863

BRANCH NEWS

RAMSGATE BRANCH

SECRETARY: M. F. Milham. 185 Bradstow Way Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 1AX

MEETING PLACE: The Royal British Legion Club Allenby House, 14/16 Cliff Street, Ramsgate

MEETING: 3rd Friday in the month, 19.45 hrs.

Greetings to everybody in the Association from the members of the Ramsgate Branch. What a marvellous start to the year we have had in East Kent, especially in Planet Thanet, sunshine all the way with just a little rain to keep the gardeners happy. So it was with pleasure we were looking forward to our new format, instead of the June evening meeting we were going bowling on the cliff top in Ramsgate, came the day, came the rain, oh well - it's time for plan B if we can find one.

A change of events earlier this year with the Association AGM and darts match taking place before our branch AGM. Our darts team managed to repeat last years result ending up as the runners up, at Sittingbourne. It's a pity the Ladies Guild at Ramsgate don't read the script, they should be happy to lose to the men, not thrash us as they did once again his year, however they put on a lovely spread for the buffet afterwards, so we will forgive them.

At our branch AGM we had a couple of changes with Deric King and Graham Thomas standing down from office owing to their current ill health. Alan Buddle has picked up the reins as Social Secretary and made a good start. We still have to find a new Welfare Officer with Deric being a very hard act to follow, many of our sick list are going to miss his visits.

Talking of the sick list, we still have the same group as mentioned in the last journal attempting to rejoin the fold, also now joined by John Jane, however our Chairman has managed to return, we wish the others a speedy recovery and return. Mention of return reminds me that 'Peanut' Perry has been attending our meetings since earlier in the year, - welcome back Bob.

A small group from the branch attended the Trooping the Colour rehearsal along with

Canterbury I understand the weather held for the day and everybody thoroughly enjoyed the parade and the picnic in Greenwich Park afterwards.

Our Standard was on parade at Tonbridge for the PWRR parade on 19th June, Alan Buddle reports that it was a very good parade and was well received by a large crowd in the town, also the free beer afterwards was very welcome - well done Alan.

In March a special presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation and a glass tankard, engraved with the Buffs badge, was made to Mickey Ralph



a long serving member of the Branch. Mickey is always the first to volunteer for any job and his ability to sell raffle tickets is little short of

legendary. Well done Mickey. on a well deserved award.

Reports feeding back from those who attended the bi centenary celebrations in Albuhera speak of an excellent event enjoyed by everyone.

In March a special presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation together with a glass tankard engrave with the Buffs badge, was made to Micky Ralph. Micky, a long serving member of the branch is always the first to volunteer for any job and his ability to sell raffle tickets is little short of legendary. Well done Micky on a well deserved award.

The Turning of the Page for 141 Regt RAC, was a poignant event for those who attended, especially as we had received a letter from the family of Ernest Cox, an ex member of that Regiment, who lived locally advising us of his death at the age of 93.

That is the quiet part of the summer dealt with, now it is down to the busy period of this celebratory year, we wish you all a successful and enjoyable time at all the events and hope to see you there.

LONDON (BUFFS) BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mrs.. Betty Correa. 34 Homer Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7SB. Tel No. 0208 655 3040. Email jcorrea@talk 21.com

MEETING PLACE: Basement Conference Room 23/24, The Royal Hospital, Chelsea .

MEETING: 3rd Saturday in the month at 14.00 hrs.

Hello everyone welcome to the latest news from the London Buffs.

Very sadly I have to start by reporting that we have lost two of our branch members - John Field (Buffs) and Ted Chappell (RWK) We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Richard Holmes OBE, TD

All will be sadly missed.

On a happier note on Wednesday 13th April 2011 40-50 members of the regimental association attended the last turning of the page by a member of the 141 5th Btn Buffs in Canterbury Cathedral. The page was turned by the Chairman Geoff Kirk (141 Buffs) Geoff was also a chairman of the London Buffs for many years and still gives his support when able.

The 141 standard was carried by Ray Cox, and the Union flag carried by Joe Correa also other standards present were from Canterbury branch, Ramsgate Branch, Sandwich branch and the Danish standard carried by Brian Dudman.

It has been confirmed that the 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) standard will be handed over to the London Buffs for safe keeping at the Tower of London Service on Sunday 4th September 2011 and will be carried by Ray Cox on future regimental parades.

The London Buffs had a wonderful time on Wednesday 4th May 2011 having the honour of turning the page in Canterbury Cathedral and once again we thank Canterbury, Weald and Ramsgate branches for their support along with other members of the association.

The branch would like to thank Ken Hyam for turning the page and Sammy Supple for laying a

wreath on behalf of fallen comrades. Ken Hyam thanked the London Buffs for giving him the honour of turning the page. The Reverend Vernon Collins on his visit to UK from Australia (branch member) gave the exultation in fine voice and felt very honoured to have done so.

21 branch members then went to the Victoria Hotel for lunch

The members of the London Buffs who were on the regimental trip to Albuhera said that it was a truly memorable trip and would like to thank the organisers from RHQ.

The branch social officer Ray Cox arranged for the branch to go to the Trooping the Colour in London on Saturday 28th May 2011 and has arranged a day at Bateman's on Saturday 25th June 2011 also Sandhurst Military Academy in August 2011. Ray's hard work is very much appreciated.

The welfare officer Mo Mace has had his work cut out lately with the steady lengthening sick list .Mo does a grand job and his hard work is appreciate.

At the May branch meeting the members held a silent toast commemorating 200 years of the Battle of Albuhera the champagne was drunk from the silver goblet given to the London Buffs from Mrs Mary Ann Tarver in memory of her late husband Brigadier Tarver former branch president to the London Buffs.

The branch President Major John Barrell gave a short speech relating to the history of the battle of Albuhera.

The London Buffs are looking forward to the trip to the Normandy beaches also the QO Buffs 50th anniversary celebration lunch.

Members of the association are always welcome to join the London Buffs on any of our branch outings and we welcome your support. Do not hesitate to contact the branch secretary (Betty Correa) for information.

It only remains for me on behalf of the London Buffs to wish you all well and look forward to the rest of the organised association events in 2011.

BC

CANTERBURY BRANCH

SECRETARY: H. G. B. Delo. 38 Reculver Avenue, Minnis Bay, Birchington CT7 9NU.
Tel: 01843 842357

MEETING PLACE: The Chaucer Club, Chaucer Hill, off Military Road, Canterbury.

MEETING: Last Thursday of month at 20.00 hrs.

You will already be aware that this year is the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Queen's Own Buffs association and we wish all branches and their members a very happy anniversary. To mark this occasion there are many activities taking place and we at Canterbury will do our level best to support them.

It is also the 200th anniversary of the battle of Albuhera and many of our members joined the RHQ organised trip to the battle scene in Albuhera where I am told that a very good and moving time was had by all. *Just a little snippet I gained from a member was that Col Champion missed the coach, in fact he did not miss the coach it just left earlier than planned, to wherever they were going on the day but evidently he had a very quiet and peaceful day on his own.

True or hearsay?



The branch had its Annual general meeting in February and there was no change in the hierarchy etc. for another year so we will continue to battle on.

On Wednesday 14th April there was a very good turnout of members along with six branch

standards to support Mr Geoff Kirk of 141 Regt. RAC (The Buffs) who Turned the Page.

Regrettably this will probably be the last time 141 will be taking part in this ceremony as there are not many members left and they are all not getting any younger like us all. Geoff was very impressed by the turnout and support given to him. The Bell of HMS Canterbury was rung by our loyal ex Royal Navy man Mr Alf Baker. Alf served on the Russian convoys and is very supportive member of the branch.

On Friday 25th April Stan Wooldridge organised two coaches to take members, their wives and friends to the Royal Albert Hall, London for the Royal Marines Mountbatten Festival of Music. Stan has been organising this visit for the past 15 years. A very good time was had by all, he does a very good job, "What would we do without him?"

In May our Chairman Harry Crooks and our Social Secretary Bernard Miles made a private visit to Wootton Bassett where they met members of the local community who made them very welcome. A poppy cross was laid on behalf of the branch on the local war memorial. Whilst there the body of a young Royal Marine was repatriated from Afghanistan and around 400 people with 21 Standards were paraded to pay their respects and to see the cortege pass through the town. This was a sad moment but an eye opener which has to be seen to be believed.

The date of our annual Albuhera dinner at the Canterbury Golf Club had to be changed from its usual spot and was two weeks later than normal as many members went on the trip to Albuhera. Our guests this year were Mr & Mrs Jonathan Webb. Jonathan is the Secretary of the Canterbury Golf club where we have been going for our dinners etc. for the past 14 years.

Our Chairman on behalf of the branch presented Johnathan with three plaques to hang in the Golf Club ie; The Buffs, The Queen's Own Royal West Kents and the Queen's Own Buffs these are in appreciation for allowing us to use the club.

At the dinner the branch Secretary presented Mrs Pauline Nicklin with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of all the Page Turners and thanking her for her

work in organising and sending out the rota of page turners each month.

On Saturday 28th May the branch along with the Ramsgate branch took a coach of 46 people to London for the rehearsal of trooping the Colour (Major Generals Review) after the rehearsal they went along to Greenwich park picnic area for a picnic lunch. We must thank Bernard Miles and Allan Buddle for their organisation of the day

The organisation of Canterbury Reunion is well under way and we are all looking forward to meeting up with old friends once again. The Lunch this year is subsidized by the Association and costs only £3.00 per person so get your bids in early but please enclose a SAE with your bid so that there is no delay in returning your tickets. Free car Parking tickets are also available but please make note that there is NO car parking in the Cathedral Precincts and regrettable not even disabled or blue badge holders.

That's all folks with our best wishes to one and all.

HD

THE WEALD OF KENT BRANCH

SECRETARY: Capt Micky Gwilliam, 6 Fownes Street, Battersea, London SW11 2TJ

Tel: 020 3175 1090 / 07786 782041 email: micky.gwilliam@gmail.com

Web Site: <http://e-voice.org.uk/weald-branch-qobra/>

MEETING PLACE: Royal British Legion Club, 26 Priory Road, Tonbridge, Kent

MEETING: At 7 pm on the second Tuesday of every other month starting in January.

The Weald Branch relocation of Christmas to January duly took place and a convivial lunch on 11th January was held.



Weald of Kent Branch on 2 PWRR Freedom parade in Tonbridge with support from Sittingbourne Branch and with the standards of Ramsgate, Sittingbourne, London and Weald, led by Captain Ham Whitty.

Fellowship was the highlight of the day, closely followed by the close-up magician. Even now two members are to be heard muttering 'but if the ace is in my pocket how can it come out of his ear'? However, on balance, we have decided to stick with the Gregorian Calendar and revert to December for 2011.

After many years (well, four) Fred Scales has stood down as Procurator Fiscal (Raffle Runner) in order to spend more time swinging the hurry lamps. His contribution to ensuring a healthy financial situation has been immense, and ensures that the Branch outings can be generously subsidised. John Fowler and Sparrow Battell have both stood up to the mark and agreed to take on the job.



John has also agreed to take over as Welfare Officer from Barry Crocker, whose workload at Kent County Council has increased to the point

where he feels he won't be able to give the job the time it needs.

John's appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury is expected in the New Year!

For some unaccountable reason (the Secretary wasn't playing) the Branch failed to bring any silver home from the AGM Darts Match. However we did have a good turnout from the Branch at the AGM which bodes well for the future.

At the May meeting Chris Jupp, whose reputation occasioned a record turnout, gave us his talk on the 4th Bn Queen's Own Defence of Kohima. The close attention paid was a fitting tribute to the extraordinary courage of the defenders, and Chris's ability to relate the action from the individual's point of view gave it an immediacy which reading from the page can't approach. In all it was a thought-provoking talk.

Also in May, the Branch mounted a mechanised assault on Dover Castle. Despite mechanical faults in the armoured support (Ray Bamblett's electric scooter), and after a NAAFI break, a tour of the Underground Hospital (we don't know how good we have it today) took place. Sadly, the tunnels used for Op Dynamo (the evacuation from Dunkirk) were still not open, but a visit to the PWRR Museum was a great success. Before departure a group photo was taken, and I am asked to note particularly that the Bobby Charlton comb-over was a great success! You know who you are!

In June Tonbridge was the setting for 2 PWRR to exercise the rights of Freedom of the Borough. The day started with a service at Tonbridge School Chapel, looking resplendent after its major rebuild after the fire. Led by the Minden Band, two guards and the Colours followed by 18 Branch and Association members and four Association Banners marched down the High Street to the roundabout and back again to the Big Bridge. The expected speeches were followed by a short march to Tonbridge Castle, where the Council had laid on an excellent spread.

The guests were entertained by the Minden Band and the 17th Tonbridge Scout and Guide Band (formed 40 years ago by Brian Davison, Middlesex Regiment). The townspeople of Tonbridge turned

out in great numbers, and their cheers and clapping for the Association members was no less warm than for the battalion. In all, a very moving occasion, and one which you too may enjoy as many people have posted videos on YouTube.

In July, river crossing skills are to be dusted off, and the Branch will be conducting a daylight assault on Greenwich from an FUP at Waterloo. We feel that this will provide the Olympics organisers with a suitable test for next year. Possibly, your scribe's next notes may come from the Tower!

Membership increases seemingly at every meeting and we are very pleased that, as they retire, members of 2 Queens are finding friends in the Branch. A great augury for the future.

MG

SITTINGBOURNE BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr. A Chesson. 16 Cedar Close, Sittingbourne, ME10 4TV

MEETING PLACE: The Ypres Tavern, West Street, Sittingbourne

MEETING: 1st Tuesday in the month at 19.30 hours.

Greetings from all at Sittingbourne Branch.

Unfortunately I must begin my news on a sad note, that is the passing of Carole Sayer, the daughter of the late Bill Pledger and sister to our member, Jim Pledger, Carole was well known to many members of the Association in that she always accompanied her Mum & Dad on almost every Outing & Reunion attended by the Branch. Her death came very unexpectedly, at a fairly young age and she will be sadly missed by all. The Branch was well presented at her funeral and our thoughts and condolences go out to her three sons, Mathew, Chris and Marcus and her brother Jim and all the family.

A number of members of the Branch have resigned for various reasons, including moving home, pressure of work etc. they are Ron Mannouch, John Holton & Mr Farrant.

A new member has joined us recently, Major Richard Cast, who spent many years in the Services serving with various Corps & Regiments, finally ending with a year in the PWRR. Welcome Richard!

The Branch is looking forward to our Annual Pilgrimage to Ypres on the 9th & 10th July, staying overnight at The Novotel Hotel. The trip has been well supported with virtually a full coach. The programme includes a free Saturday afternoon in Ypres or a trip to a Cemetery - The China Wall, followed by the evening ceremony at the Menin Gate. On Sunday there will be a guided tour to the Passchendaele Museum at Zonnebeke, a trip round a WW1 battlefield, culminating in a visit to the Tyne Cot Cemetery. I will report on the trip in the next edition of the Journal.

Finally, I would like to include Best Wishes and Congratulations of all at the Branch to someone who still attends every Meeting, that is Les Stelfox who celebrated his 98th Birthday in May, Well done Les, Many Happy Returns.

GD

COLCHESTER BRANCH

SECRETARY: G. Arnot. 30 Cairns Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8UZ. Tel: 01206 520145

MEETING PLACE: Clovely, Great Bentley, Colchester, Essex C17 8PD

MEETING: 3rd Sunday in the month at 10.00hrs.

HYTHE & FOLKESTONE BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr. S C Macintyre, Saffrons, Sunnyside Road, Sandgate, Kent CT20 3DR. Tel: 01303 240147

MEETING PLACE: The Royal British Legion Hall, St. Leonards Road, Hythe

MEETING: Second Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm.

SANDWICH BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr. D. G. Hogben.
75 Burch Avenue, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0AN.
Tel: 01304 612920.

MEETING PLACE: The White Mill, Ash Road :
Sandwich : Kent : CT13 9JB.

MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday of every month
(except August) at 7.30pm

DENMARK BRANCH

CHAIRMAN: Bendt Ole Arndt .Brunevang 83.1,
DK 2610 Rodovre, Denmark

MEETINGS: Contact the Chairman for details.

MAIDSTONE BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mrs. D Hall-Richardson.
31 Bychurch Place, Waterloo Street, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 7UQ.

MEETING PLACE: Stone Street Club, 2 Lower
Stone Street, Maidstone ME15 6JN,

MEETING: Third Tuesday in the month at 19.30
hrs.

BROMLEY BRANCH

CHAIRMAN: Mr. A. Wright. 21 The Underwood,
Eltham, London SE9 3EP.

MEETING PLACE: Sundridge Park W. M. C.,
Burnt Ash Lane, Bromley.

MEETING: Last Monday in the month at 12.30
hrs.

MINUTES OF THE 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION-SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2011

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Colonel C. G. Champion | Association President |
| Lt. Colonel P. Critchley | Committee of Management |
| Captain H. Whitty | Chairman Weald Branch |
| Major D Bradley BEM | Association Secretary |
| Major P R White MM | Chairman East Kent |
| Major J Barrell OBE TD | President London Buffs |
| Major A A Marchant | Vice Chair East Kent |
| Captain M Gwilliam | Secretary of Weald Branch |
| Colonel P Cook DL | Committee of Management |
| Mr. J. Ferneyhough | Chairman Ramsgate Branch |
| Mrs. J D Allen | Secretary 62 Club |
| Mrs. D G Hall – Richardson | Secretary of Maidstone Branch |
| Mr. P Fleming | Committee Member Sittingbourne Branch |
| Mr. H G Delo | Secretary of Canterbury Branch |
| Mr. H Crooks | Chairman of Canterbury Branch |
| Mr. A Chesson | Secretary of Sittingbourne Branch |
| Mr. D G Hogben | Secretary of Sandwich Branch |
| Mr. G Dunk | Chairman of Sittingbourne Branch |
| Mr. F Earl | Sittingbourne Branch |
| Mr. L J Crouch | Sittingbourne Branch |
| Mr. J E White | Sittingbourne Committee |
| Mr. J Burr | Chairman of Colchester Branch |
| Mr. M F Milham | Secretary of Ramsgate Branch |
| Mr. A Moss | Sandwich Branch |
| Mr. H E J King | Treasurer of Ramsgate Branch |
| Mr. T Lane | Sittingbourne Branch |
| Mr. G Battell | Weald Branch |
| Mr. J Dowe | Weald Branch |
| Mr. D Bannister | Weald Branch |
| Mr. D Wallis | Weald Branch |
| Mr. John Fowler | Weald Branch |

Apologies

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Colonel P Bishop OBE DL | Committee of Management |
| Major P Gwilliam | Committee of Management |
| Mr. R J Gawler | President of Canterbury Branch |
| Mr. M Samson | Canterbury Branch |
| Mr. B Supple | Canterbury Branch |
| Mr. A Markham | Canterbury Branch |
| Mr. Graham Arnett | Colchester Branch |

There were others present; however their names were unable to be deciphered on the attendance sheet.

1. Welcome

Colonel C G Champion welcomed all members of the Association to the AGM and thanked the Sittingbourne Branch for once again agreeing to host the event.

He also stated that the Association was in good order with an increase in membership and a very full Calendar of events for 2011.

2. The Minutes of the 41st Meeting held on 17 April 2010

The Minutes of the 41st Meeting having been previously circulated to Members of the Committee of Management and to all Branch Secretaries were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by Mr H Delo Seconded by Mr D Hogben Carried Unanimously

3. Audited Accounts 2010

The President gave an overview of the Financial Summary for 2010. After which the meeting resolved to approve the audited accounts with a vote of thanks to Mr J Reynolds Finance Secretary RHQ and the Association Secretary.

He further stated that he wished to use the funds to assist Association Members whilst still being in a position to hand over a substantial amount of money to the PWRR on the closure of the Association.

Proposed by Captain M Gwilliam Seconded by Mr G Battell carried unanimously

(A copy of the Financial Summary 2010 is available from the Association Secretary.)

4. Benevolence Review 2010 Financial

a. The Secretary rendered an oral explanation of Benevolence activities and expenditure during 2010. Letters of appreciation have been sent to the Army Benevolent Fund (Soldiers Charity), SSAFA/The Royal British Legion, Combat Stress and the Not Forgotten Association.

b. The Membership accepted and adopted the report with a vote of thanks to Major J Rogerson the Benevolence Secretary RHQ and the Association Secretary.

(A copy of the Benevolence Report is available from the Association Secretary.)

Proposed by Mr D Hogben Seconded by Mr H Crooks carried unanimously

5. Association Budget 2011

The President briefed all present on the Association budget for 2011 which was adopted and accepted.

(A copy of the Budget is available from the Association Secretary.)

Proposed by Mr G Dunk Seconded by Mr P Fleming carried unanimously

6. Canterbury Reunion 7 August 2011

Major P White briefed the meeting on all aspects of the forthcoming Reunion. See this issue for details.

Proposed by Mr A Moss

Seconded by Mr H Crooks

carried unanimously

7. Maidstone Reunion 11 September 2011

The Association Secretary gave a short brief on the information held to date on the Maidstone Reunion. He brought to the attention of the meeting that he had applied to Kent County Council for free parking. If the application is approved parking tickets will be issued as requested by Mrs J Allen the organising Committee Secretary.

(See this issue for details).

Proposed by Mrs D Hall Richardson

Seconded Mr J Burr

carried unanimously.

8. Events to Mark the 50th Anniversary of the Association

Major P White briefed the meeting on the Association numbers taking part in the proposed Albuhera trip and the Normandy Beaches trip as follows;

a. The Albuhera Trip

- (i) Association Members attending 24
- (ii) Members attending to receive subsidy of £250

b. Normandy Beaches Trip 23rd – 26th September

- (i) Travel by Coach from UK.
- (ii) Accommodation: 3 Star Hotel in Caen close to City Centre with Continental breakfast included. Lunch and evening meals are not included. Expression of interest form to be printed in QOB Journal.
- (iii) Cost will be approximately £200.00 per person
- (iv) The trip is to be subsidised by £1,000 - £1,500 by the Association.
- (v) Applications will be processed on a strictly first come first served basis.
- (vi) To date fifty two members have shown interest in this proposed event. Major Peter White as organiser is liaising on cost and accommodation, after which a letter and booking form will be distributed to all interested members of the Association.

c. 50th Anniversary Gala Luncheon

Major J Barrell briefed the meeting on the 50th Anniversary Luncheon as follows:

It is confirmed that the Lunch will take place on 1 October 2011. It was agreed that the cost for members of the Regimental Association and Regimental Widows will be £20.00. The unsubsidised cost for all other guests will be £35.00. The only official guests to be invited will be The Lord Lieutenant of Kent and Mrs Willett.

Major J R Barrell will organise the event and liaise with the Secretary of the Queen's Own Buffs Officers' Luncheon Club about their attendance.

9. Association Secretaries administration points.

The Secretary briefed the meeting as follows:

- a. All Branch Secretaries are to ensure that the Secretary is informed of member's change of addresses, phone numbers and e-mails.
- b. All members are requested, when visiting RHQ to make an appointment.

This will ensure: -

- a) That he is available to see people.
- b) That he can allocate time to people.

The same applies when visiting the PRI Shop.

- c. If Association flags etc are loaned for funerals, please ensure they are returned. The Secretary does not have the time to chase people and they are expensive.
- d. He does require annually an update on every Branch's membership, broken down by Regimental Members i.e. Buffs, Queen's Own Royal West Kent and Associate Members.
- e. Please can all Branch secretaries check the Association Directory (copies available) and inform him of any required amendments.
- f. If you are aware of any ex member of either of the three Regiments which form the Association who requires assistance, whether financial, welfare or advisory, then please do make the Secretary aware. Help is only a telephone call away.

10. Association Journal

- a. The Editor, Major P R White, explained to the meeting that the date of the publication and distribution of future issues would be changed to October or early November to cover the Reunions and April early May to cover the AGM and the future reunions etc.
- b. Current subscription levels were holding well at over 550 and the number of late payers had been reduced but still presented an administrative problem.
- c. The web site, which has been recently revamped, is proving to be a very successful tool for visitors finding ex comrades etc and as a communication media.
- d. Advance orders for the notelets currently totalled over £220 and there could be little doubt that substantial profit will be made for Journal funds.
- e. The Journal will be reduced to 60 pages per issue to ensure that we pay postage at 0.85p as opposed to £1.11.
- f. He requested assistance from Members in producing articles, particularly soldiers stories.
- g. The President requested that a vote of thanks be recorded to Major Peter White for his work as editor of the Queen's Own Buffs Journal

Proposed by Colonel C G Champion

Seconded by Mr H Delo

carried unanimously

11. **Diary of Events**

The Diary of events for 2011 is published within this issue of the Journal.

12. **Items Submitted by Branches**

There were no items submitted.

13. **Open Forum/AOB**

a. **The Buffs Museum and Westgate Towers Canterbury**

Buffs Museum: Major White briefed the meeting on the recent meeting between Colonel Champion, himself and Mr Reddie, the head Curator of Museums. The display in the reopened Beaney Institute would comprise of a display cabinet of approximately some ten feet in length in which would be displayed items covering the 19th century activities of the Regiment

As far as Stour Street Museum was concerned it was still unclear what if any items would be displayed. In any event the cost of entry would be raised to £8 per adult from 1st April, with a special rate for concessionaires. Colonel Champion had specifically asked Mr Reddie for Association Members to be granted a special concession rate on the production of their Association membership card.

West Gate Towers: In the meantime Lieutenant Colonel White has been in touch with Mr Charles Lambie who had recently purchased the Old Police Station adjacent to the West Gate Towers which he had leased from the Council. A pedestrian access had now been constructed from the Old Police Station to the Towers. Mr Lambie had expressed a serious interest in displaying some story boards, replica weapons etc. covering the entire history of the Regiment. To that end a meeting was to be arranged between Lieutenant Colonel White, Major White, Mr Lambie and his curator early in April.

b. **Grand Reunion**

Mr J Burr asked if there are any Plans for a Grand Reunion. The Secretary replied that he knew of none at present. Colonel C Champion, President stated that he would discuss the matter with Colonel M J Ball, the Regimental Secretary PWRR.

c. **Presidents Special Fund**

Mr A Moss asked if the 5K voted for immediate use by the President to assist PWRR Soldiers wounded, Injured or in need in or post Afghanistan had ever been used?

The Secretary replied that the fund had not been used to date but was still available should it be required..

14. **Date and Venue of the 2012 AGM**

The 2012 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Paper Mill Club Sittingbourne on the 24 March 2012.

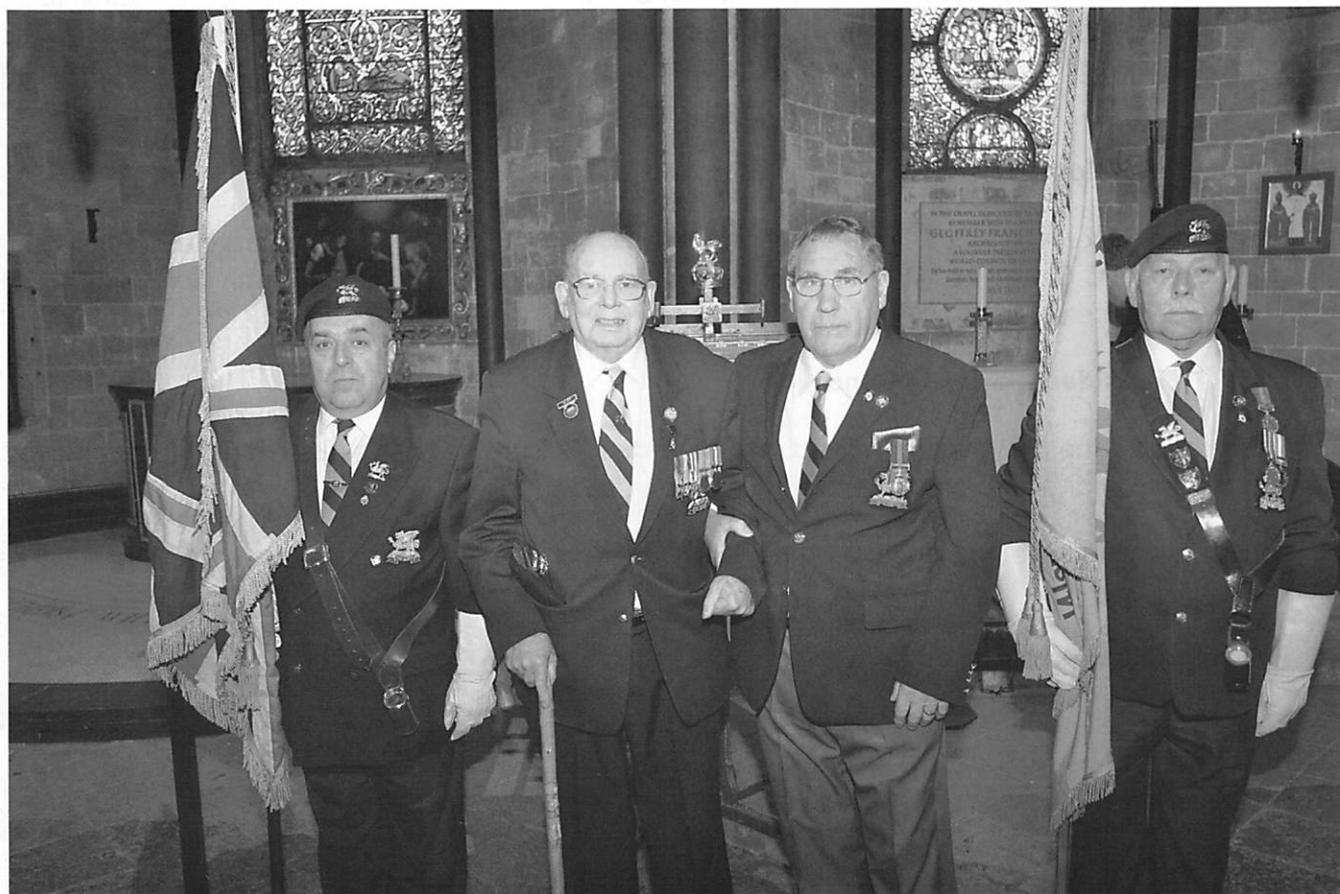
TURNING THE PAGE



***Kevin Collins, who served in the Queen's Own Buffs and 2nd Queen's, Turning the Page on 13th May on his recent visit to the UK from Australia
The duty Chaplain for the day was also from 'down under', Reverend Ken Child, seen above***

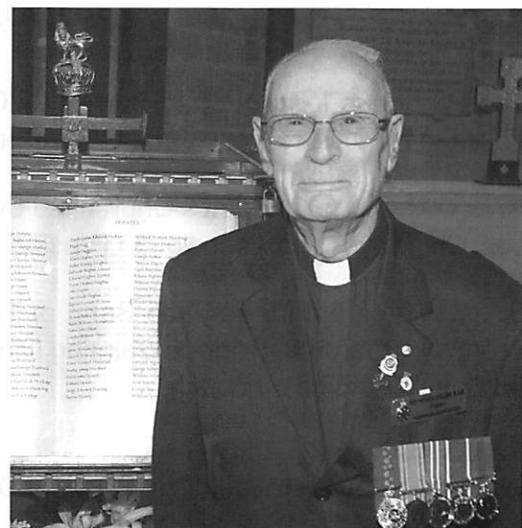
141 Regiment RAC (The Buffs)

On 13th April 2011 Geoff Kirk, on behalf of 141 Regt. RAC (The Buffs) Turned the Page for what could be the last such ceremony by 141 Regt.



***141 Regt RAC (The Buffs)
Geoff Kirk, with Frankie Hills Chairman of London Buffs flanked by Joe Correa
and Ray Cox carrying the 141 Regt Union Standard and Branch Standard***

London Buffs - Turning the Page



Above: Ex Buff the Revd Vernon Collins, gave the exhortation

Left: Ken Hyam Turned the Page on 4th May. His Grandfather who served with 8th Bn the Buffs was killed in action at Loos on September 26th 1915 and is named on the page that was turned. Ken is supported here by his brother Peter on the left of the picture



London Buffs, with a full supporting cast of members from Canterbury, Ramsgate branches and Wuppertal Buffs. As always a terrific turnout with special guest Revd Vernon Collins from Australia

THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS (PWRR) SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND ANNUAL REUNION MAIDSTONE SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2011

General

The Parade is to form up in Brenchley Gardens for a wreath laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph. Due to possible road works resulting in the re-organisation of Maidstone Town Centre, we will then either;

- A. March to All Saint's Church led by the Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Marching past the Mayor and Association President who will take the Salute at the Town Hall.
- B. The March led by the Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will be contained within Brenchley Gardens where a Saluting Diaz will be prominently placed. Members will then be transported to All Saint's Church by coach.

Parade Marshal

WOI RSM Dowle Royal Military School Dover will be the Parade Marshal.

Parking

Coaches may be parked in Priory Road during the Service and can be brought to the large Lay-By at All Saint's Church at 1200 hrs. Car parking is available in County Road (not to include the Invicta House) free of charge to all members of the Association in attendance. This has been kindly authorised by Kent Facilities Management a division of Kent County Council, for which we are very grateful. It is essential that you request a Parking Permit when you apply for your Reunion admission ticket from Mrs J Allen (see Annex A). There is sufficient parking for all attending the Reunion at the Ramada Hotel Hollingbourne near Maidstone.

Arrival Facilities

The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regimental Museum situated in Faith Street Maidstone will be open from 0830 hrs to 1000 hrs. Complimentary Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available to all visitors and toilet facilities will also be open for use. All Members are encouraged to visit this very special Regimental Collection which has been improved upon during the last year.

Parade State

For security purposes Parade States are a vital part of the preparation for the day. Total numbers must be submitted to the Police by myself. We have not paid enough detail to this in the past and it must be rectified. (Parade States are a definite requirement ensure that your branch complies please). Branch Secretaries are requested to forward Parade State to :-Mrs J Allen – 3 Sermon Drive, Swanley, Kent BR8 7HS Tele 01322 666007 by Thursday 01 September 2011.

PROGRAMME

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 08.30 hrs | - Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be available in Museum |
| 0945 hrs | - The Band arrive. |
| 1015-10.35hrs | - Fall in and Inspection. |
| 1040 hrs | - The Mayoral party and Chaplain arrive. |
| 1043 hrs | - Service at Cenotaph. |
| 1055 hrs | - Parade reforms and prepares for the march to All Saints. |
| 1100 hrs | - March past the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor (accompanied by the President) at the Town Hall or within Brenchley Gardens. During the March Past Regimental Marches of the former Regiments will be played. |
| 1115 hrs | - If we are Marching we will Arrive at All Saint's Church via Mill Street and Old Palace Gardens – Parade Falls Out. If Plan B is used you will proceed to the Church by coach or under private arrangements |

Service at All Saint's Church Maidstone:

- a. Service will start at 11.30hrs.
- b. The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will play at the Service inside the Church.
- c. The Choir from All Saint's Church will sing during the Service.
- d. The Guest Preacher will be The Reverend Dr D G Coulter QHC CF Deputy Chaplain General.

At the end of service members of the Association and guests are to, either make their own way to the Ramada Hotel or use the transport provided.

The Reunion

This will be held at Ramada Hotel Hollingbourne Nr Maidstone. The Hotel is set in 26 acres of ground and close to Junction 8 of the M20. The Reunion will take place in the Heart of Kent Suite.

Transport

A coach will be provided to transport those Association Members/Guests not travelling by their own means from the Church to the Ramada Hotel. It will also return Members/Guests to Maidstone after the Reunion.

Buffet Luncheon

There will be a Buffet Luncheon available for all at the Ramada Hotel.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND. No food whatsoever, other than that provided by the hotel may be consumed within the hotel. All attending the Reunion must have a Reunion Ticket.

Tickets

Tickets can be obtained from: Mrs J Allen, 3 Sermon Drive, Swanley, Kent BR8 7HS Tele 01322 6660007. Cost = £ 3.00 The closing date is Thursday 01 September 2011. Lunch tickets will not be available after this date or at the reunion. Branch Secretaries are requested to consolidate requirements. A stamped addressed envelope with orders please. Cheques made payable to: 'Queen's Own Buffs General Account'.

Reunion Programme

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1300 hrs | - Buffet Lunch – for those with tickets. Doors and Bars will open at 1230 hrs. There will be no entry prior to this. |
| 1330 – 1445 hrs | - Band concert by the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment |
| 1500 hrs | - Swingtime Sweethearts. |
| 1530 hrs | - Speeches and Raffle |
| 1630 hrs | - Bars Close |
| 1700 hrs | - Reunion ends. |

PRI SHOP

A PRI Shop will be supplied by RHQ PWRR

RON'S PART IN WORLD WAR II

Concluding the story of the late Ron Lampard's service with The Queen's Own

during World War II

(Editor's note: This is the concluding part of the story of Ron's war. The late Ron Lampard served with 6th Bn Queen's Own. It is published as a tribute to Ron and indeed all who fought with that outstanding battalion.)

BACK TO ITALY – MUD, MULES & MAYHEM

We were sent on our way towards Bologna, to a place called Aqua Salata (Salt Water). The weather was very bad and we were up to our eyes in mud, which made my job very tiring. The only way to transport supplies was by mules, these poor things had to use a very narrow track round a hillside. The track had partially blown away by a German mine and one of my mules fell off the track and went down into deep mud at the bottom of the hill. It was night-time and I had to try and get his load off whilst standing waist-deep in the mud.

I managed to get one side off but the other side was underneath the animal, which was in great distress, so my only option was to put it out of its misery by shooting it through the back of the head - this made me terribly upset. I managed to get some of the ration bags from underneath it but had to leave the cans of water, as they were too heavy. I was feeling around to see if there was anything else in the mud, when I picked up an odd-shaped bundle. Suddenly I realised to my horror that it was the remains of an Italian mule-driver who had been blown up on the track the night before. After this I managed to get a bit closer to my Company's position, where I was reunited with the rest of the mules and their Italian mule-drivers who had conveniently found a slit-trench to shelter in.

The track wound its way onward to the bottom of a hill, on top of which was our lads' position. Gerry had a heavy machine gun trained on fixed lines onto a big rock that lay in the corner at right angles to the path. When the shells hit the rock there was quite a firework display. My problem was to try to get past the rock and up the hill in the small interval between the bursts of fire. I waited for the end of one burst, shouted and made a hell of a noise, whilst whacking the last two mules with the

reigns, hoping to God that they would make it up the hill and that our blokes would stop them before they got to the German positions (I didn't follow them!). I heard later that our lot heard me shouting and caught the mules as they reached the top, so all was well. It was still raining heavily as I dragged myself back to my billet, which was a pig-sty in the bottom of a farm house ... this suited me fine in the state that I was in!

It was getting towards Christmas once more and the cooks decided that my pig playmate would increase the provisions of Christmas dinner considerably. (Pity I was allergic to pork.) As my living quarters were quite a way from the cookhouse they decided to dig a pit and put the pig in it and cover it over with camouflage netting. There was still about four weeks to Christmas and not far from us were a battery of Artillery gunners. These blokes were all quite matey and they used to give our cooks their leftovers for our pig which was doing quite well and putting on so much weight that we had to enlarge its pit from time to time.

Those who make the ultimate decisions surprised us all by saying that we would be coming out of the line for three days for Christmas and that I and our cooks would proceed immediately over the Abruzzi mountains to an area of Florence to a villa (lots of villas in this area), where we could prepare our Christmas meal so that it would all be ready when the rest of the troops arrived. All we got was a map reference for the villa which, between me, the cooks and even Tiny our driver, was not a good idea. In the time it took us to get organised for the trip (about five minutes), our beautiful pig had gone missing. The rumour had it that our friendly gunners hadn't been so friendly after all!

It was about a couple of hundred miles to Florence with snow falling and freezing hard as we started over the mountains. We managed a stop on the way with some of our Yankee pals, who had started their festivities early. They supplied us with some nice warming coffee with a drop of Jack

Daniels, which went down a treat! As we pulled into Florence there were some Redcaps keeping warm by a lovely fire in an oil barrel. I went up to one and said "Got this map ref., Sargel!" He looked at me with a blank expression saying "Corps H.Q. up the road mate". We found it and what a place it was – just like a palace with umpteen cooks in whites and chef's hats. – they couldn't have been army cooks, as they didn't have fags hanging out the corner of their mouths blowing ash into the food. The kitchens were beautiful, all copper pots etc., reminding me of Brighton Pavilion. "Anybody read a map?" I said. "Non capeche!" was the reply. Eventually we found our villa ... more by luck than judgement.

It was quite a nice place with a little annex at the side, which I thought ideal for the cookhouse, so I set everything up and got set the cooks to work. Suddenly another truck pulls up and out got a 2nd Lieutenant, who came over saying "How's everything going?" "OK, thank you sir!" I replied. "One thing, Corporal, I'd like the cookhouse to be shifted as this place would be ideal for the Officers' Mess." "Sorry Sir, can't do that, we are already cooking and there's much better accommodation in the villa." "I beg to differ Cpl.!" He said sternly. "Well" I answered, "My instructions were to get the meal ready for the arrival of troops by the CO, sir!" That put him in his place!

There was a rum issue, which I used in my usual Christmas Punch as a special treat for the lads ... it was mugs out, Merry Christmas to all! Our turkey was in tins and of course there was no pork, due to our friendly gunners but we had plenty of bangers, so everyone had a good tuck in. The Colonel came round with a smile on his face as we were dishing up. He said: "Doesn't seem so much meat on their plates as usual, Corporal!" Who told him about our snaffled pig? He had a good sense of humour. I replied "It's the rationing, Sir!"

After Christmas we returned to more or less the same position that we had left. I was told to attend the CO's orders and wondered what I'd done wrong. The Orderly marched me into the Orderly Room, where I was told that he had decided to make me up to full Corporal (2 stripes) for all the work I had put in and that the extra pay would be backdated for one month. It was nice to be appreciated. The Polish divisions had moved in to capture Bologna. Great stuff! We at least realised

that we were winning. I was also given 48 hours leave in Rome, along with a pal of mine who was a company clerk. He was a Roman Catholic (not practicing) but we lined up at St Peters to be blessed by the Pope. I did say a little prayer of thanks for getting me through without a scratch, so far. We also went to the opera and it snowed in Rome for the first time in 20 years.

On rejoining the Battalion, we were switched once again, this time to the Pontine Marches - fen country. (What? No mountains?) This is where Captain Correlli's area was. Didn't see him though but did come into contact with the resistance fighters. One bunch of these, the Marxists, wore red scarves and the other lot, the Antis, wore green scarves but neither had uniforms. The only reason we had to deal with them was because we had to feed them and they used to fight with each other over who got what. This was tank country - quite good roads running between the dykes. We rode on the back of the tanks, which was a nice change for us, travelling along a dead straight road.

As we came to a cross road a German armoured car came tearing along too fat for our tank to get a gun sighted on it. As we started to turn left at this cross road, the armoured car came racing back (these cars had a Daimler engine in the front and rear, so they could go just as fast in reverse as forward. We were advancing on a broad front with other tanks, so the Daimler had found himself trapped. He made another attempt to come past us but this time our tank had lined up its 17 pound gun and fired one round which took all the armoured radiator out and landed it in the laps of the Gerries. When I saw they were Waffen S.S. I didn't feel so sorry for them.

Our senior officers kept changing – all the most experienced going home for D. Day. Our Colonel was not a tank man and he bought his own ideas into play. When a Tank Squad moves, all their trucks move with them – They don't have A and B Echelons like the Infantry. Our Transport Officer always boasted he never lost a vehicle to the enemy, which I think was a fib, as I knew we lost three or four in the early days in North Africa.

Our next job under the new Colonel, with his tanks, was to capture an airfield that the Germans were using to get their top men out and back to the Fatherland. The Gerries were defending this

with Panzer Tiger Tanks, which they had dug in, hull down, around the airfield. Our tanks all went forward to do battle, along with our 17lb anti-tank guns. The portees that pulled these returned to the area where our trucks were and I said to Tiny, "I don't like the look of this, I think we ought to dig a slit trench". So we did this alongside of the 15cwt Bedford truck. The other drivers got the message and did the same. The tank battle started and was ferocious, we couldn't see a lot from where we were but the noise was deafening. A few ranging shells came over and hit a couple of portees, setting them on fire, so the Gerries knew they had got the range. Tiny and I sank lower in the slit trench but were far from happy. I knew I had a bottle of rum in the door pocket of our truck, so I crawled out of the trench, opened the door and was back in the trench with the bottle in a flash. There was so much shrapnel flying about I was lucky. Our water bowser truck came up and pulled up in front of us, the driver diving underneath it for protection.

One after another trucks were getting hit and things were getting very serious. The bottle of rum was nearly empty ... talk about 'Dutch Courage'. Eventually the battle seemed to be easing up but we didn't know if that was good or bad news. Suddenly a Don. R. came along and shouted for us to pull out. Tiny got into the truck and started our engine and I wasn't far behind. Graham got in the bowser but it wouldn't start, so we put a tow chain on it and gave him a tow start but then our engine seized up due to holes in the radiator, so the bowser came in front of us and towed us all the way back to camp. Bill Smith, my Colour Sergeant, came up to me and said: "How ya doing chav? You're looking a bit white since I saw you last". My reply was unprintable.

I had to unload the 15cwt in order for it to be sent for repair or replacement. Tiny and I always kept our bed-rolls in the centre of all the gear. When I took mine off and unrolled it, it was torn to bits and full of shrapnel. Just imagine ... we had boxes of grenades, 2" mortar bombs and other ammo all stacked around. A 4 gallon can of water which was on one side of the truck had been pierced and was empty but a 4 gallon can of petrol which had been on the other side was untouched. Someone must have been watching over us. I said to Bill Smith:

"Look at this lot! And you wondered why I was looking a bit white!"

END OF HOSTILITIES & INTO AUSTRIA

Although the war was supposed to have ended with the announcement by Churchill on V.E. Day we were still in action for a further two days against a Division of White Russians who had decided to fight for the Germans just across the Austrian border. It was nothing too serious for us though, these were Cossacks and other people from the Balkan area, such as Georgians, etc. They relied on horses to move their equipment and also had their families with them.

Everything was now getting very political – a conference had been called, which was attended by Eisenhower, Churchill and Stalin where it was agreed that all POWs would be returned to their own countries by whoever had liberated them. Stalin demanded the return of these White Russians and any slave labour (many of these). Thousands of prisoners of many nationalities were all packed into a small area. 36 Infantry Brigade (our lot) were there to organise things and to try to prevent chaos. I had plenty to do with trying to feed this lot and our own lads too. Something struck me as very funny, a Waffen SS German, who looked like Goebels in his black uniform, had been given the job of sorting this lot out. He'd got a big slate blackboard with all different nationalities written in chalk down one side and was demanding their papers so that he could write down how many there were of each upon it. It was segregation on a large scale. He spoke several languages and was well organised – I think he must have been at Belsen or Auschwitz. We had trouble at our camp after the officers of the Cossacks and Georgians had been persuaded by our Generals to give up their weapons (mostly swords and carbines) as a sign of surrender. Once this was done, a train pulling cattle trucks was brought along the line, which was very ominous and caused great panic amongst the prisoners. The carrier platoons of our brigade had the job of herding these poor people, some of whom lay down in front of the vehicles and most of our drivers wouldn't run over them of course. Then the infantry had to try to coerce them to get on the train, it was an awful experience for everyone because they had guessed that they were to be sent back to Russia. Eventually, after about three days, they were all loaded aboard and

on a Sunday evening I and my pal Joe Chaplin sat on the side of the mountain in this beautiful valley and watched the train go on its way. There has been a lot written and said about these events, even Tolstoy's son appeared on television and accused us as being murderers because we had sent them back to certain death. Our politicians said that, if we had not kept our word to Stalin, he would not have got our own POWs back to us ... Who knows?

We had now moved further into Austria, to a little village called Brugen. We still had plenty of horses, so the Hungarian prisoners of war built us a lovely race track at which we held weekend meetings. I helped to run the Tote, which was quite good fun, although I don't think that I would have made a very good bookie as I couldn't manage the 'tic-tac'. We had some good docile animals on which those of us with no riding experience could amble along on in the evening sunshine. I did this on quite a few occasions as, now that the war was over, we only had to work in the mornings and the rest was free time. The village had just one road, which was straight for most of the way but followed the bends of the river further along behind the houses. In the other direction the road ran up a steep hill to a beautiful lake called Wesensee, which means White Lake in English. As the road crossed over into Italy it was decided to set up a permanently manned sentry post with movable barrier, to prevent any cars doing a getaway into Italy.

After our practice rides we would all congregate at our cookhouse for a mug of tea. Each unit that wanted to enter the races had their 'dark horse', which they tried to keep a secret. Ours was nicknamed Sheilagh and the jockey, a northerner who was a very good rider, was called Brough. My billet was in a house next door to the barn where Sheilagh was stabled. We were all at the cookhouse and Broughy was about to make the tea when he calmly said to me: "You can take Sheilagh down to the barn, can't you Ron?" All eyes were on me ... it was a challenge! Like a clot, I said: "Of course" and jumped up on the horse's back, whereupon she grabbed the bit in her mouth and was off at full tilt. Now, each evening Orders were posted at the Orderly Room to be read by all everyone and one of the orders of that day was: "No personnel will gallop a horse on a metalled road!" Anyway, there I was in the saddle, terrified, with one hand

on the reigns and the other clutching the corner of the saddle blanket. We were approaching the sentry post at full gallop and the noise of the horse's hooves on the metal road was deafening. Picture the scene: The sentry's head popped out of his box with a fag end dangling from his mouth ... with one smooth movement he removed the pole in front and waved me through. By this time lots of heads were popping out and everyone was cheering, which seemed to frighten Sheilagh as much as me. The road ran through the village and met up with a wooden bridge over a swollen river. My first thoughts were ... "If she follows that course I'll be in the drink for sure!" ... So I managed to tug the reigns enough and she took a course down the towpath but the problem here was overhanging branches, which threatened to knock me off. I think that Sheilagh was running out of steam by this time and I gave one mighty heave on the reigns. With this she reared up on her hind legs, pitching me out of the saddle, whereupon I picked myself up, shaking like leaf, and started the long walk back up to the village. On the way I met Broughy, freewheeling down the road on a bike with a big grin on his face. "I'll leave the bike in the hedge, Ron," he said. "You jump up behind me on Sheilagh."

These were the early days in Austria and we weren't supposed to fraternise with the locals (this didn't last for long of course) but I was the laughing stock of everyone for quite a time and, need I add, I've never been on a horse since.

The cookhouse was quite a focal point in the village. The local kids used to crowd round and wait for leftovers when we dished up. What a relief, no worries about war ... everyone relaxing. One of our lads (another Yorkshireman), who used to line up for his meal at midday, would always have a sandbag in his belt and a homemade hiking stick. As soon as he had finished his meal, he would stride off up the mountain, which we all thought a bit strange, although we didn't say anything about it ... Just thinking him a bit odd, not like us Londoners. In my job as acting Colour Sergeant I was told that I must take a course on pay. There was a small group of us from the Battalion who had to meet in the afternoons, which didn't interfere with all my other work. I had always had a good head for figures, so that was OK, it just meant that I had to be present at pay parade once a week

to enter into the pay books how much they had drawn out, etc. After that I would issue the NAAFI ration and collect payment for it. Also, every so often, I had to collect everyone's paybooks and check them against the payroll to make sure that no one had been fiddling.

Some of our chaps were billeted in a hall in the village and I left a note on the notice board that I wanted to collect the paybooks the following afternoon. When I arrived and entered the door everyone went quiet and looked 'shifty'. There on all the beds were lots of German Marks, all soaking wet and presumably being dried out. I was amazed. All was then revealed: our Yorkshireman, he of the sandbag and hiking stick had, in his meanderings along the swollen river, found a little backwater where a German or Austrian paymaster had dumped all the lolly. Why? I don't know ... I think it must have been illicit and dumped some time before we entered the area. Sometime before this Yorkie had come to me and asked if he could send some extra money home to his wife because he had won a lot of money at cards, which I had agreed to and got the special forms ready. What he had actually been doing was selling his wet notes to the lads, at a great rate of exchange, for their army money, which he was sending home. I had to give big thoughts to this scam ... these blokes had been with me through a lot of hard times and the money that was found had belonged to the enemy, so it wasn't as if the battalion or our army was suffering. My decision was to turn a 'blind eye'. I told them not to overdo things, take it steady and not to be greedy.

It was a lovely area that we were in and I used to go up to Lace Weise at weekends with a few of my mates and some of the local girls, taking our lunch with us. There was a big wooden raft, which was used for taking the haycarts across the lake at harvest time, which we used to take into the middle of the lake to swim. It was September and the weather was beautiful ... loads of fun!

Surprise, surprise! My name had come out of the lottery drum for a month's home leave, so it was all across Europe by lorry and then by train from Dover to Liverpool St. Station and then on to Enfield and home, to see my darling wife and little son, Terry, who was now six years old. When they met me at the bus stop he was riding a tricycle and was very shy of me ... he was only a baby

when I had last seen him. In Austria we had five German POW carpenters working for the Btn and when they heard that I was going home they made a model of a Comet airliner from a photograph in Picture Post magazine. It was quite large and they had made a nice plywood box with a handle so that I could carry it easily. When I gave it to Terry he was thrilled to bits. I had a lovely leave and saw my mum and dad and all the Bickel family (my in-laws) of which there were many. It seemed silly that I had to return to Austria for another six months until my 'demob'.

When I arrived back at the Btn. It was nearly Christmas again. We had snow and I learnt to ski ... Loved it! Had a great Christmas Dinner and made a Rum Punch for everyone for a toast ... we all got well drunk! On Boxing Day I was told that I was to go to Vienna with an advance party once again. I arrived on New Year's Eve and went out to celebrate but felt really miserable and homesick. I missed my mates who I'd left behind. All around me were having a whole of a time - the East Surreys Regiment, who we were taking over from were saying goodbye to all their lady friends, so I got plastered once more. Soon, as the rest of our lads arrived, I got over my depression. We had a forces club called the White Angel, it had a live orchestra and there was lots of dancing, especially Viennese waltzes ... I was in my element!

I did have to do a spell as an International Guard. There was one Yank, one French, one Russian and myself. We patrolled around the streets in a car, keeping our eyes on things - mostly drunken soldiers of the occupying armies. One night I went to a nightclub, which later on I recognised in the film *The Third Man*. There was a punch-up between some Austrians and Russians but I left rapidly as I didn't want to be involved as I was soon to be on my way home.

There was a big party on the night before we left for England. I was asked if I wanted to sign on for another three years and be made up to WO1 but I said "No thanks", shook hands with the Colonel and departed to go back to Civvy Street.

PHOTO GALLERY



**Sittingbourne Branch of The Buffs Past & Present Regt. Association AGM and Dinner 1951.
5th Bn The Buffs, Old Drill Hall, in East Street, Sittingbourne**

Colonel Dean VC is on the top table.

Can you spot a youthful George Dunk then on leave from 1st Bn The Buffs having returned from Hong Kong and Khartoum. Answer on last page (Final Word)

Photo courtesy of George Dunk



Frankie Hills wins the 'Loo Spotters' Challenge Cup 2011 whilst in Albuhera.



The above tiled road sign depicting a soldier of the 50th Foot at Vimerio. During the battle the 50th & 97th played a significant part in the final stages of the battle

Picture courtesy of Captain Ham Whitty



Officers of 1 RWK- Greece 1945

Top Row: Lt. Hall, Lt. E. Matthews, Lt. E. Jordan, Lt. J. Carse, Lt. D. McLelland, Lt. L. Stamp, Lt. T. Upton, Lt. C. Hale, Capt. C. King, Lt. E. McFarland, Capt. J. Venn-Dunn.

Centre Row: Lt. McLeary, Capt. G. Batsford, Lt. W. Allen, Capt. L. Demetrious, Rev. Beaumont, Capt. W. Tennant, Capt. G. Newman, Lt. Roberts, Lt. E. Westcott, Lt. Galilee MC.

Sitting: Capt. R. Mines MBE, Major. H. Waring, Major H. Towers-Minors, Capt. D. Scull, Lt. Col. Braithwaite DSO, Major D. William, Major H. Raisin, Capt. S. Glynn, Lt R. Hird.

Photo courtesy of Chris Jupp



MEMORIAL TO 2ND BUFFS

1862-1864

King's Chapel in Gibraltar.

Photo courtesy of Joe Correa



Cartoon from the 1st World War.

Courtesy of Fred Scales.



Peninsular Platoon

Back Row: John Adams, ??, Mears, ??

Third Row: Richard Bosworth, Doug Strickland, Roy Dunning, ??, Roy Edwards, Peter or Brian Foad, Dave Willard, Tony Purdy, Peter Chadwick.

Second Row: Ivan Vicary, Peter Lindford, Roy Weller, Dave Howe, Harry Longley, Jim Bennett, Bill Hobdale, Morgan, John Prior, Brian Port.

Front Row: Fred Scales, Lcpl. George McNeil, Cpl. Ray Batchelor, CSM Chapman, Major Montgomery, Sgt. Tug Wilson, Lt. Mike Dracopoli, John Surridge, Pat Simmons.

Can you fill in the gaps?



1969



2011

At right: 13 men of the 1969 Mortar Platoon on parade with their wives at Detling 2011.

Back Row: W. Handley, P. White, T Saunders.

Front Row - L to R: M. Burke, J. Hickmott, F. Carrington, Mrs Crocker, Mrs Weeks, B. Crocker, R. Weeks, D. O'Donnell, J Clarke, T. Rutter, P Goodalye, R. Banks, D. Reed, Mrs Banks, M. Jones, J. Clark, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs Jones, Mrs Hickmott and A. Excell.

ANNUAL INTER BRANCH DARTS MATCH 2011



The Winners

Sittingbourne Branch



The Runners Up

Ramsgate Branch



*Winning Team Captain, Mike Matson
receiving the victors trophy from Colonel
Champion.*



*Team Captain Lenny Elks receiving the
Runners Up trophy from Colonel Champion.*



*Highest Individual 3 dart score to
Derek Wallis of Weald Branch
Well done Derek*



*A range of Regimental Mugs now available through
Sittingbourne Branch. Contact Paul Fleming.*

FRIENDS OF THE BUFFS (ROYAL EAST KENT REGIMENT)

Membership continues to grow, albeit slowly, so if you are not already a member then please contact Alan Marchant, 01227 458264 or myself on 01843 580914 and an application form will be sent straight away.

The flow of funds have now put us in a fairly strong financial position with over £4,000 in the bank. We have been waiting an outcome of the Museum saga before spending anything, conserving funds with the hope that we will be able to get a museum type presence in the Canterbury area. As you are all too aware the reopening of the new remodelled Beaney Institute will only offer the regiment a small display cabinet in which will be displayed items depicting the history of the regiment in the 19th century with very little, if any, coverage of the previous unique history nor indeed any recognition of the service and sacrifice of Buffs during the First and Second World Wars and the Final years.

Following on from an initial approach by Lt. Colonel John White to Charles Lambie who has now leased the Westgate Towers from the City Council a meeting was held on the 24th May with Bob Collins the curator of the Westgate Towers and briefly with Charles Lambie. The result is that a further meeting will be held in July, date to be confirmed, at which a formal presentation will be given to Charles Lambie with the intention of holding a manned temporary exhibition, for 2 months, in the Westgate Towers on the history of the regiment with a range of weapons, medals on display. The response from Charles has been very supportive indeed and I look forward to being able to give you good news in the not too distant future. A temporary arrangement will give both sides the opportunity to consider the long term possibilities.

As the Westgate Towers museum is no longer a credited museum we will not be able to derive much material support from the National Army Museum but we have all of the material available to produce story boards of a high standard, replica medals, maps etc. from private sources.

If you have any items that you feel maybe of interest then please contact us.

The exhibition will be jointly sponsored by Friends of The Buffs and the Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association who have fought a long and hard battle with the City Council on our behalf.

The funds that we have available will allow us to purchase lightweight exhibition/display boards and some replica weapons and I have no doubt that the Regimental exhibition will be very popular with the public which will add support for our search for a permanent home.

The talks/presentations that have been given to various organisations on The Buffs in the past few months have been well received and have helped to 'spread the word'. If you have any organisation local to you that would welcome such a talk, it takes about 1 and half hours, then please contact Alan or myself.

I know that things may appear to have been pretty quiet of late but I can assure you that there is a lot going on behind the scenes.

There will be a Friends of The Buffs information tent at the Canterbury Reunion and we hope to see you there.

The next Newsletter will be sent out in the autumn when there will be more news to hand.

If you served in The Buffs and are not already a member of The Friends of The Buffs then please consider joining, we need all the support we can get. To obtain an application form or for any other information please contact:

Major Alan Marchant on 01227 458264

or

Major Peter R White on 01843 580914.

The next meeting of Friends of The Buffs will be on 19th January 2012 at 7.30pm at The Chaucer Club, Chaucer Hill, off Military Road, Canterbury.

We look forward to seeing you.

ALBUHERA 2011

THE 200th ANNIVERSARY TRIP

13th to 17th MAY 2011

Together with representatives from The Royal Fusiliers, The Middlesex, one lone East Surrey) and several PWRR soldiers 24 members of our Regimental Association made the pilgrimage to Albuhera to honour those brave men who against all odds stood firm to win this epic battle exactly 200 hundred years ago.

The outward trip for the great majority was by BA and TAP from Heathrow where Major Dennis Bradley corralled us as we checked in to prevent us ending up in the wrong country!; good flights followed by a two and a half hour coach trip to hotels in Badajoz. Most of us were lucky enough to stay at The Rio which looked after us well.

The next day many went to Elvas for the long hot climb up a rough path to The British Cemetery which, except for one lady in high heels, was successfully navigated. The lunch afterwards was much appreciated by our hungry warriors. Others though opted to visit The Roman ruins at Merida which was similarly successful.

The next morning our guides showed us the scenes of the two main assaults against the walls of Badajoz where so many were killed, and while one was successful in breaching the walls it was the diversionary attack which broke into the town and ended the siege. In the afternoon coaches took us to the Albuhera battlefield where after briefing by our guides we were able to walk the ground, now mainly laid to low vines. I stood exactly where The Buffs were attacked from behind by French Hussars and Polish Lancers on that fateful day.

However these two good days were surpassed in every way by the ceremonies at Albuhera village where we were hugely impressed by a Spanish military band, their rather smart soldiers and by a whole bevy of re-enactors wearing mainly British uniforms. We then moved to the PWRR erected memorial for a short service and wreath laying before tucking into a gargantuan feast where courses kept on coming.

Next day we enjoyed informal lunches in Lisbon and then a rather warm coach tour of the city as the aircon had failed, before an early evening departure back to Heathrow. Everyone voted the visit a great success and we are indebted to our various guides who brought the siege of Badajoz and the Albuhera battle to life. We also thank the staff at RHQ whose organisation "on the day" was excellent and made our visit so enjoyable.

CGC

All photographs courtesy of Barry Duffield



Bryan Hazard, laying a wreath at the memorial.

For the last 15 years Bryan has visited Albuhera on 16th May each year, and has laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. On several occasions he has been the only Regimental representative to attend.



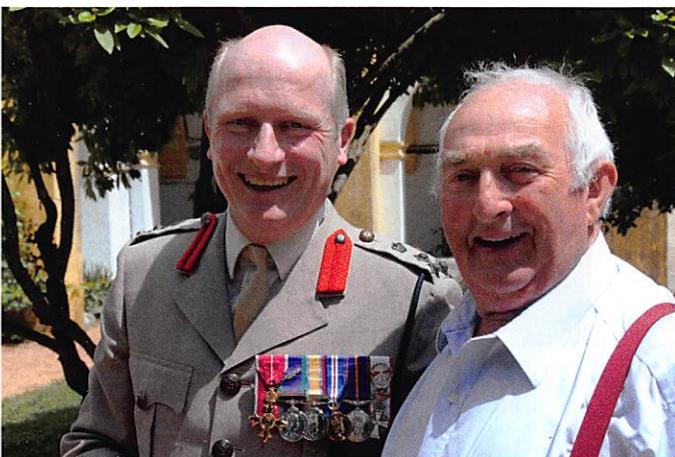
Above: the Queens Own Buffs Regimental Association representatives with Brigadier Dennis



Wally Tong and Georgie Toms lending Bryan Hazard a hand!



Above: Major Bill Marshall with Ray Cox



Left: Brigadier Dennis with Digger 'Braces' Dighton



Major Bill Marshall, Joe Correa, Major Dennis Bradley and Colonel Crispin Champion



Frankie Hills, Digger Dighton and Spud Carey



Brigadier Dennis



Major Dennis Bradley BEM (Parade Commander)



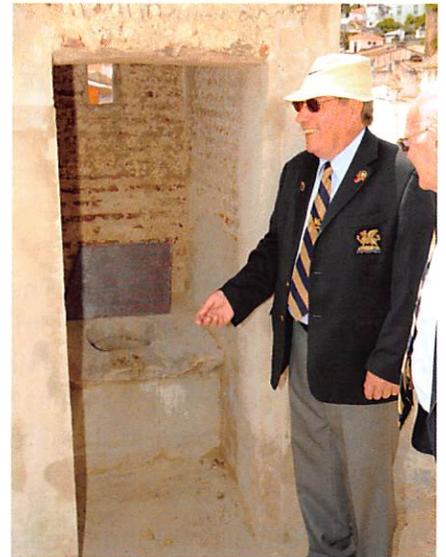
Steady The Buffs



Roger Banks, Barry Crocker and 'Buggsie' Wharram BEM



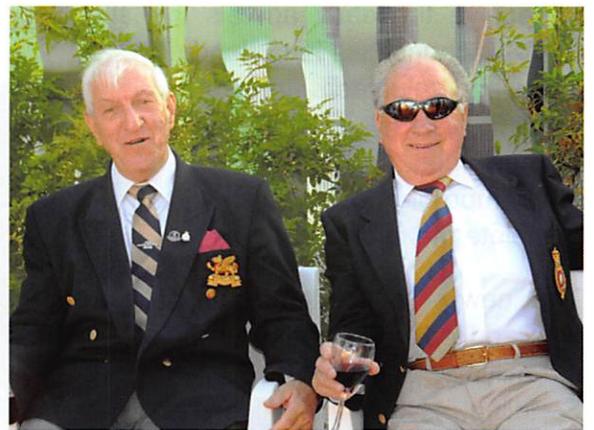
'Thirsty work'



Where's the door?



*Georgie Toms, Tina & George Croxford
with Lennie Elks.*



The brothers Carey



*L to R: Spud Carey, Derek Carey, Frankie Hills, Ray Cox, Mick Charman, Joe Correa,
Brigadier Dennis, Sammy Supple, Bryan Dudman, Dave Harbour and Mo Mace.*

DAWSON AND THE 6th

A précis of Colonel Dawson and the Sixth (Service) Battalion,
The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment, 1914-1918

by

Jonathan Saunders

The Spring 2010 issue of The Journal carried a splendid article on the 6th Battalion during the Second World War, but with the passing of the years it has been forgotten that "The Spirit of the Sixth" had been born in the Great War of 1914-1918.

The Sixth Battalion of the Great War was formed in August 1914 by a small nucleus of regular, Reserve and retired officers and NCOs formed to receive the early arrivals into the Regiment from Kitchener's First Hundred Thousand volunteers. In addition, O.T.C. trained subalterns of various ages (and sizes!) arrived on temporary commissions to complete the cadre.

The newly constituted battalion was drilled and put through its military training at Purfleet, Sandling, Hythe and Aldershot, before crossing to France as part of the 12th Division on 31st May 1915.

The Sixth received their induction in the trenches at "Plug Street" in the south of the Ypres Salient, before making a name for themselves in the fighting at Hulloch during the Loos offensive and then in the battle of the craters near Vermelles.

Next the battalion moved down to the Somme. In reserve on the 1st July 1916, they were part of the ill-fated offensive in the battle for Ovillers on 3rd July, sustaining heavy casualties when a late cancellation order on their left flank exposed them to unremitting enfilade fire. Bolstered by new drafts but still depleted, they were put back into the fighting near Ovillers at the end of July and into August.

Still short in rifle strength, their final involvement on the Somme was at Guedecourt on 7th October

1916, again sustaining very heavy casualties but holding their hard won ground.

Up until this time the battalion had been commanded by three strong characters; they were commanded by Lt-Col Robinson before his departure to command the 1st battalion in late 1914, and then until the end of 1915 by Lt-Col Venables – both seasoned campaigners and officers of the Queen's Own. At the end of Loos Lt-Col Venables was invalided and the battalion

came into the command of Lt-Col C.S. Owen of the 2nd battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Lt-Col Owen was to prove a formidable Commanding Officer and soon earned the nickname of "The Fire-Eater". His tenure set the tone for the great achievements that were to follow.

At the end of the Somme fighting Lt-Col Owen was given a Brigade. As a parting gift he arguably performed his greatest duty for the battalion when he endorsed Major Dawson, his 2 i/c, to be given command of the Sixth. When the war ended the Sixth would be known by all as "Dawson's battalion", such was his

immense influence over it.

W.R.A. "Bob" Dawson was just 25 years old. He had been commissioned into the Queen's Own in June 1914 and, to his fury, was left behind when the 1st battalion sailed for France in August 1914 – Dawson being detailed as part of the nucleus to form the Sixth. Now, less than 30 months later, his meteoric rise was confirmed by his temporary appointment as Lt-Colonel. An outward sign of his bravery was the D.S.O. ribbon on his chest, which was won at Hulloch, and several wound stripes on his left arm.

Under Dawson the Sixth would be volunteered to carry out any difficult job that needed to be



done in the 12th Division. The battalion's first great achievement under Dawson was holding the Line at Monchy in the battle of Arras in May 1917. Dawson viewed "leading" as being as far to the front as possible at the critical time. This was evident at Monchy and as a reward Dawson received a further wound.

Dawson had to sit out the opening of the Cambrai offensive on 20th November 1917, as he was hospitalised. Sadly, on this day, Lt-Col Alderman D.S.O., was killed when leading the battalion in Dawson's absence. He was a Boer War veteran from the ranks of the Queen's Own, and had been commissioned in August 1914.

For ten days the Sixth held the ground they won at Cambrai without relief. They observed the German reinforcements arrive whilst they themselves continued to sustain more casualties from the increasingly intense shelling by the German artillery.

Dawson had returned in time to command the remnants of the battalion when the German counter-offensive eventually came on 30th November. Quite literally Dawson led from the Front, putting himself into the front line trenches as soon as the attack developed. Before the battalion was over-run Dawson was carried from the battlefield by his batman, Pte Witt. He was barely conscious, having been shot through both cheeks.

If the Sixth had been decimated at Ovillers and Guedecourt, they were practically wiped out at Cambrai. Yet more new drafts arrived and the battalion was back on the Somme when the great German Spring offensive came in March 1918. Again Dawson had the battalion performing great heroics in stemming the German advance and at one point reclaiming lost ground (in his advance he led an assorted force including Buffs). It was close quarter fighting and Dawson was again wounded.

The Allies offensive commenced on 8th August 1918 in what was to become known as the "Last Hundred Days". The Sixth went into action on the 9th and so as to set an example of calmness and nonchalance to the many young new drafts in the reconstituted battalion, Dawson started the battle on horseback. It was on this day that Sgt Tom Harris of the Sixth was awarded a posthumous

Victoria Cross in an act of unselfish bravery not dissimilar to that performed by L/Cpl Harman at Kohima in 1944.

Whilst the Last Hundred Days witnessed heavy fighting by a determined German rearguard, it became apparent that the war was now entering its final phase.

It was now a war of mobility and the fighting had moved to virgin ground unbroken by the years of heavy shelling. On 23rd October 1918, Dawson was returning to his H.Q. having visited his forward companies near Nivelle. He had seen some celery growing in the field and thinking it would be a welcome addition to the evening meal, stopped to pick a handful. At that moment a stray German shell landed almost on top of him. The Sixth saw no more action and so this was the last shell they received.

Amazingly Dawson was not killed outright and found enough strength to blow his whistle attracting attention. He was evacuated to the 20th General Hospital at Camiers, near Étaples. With little feeling from below his neck and unable to help himself, Dawson fought for his life for another five weeks before his body gave up on 3rd December 1918. He was buried in the military cemetery at Étaples.

Dawson had been with the Sixth from its beginning until the end of its fighting days. Officially wounded seven times, the exact number was said to be more than ten. He had hated to be away from the battalion and in his own words would make a nuisance of himself to doctors, nurses and Medical Boards, until they passed him fit again for active service. Of his four D.S.O.s, three were awarded with fighting citations. He refused Staff appointments and resisted any attempt to give him his own Brigade in preference to lead his battalion in the fight.

As many of you will know, his portrait hangs opposite the entrance to the R.W.K. Room in Maidstone Museum. His D.S.O. and three bars, with Trio and oak leaf, were gifted to the museum by his family and are displayed in the cabinet on the back wall, not far from Tom Harris' Victoria Cross and Military Medal in the V.C. cabinet. Spare them and the all-but-forgotten Sixth of the Great War a thought next time you visit.



The Westgate Towers Museum & City Gaol



The Westgate Towers Museum and City Gaol were recently leased from the City Council by Mr. Charles Lambie who has also purchased the adjacent 'Old Police Station' which is being turned into a hotel.

The project was officially opened on Thursday 28th July by Mrs. Amanda Cottrell OBE, Chairperson of 'Visit Kent' and Dr. Andrew Brown, the Regional Director of English Heritage.

The Canterbury Westgate Towers, the UK's largest surviving medieval gateway, faced closure some 12 months ago. This iconic scheduled ancient monument and museum, has now reopened in conjunction with the adjoining 1830 Grade 11 Listed former City Gaol and Police Station at Pound Lane.

At the opening ceremony guests were provided with a Short Guide booklet part of which reproduced here.

The museum entrance is situated under the main gateway suitably marked with arrows on the pavement. When at the entrance door take a moment to look across at the stone arch above the doorway to the South Tower Guard Chamber- you will see deep cut marks in the stone lintel where you can imagine the garrison members, perhaps bored and cold, sharpening their swords and bayonets whilst manning the gates.

(Editors note: You may also notice some long standing damage to one of the walls of the main gateway on the inside edge. That is down to our old friend and ex Chairman of London Buffs, Bill Pinder, trying to drive a Bren gun carrier through the gateway during the war and missing!)

The gateway incorporated the very latest in military architecture at the time of its construction. You can see at its entrance evidence of the obligatory

heavy wooden gates, a slot for the portcullis and in the vaulted roof above you the murder holes should the defences have been breached. The 60 ft. high drum towers built of local rag stone with battered plinths sitting in the River Stour not only support the crenellations of the battlements together with projecting machicolations for dropping objects or hot liquid from but also were accessed via a drawbridge, the chain holes for which and squared recess can still be seen from the London Road approach.

Most importantly however the Canterbury Westgate Towers are believed to incorporate the earliest gun loops built into an original defensive structure in Britain with their distinctive keyhole design allowing the hand cannon to be fired out of the circular opening together with the sighting slit superseding the traditional arrow slit. We are right at the very start of the effective development of firearms and this revolutionary use of gunpowder may explain why the stone spiral staircase (vice you will ascend does not

as tradition would have assist the right handed swordsman-but rather favours the two handed use of a hand cannon.

Constructed in 1380 by probably the Country's greatest ever architect, the Kings Master Mason, Henry Yevele, on the orders of Archbishop and Chancellor Simon Sudbury who was instrumental in strengthening the City's defences through the reconstruction of the imposing Westgate and City Walls in the face of the threat posed by France during the 100 Years War. Rye, only 40 miles away had been attacked shortly before. Yevele was an inspiring builder and prior to rebuilding the Cathedral Nave he had been commissioned to build the Tomb of the Black Prince. Elsewhere



he is credited with the building of the Great Hall and Jewel Tower at the Palace of Westminster, The Bloody Tower, Cooling Castle, Bodium Castle, Rochester Bridge, and Arundel College amongst others and he was granted the Manor of Trimworth at nearby Wye in 1389 by Richard 11. His paymaster was to become none other than Geoffrey Chaucer himself following his appointment to Clerk of the Works to the King. This truly is a Canterbury Tale.

From Kings and Queens, armies and rebels, to the Founding Fathers and Martyrs poets authors and playwrights The Westgate Towers lie at the heart of British history and resonate with the rich historic heritage that is Canterbury. Christopher Marlowe's Uncle was the gaoler until he and his wife succumbed to the plague and their daughter was sent to live with the young playwright's family. What would he have made of his Nephews legacy so clearly visible from the battlements in the 21st Century?

The Canterbury Westgate Towers and City Gaol tell two important core stories-firstly that of defence, the very birth of modern warfare and the development of gunnery to the key role it played during the Second World War as part of Fortress Britain's defences and the housing the Observation Post and Air Raid Siren for inner Canterbury as the City found itself at the very centre of the Battle of Britain. Look for the fixings and signage for the siren control fuse box at the bottom of the felon's cell block staircase as you enter the newly incorporated City Gaol Cafe.

The second core story is that of Law and Order and particularly that of the 18th and 19th Century Prison Reform Movement. Following the end of the 100 Years War in 1453 the City was granted The Kings Charter by Henry VI for the Towers to be used as a Gaol. It remained in use until 1868

with the period from 1830 largely used to provide a Chapel for the inmates and occasional use for mainly additional debtor's accommodation. The original Prison Bible is a recent addition to the kind loans from the Canterbury Museum Services collection. After 1868 the City Gaol became the City Police Station and the Towers were used as a repository for City Archives until it was opened as a Museum in 1906.

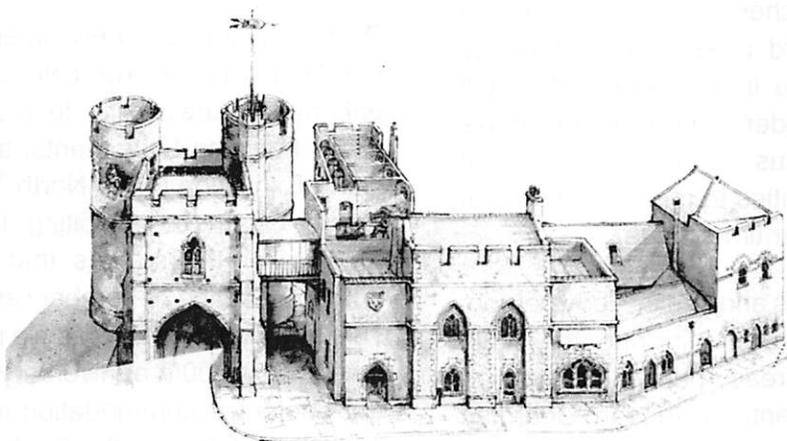
Today the reconnected medieval Towers and 1830's Gaol extension provide possibly the most original and finest physical representations of the Prison Reform Movement currently available.

Your visit will take you through the appallingly equipped medieval cells where men, women and children were incarcerated together with little or any separation between the sexes or classes of inmate.

Those poor unfortunates were served only by an open sewer and with no privacy. As you cross the high level bridge inserted in 1830 to connect the new gaol extension look to your right-behind the parapet wall is the male debtors exercise yard below which are the high set windows of the prisons infirmary. Inside, the felon's night cells can be seen, just as they were left over 100 years ago. As you take the solid York stone cantilevered staircase down to the felon's day rooms you will pass the bricked up doorway to the infirmary.

What an incredible difference this new gaol with its modern facilities and outlook brought to its occupants.-individual night cells, separate accommodation for different classes and sexes of inmate, provision of health care and spiritual guidance.

Today the City Gaol Cafe provides an opportunity to see the physical changes brought about by the reform movement led by John Howard. The cafe kitchen and servery is set within the



stunning brick vaulted former day rooms where four separate sections enabled the segregation of prisoners to exercise and do labour. The four separate doorways accessing the yard have been uncovered and exposed during the conversion works and an original threshold retaining evidence of the gated entrances can be seen by the servery counter.

Inside the modern structural glazing, made with the largest thermally insulated panels ever manufactured in the UK, lies the Gothic arch that carried the flue to the later 1868 Policemen's kitchen range. The kitchen was demolished to expose the original yard area with its doorway bricked up and wooden lintel above left to tell its own story. The modern architectural glass provides order and focus to the buildings past whilst providing the facilities to meet the needs of visitors to fully enjoy their time inside.

Look up through the glass and see the lady debtors exercise yard parapet wall mirroring the male debtors that you have already passed on the high level link bridge. The essentially standard Georgian house of the gaoler is clearly recognisable with the two wings to provide debtors yards-their rooms are on the attic floor of the gaolers house accessed by a heavy solid latch to the male's room and a light finer latch to the ladies-further accenting a recognition of differences between the sexes.

The blue glazed window at the end of the cafe marks the 1907 Police Station extension providing Policeman's toilets and a suite of custody cells. The ladies WC still contains the original wooden stalls and the disabled WC and baby changing room has been created from a converted cell with the doorway sensitively widened to meet the requirements for ease of access. The Gentleman's WC lies in the corridor to the custody suite with the urinal strategically placed at a cell doorway. The WC pan from Thomas Crapper Limited celebrates the first crossing of the English Channel in a bathtub by H Fitzhigham Esq. chosen to mark the great assistance we have been provided by Dave Chisholm, Sunday Times Cartoonist and cross channel swimmer. His creation of Dunstan the cartoon rat will help us tell the story of the Towers and City Gaol and engage children and adults alike!

Finally, but not least, the original 1830's Gaol Entrance has been recreated with interpretative material relating to the buildings history arranged to provide an accessible and free introduction to this corner of historic Canterbury. The Gaoler's living room now provides a specific seating area for Group Visitors with the walls carrying excerpts from Mr Wellard's Diary, the Gaoler from 1823-1835, spanning the period during which these momentous changes were carried out and providing a fascinating insight into the past.

The Future:

Plans include an new interpretation room in the North Tower top cell, closed since 1964, enhanced accessibility to the stunning roof top views from the battlements, an important Magna Carta Exhibition in the North Tower Ground Floor Guard Chamber exhibiting the original casting models for the statues that line the House of Lords Debating Chamber and highlighting the very foundation of Law as we recognize it today in time for the 800th anniversary in 2015, a reuse of the gaolers accommodation in Pound Lane as a small hotel following the Canterbury Christ Church University's Music Departments relocation in 2012 and the provision of a family and dog friendly conversion of the remaining 1907 Custody Suite where a unique jail experience will be possible!

The original Parade Room will provide an excellent teaching space for visiting school groups, exhibition, small conference, concert or meeting space in the City Centre.

A series of specialist exhibitions is planned at the Canterbury Westgate Towers Museum with the first commencing in September celebrating the history of The Buffs. When we count our blessings -we count you twice!



LAST POST

Colonel John TILLEARD TD

April 3rd, 1918- March 29, 2011

(Michael, John Tilleard's son, gave the following eulogy at the funeral)



My father, John Tilleard, died just 5 days before his 93rd birthday. He always looked forward to his birthday, as that was the day when he could take delivery of a trailer load of horse manure.

This was an annual present from his sister, Mary, who kept horses for many years. Father would need the horse manure for his vegetable garden, as he was an avid gardener.

I think it was good quality manure, as Father lived a long and healthy life, which probably came from eating his many and varied vegetables.

Perhaps a better known fact about Father is that he was the ex-Mayor of Canterbury. He was very proud of this achievement and made this fact known at every opportunity. So most shopkeepers, publicans and restaurant owners in Canterbury, Colchester and elsewhere were aware that he was the ex-Mayor.

But he was known for many other accomplishments. At Charterhouse School, he won prizes for woodwork and cabinet making.

He was an accomplished football player, for his school and then for the "Old Carthusians", which was a leading amateur club in 1930s.

After he left school, he planned to become a farmer, but the outbreak of war put a stop to that goal. Father was one of the first to enlist, joining the 4th Battalion, The Buffs, the Royal East Kent regiment.

He saw distinguished service in France, and then in Malta. He met our mother, Margaret, in

Malta. Mother was a nurse there with the Queen Alexandra Nursing Corps. They married in 1941.

Quoting from An Historical Record of the Buffs, published in 1967, the author says this about Father:

"Captain J. Tilleard joined the Battalion as a private in 1938, been commissioned in 1939, been cast into the sea and badly burned on his way to Leros, and evacuated, stretcher-borne, on the last destroyer to leave the island".

You can read a full account of what Father went through on that day in Alexander's story included in your service sheet. This is from notes that Alexander recorded several years ago when his grandfather was in Canada and sat and told him his war experiences.

I believe that Alexander, and all of us, recognize the courage and bravery that Father showed that day and which allowed him to endure and survive that ordeal. We also recognize how we are thankful to Father, and to his generation, for their sacrifices, which allow us to enjoy the lives we have today.

At the end of the war, the children arrived - a girl, a boy, a girl, and a boy, each 2 years apart. Of course, Father had to make sure everything was done with military precision!

After the war, Father continued with the Territorial Army, eventually reaching the rank of Acting Brigadier.

He marched in the Queen's Coronation in 1953. This was an important event in our household, as Father bought us our first television set. We could then watch him marching down the Mall.

In 1960, Father was awarded the Royal Order of the Dannebrog by the King of Denmark, who was Colonel-in-Chief of The Buffs. Father told me that this award is equivalent to a knighthood in Denmark. He suggested that we should really be calling him "Colonel, Sir John Tilleard". However, we just continued to call him "the Colonel".

But of all his achievements, he was a wonderful father, and grandfather and great grandfather, and he loved us all. Sometimes, you wouldn't think so as he often referred to us as a "shocking lot", or "bloody useless", and why were we going down the pub again!

But underneath that rather gruff exterior was a kind and compassionate man. For example, he founded the "John Tilleard Club for the Handicapped" in Canterbury, which he did not talk about often, but that was typical of him.

His fussing was his way of saying he cared, and just wanted to make sure, like every parent, that we were safe and secure.

Father was a very good dancer (as our minister today can attest to). He loved putting on parties, and he loved his holidays. When we were young he used to take us on caravanning holidays.

I recall once, when we were in France, when we were leaving the caravan site, Robert decided to dismantle the toilet tent that Father had constructed for these holidays. Unfortunately, Father was still sitting on the toilet as the sides came down around him, much to everyone's amusement at the site.

Father enjoyed his holidays in Canada. He was for many years an underwriter with Manulife, a Canadian company. He was Honorary Parade Marshall at the Calgary Stampede one year, complete with stetson. Of course, after several visits, everyone in Alberta knew that he was the ex-mayor of Canterbury!

In my last telephone call to him from Canada, Father told me that he was very proud of his children (even though he was probably still waiting for Robert to get "a proper job").

We are certainly very proud of him, and we will miss him very much.

By the way, did I tell you that he was the ex-mayor of Canterbury. . . ?

Thank you all for coming today.

Professor Richard HOLMES

The following obituary first appeared in the Daily Telegraph.



Richard Holmes, who has died aged 65 after suffering from cancer, was a leading military historian whose consuming interest in soldiering, especially the roles and lives of frontline troops, brought him distinction in authorship, academia and the army itself. He became Britain's most senior reservist, with the rank of brigadier.

However, he was best known as a presenter of television documentaries on military history. Eschewing glamour and self-promotion, his on-site explorations, in such programmes as the War Walks series (1996-97), of the battle of the Somme in the first world war or Monte Cassino in the second, were all the more evocative for being understated and matter-of-fact.

The bespectacled figure with the military moustache, standing in the middle of a field or walking along the fading line of a Flanders trench, always gave the impression that he knew what he was talking about, an authority that surely derived from the fact that he had done his own research, on site and in the archives. He also led groups of visitors to historic sites on behalf of Holt's Battlefield Tours.

Long before he visited such places as the Somme battlefield, Holmes read Siegfried Sassoon's description of the first world war in his *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man*. He said that the book changed his life: "I reread it every two or three years and it never fails to move me to tears."

Holmes was born too late to be called up for national service, but enlisted in the Territorial Army (TA) at the age of 18, receiving his commission after two years' service. From Forest School, north-east London, he went as a scholar to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and pursued his studies at

the universities of Northern Illinois and Reading, where he gained his doctorate.

In 1969 he became a full-time lecturer at the department of war studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, rising to deputy head of the department (1984-86). In the TA, he became a lieutenant colonel, commanding the 2nd battalion, the Wessex Regiment full-time (1986-88).

Then, in 1989, he became co-director of the Security Studies Institute, a department of Cranfield University based at Shrivenham, Oxfordshire. Cranfield is a postgraduate establishment with close connections to the UK Defence Academy and senior officers in the armed services. Holmes added a professorship of military and security studies to his Cranfield duties in 1995, retiring from both roles in 2009.

It was at Shrivenham in 2004 that Holmes gave a lengthy interview to John Crace for the Guardian. He had just completed his book *Tommy*, a work that won him high acclaim, focused on the British soldier in the trenches on the western front of the first world war (part of a trilogy on frontline soldiers, with *Redcoat*, 2001, and *Sahib*, 2005, on the army in India). Shrivenham at the time was more like an armed camp than a campus, neatly reflecting the military-academic dualism of Holmes' entire career.

"It really mattered to me to get this one right," he told Crace. "There have been countless books on the generals, the campaigns, the Treaty of Versailles and the origins of the first world war, but the ordinary soldiers have been somewhat marginalised: they are usually only dragged in as evidence in another debate ... I wanted to put them centre-stage."

Holmes did not interview the dwindling band of veterans of the first world war because he had found that first-hand reminiscences differed widely only 10 years after the event from those written down at or near the time of the action concerned. The usual complete absence of knowledge of "the big picture" shown in such accounts is more than compensated for by the unpretentious immediacy of often private recollections: the historian can step in to supply the context.

Therefore Holmes made extensive use of the veterans' records at King's College London (the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives) and the fabulous collections at the Imperial War Museum in south London for his primary material. But he adopted a down-to-earth approach. "I enjoy spending some time in the library, but I would never last as an ivory-tower academic ... I like to get my hands grubby with the practicalities of military life as much as with the academic." As his employer, Cranfield received a proportion of his external earnings as battlefield guide, author and television presenter.

In the latter role, his studies of British military history from the 17th century to modern times enabled him to make programmes on Cromwell and the English civil war, the American revolution, Wellington and the Napoleonic wars, as well as the battles of both world wars. An ambitious series in 2005 enabled him to follow the career of Winston Churchill from the Sudan and South Africa to his wartime bunker in London in the 1940s and VE Day.

More than a dozen well-received books included, in 1984, a life of Field Marshal Sir John French, who led the British army in France in 1914, and *Dusty Warriors*, a study of frontline troops in Iraq in 2003 (published in 2006). Another serendipitous fusion of interests – he was a keen horseman – led to *Riding the Retreat: Mons to Marne* (1995), in which he followed on horseback the famous fighting retreat of the British Expeditionary Force from Mons in 1914, culminating in the crucial defensive battle of the Marne, where the German army was stopped in its tracks and the western front stalemate was born.

In parallel with this multi-faceted career – Holmes had to slow down after a health scare in 2004 – he remained active in the TA. Promoted full colonel in 1989, a year after his appointment as OBE, he served as an ADC to the Queen (1991-97, a rare honour for a TA officer), and in 1994 was promoted to Brigadier TA, which made him the highest-ranking reserve officer in the country. In 1998 he was appointed CBE (military division).

Holmes was also a magistrate in Hampshire, patron of the Guild of Battlefield Guides, president of the British Commission for Military History and the Battlefields Trust, and retained a part-time

association with Cranfield as well as several other voluntary positions. He is survived by his wife, Liz, whom he married in 1975, and their two daughters.

MRD Foot writes: Like most other military historians writing in English, I got to know Richard Holmes well on paper, and could not help admiring both his range and his skill at recounting precise military detail in language that non-experts could readily understand. He was no mere button-counter: he was a proper historian, who understood war and the sinews of war. The Oxford Companion to Military History (2001), which he edited, shows that he was no narrow specialist; he understood ancient commanders as well as modern ones, and appreciated the ways in which changes in weaponry have constantly transformed tactics.

Not many people have held the rank of professor and of brigadier at the same time. Just as Gibbon found that his captaincy in the Hampshire militia had not been useless to him as historian of the Roman empire, Holmes found his experiences of the intricacies and muddles of administration in the Territorial Army helped him in his own chosen work. Moreover, his genial personality made him an ideal chairman for the group of historians that he ran, studying the strategy and tactics of past campaigns.

- Edward Richard Holmes, historian, born 29 March 1946; died 30 April 2011

Tom PITSON



Tom died just before Christmas 2010 after a short illness and is much missed by all his family. Tom was called up in 1939 and was serving abroad most of the war. He was at D Day, fought through North Africa, Sicily, Algiers, and other 'Hot Spots' around

Europe. All in all during his military service, such are the vagaries of military service in a war time situation, he served in 3 regiments, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, the Durham Light Infantry and The Hampshire Regiment.

Before his war time service Tom was a grounds man for a local school and after the war was with the Land Registry office in Hawkenbury.

He was married to Hilda on the 15th of January 1941 and they have one daughter and two grand daughters. Tom was a former member of the 7th Bn who was taken prisoner at Albert in 1940. He was well over 90 and had been married for 70 years. His widow made the understatement of the year to me in her letter when she said 'she misses him terribly'.

DW

Kenneth Walter CARLEY 1919 - 2011



Ken's early childhood was spent in East Sussex and London, much of it filled with playing cricket, he played at a very high standard, at one time representing the Surrey County Youth team

He served throughout the Second World War with the 5th Bn The Queen's Own. On mobilisation he, with the rest of the Bn was stationed in Bridport Dorset. It must have seemed a soldiers paradise, as they were billeted out to one of the 37 pubs there were in Bridport at the time.

Here Ken met and married Marjorie and from a rather hurried beginning they enjoyed 50 years together before Marjorie died in 1988.

After a few months in Bridport the Bn moved to France, then came back rather quicker than had been anticipated, via Dunkirk. It was then on to North Africa, Sicily and on to Italy. From then until the end of the war it is a bit of a blank to his family, and something that Ken never talked about, except to say that he spent a long time in Iraq.

On his release from the army he returned to Bridport and his beloved Marjorie, working for Grundy's Rope and Net Makers.

Ken had a number of interests not least was his love of cricket, playing for Bridport and other local teams. He was also an accomplished green bowls player. His other abiding love was his garden,

growing all the vegetables for the family needs, and flowers especially roses. He took part in exhibitions at the Chelsea Flower Show and with Grundy's and Sutton Seeds published a paper on the use of netting in agriculture.

Ken was a man who kept his strong sense of humour to the end of his life, he was meticulous in his organisation and something of an authority on local history. He has been described as "Always a gentleman".

DW

Peter Alan CLARKE 1920 - 2011



Peter was born on 13 July 1920 in Bexley Kent and spent his formative years in Darenth and attended the Dartford East Central Boys School excelling in all areas, becoming the Senior Prefect, captain of the 1st XI cricket team and Victor Ledorum Winner (Sports) 1935.

As soon as he was old enough he joined the Territorial Army, C Company (Dartford) 5th Bn The Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

He was mobilised in 1939 and with the battalion went to Bridport, then on to France, Belgium and eventually returning to the UK via Dunkirk. After a period of additional training and re-grouping he accompanied the battalion to Egypt, and saw service in Palestine, Syria and Iraq and was in the battles at Alam el Haifa and El Alamein.

In September 1943 he was promoted WOII and appointed RQMS and saw further action in Italy as far as Monte Cassino. In June 1945 he returned to England, in December 1945 he had a spell in Gibraltar before finally being released on the 11th of June 1946.

On his return to civilian life he was a costing clerk in J & E Halls (Engineering) in Dartford, and later moved over to LS Menswear of Gravesend.

Peter met Eunice at LS Menswear and they were married in December 1952 living in Gravesend

until moving to Thanet in 1963. They had one daughter, Dawn, born in 1961.

In site of running an ever expanding business Peter found time to watch Kent play cricket and spend holidays cruising and touring Italy, where he was able to renew a friendship with a family in San Polo, Tuscany where he had been billeted in 1943.

Soon after his 80th birthday Peter became very ill, and died on the 8th of April 2011.

DW

John Richard William FIELD 1923 - 2011



John was born on the 26th of July 1923 and having survived TB in his early years went to work for some steel works on the Isle of Dogs. When war broke out he was classified as working in a reserved occupation, but that did not stop him from volunteering for the

Royal Navy or the Merchant Navy, but eventually on his 21st birthday he got his calling up papers for the Army! He initially reported to the GSC then was posted to The Royal Fusiliers, but after basic training was posted to The Buffs, for service in the Burma Campaign. By the time he had finished the basic jungle training Japan had surrendered following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. John then went to Singapore, then on to Surabaya on Java as part of the peace keeping force on the Dutch East Indies.

On his return to the UK he met and married Audrey Payne on the 29th of January 1955, and they were blessed with two children, Joan and Karen, and two grandchildren, Richard and Dawn. He trained as a football referee under the tutorage of the one-armed referee Alf Bond. He had many tales to tell of his refereeing and his favourite was the nosiest game he ever had to referee was a game between a deaf and dumb sides

He worked for the Ford Motor Company in the foundry until he had to take early retirement due

to an accident while working. Then on the 1st of March 1987 Audrey died at the early age of 55.

Following Audrey's death John filled his time first with The Royal British Legion, London Buffs Past & Present Regt. Association, the Burma Star Association and the 62 Club. Being a devout Catholic he rarely missed daily Mass and joined the Knights of St Columbia. He helped where he could especially if it meant driving.

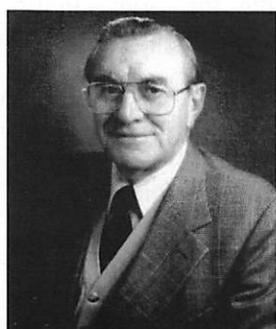
Last year he had a triple heart by pass operation and seemed to recover extremely quickly. He was last on parade with London Buffs at the Warriors Chapel in Canterbury Cathedral on the day that a representative of 141 Regt. RAC (The Buffs), Geoff Kirk, Turned the Page for the last time.

John could always be relied upon to support, if he possibly could, his branch and his regimental association. But on that last parade his fragility was all too apparent, but still he would not give up. After a good lunch where all who attended enjoyed his company, John drove home to Essex but just a few hours later collapsed and died.

it was a privilege to have known him and we will miss him greatly.

PW

Major George SIMPSON MBE



George was born in Hazebrook in May 1922 where his father was working for the Imperial War Graves Commission. In 1932 the family moved to Messines. His early education was in the Eaton Memorial School Ypres until 1936. The family,

now including a sister and two brothers, settled in Ypres area until being forced to flee in 1940.

When George was 14 he came to England to stay with his aunts in Twickenham. Having learnt to play the cornet he thought he would try and join the Royal Marines. On arrival at the recruiting office in the old Scotland Yard he met the Recruiting Sergeant resplendent in full uniform, with medals,

he decided to join the army and was enlisted into The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, as 6344148 Boy Simpson. He reported to the 2nd Battalion in Moore Barracks Shomcliffe, on the 18th of January 1937. When he met his fellow 'boy soldiers, he was given the nickname of "Froggy"

Life for Boy soldiers in those days was very regimented and the training covered all aspects of soldiering in pre war days with additional teachings in music and education, not forgetting the compulsory church parades. In January 1938 the battalion sailed for Peninsular Barracks, Haifa. Life was very pleasant for Boy Simpson with plenty of music practice during which he passed the exam for Kneller Hall. but events dictated that he would never get there.

On the 22 Mar 1939 the battalion moved to Malta. During this tour he passed his 18* birthday and the days as a Boy Soldier were over. He put his cornet away and joined the QM's department complete with a single stripe. The following three years were very difficult for all on the island as they suffered the daily constant bombing, severe shortages of food, water and all military supplies.

As things eased slightly, on the 11 June 1943 the battalion moved to Alexandra for mountain warfare training, then by a round about route arrived on Leros. In November 1943, following the German invasion, within a matter of days, it was all over for the British Forces, who were now all Prisoners of War.

The POWs were all shipped back to Greece, then by a tortuous train ride, lasting many weeks, George arrived at Stalag 7A and was later moved to Stalag XIA. Life as a prisoner seemed to revolve around the arrival of the Red Cross parcels of food, bartering with other prisoners, whether they be French, Belgium, Polish or any other nationality. George, with his fluency in French and Flemish, was in much demand for his language abilities, when these transactions were being negotiated. This was not so straight forward as it may seem as it required George to crawl through the wire fences, as the various nationalities were kept in separate compounds.

Finally the day of liberation arrived and he was flown home arriving at Northolt air base in April 1945. Following the necessary documentation he

made his way to Twickenham and then taken by his aunts to meet up with his parents and siblings. This was a very emotional meeting and even when George wrote about it in 2002, he said it still brought tears to his eyes.

The time came to report back to the army and he found himself once more in Moore Barracks Shomcliffe with the 1st Bn The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, and in the QM's department. In Jan 1951 the Bn moved to Sir John Moore Plain in preparation for the move to Malaya.

In 1952 George was promoted Colour Sergeant and moved to B Company for a short time, before being moved back to the QM's. In 1954 more promotion came along and George moved out of the QM's to take up the post of 'CSM Support Company.

The battalion's return to UK was a stopping off time in preparation of the move to BAOR, where George moved back to the QM's and was appointed RQMS.

Following the tour of duty in BAOR the battalion returned to Old Park Barracks Dover. Soon after its arrival the Suez crisis blew up and the battalion, as the emergency stand-by unit of 19 Bde, was sent as part of Operation Musketeer. At the conclusion of the operation, the battalion was posted to Cyprus for a full three year overseas tour.

In October 1959 it was then back to Moore Barracks Shomcliffe to prepare for the amalgamation with The Buffs.

In June 1960 George was awarded the MBE and was commissioned Lt(QM). His first appointment was with the Ghana Regiment at Takoradi. This tour included a spell of duty in the Congo as part of the United Nations Force. George described this as "an interesting interlude"

In 1964 George rejoined 1 Queens Own Buffs as MTO and accompanied the battalion to British Guiana, but due to the vagaries of the Officer postings, he missed out accompanying the battalion to Hong Kong. A dream posting that passed him by, as he went off to 4/5 R Sussex TA as QM.

His long and illustrious career came to an end on the 27th of March 1971 when George volunteered for redundancy terms and hung up his Sam Brown for the desk of the Estate Manager of the RAC Country Club, Epsom.

Charles (Charlie) Thomas HEWITT:



Charlie died on 2nd March 2011 a few days short of his 91st birthday.

Born on 24th May 1920, he had 3 sisters and a brother. His father was a caretaker on an estate of flats in what is now known as Southwark in the south east of London.

On leaving school at the age of 14, Charlie started work in a factory and then as a lift attendant. Later he worked in the office of a haulage company where he was to meet his future wife Dorothy.

Always a keen sportsman Charlie became very involved with the Boys Brigade as their PT instructor.

In 1940 Charlie was called up and joined the army at Maidenhead and later he became Troop Sergeant of 7 Troop, 'B' Squadron of 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) in command of the tank 'Staunch'

Charlie and Dorothy were married on 3rd July 1943 and in the following year their daughter was born.

For many years, until his death, he was treasurer of the Old Playboys Association of 'B' Squadron 141 Regt. and eventually took over as treasurer of the two combined 141 associations the ROPA.

As the standard bearer of 141 Regt Buffs, Charlie rarely missed a parade including many visits to Brest and other areas of France and the Low Countries where the brave men of 141 left their mark and sadly many comrades. He last attended the annual Turning of the Page ceremony by 141 Regt in the Warriors' Chapel in Canterbury

Cathedral last year and we will miss his quite courteous manner and his ramrod straight presence greatly.

PW

John GRIGGS MC

John, a Troop Commander in 'A' Squadron 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) passed away in Bristol on March 30th 2011 aged 90.

It was in the action around Geilenkirchen in late November 1944, that John was awarded his MC for his heroic actions.

He will be remembered by his surviving comrades as Chamberlain of the City of London and it was he that arranged for the Association to visit the Mansion House and to see the wonderful display of silverplate that had been donated by past Lord Mayors. Afterwards the then Lord mayor, Sir Ronald Gardner Thorpe provided a Reunion Supper.

A brave man who will be much missed

GS

Dennis GISBY



Dennis passed away aged 72 years. Dennis was called up for his National Service in The Buffs in 1957. After basic training he joined 2 Platoon, 'A' Company of the 1st Battalion at Dover Castle shortly before the Bn. embarked on

SS Nevasa for Aden and later took part in the operation to relieve Fort Assarir in the Western Aden Protectorate

Prior to his discharge he moved to Germany in 1959 with the Bn after which he settled in his home town of Ramsgate and married his wife Doris.

For many years Dennis was a leading light in the local British Legion Poppy Appeal for which he raised a considerable amount of money each year.

Dennis will be remembered by all of us who knew and served with him as a brave, smart and dependable soldier

PW

Major (Rtd) Roger John GALILEE MC

(At John's funeral Major General Lou Gardiner ONZM, retired Chief of the NZ Army gave the following eulogy):

Tuparapara: Hei tui tui i a tatou

Tuia i runga, tuia i raro

Tuia ki roto, tuia ki waho

Tuia i te Whakaaro kotahi

Tihe Mauri ora



This is a little tuparapara, a Maori prayer, which talks about being bound together from above, from below, from within and from without, and I thought it very appropriate for today as we have come here bound together in our love, friendship and

respect of "the Major" John Galilee, MC.

John, Dianne and friends and colleagues of John Galilee, MC, it is a great honour for me to speak to you about my knowledge and experiences of John, the soldier and gentleman, the husband and father, the friend and colleague.

For those who are not familiar with the Military award system, the Military Cross which John was awarded for a battle that took place on 21 October, 1944, is the third level military decoration awarded. It is granted in recognition of "an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land".

John was commissioned into The Buffs and attached to 1 RWK when as a young Lieutenant, 24 years of age, commanding 12 Platoon, Galilee and his platoon was called forward to clear the

remainder of a village. The Platoon moved forward with tanks in support but came under machine gun fire. Despite heavy fire, including mortar fire, the young Galilee rallied his troops and directed operations. A tank came up to support the platoon but came under fire. Galilee ran to the tank, climbed up and warned the commander that he was under fire and helped direct the tank weapons to return fire. As the light faded, the young Lieutenant was able to consolidate in a good position without losing any of his soldiers. This involved exposing himself to enemy fire as he directed his troops. The final part of the citation reads:

“Throughout the action Lieutenant Galilee displayed great powers of leadership and initiative. His complete disregard for his own personal danger was an inspiration to all around him, and accounted for saving at least one of our own tanks.”

There is no doubt this action defined John Galilee, the soldier.

John joined the NZ Territorial Force pre-war with the Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry (CYC) and then transferred to the Nelson Marlborough West Coast Regiment (NMWC). He remained with the Regiment until he was posted to the 2nd NZ Expeditionary Force.

He went to the Middle East with the 8th Reinforcements, the NZ Tank Brigade. He served with 20 Battalion until he was commissioned on 20 November 1943

The remainder of his service, until 28 March 1951, was with the British Army, namely 1 Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. He remained on the Regular Army Reserve until 1 October 1954. He officially served on a Regular Army Short Service commission.

He served in Italy as a Platoon Commander and was awarded an immediate Military Cross. He was wounded. He attended a Company Commander's course at Benevento and promoted to Captain, 10 November 1944.

With the First Battalion he served in Civil War Greece and afterwards in Occupation of Greece and Crete. His appointments included Company Commander, Company Second in Command (2IC) from 20 December 1944 to 31 March 1946.

He was granted a Regular Commission in the British Army 1 October 1946. He then completed special service in Germany and then went on leave to NZ. On 17 October 1947, he was selected for service as an Infantry Adviser to the Military Mission Ethiopia, and served as an Infantry adviser to 2nd Ethiopian Brigade, in the rank of Major.

He returned to the UK for hospitalisation 1 March 1949. He was appointed Commanding Officer No 9 Travelling Wing East Anglia District and Command East Anglia Training Centre 14 October 1949.

He then completed duties with “G” Branch East Anglia District until placed on Retired Pay and returned to NZ.

Captain Galilee was posted to the NZ Reserve of Officers, Regimental List (The Northland Regiment) on 11 November 1953. A note from the Commanding Officer of the Northland Regiment is worth reading:

“I have contacted Galilee with regard to his serving on the Regimental List of my Unit. With his impressive Army record I am sure that he will be an asset to the unit.”

Captain Galilee was then transferred to the Active List from the Reserve of Officers, Regimental List, The Northland Regiment, to be Captain (Temporary Major), with seniority as Captain, 20 November 1949 and as Temporary Major, 1 July 1955, and is posted to the 1st Battalion.

John was posted to the retired list in the rank of Major, dated 1 July 1961

John was modest about the award of the Military Cross and his life in general. That was the mark of the man I knew over the last 34 years. I found a report that stated that “this officer was a capable officer, albeit of scruffy appearance” a quote he often claimed was made. I think he liked that persona. However, I did find out that he just passed the Military Law examination on his Captain to Major course in 1958 with just 53%.

I first met him when I started taking Judith out. He and Judith's parents were friends and he took a keen interest in what Judith was up to and had no doubt what my intentions were. He attended our

wedding and I remember one of my Lieutenant mates calling him "Sir". This was not just because he was senior but because he had been awarded a Military Cross. For young Officers, in today's terminology, that was awesome. It earned immediate respect because it told you so much about the person. Rank sometimes doesn't.

Every time Judith and I visited Kaikohe over the next 34 years John always made a point of catching up. Mostly he would drive down to Keith and Pat's farm, with something off his farm or something from Brajkovich Wines. He of course claimed to be an official wine taster. I am sure there were lots of volunteers for this title. I recently opened a bottle of 1982 Vintage Port he gave me, and I must admit it was like nectar and my friends were most impressed, a 30 year old port. John, the wine taster, had got that one right.

He was always generous, jovial, talkative and great company. He was inquisitive about how things were going for me in the Army, how Judith was coping and interest in our children.

One occasion I will always cherish was having the "Major" and Keith attend the Investiture of my Honour, an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit, which occurred in Australia in 2004. I decided that I would have the NZ High Commissioner, at that time Kate Lackey, perform the Investiture rather than waiting to return to NZ and receive it at Government House. This enabled me to have many more guests at the occasion including my closest Australian mates whom had graduated from the Royal Military College with me.

Included in the guest list was an old friend General Peter Cosgrove, the Chief of the Australian Defence Force and an Australian of the year. He was able to organise a musical quintet from the Royal Military College which really added to the pomp of the occasion. It was a wonderful occasion which John really understood the significance of. My parents were both deceased and John and Keith being there meant a lot to me. Of course John and Keith loved the way that Kate the High Commissioner fussed over them because they were very much the senior of all those there. It was a very memorable occasion for both Judith and I.

I finish with a quote from General MacArthur, which although he used it at the end of his military

career, is appropriate in John's case because the military was such an important definer of who John was. His death brings closure to his military career in its broadest sense.

Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.

And like the old soldier in that ballad,

*I now close my military career and just fade
away, an old soldier who tried to do his duty
as God gave him the sight to see that duty.*

"Rest in peace John, you have had a long and fruitful innings"

LG

Lt. Colonel (Mike) DRACOPOLI OBE



Mike was born on 26th February 1930 and commissioned into The Buffs on 9 Feb 1951. He was Adjutant of 1 Queen's Own Buffs just after amalgamation and also OC 'C' Company 1 Queen's Own Buffs and 2 Queen's in Hong Kong.

He attended the French Staff College and later the French Defence College.

He was ADC to General Val Boucher, the last Buffs 'Colonel of the Regiment', in Washington and it was during this time that he met his future wife, Diana, who was General Boucher's PA. Sadly Diana predeceased him 18 months ago.

Staff jobs included HQ Shape, DAAG at Home Counties Brigade, Canterbury, GSO2 HQ FARELF, MA as a Lt Col in Phnom Penh and then GSO1 level appointments in AG at the MOD and at 21 Liaison HQ. finally he was on the Special List at HQ Eastern District in Colchester.

The many messages that have been received from his brother officers remember him as a charming and efficient Adjutant to Richard Dendy, always smart and professional with a serious demeanour

but with a wonderfully dry sense of humour and one who greatly enjoyed playing practical jokes.

James Laurence DOYLE

11th Jan. 1938 - 2nd Feb 2011

(Arthur Healey writes:)



I have known Jimmy since 1960 when The Buffs, Royal East Kent Regiment amalgamated with the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Jimmy from the Buffs and myself from the RWK. and we became

friends in the newly formed The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment.

I was later posted to Canterbury and from here we parted ways as I pursued my army career. Jimmy staying with the band then stationed at Colchester. When I retired from the army I took the position as Bandmaster of the civilian band The Hythe Town Military Band as it was then and I was informed that Jimmy was living in north Kent.

Jimmy was a very fine French Horn player and so I called upon him to help me out on many occasions. Our friendship became stronger when I became the bandmaster of Invicta. I went with my wife to see Jimmy in hospital shortly before he died, and when we left he gave us his broad smile and that is the way we want to remember him. Jimmy was a lovely fellow and I shall never forget that after every concert he would come up to me and say "Well how did you think it went? "

When Jimmy left the army he went to live in London and he joined the band of the Honourable Artillery Company and was with them for over thirty years and reached the rank of Sergeant. Apart from helping many bands over the years and as a member of Invicta, he was also a member of the UK Paper Brass band and in 2009 he was voted their Band Member of the year. This band played at Jimmy's funeral service.

Jimmy was well read and had a passion for books, Whenever he passed a second hand shop he would go in and browse, eventually leaving with an armful of his favourite topics history and music. He had a very good mind in retaining what he read and friends have said how he was always a good source for information on all manner of subjects especially history and classical music.

Though we are all saddened at our great loss, we are also relieved, because although his death came sooner than we might have expected or wanted - he was spared from any long period of intense suffering.

Jimmy's family would like me to thank all those from the Invicta Band who attended the service.

AH

Kenneth John LARKINS

20th April 1934 -14th March 2011



Ken joined the Army at the age of seventeen as a boy soldier and was posted to Kuala Lumpur, Malaya to join the Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion, The Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment as a clarinetist. He returned to the UK in 1953 for a pupils course to study at the Royal Military

School of Music, Kneller Hall, Twickenham. Ken then returned to the band. From there he went on to serve in Germany and Cyprus.

On his return to the UK he was posted as an instructor to the boys training establishment in Canterbury. After two years, he rejoined the band on Solo Clarinet in 1960. He stayed with the band during the amalgamation period at Shomcliffe, finally completing his military service in 1963 in Colchester.

Ken was a very accomplished musician on clarinet, saxophone and I am informed he also played the electric organ. Ken was also a very keen and good Hockey player and cricketer, representing the band and battalion Hockey teams.

Ken was a great family man, a man of patience and a perfectionist in everything he did. He was helpful and very kind and everyone who knew him said what a great fellow he was. He would do anything for anybody, nothing was too much trouble. Ken and his wife Iris used to enjoy ballroom dancing and a song played at his funeral had a special meaning to them both "Every time we say goodbye". Iris says, to me Ken was my life and it has been a privilege to be his wife.

Ken and I were very good friends throughout our service together and beyond. It was a great shock to us all when Ken passed away-so suddenly. All his old pals from the Queen's Own band, (those that are left) will miss and mourn his loss.

AH

Ian MORTON



Ian and Tricia

Ian passed away on 4th November 2010. He served with the Buffs in Aden and the Queen's Own Buffs in 8 Platoon 'C' Company in Kenya in 1961. On leaving the army he moved to Lincolnshire. He

was liked by everyone and had a wicked sense of humour. His family were devoted to him. He leaves two daughters, Hayley and Elaine and a son Kevin. Sadly Ian's wife of 53 years (Tricia) never came to terms with the loss of Ian and died on 27th June 2011.

In the words of his family; He was one in a million.

We have been informed of the passing of the following:

Edward (Ted) CHAPPELL. Ex 6th Bn QORWK Regt.

'Nobby' KEEBLE. Ex 6th Bn QORWK Regt.

Arthur Sidney HARRIS.

Arthur an ex war time Buff, passed away on 4th June 2011 aged 88.

John PEROU.

John, an ex Buff, passed away on 26th march 2011.

Reginald Lionel MATTHEWS

Ex Queen's Own passed away on 30th June aged 88 yrs- an obituary will appear in the next issue.

Ronald (Tommo) THOMPSON.

Ex Queen's Own passed away on 21st July. Obituary to follow in the next issue.

We have been informed that the following members of 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) have passed away.

Charlie BROOKS MM

Herbert COX

John FORSYTHE:

E. REVILL

Eric TUNBRIDGE

Reginald WEBB

NOTICE BOARD

We welcome the following who have now joined the Regimental Association

| | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|
| Mr. H V Hanson | RWK/Para | 55-57 |
| Mr. R Bamblett | KSLI | 45-48 |
| Mr. T R Clark | QOB/RAMC | 65-70 |
| Mr. S Nunney | R.M. | (Serving) |
| Mr. B Fitzgerald | DERR | 67-90 |
| Major R Cast | PWRR | 97-98 |
| Mr. B H Mitchell | 1 Buffs | 58-60 |

ULU CALEDONIA ESTATE AMBUSH 22ND OCTOBER 1951

60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

TO BE HELD ON
22ND OCTOBER 2011

A commemoration of the ULU Caledonia Estate Ambush will be held in Maidstone on Saturday 22nd October 2011. All those who survived the incident, together with Wives, Partners or Carers are invited as are any widows of those who took part. Those who served with 1 RWK at the time are also very welcome, together with their wife, partner or carer.

Would those interested and eligible please complete the proforma insert in this issue of the Journal.

Please give details of your service with 1 RWK, together with your address, telephone number or email address and whether you plan to bring someone and what their connection is to you.

Should you require any further information please contact Colonel C. G. Champion by letter to 8 Sutherland Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1SE or by email to crispindawn@btinternet.com

PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMEMORATION ON SATURDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2011

1100-1140. Gather at Maidstone Museum in St. Faith Street for coffee.

1140. Short welcome and outline of events for the day.

1150. Walk to Brenchley Gardens War Memorial

1200-1230. Commemoration Service:

1230. Retire to Museum for drinks and lunch.

1315 – 1430. Guided tours of Museum.

MEMORIAL TO THE QUEEN'S OWN

It is intended to place a statue of a Queen's Own soldier in jungle patrol uniform outside the front of Maidstone Museum as a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives in the hard fought "Malayan emergency".

A sculptor has been engaged and is in the process of producing a model of the proposed sculpture for final approval by the Regimental Association Committee of Management.

LONDON BUFFS BRANCH SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE TOWER OF LONDON

Sunday 4th September

This parade and annual Service of Remembrance, organised by the London (Buffs) Branch of the Regimental Association will be held on Sunday 4th September 2011. The parade assembles at the East Gate of Tower of London at 10.15am.

Should you wish to attend the service then please contact the secretary of London Branch, Mrs. Betty Correa, 34 Homer Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7SB. Tel. No. 0208 655 3040
Email jcorrea@talk21.com

**The Regimental Association of The
Queen's Own Buffs
50th Anniversary Gala Luncheon**

There are still a number of places available for the association's 50th Anniversary Luncheon to be held at The Union Jack Club, London, on Saturday 1 October 2011. Members of the association who wish to attend, but have not yet registered (or have lost the original booking form) can still book in by sending:

- a) their full name
- b) the full name of anyone accompanying them
- c) a s.a.e. for joining instructions to be issued in September
- d) a cheque for the appropriate amount (£20 for members of the association and regimental widows, £35 for non member)
- e) a contact telephone number/email address

To Major J Barrell, Ulverscroft, 22 South Knighton Road, Leicester LE2 3LN

**THE REGIMENTAL CRICKET TENT –
CANTERBURY CRICKET WEEK 2011**

For 2011 and in coming years we will be combining with The Kent and Canterbury Club which for over 100 years have been the tent to our "right" at St. Lawrence. The main reason for this change is that RHQ PWRR is no longer able to provide the traditional staff effort to run the tent. We have had a difficult decision to take, to close or to continue under "volunteer" management. We have chosen the latter course of action and we need your support to make it a success.

This merger with The Kent and Canterbury helps to guarantee a prime viewing location. In addition by joining with The Kent and Canterbury Club we can share many costs to keep charges to you within bounds and still produce an excellent standard of catering and hospitality in a tent which will retain our Regimental ethos. The Kent and Canterbury Club provide their own catering, using their own staff and have an excellent bar with traditional ales and sensibly priced wines.

So do please come and enjoy your cricket this August with good company in an excellent environment. We are extending our membership

to ALL members of The Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association

For 2011 there is to be a 4 day game from Wednesday 10 August through to Saturday 13 August. It is against Surrey C.C.C. in the 2nd Division of the L.V.C.C. Championship. There is then a one day CB40 game on Sunday 14 August against Holland. Ladies Day is Thursday 11 August; ladies are very much encouraged to wear hats.

If you want to book lunch then please contact Colonel Peter Cook – details below.

If you want to watch the cricket and enjoy a pint in the tent it is possible for you to book ground entry tickets in advance at a cost of £10 instead of the £15 required on the day – same number. If you just want to enjoy a pint with your friends in the tent in the late afternoon / evening then it is usually possible to enter the ground free after 5pm, we will be delighted to welcome you – normal dress code applies. The bar will close at approximately 6.30pm.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to the tent – the Regimental board will mark the entrance as in the past.

Colonel (retd) Peter Cook

Chairman The Regimental Cricket Tent

peteranddeirdrecook@hotmail.com

Tel. no: 01622 832370

**COLCHESTER MILITARY DETENTION
CENTRE**

I'm writing a history of Military detention in Colchester from 1947 onwards, focusing specifically on what is now the M.C.T.C.. Maybe you were a member of staff, a detainee or a member of the forces who escorted someone here? Perhaps you came to visit someone? However small or irrelevant you think your memory might be please contact me : All information will be treated in confidence; your name will only be mentioned if you want it to be.

Carole McEntee-Taylor MA Phil; BSC (Hons)
Welfare Department

Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC)

Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester: C029NU

Tel.: 01621 869567

Email: saahera@tiscali.co.uk

Write to Reply



(The following letter was sent Major Bradley at RHQ,)

DJ & DC Williamson
1 Duncan Drive
Birchington
26th April 2011

Dear Major Bradley,

We both felt that we must write to thank you so much for arranging of a standard to be at Peter Clarke's funeral service and committal last Tuesday and also for organising a bugler to play Last Post at the service. All of this provided the 'Military' send off that we are sure Peter would have wanted.

Thank you all very much for everything, it was much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

David Williamson

It is this occasion when with your help you might circulate my wish amongst members of the Queen's Own Buffs attending the reunion, who might have an extra copy or want to dispose of a copy of this book which I very ready to buy.

Your kind effort in this matter would be gratefully appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Alex Randon.

141 Regt. RAC (The Buffs)

8 St. Albans Avenue
HANWORTH.
MIDDLESEX
TW13 6RJ
14th April

26/5 Church Street
Faceville
St Julian's STJ 3044
Malta GC

Dear Editor,

I recently came across in the May/June 2011 issue of the Royal British Legion magazine, your advert announcing a reunion of The Queen's Own Buffs next September in Maidstone.

The reason for writing to you is that I have a great interest in former British Army regiments, especially The Buffs and The Queen's Own, which I remember garrisoning Malta, and have been trying for a long time to obtain a copy of Gregory Blaxland's book "The story of the Queen's Own Buffs The Royal Kent Regiment" which was published quite a number of years ago.

Dear Editor,

May I through the columns of your very fine Journal convey the thanks of 141 Regt. RAC (The Buffs) for the wonderful support of all the Standards Bearers and members of other branches who turned out to support us at our annual Turning of the Page ceremony. I would like to especially mention Ray Cox and Joe Correa (London Branch) for carrying the 141 RAC (The Buffs) Standards and a special thanks to Frank Hills (Chairman London Branch) for assisting me to shuffle forward to Turn The Page.

It was very pleasant to be supported by such large numbers in the 141 's final Turning of The Page and for the Duty Chaplain for reading out the names of our members who have passed on in the last year and conducting our very short service, which the 141 have always had carried out. Not attending any other turning of The PAGE I don't know if any other branch does this.

Many years ago the Reverend PRESTON, who was our padre during the war, used to conduct the service, in fact I Turned The Page on the last occasion he carried out the ceremony, which was filmed by the late Nobby Clark of Canterbury Branch.

I am sorry that I could not join the rest of you at The Victoria but it has always been that all members lunch together after the service and as there was no spare transport all the 141 went to lunch together.

G.R.Kirk

Chairman 141 Regimental Association

Mr. R. Mansfield
29 Ash Grove
Haverlull
Suffolk CB9 9HT

Dear Editor,

Towards the end of the war I was serving with 444 battery RA supporting a Buffs battalion that was part of a Guards Brigade. We were attached to 'C' Company of the Buffs on the amphibious crossing of the flooded Valli Di Comachio which was for us the last engagement of the war.

We crossed the flooded area in Fantails and I was a Driver/Operator driving a little tracked vehicle called a Weasel.

I saw your contact details in the Royal British Legion magazine and I just wondered if there still any survivors of 'C' Company still around. If there are I would appreciate a contact.

Yours sincerely

R Mansfield

Reply from the Editor

Dear Geoff,

Many thanks for your kind words. I know I can speak for all those who supported you on April 13th, and on other occasions, when

I say how proud we are to be associated with you and your comrades so many of whom have now passed. To be with you when you Turned the Page was an honour for all of us.

I understand that your standards will be formally handed over to London Branch at the Tower of London parade in September, you can rest assured that they will be in very safe hands indeed.

You may be aware that The Regimental Association is being allowed to feature a small exhibition on the history of The Buffs in the picture gallery in the Westgate Towers from September until December. The history of the Buffs would not be complete without mention of 141 Regt RAC and due tribute will be paid to their courage and sacrifice.

In September the Association is undertaking a trip to Normandy beaches and wreaths will be laid on those of your gallant comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice and who now lie in Bayeux Cemetery or who are commemorated on the walls.

We look forward to seeing you at the Tower of London on September.

Yours sincerely

The Editor.

WELFARE IN ACTION

Each year our Regimental Association, through the Benevolence Secretary at RHQ, Major John Rogerson, and in conjunction with the Army Benevolence Fund, the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and other organisations make grants to comrades, and their widows, who have served in either of our two regiments and are now in need of assistance.

Letters of appreciation are always forthcoming but they are not normally published to protect the anonymity of those who are receipt of these grants.

The publication of this letter, just one of literally dozens that are received by RHQ every year, reflects not just the story and appreciation of this particular case but also the appreciation of all of those who have received such grants in the past.

To their appreciation must be added ours to the staff at RHQ, Major John Rogerson and Major Dennis Bradley for all of the work they do to ensure that calls for help in time of need are always responded to. The Editor.

Dear Sirs,

20th July 2011

Queen's Own Buffs Benevolence Committee.

I am writing to sincerely thank you and the committee for your kind donation towards my treatment travel expenses. I am very proud of you all for kindly helping me at my time of need, which has made me reflect all the more on the memories and experiences that I had during my formative years. It certainly opened my eyes to a very different and disciplines way of living, sadly missing in today's order of things.

In July 1959, I was conscripted to join the Buffs and report to the Royal West Kent depot at Maidstone for ten weeks basic training. Six weeks into my service, I was made a Section leader and also chosen to join and train in the Buffs gymnastic display team, and eventually represented the regiment at Olympia on TV. This was both very enjoyable and quite an event.

By the end of the ten weeks training, I was chosen to become a PT Instructor and undertook a six week Cadre Course at the Buffs Depot in Canterbury. This was followed by a posting to join the 1st Bn at Moore Barracks in Dortmund where, on my arrival, I was told that my Cadre Course and 'stripe' were not recognised and I was duly assigned to a rifle platoon as a private.

Sometime later I applied for a job as an MT driver and for a while drove a 3 tonner, then a Champ and eventually became a driver mainly for the officers. Whilst at Maidstone I had met an officer whose name was Gerry Poole, who in Dortmund was now at Dortmund. He told me that he was putting together a skiing team to

represent the Regiment at the inter-regimental skiing competition. I jumped at the opportunity and we were sent as an attachment to the Royal Horse Artillery based in the Hartz Mountains at a beautiful area near St. Andreasberg for some intensive ski training which included some arduous cross country skiing.

Another experience I had was to be assigned to drive the famous murder trial barrister, Christmas Humphries, who was defending one of our soldiers who had fought with another whilst on guard duty and was accused of killing him with a pick helve.

After a year and three weeks we were to leave Germany and return to Shorncliffe barracks in Kent, but as we left Dortmund, it was decided that we would be trucked to the station and the Buffs band would march out to play us off. It was stirring sight to see the band playing away and by the time they arrived at the station they had in tow a number of German ex-soldiers some with only one leg, who could not resist following that great band.

I served out the remainder of my two years at Shorncliffe until I was demobbed.

I have related these highlights of my service as an example of the range and variety of experiences that the Army afforded me and I will never forget them, so for you and the Benevolence Committee to help in my hour of need is further testament to how the Army and in particular those associated with the forebear regiments of the Queen's Own Buffs are generous to someone like me, even 53 years after my National Service, and I will be forever grateful.

I have just completed my radiotherapy treatment for my Head and neck cancer and in two weeks time I will be seeing my Maxillo Facial surgeon for reassessment following major surgery and radiotherapy. I am hopeful for some good news, and if this is the case and I fully recover I would like to visit you together with my wife to thank you personally.

God Bless you all and thank you once again.

JG

From the Regimental Web Site

www.thequeensownbuffs.com

From: susanguyatt@hotmail.com

Charles E Frost Private 201247 1914 - 1920

I am searching for information regarding my grandfather who served in the East Kent Regiment in the above years. He also was in the S Staffs Regiment, Private 204752. Could you please advise me where I can obtain his army records as I have tried several places without any success.

Thanks Susan Guyatt
New Zealand

From: fredhead2008@hotmail.co.uk.

Looking for Friends

Looking for Dave Mockler and Bob Corby, QOB-2nd Queens, can any one help as haven't seen them since Belfast 1969

Thanks
Fred Head

From: csmmns@hotmail.co.uk

Wuppertal 1955-1956

I joined 1st Bn The Buffs at Dover in about March 1955, was posted to I think B Coy- WO2 'Crash' Hannaway. I went on embarkation leave, ready for the Bn posting to Wuppertal, W Germany. I think I remember the block we were in was the second one from the main gate. I then recollect the exercises, the only thing that seems to stick in my mind is spending long hours in the back of lorries driven by German drivers; spending nights in maybe a barn, or under the stars, (no sleeping bags in those days).

There was a river crossing I remember, in canvas boats, then a long walk up the other side in the dark with the young Lt. being not sure of where we were and wire fences every 200 or 300 yds or so. Does this ring any bells with anyone?

Some time later I was to be posted to SP coy the MMG platoon. What I am looking for is for any one from that time who has any names or details they can remember I would be grateful for any information.

I was then transferred to the MMG platoon, not asked just moved. I did the gun training together with many others. I think the Company Commander was Major Cox, Platoon Commander Capt West, Platoon Sgt. Bill (Pop) Listed two of the three Section Commanders were Sgt. (Tug) Wilson, and Sgt. Paddy Speight. Later the Platoon Comm was Captain Tennant. I have photos of many of these

The reason for this request is I am trying to put together a few details that may be used by the Imperial War Museum as an audio record of service.

From: Arne Eigel Mortensen

Danish Buffs 1945-1949

Danmark's occupation years were truly difficult times. From 1940 until the close of WW2, a large number of Danes who were in England at the beginning of the first months of occupation, enlisted with the Buffs. Also, Danes in Danmark boarded fishing boats by the hundreds and headed across the north sea to enlist.

There were many Danes living in Britain who were anxious to serve in The Buffs. Over a century ago, there was a special appointment created by our Danish King, King Frederick viii.

In collaboration with the British crown and the Kingdom of Danmark, the War Office granted commissions of recruitment to hundreds of Danish nationals into a British Regiment -The Buffs.

My father, Arne Mortensen along with many hundreds of other Danes, made a brave decision of "loyalty and an allegiance" oath to serve the British crown, country and The Buffs.

Danes, knowing The Buffs reputation, wanted to live up to the highest standards of the regiment, many being highly decorated. Over the course of the past sixty years or so,

Many people have heard of the stories of the British POW camps along the Burma road.

Three years before my father enlisted in The Buffs, there were over 61,000 British, Australian, Danish,

Dutch, American, as well as New Zealanders as P.O.W.'S imprisoned in these camps up until the end of the war.

Arne's troop ship was headed to Burma. While Britain celebrated victory day, half a world away, hundreds of thousands of troops loyal to the British crown were in the jungle POW camps in Burma. The war was not over for them.

I am very proud of the contribution of my father and his fellow Danish and allied soldiers he served with. Please contact myself or my father's on our shared email at daneosodane@yahoo.com. We would like to communicate with any of the soldiers who served in the British operation of the liberation of Rangoon and the Burma road. We are writing a story and would like to include some of my father's friends he served with. Does anyone have any platoon photos of Danes or Brits in the Buffs from 1945 until 1949? Please send to me soon. I would like to give credit to any one in my book I am working on....Please assist me in any way, stories, photos, ideas...Looking forward to sharing stories with my father's soldiers from his days in the Danish-British Buffs)

Arne Mortensen,
Portland, Oregon 97267

From: Jonathan Saunders

Video newsreel of 1/RWK in Malaya

This may interest some of you Malaya veterans:
<http://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=80955>

Hopefully the link will take you to a 7 min. British Pathe film clip. Subsequently I found this extract in the Queen's Own Gazette of April 1953:

"A" COMPANY

Fame at last, with the coming of the "Pathe Newsreel" cameraman. Many of our members will appear on the screen for the first time. Mr. Jordan, the cameraman in question, was most thorough in his choice of subjects, and strayed from the usual rugged hard-bitten jungle fighter, and showed us as we are in our normal life—our liking for the "pin-up girl," our sport, our tastes in literature and our other hobbies. In return for his kindness in photographing us, the C.S.M. took his

photo chatting to an informal group of Officers and the C/Sgt., a copy of which we hope to include in this month's "Gazette."

From: Mick Stanley

8 PLATOON, C COMPANY, KENYA 1961

Since my last entry in Jan. 2010 I have traced a further 9 members of 8 Platoon.

In July we had a reunion for 11 ex members and we look forward to a much larger gathering in May this year. I still need to find the following.

Cpl. Alan Free, Ptes Snowy Austin, Pete Biggs, John Bridger, Brooker, Terry Dibley, Durrell, Alan Fox, Mike Gosling, Nick Haslewood, Barry Payne, Charlie Scott, Phil Starling, Ted Wedlake and Keith Gittings. Can you help?

From: C.G.Simmons(Pat)

Amalgamation Day- March 1 1961

Hi all ex Queens Own Buffs. Amalgamation 50 years on Tuesday. I've been trying to remember what I was doing on that day. I was L/Cpl. MT Platoon 1 Buffs, and had been back in the UK since Nov 1960, living in Canterbury.

I was the guy driving the Families Transport 1X3 ton Canterbury to Shorncliffe, I remember there were others going to Littlestone & Greatstone as well. Names of many of the MT Platoon escape me now except may be two, Richard (Dick) Marchant, L/cpl. William (Bill) Hyde. Any one come up with any names that I may remember, please let me know. Still not sure what I was doing on the day. Well thanks for any info that may come from this, I wish all ex members of The Queens Own Buffs the best And may be meet on the 1st Oct 2011.

Reply from Ian Davis- Knight

Hi Pat, Good to see you are still around, a few names from the old MT of that era, Fred Potts, Len King, Bill Davis, Mike Smith, Charlie Wright Brian Boxall, Pop George, to name but a few.

Great people and good times
Yours truly Tiny Knight

Final Word

Over the past few weeks the Committee of Management have been collectively scratching heads to decide on the future profile of The Journal. In recent months it has proved to be increasingly difficult to meet production deadlines with other commitments having to take their fair place on the list of personal and work priorities.

The current subscription list for The Journal is running at 530 and it is an important consideration that there are always well over 20% of those subscribers who are woefully behind with their subscriptions and time does not allow for personal reminders to be sent as I am sure you can appreciate.

It has now been decided to produce one large 'bumper' edition of the Journal at the end of each year to reflect and report on the past year's events. Also, as the Journal has filled a very important function in acting as an information media for events such as Reunions, special events etc, it has been decided to publish an information 'Newsletter' in the Spring of each year.

Both the Journal and the Newsletter will be FREE OF CHARGE from 2012 onwards, which will reduce the administrative burden of producing the The Journal massively

Apart from the journal subscription list we have over 1,200 members listed on the Regimental database. It is now proposed to send a copy of the information Newsletter to all members listed on that database in an effort to update the database and to ensure that everyone listed receives notification of all events. It is also hoped to increase the circulation list of The Journal which will be a bonus.

Consequently, those of you who are paying by Standing Order should cancel their Standing Order arrangement with your bank after your payment in 2012, normally on 1st April. For those of you that pay by cheque, if you would care to bring your subscription up to date then we would be grateful, but after that no more cheques please unless you wish to make the odd donation to defray costs and with the ever rising costs of production and postage such donations will be very welcome indeed. Cheques should be made payable to Queen's Own Buffs Gen. Account, and sent

to, The Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury CT1 1JY.

So there we are, you will receive the 8 page Newsletter, straight after the AGM in May next year, it will not contain any feature articles and will concentrate on the administrative points of the reunions and other events, diary of events, notifications of those of our comrades who have passed on, not full obituaries, and any notices that members want publishing including Items For Sale and items Wanted etc. as well as a 'Where are they now section'

In the meantime the regimental web site will continue which will fill in any gaps left by reducing the Journal down to one issue per year.

I am reminded that the success of The Journal is down to many people in particular Bill Adams who produced the original newsletter for so many years and laid the foundation for today's Journal, those of you who contribute articles and those of you who subscribe too, Without you there would be no point in having a Journal would there?

But I must add two others, Elaine and John, of Design & Print, our printers. Not only do they consistently produce a high quality of print in the finished article at a very competitive rate but their support with art design, compilation and generally in putting the Journal 'to bed' is quite indispensable. Elaine and John-many thanks.

Well that's it for this issue, I hope to see many of you at the two Reunions this year. If you have, as yet, not made the decision to attend then if you possibly can please come - After all they are your reunions and your attendance is so important.

Take care

The Editor.

***Photo Gallery-Spot George Dunk
George Dunk is seated on the second table
far right facing the camera, between him and
George's Mum and Dad (Dad was a Buff too) is
Private Vidler***

What's On July to December 2011

JULY

| | | | |
|------------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| TBC | Weald Branch river trip to Greenwich | Capt. M. Gwilliam: | 020 31751090 |
| 9th | Colchester Branch BBQ | Jimmy Burr: | 01206 502621 |
| 9th & 10th | Sittingbourne Branch Annual Trip to Ypres | Paul Fleming: | 01795 421281 |

AUGUST

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 3rd to 7th | Canterbury Cricket Week | Colonel P. Cook | 01622 832270 |
| 7th | Canterbury Reunion | Henry Delo: | 01843 842357 |

SEPTEMBER

| | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| 4th | London Buffs Service of Remembrance-Tower of London | Betty Correa: | 0208 6553040 |
| 8th | Sevastopol Day | | |
| 11th | Maidstone Reunion | Jacky Allen: | 01322 666007 |
| 23rd-26th | Association trip to Normandy Beaches | Major Peter White: | 01843 580914 |

OCTOBER

| | | | |
|------|--|---------------------|--------------|
| 1st | Association Luncheon-Union Jack Club | Major John Barrell: | 0116 2448037 |
| 15th | 6th Bn.. QORWK 65th Annual Reunion West Kingsdown | Joan Lambourne: | 0208 6619192 |
| 29th | Ramsgate Branch Annual Dinner & Dance | John Ferneyhough: | 01843 594007 |

NOVEMBER

| | | | |
|------|--|------------------|--------------|
| 10th | Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey | Major D. Bradley | 01227 818052 |
| 13th | Remembrance Sunday | | |
| 13th | Canterbury Branch Armistice Day Lunch | Henry Delo: | 01843 842357 |

DECEMBER

| | | | |
|------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| 10th | Colchester Branch Xmas Party | Jimmy Burr: | 01206502621 |
| 11th | Canterbury Branch Carol Service | Henry Delo: | 01843 842357 |
| 17th | Canterbury Branch Christmas Dinner & Social | Henry Delo: | 01843 842357 |
| TBC. | Weald Branch Christmas Lunch | Capt. M. Gwilliam: | 020 31751090 |



CAPITAINE LATHAM

3^e RGT FOR THE BUFFS

As a testimonial
from his Brother Officers
of their high opinion of his distinguished conduct
in defending the colors of the regiment
in the Battle of Albuera
in which he lost an arm and part of his face
*A la memoire de ce brave militaire
decédé dans sa 79^e année le 27^e avril 1865*

Priez