

"OUT & ABOUT"



**HOME HEADQUARTERS
THE ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS
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OCTOBER 2007

Since the last edition of Out and About, the Regiment has undertaken field training at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) and is now in the midst of pre-deployment training.

All elements of the Regiment have completed a Medicine Man Exercise this year. C Squadron, as part of 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment Battlegroup, exercised during Medicine Man One. The Regimental Battlegroup (PoW, A and D Squadrons, with C Company 1st Battalion Scots Guards, Burma Company 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Sandham's Battery, 73 Armoured Engineer Squadron and a Troop from 16 Air Defence Battery) followed on Medicine Man Two. Finally, B Squadron completed Medicine Man Three as part of 1st Battalion Scots Guards Battlegroup.

Both Infantry commanding officers made a point of highlighting the high-grade, all-round performance of their attached squadrons; Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Scots Guards called me from his mobile telephone shortly after completion of his exercise to stress how impressed he had been by B Squadron. As for the Regimental Battlegroup, I defer to the view of Commander BATUS as expressed in his report:

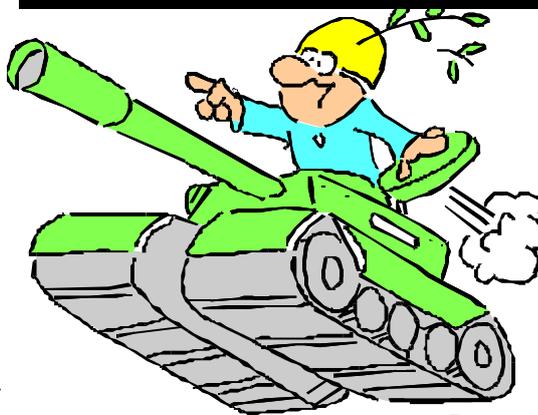
"RDG BG has achieved a very high standard of training. It is recommended that this BG is fit to be Comd 4 Mech Bde's BG of first choice for agile/high tempo tasks. The BG's strong points are agility and tempo, offensive spirit, Combined Arms Effects and Command and Control.

It has been a pleasure training the RDG BG and seeing the pace of manoeuvre that 2 x CR2 squadrons with Warrior, BULLDOG and T2 [the new engineer vehicles] can create. The enthusiasm and motivation of the BG's soldiers has been excellent and the way that they have maintained their professionalism, when tired and in arduous hot temperatures, has been extremely gratifying. We wish the component elements of MEDMAN 02/07 well for the forthcoming Op TELIC tour."

Following BATUS our focus shifted to pre-deployment training. The Regiment finished training in Canada on the Friday, flew back to Munster over the weekend and commenced conversion courses on the Monday. We had but two courses, each of two weeks, in which to convert two squadrons and Battlegroup Tactical Headquarters to Warrior. And then but a further eight days in which to complete conversion firing, through Annual Crew Tests and on to ve-

hicle pairs live fire and manoeuvre. In parallel we had to receipt, prepare and then handover again (on the final day of firing) the complete vehicle fleet. And whilst all that was going on, B Squadron was converting to a new remote

COMMANDING OFFICERS NOTES



LT COL TD HYAMS

weapon system on their Challengers and C Squadron was converting to Bulldog (an up-armoured and up-rated armoured personnel carrier) and training a full compliment of Royal Dragoon Guards to act as dismounts. We did it. All vehicles passed Systems Performance Check first time. All crews passed Annual Crew Test first time. The Regiment achieved a Level Six (the highest grade and one that many armoured infantry battalions do not achieve routinely). The credit lies firmly with the soldiers.

Amazingly enough, amidst this all we have still found time to have some fun and pursue activities that enhance quality of life. In outline:

- Between Medicine Man exercises each squadron looked to recharge batteries with some fun days out in the local area, battlefield tours and sport.
- The Regimental Rugby League Team has toured Yorkshire. And in return we have hosted West Leeds RLFC; the result was a cracking game played in York Barracks over Dettingen Weekend, with all those in Station cheering our team to victory prior to an all-ranks party that night.
- The Regimental Polo Team has just returned from competing in the Captains and Subalterns Cup; we were the only cavalry Regiment to enter a team. Prior to the competition, the team spent a week training at a Polo School in Sota Grande (Spain; not sure how they managed to convince me that this was justified, but they had a good time nonetheless!). They are a young and enthusiastic team who finished as runners-up in their competition, which bodes well for the future.
- In a change to the norm, Exercise Hunting Dragoon took place in the Czech Republic rather than in Scotland. Six officers and the Reconnaissance Troop Sergeant Major spent a week shooting Mufloon. For those unfamiliar with this beast, it is a member of the sheep family rather than a figment of JK Rowling's imagination. Accordingly, the

non field sports cynics renamed the adventure as Exercise Tethered Sheep.

The Pipes and Drums spent Easter in Norfolk Virginia playing to packed audiences at the Azalea Festival. This is a high-profile event and, as ever, the Pipes and Drums drew universal praise for their performance and attitude.

The Regiment now will complete the final stage of pre-deployment training, take leave and then deploy. You will understand that I cannot give precise timings for our deployment, but it is imminent. The Regiment will deploy as the Operations Battlegroup within 4 Mechanized Brigade, a role that stands testament to the performance all ranks have delivered across the range of activities conducted over the past eighteen months. The training has been demanding, but there is a sense that people have confidence in that training, confidence in the equipment and, critically, confidence in one another.

You have heard it before. And we are far from unique. But I have never seen the Regiment as busy as we find ourselves currently. What is all the more remarkable therefore is that people genuinely are on good form and that the Regiment continues to perform to its usual high standard. As a senior officer remarked to me recently, "there are very few regiments in the British Army in which people at every level consistently do the right thing rather than the easy thing. The Royal Dragoon Guards is one of those Regiments." Commanding a Regiment such as this, and the people who populate its ranks at all levels, is a deeply humbling experience. It also is, despite it all, enormous fun.

ARMY PRESERVED PENSION

It is possible that you have earned a preserved pension payable at age 60. The Armed Forces Pension Scheme 75 pension benefits are based on rank and length of service. All personnel serving between 6 April 1975 and 6 April 2005 will have served under the AFPS 75 scheme.

Prior to 06 April 1975 there was no provision for a preservation of pension benefits and service personnel who left the Armed Forces had to complete 16 years from aged 21 (Officers) or 22 years from age 18 (Other ranks). Those who left before that date without completing the above criteria, lost all pension entitlement.

The rules changed on 6 April 1975 to provide for pensions to be preserved for payment at age 60 for all those discharged over the age of 26 with a minimum of 5 years service. On 6 April 1988, the qualifying period was reduced from 5 to 2 years and the age criterion was dropped.

Preserved pensions have to be claimed at age 60. However, you can claim your preserved pension sooner if you become permanently incapacitated.

You should apply in writing to: The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, Pension Division, Mail Point 480, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX

Telephone 0800 085 3600 (enquiry service) E-Mail JPAC@afpaa.mod.uk

When writing to them ensure that you give them Number, Rank, Name, Regiment and Date of birth, this will help them to find you on the database. Good Luck. Don't forget when you hit 60 you have to apply, they will not let you know.

NEW NATIONAL BUS PASS SCHEME 2008

There is good news for bus pass holders, do not delay apply now to your local council. You'll soon be able to get free off peak bus travel anywhere within England. From April 2008, a new national scheme will replace the current service of free local off-peak bus. The new scheme will extend the service to include free off-peak bus travel anywhere within England on local bus services (excluding long distance services such as National Express).

Q. Who is eligible for the new free bus pass? A. People aged 60 and over, and disabled people of any age who qualify.

Q. Where can I travel with the new free bus pass? A. The national scheme will allow pass holders free off-peak bus travel anywhere within England on local bus services. The scheme will not include long distance services such as National Express. It will not include travel in Scotland and Wales. Q. What time can I travel using my new free bus pass? A. The new scheme offers free travel from 9.30am to 11.00pm on weekdays and all day at weekends and bank holidays. Q. Will I need a new bus pass? A. Yes, because the scheme will be nationwide it will be necessary to have a nationally recognised bus pass. Therefore, the Government has decided to introduce a standard bus pass throughout England. Q. Where do I get my new pass? A. Your local Council can issue you with application forms and passes and you should apply now. Q. When will I get my new pass? A. The new bus passes will be issued in February or March 2008. Q. Will I have to pay for my new pass? A. No, the passes will be issued free of charge but you may have to pay for a replacement if you lose your pass. Q. Is there a limit on how many journeys I can make? A. No, you can travel as far and as much as you like. Q. Will the new passes be smartcards? A. The new bus passes will contain a microchip which can store information electronically. This is to enable electronic ticketing methods to be introduced some time in the future. Q. Will I need a new photo for my new bus pass? A. Yes, you will need to submit a new passport size photograph to ensure that your new bus pass has an up to date image of you.

HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS (HMRC) FRAUD & SCAMS

HMRC are aware of the following scams (and variants) usually by email and have published the following on line.

Tax Rebate - Updated 19 September 2007: We are aware of a number of scams aimed at persuading our customers to complete a form revealing their bank or credit card details, on the pretext that a payment of tax will be paid directly into their bank account. Previous forms, have shown a potential tax rebate using the email addresses of: admin@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk, info@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk, no-reply@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk. **HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) never send out emails using these email addresses.**

Tax payments on lottery winnings (Stop Order Fraud) - Updated 19 September 2007: A number of frauds state that a parcel containing a cheque in respect of lottery winnings has been impounded by HMRC. It will only be released when a substantial tax sum is paid, which will form a percentage of the winnings. This is a fraud.

Fake TFT Tax Payment Form - 19 July 2007: A fake TFT Tax Payment Form (PDF 147K) (also available in text only version (TXT 2K) is being sent requesting a cheque for an underpayment of tax. This form does not exist within HM Revenue &

Customs, and no monies should be sent.

Non Resident Inheritance Tax: This is a scam alleging that HMRC require payment of Non Resident Inheritance Tax before a supposed inheritance or windfall can be released.

Fake P86 form: Letters are being sent with fake P86 Forms, which ask for personal information from taxpayers employed outside the UK. These Forms are fake and should not be completed.

Anti-Terrorist Certificate: This is a scam involving postal items supposedly being stopped by Customs that require the purchase of an Anti-Terrorist Certificate before being released. There is no such certificate in existence within HM Revenue & Customs.

Compensation: This scam is aimed at people who supposedly have already been the subject of a fraud attempt. The email requests personal details on the pretext that compensation will be paid.

Child Benefit and Income Support: Unsolicited emails are being issued advising the recipient may be entitled to Child Benefit. A non-Departmental email address and mobile numbers are being used as the contact points for this scam.

Telephone Variations: A new variant of scam Export Clearance Process (Delivery Stop Order) is that the individual may be contacted by telephone rather than email. We have seen examples where customers are contacted by someone purporting to be from HM Customs and Excise, claiming that for a payment of £400 by wire transfer, they would release goods to them worth £250,000. Please note that the Department does not contact customers in this way. One telephone number used in this fraud is 0207 099 2114. Another variation is to claim that a lottery ticket in your name has won and for an advance release fee HMCE or HMRC will release substantial sums of money. Often the advance fee is to be paid into an account overseas. Again, this is a fraud and the Department does not contact customers in this way.

IF IN DOUBT CALL YOUR LOCAL HMRC OFFICE

VETERANS UK

There are hundreds of organisations providing help and support to veterans of the UK Armed Forces, both from Government and the voluntary sector. Whilst dedicated and professional help is, available, the sheer number of contact points and sources of assistance can at times be confusing - and may actually discourage people from getting in touch.

Veterans-UK has been introduced as the single brand or banner covering a variety of different veterans services provided by many different organisations. It provides a single focal point for accessing a wealth of information.

www.veterans-uk.info

The first steps have seen a new veterans' portal website www.veterans-uk.info replacing the previous Veterans Agency site. It provides a single site from which information of use to veterans can be obtained. Veterans services provided by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) - including the free veterans helpline **0800 169 2277**, also now come under the Veterans-UK banner.

For the future, it is hoped the new brand will include other Ministry of Defence services to veterans and later those from other Government Departments and possibly voluntary sector organisations. Again, the website will keep people updated on new developments.

Sharing Knowledge

A key aim of Veterans-UK is to signpost veterans, advisors and the general public to the wide variety of specific help, advice and support available. In support of this aim, an interactive directory of contact information for veterans support organisations was recently launched. Known as the Veterans Knowledge Map this tool can be accessed from the 'Home' page of the website. So far, three strands of the Knowledge Map have gone live: accommodation; money matters; and employment. Further strands will be introduced in the near future.

Who is a Veteran?

Veterans are former members of HM Armed Forces (Navy, Army or RAF - regular or reserve). Indeed the term applies to all UK ex-Servicemen and women. There are an estimated 5.5 million in the UK and with their wives, husbands, partners or children, they comprise the 10.5 million strong Veterans Community. Veterans need not have served overseas or in conflict. Veteran's status also applies to a number of special groups such as those who served in Polish detachments under British command in WWII and Merchant Mariners who saw duty in military operations.

CONNECT SUPPORTING VETERANS & FAMILIES AFFECTED BY APHASIA

Aphasia, which often follows a stroke, affects people differently-sometimes there is complete loss of speech, sometimes there is partial loss. Some people with aphasia find it hard to take part in a conversation, to read or write, follow the television or go shopping. Everyday activities become a challenge, not least because there is little public awareness of aphasia -people often don't know how to react or cope with a communication disability. Connect, a national charity, publishes resources for anybody affected by aphasia, their relatives and health or social care professionals supporting people with stroke-related communication disabilities. Further information from www.connect.org or call 0207 3670840.

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS DINNER EARLY WARNING

The Regimental Dinner will be held in the Cavalry & Guards Club on 27 November 2008. Normal letters will be sent out nearer to the event.

2007 CHRISTMAS CARD

This year's card will be 'Night before Waterloo' by WS Keogh-Cumming and (once received) will be available from HHQ at a cost of 35p plus p&p. Orders being taken now. All profits to the Museum Fund

OBITUARIES

We regret to inform members of the following and offer sincere
condolences to all relatives and friends

- MR J ADAM (Jock), SQMS 5 INNIS DG, 1947 – 69, 10 Dunkerry Close, West Park, Nailsea, Avon,
who died 7 May 2007
- CAPT PGD AIZLEWOOD (Peter) 4/7 DG, Wartime, Brookend House, Chastleton, Moreton In Marsh, Glos,
who died 16 October 2007
- MR J ANDERSON (Andy), Cpl, 5 INNIS DG, 1950 – 78, 72 Duke Of York Avenue, Portobello Estate, Wakefield, Yorkshire,
who died 9 June 2007
- RJ ARMITAGE Esq (Jeremy), Lt, 5 INNIS DG, 1956 – 58, Pigeon House Farm, Hatherden, Andover, Hants,
who died 7 October 2007
- COL MC BARRACLOUGH OBE (Mike), 4/7DG, 1945 – 71, Ivy Cottage, Mill Green, Ingatestone, Essex,
who died 9 August 2007
- MR RE BASSETT (Ronald), 5 INNIS DG, 1950 – 52, 28 Offham House, Beckway Street, Walworth, London,
who died 13 September 2007
- MR RF BURSTON (Reg), 5 INNIS DG, 1952 – 53, 31 Hillingdon Rise, Sevenoaks, Kent,
who died 12 February 2007
- MR IS CHALMERS (Ian), Cpl RDG, 2001 -05, 43 Orangefield Drive, Belfast, N Ireland,
who died 26 August 2007
- LT COL TJ CHAPMAN OBE (Tom), 4/7DG, 1947 – 85, The Lodge, Sutton Road, Huttoft Alford, Lincs,
who died 1 May 2007
- MR R DABROWSKI (Ray), Sgt, 4/7DG, 1947 – 53, 33 Lowry Crescent, Mitcham, Surrey,
who died 17 September 2007
- CAPT J DOLAN (John), 4/7DG, 1958 – 84, 1 Starr Farm Cottages, By Luthrie, Cupar, Fife,
who died 17 September 2007
- MRS ANITA DOYLE, 11 Anita Avenue, Salisbury Plain, South Australia,
who died 5 December 2006
- MRS E EMERTON, 26 Primrose Walk, Stockton Park Fleet, Aldershot, Hants,
who died 11 April 2007
- MAJ BJ FITZSIMMONS (Bernard), 5 INNIS DG, 1943 – 78, 1 Larch Close, Langford, Bristol, Avon,
who died 16 May 2007
- MR G HARRIS (Glen), 4/7DG, 38 Fenwick Drive, Woodside, Bradford, Yorkshire,
who died 15 June 2007
- MR RB HARTLEY (Bob), Sgt, 5 INNIS DG, 1952 – 74, White Heath House, Cookes Road, Berhampton, Norwich,
who died 15 August 2007
- MR R HAZLEHURST (Ronnie), 4/7DG, 1947 – 49, Testa Rossa, Ville Baudu, Vale, Guernsey,
who died 1 October 2007
- MR A KENNERLEY (Alan), ASM 5 INNIS DG, 1932 -38, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London,
who died 30 April 2007
- MR LE PETIT (Lou), 5 INNIS DG, 20/91 Wynard 'Villas' Street, Cleveland, Queensland, Australia,
who died 25 September 2006
- MR W LENNON (Billy), 5 INNIS DG, 1963 – 78, (No Address Held)
who died 10 June 2006
- MRS ALICE LIMB, 1 Manor Farm Lane, Tidmarsh, Reading, Berks,
who died 1 January 2007
- MR E LOWERY (Eric), Sgt, 5 INNIS DG, 1957 – 77, 4 Limbrick Court, Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland,
who died 7 May 2007
- MR SM McCracken (Sammy), Cpl, 5 INNIS DG, 1965 – 82, 11 Champion Road, Woodville, Swadlincote, Derbyshire,
who died 21 April 2007
- MR C McGANN (Charlie), WO2, 5 INNIS DG, 1967 -92, 21 Chetwode Terrace, Aldershot, Hants,
who died 4 July 2007
- CAPT A Mcl MORRISON MC (Alastair), 4/7DG 1941 – 52, Greenway Cottage, Mildenhall, Nr Marlborough, Wilts,
who died 2 April 2007
- MR G NEILL (Gilbert), 5 INNIS DG, 1960 – 66, 20 Whitehill Close, Camberley, Surrey,
who died 6 May 2007
- MRS GINA O'NEILL, Uhlenbusch/Ardellis, Athy, Co Kildare,
who died 13 June 2006
- MR A OWEN (Albert), Cpl, 4/7DG, 1949 – 54, 71 Woodvale Road, West Derby, Liverpool,
who died 28 December 2006
- MRS ANDROULA POLLINGTON, Katharinen Strasse 16, 33129 Delbruck, Germany,
who died 18 July 2007
- MR F TAYLOR (Frank, WO1, 5 INNIS DG, 1955 – 78, Mansion House, 164 Main Road, Drax, Selby, Yorks,
who died 16 August 2007
- MR P THIRLWAY (Pete), Sgt, 4/7DG, 1966 – 85, c/o 42 Reighton Avenue, Rawcliffe, York,
who died 5 October 2007
- MR J THOMPSON, (Johnny), Cpl, 5 INNIS DG, 1958 – 73, Flat 4, 22 Fortwilliam Parade, Belfast,
who died 3 June 2007
- MR TW TYREMAN , 4/7DG, 1940 - 47, 30 Harehill Court, Grangewood, Chesterfield,
who died 3 July 2007

MAJ PG VERDIN MC (Philip), 4/7DG, 1934 – 50, The Buttas, Canon Pyon, Herefordshire,
 who died 27 April 2007
 MR RHS WAKE (Reg), WO2, 4/7DG, 1938 – 68, Abbeyfield House, 2 Trowbridge Road, Bradford on Avon, Wilts,
 who died 21 May 2007
 LORD WEATHERILL (Bernard), 4/7DG, 1940 – 41, 15 St Michael's, Wolf's Row, Imspsfield, Oxted, Surrey,
 who died 6 May 2007
 MR LW WEST, 4/7DG, 1938 – 46, 34 Kingswood Road, Penge, London,
 who died 8 July 2007
 MR DJ YOUNG (Derek), 4/7DG, 1953 – 76, 4 St Mary's Terrace, York,
 who died 24 March 2007
 COL KA ZAMBELLI MBE (Keith), 4/7DG, 1962 – 98, 32 Purbeck Close, Weymouth, Dorset,
 who died 19 February 2007

THE JOINT CASUALTY & COMPASSIONATE CENTRE

Today the repatriation of Service personnel killed overseas is an important role for the JCCC. In previous years due to logistics and numbers it was a different story and many lie in the battlefields where they fell, until now....

The JCCC's Historic Casualty Casework Team arrange commemorative funeral services, whenever human remains of British Service personnel are found on battlefields or at aircraft crash sites. These are usually uncovered as a result of building work; land reclamation or rerouting of roads. The team is notified if the find is deemed to be British. The potential scale of work is huge; there are still around 20,000 RAF personnel listed as missing on operations. Thousands of Army personnel from WWI and WWII have no known graves. Whilst many will never be identified, or may already have been buried as unknown soldiers, new discoveries are made every year. Historic Casework involves a lot of investigating; tracing old flight paths, checking crew manifests, regimental records, casualty lists etc National Archives, local

historians, the Air and Army Historic Branches, Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and a whole host of international resources are called upon to try to identify any human remains recovered from a battlefield. The smallest pieces of evidence can lead to a Service person's identity being found and after a further round of investigation, any surviving relatives of the deceased is traced. However, the identification process is only the start. Where a person's identity has been positively confirmed, a full military funeral is normally offered to the family. The Single Service and wherever possible the deceased's regiment or squadron will help providing services such as a burial party, a bugler and a firing party. Local embassy staff may also attend. Flowers have to be arranged along with accommodation for the relatives. The logistics of such an event is enormous with the added difficulty that the ceremony is often held in another country. All the arrangements are put in place by the JCCC.

CREULLY CLUB

The Reunion, AGM & Remembrance Parade will be 10/11 November. Further information of any of the above and details of the Creully Club may be obtained from Cecil Newton, 1 Grasshills, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 2EH. Tel: 01672 540356. E-mail: cnewton@freeuk.com. Information about the Creully Club can also be obtained from our web site. www.creullyclub.freeuk.com

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST BRANCH

A Christmas Lunch will be held at the Morden Hall on Wednesday 5 December. Old and new members always welcome. Enquiries to PB England, 59 Guards Close, Towngate Wood Park, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3RT Tel: 01732 352138 or Mrs Shirley Chapman, 173 Cheston Avenue, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 8DF. 020 8777 4237 or alfandshirley@blueyonder.co.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

The members of the NI Branch have been keeping themselves busy with BBQ's during the summer and the chairman with his good wife Sally travelling to exotic destinations on their retirement benefits. What the rest of us would give to just get to Blackpool. Walter and Alice Browne made it back to Berlin to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary and noted that it was like being in Northern Ireland during the troubles with many of the old spots badly in need of repair and a spot of decent paint instead of graffiti. How things have changed with the famous "Villa Lemm" used by many of the past serving officers being sold for 12,000,000 Euros and a further 12,000,000 Euros being spent on renovations by a 76 year old multi-millionaire from Osnabruck. Winter is now beginning to set in Ulster and members are beginning to hibernate so hopefully a few parties will bring them out for the night. Old and new members can contact the branch secretary George Clarke on Tel: 02890 202696

THE 5 INNIS DG OLD COMRADES REUNION

A Reunion Weekend will be held in Blackpool from 25 - 28 April 2008. Further information and group details from Mary Liquorish, 95 Birch Tree Drive, Off Drapers Lane, Hedon, East Yorkshire. HU12 8FH. 01482 893255 or email MLiquorish@aol.com.

5 INNIS DG NORTHERN IRELAND

Details on meetings are available from the Secretary Jack Halliday, Tel: 02890 768098 or email saljak@aol.com.

CUMBRIA BRANCH

The next Winter Social is planned for 16 February 2008 at Harrington RBL. For information about our social evenings and for assistance in booking accommodation, ring either Marty Burdon (01900-602559) or

Roger Bright (01900-604680). Any visitors to the area who fancy a night out, give us a ring and we'll organize something.
Email: roger@bright188.fsnet.co.uk

YORK BRANCH

We are always pleased to see new faces so anyone interested in the Branch and it's functions please contact Barrie Grimshaw on 01909 726362, email margaretandbarrie@grimshaw.orangehome.co.uk, or by writing to 11a Calf Croft, Whitwell, Worksop, Notts. S80 4UE

OXFORD BRANCH

The recent visit to Shrivenham (RMCS.) Defence Academy went very well and was well attended, a tour of the new AFV wing and the new main entrance was followed by a visit to the updated Small Arms and Artillery Wings. A very good lecture was given by Colonel Duncan (RA) who has just returned from Iraq. Thanks are extended to SSM Dave Danson KRH and young Cpl Shillington (RDG) who gave us a lecture in the AFV Wing. Thanks also to the WO's and SGT's Mess for a good lunch and of course a refreshments. The Fire Power Demonstration on 8 October was also a great success. Thanks to Bert Dowler (RTR Oxon) and John Walker who organize this annually and of course A Sqn 1 RTR at Warminster ranges. The annual Blenheim Dinner will take place on Friday 23 November 2008 at Oxford UOTC. Any one in the area on any of these dates is welcome to join us. Just call me, Jack Bellinger, 01865 730303.

WEST YORKSHIRE BRANCH

A Social Evening was held on 22 September in Bradford with approximately 180 enjoying a very good evening indeed. The next Social is in the planning stages and will be probably held during February. Date and venue to be confirmed. All new members wishing to join us should register their contact details with the Secretary who is John Speers (01274 652 345) or johnbev@speers4.fsnet.co.uk We welcome contact from ex members of both our illustrious regiments as well as ex and serving members of our successor The Royal Dragoon Guards when in the West Yorkshire area.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER ABBEY THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2007

The opening ceremony for this year's Field of Remembrance Ceremony will take place on Thursday 8th November at approximately 1050 hrs. (RDG Plot Number 200). Entrance to the Field will be from 0930 – 1030 hrs and members are requested to be in position by 1030 hrs at the latest. For safety and security reasons, only one nominated person per regiment/association will be allowed to stand in front of each plot irrespective of it's size (this person should be clearly identifiable). All other persons must stand in the area at the rear of the plots, and should remain in position until after the departure from the field of the reviewing party (*anticipated to be a senior member of the Royal Household*). Following the service a buffet lunch will be available in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, at a cost of £7.00. Please notify HHQ by telephone or email if you require lunch in order that bookings can be made. Please follow up your written or telephone booking with a cheque payable to 'HHQ RDG'. A Committee Meeting, for Committee members will take place after lunch, to be held in the Royal Hospital.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey 8 Nov 07
Creully Club Reunion Alcester 10&11 Nov 07
Oxford Branch Blenheim Dinner 23 Nov 07
London & SE Christmas Lunch 5 Dec 07
West Yorkshire Social TBC Feb 08
Cumbria Branch Social 16 Feb 08
Captain Oates Service Chelsea TBC 16 Mar 08
Blackpool Reunion 25/28 Apr 08
AGM & Committee Meetings Chelsea 10 May 08
Cavalry Memorial Parade 11 May 08
Regimental Officers Dinner 27 Nov 08

CEREMONY OF THE KEYS HM TOWER OF LONDON

The Ceremony of the Keys takes place daily at 10 pm. Interested parties/individuals should write direct to HM Tower of London giving as much notice as possible. Between 40 and 50 visitors are admitted to watch the Ceremony of the Keys each night. HM Tower of London, Tower Hill, London. EC3N 4AB

THE KEITH ZABELLI MEMORIAL GOLF TROPHY (ZAM'S TROPHY)

The Keith Zambelli Memorial Trophy came into being as a result of an initiative by Alex Kurlandzki and will be played for on an annual basis. Details of the competition will be advertised on the Forum and in the January/February Newsletter. Prize-winners for 2007 are included in the following article by Alex.

The inaugural Zam's trophy was held at the Marriott Hollins Hall Golf and Country clubs on Saturday 1 September 2007. Over thirty golfers arrived from around the world to take part in this special competition in memory of Zam.

The course was in very good condition and a true test for even the low handicap golfers with a stiff breeze blowing on the high undulating course. It was a low scoring day looking around at the golfers you could have been on a film set for a spaghetti western with a few bandits in the cast. It was a hard fought contest with no one outwitting this challenging course made even harder with the stiff Yorkshire breeze. There had to be winners and losers, but to the credit of all the golfers there were no moaners or groaners.

The winners were: 1st Andy Robinson – 35 points, 2nd Ted Blakey – 31 points, 3rd Andy Clough – 29 points. **Best Guest:** Peter Elliot 29 points, **Longest Drive:** Brian Baker, **Nearest the Pin:** Graeme Henderson, **Two's Pot:** Shared between Ben Gunn and Vince Rose, **Booby Prize:** Dave Thompson, **Damrep Prize:** Fred Claxton.

A raffle was held during the prize giving dinner and £200 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Research. I would like to thank all the golfers, caddies, photographers and spectators who travelled from afar to support this yearly event. A big thank you to everyone who contributed towards Zam's trophy and to Christine Zambelli for allowing us to remember Zam in this way, Thanks also to John and Alan at HHQ for all the help in producing such a fine trophy.

Finally I have asked to reproduce the inscription which was on the winner's salvers.

THE KEITH ZABELLI MEMORIAL TROPHY HOLLINS HALL 2007

He went from boy soldier to man, from Trooper to Lieutenant Colonel MBE and from the first tee to last green a truer gentleman may never be seen. Quis Separabit

HHQ NOTES

Many apologies for the delay in the publication of this Newsletter and as a result late notification of various events. The excuses are many and varied but I will not bore you with them! As you can see from the CO's notes the Regiment have been extremely busy and performing at the very top levels of professionalism and expertise. As our young men prepare for deployment I feel sure all will join with me in wishing them all the very best for a safe and successful tour. We will be thinking of you each and every day. I take this opportunity of thanking our trustees and various branch officials for their valued input and organisation of our Regimental Association. Once again I make the normal plea to please keep us up to date with your addresses, land and email, and telephone numbers. Although very early the staff at HHQ wish you all a very happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY PARADE TROOPING OF THE COLOUR

Applications for tickets are accepted between 1 January and the end of February each year. A ballot is held in mid-March and successful applicants only are notified in April. Whilst successful applicants are restricted to two/three tickets for the actual parade, this figure can be increased for the reviews. Details for 2008 are as follows:

The Queen's Birthday Parade 14 June 2008. Tickets at £20.00 each. The Colonel's Review 7 June 2008. Tickets at £10.00 each. The Major General's Review 31 May 2008. Tickets free of cost.

The reviews are full dress parades and identical in format to the Queen's Birthday Parade with the exception of the person taking the salute. The Major General's Review is usually oversubscribed. A limited number of wheelchair spaces are available for these parades. Separate applications are requested for this facility. Basic portaloos toilet facilities are available. No refund can be given if the event is cancelled for reasons beyond the organiser's control. Individual applicants should write to Headquarters Household Division, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AX enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope for acknowledgement. No money should be sent at this time until the results of the ballot are known.

DVLA REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICALLY POWERED VEHICLES, SCOOTERS & BUGGIES

As some of you will be aware from the updated DVLA website, and recent newspaper articles, it is necessary to register and license, all Class 3 "invalid carriages" with the DVLA. Class 3 vehicles are defined under The Use of Invalid Carriages on the Highways Regulations 1988 as machines that are capable of travelling in excess of 4mph but not faster than 8mph, with a switch limiting them to 4mph when travelling on the foot paths. Registration with the DVLA will be at no cost to our clients.

The majority of powered wheelchairs, scooters and buggies provided by SSAFA Forces Help through The Mobility Bureau, The Royal British Legions Preferred Provider Scheme and Powerchairs through the RAF Benevolent Fund preferred provider are footpath-only machines, so there is no need for registration.

From the 6,500 plus Powered wheelchairs, scooters and buggies currently in use, supplied through The Mobility Bureau, it is only around 600 that are Class 3 vehicles. These include 'The Major' and some specialised wheelchairs and scooters.

Powered wheelchairs, scooters and buggies issued to clients who require them for road travel as well as pavement, will need to register the vehicle with DVLA by completing either Form V55/4 for new scooters, or Form V55/5 for used scooters. The client will then receive a tax disc (showing no fee is payable). All other powered wheelchairs, scooters or buggies are exempt from registration so no action is required. These include 'The Cadet', 'The Poppy', 'The Legionnaire', 'The Volunteer' and some specialised wheelchairs and scooters. For further information regarding Class 3 Vehicle Registration enquires please contact Vehicle Customer Services (VCS), DVLA, Swansea, SA991AR. Tel: 0870 240 0010

ARMED FORCES PENSIONS

The Internet address for information regarding the Armed Forces Pension Schemes has now changed. With immediate effect pensions information on the Defence Internet site can now be found at www.armedforcespensions.mod.uk. The site acts as a portal to access a range of information including Armed and Reserve Forces Pension schemes, Compensation Schemes and Benefits, and brings together an increasing number of online services to make understanding the schemes easier. This includes a Pensions Benefit calculator (which will be updated shortly) and access to a series of booklets designed to offer further information. The site allows you to browse by topic and should you require more information offers email links to both the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency and the Veterans Agency.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Anyone travelling abroad is advised to get a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The E111 form is no longer valid. A European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is needed to receive necessary healthcare during a visit to a European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland. The EHIC is normally valid for three to five years and covers any medical treatment that becomes necessary during a trip, because of either illness or an accident. The card gives access to state-provided medical treatment only, and treatment will be given on the same basis as an 'insured' person living in the country being visited. However, this might not cover all the things that might be expected free of charge from the NHS in the UK. A contribution may be necessary towards the cost of care. The EHIC also covers any treatment needed for a chronic disease or pre-existing illness. Arrangements need to be made in advance for oxygen therapy. For limited information on oxygen supply services in the EEA countries and Switzerland, call the Department of Health's Customer Service Centre on Tel: 020 7210 4850. It is a good idea to buy travel insurance as well as taking the European Health Insurance Card. The British Insurance Brokers Association has a list of firms, which provide travel insurance for people with permanent or recurring illness. British Insurance Brokers Association, 14 Bevis Marks, London EC3A7NT. Tel: 0870 950 1790

HAIG HOMES RENTAL ACCOMMODATION FOR EX-SERVICE PEOPLE

Many ex-Service people may find themselves in need of housing - unemployment, redundancy, mental or marital breakdown and debt are all contributors to housing problems. Often finding housing can prove to be a major obstacle to successful resettlement into civilian life. With over 1,300 houses, Haig Homes is the largest housing association in the UK specifically providing housing for ex-Service people and may be able to help where others cannot. To be eligible to apply, an applicant must

have an Armed Forces connection - any rank or rating - and be in need of housing. Applicants may be homeless, threatened with impending homelessness, inadequately or inappropriately housed or in other housing need and without the financial resources to make their own provision by renting in the private sector or buying their own home. Current housing is assessed and taken into account. Applicants must have served for a minimum of three years (if enlisted before 2001) or four years (from 2001) or been discharged early through redundancy/medical grounds. In addition, applications can also be accepted from; people still serving but with a discharge date within 6 months, a widow/er (with or without dependants) of a person who would have been eligible under the conditions above, a separated or divorced spouse/partner/civil partner of a service person (serving or former) with dependants from that relationship living permanently with them and if their housing need arises from the relationship breakdown. The accommodation is a mix of mainly family-sized houses, maisonettes and flats spread throughout the UK. Haig Homes does not have any sheltered, residential or nursing homes and only a small selection of properties available for single occupancy at Bristol, Haslemere, Morden and Woolwich, London. Some properties are suitable for the frail and elderly and people with disabilities. Details from Haig Homes, Alban Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden. SM4 5NS. Tel: 020 8685 5777 email haig@haighomes.org.uk

WEAR A POPPY BY Don Crawford

"Please wear a poppy", the lady said
And held one forth, but I shook my head.
I stopped and watched as she offered them there,
And her face was old and lined with care;
But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on carefree feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady", said he, "may I have one"?
When she'd pinned it on he turned to say,
"Why do we wear a poppy today"?

The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered, "This is Remembrance Day,
And the poppy there is the symbol for
The gallant men who died in war.
And because they did, you and I are free –
That's why we wear a poppy, you see.

"I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and grew
and became a man – as you will, too".

"He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while.
When war broke out and he went away
I still remember his face that day.
When he smiled at me and said, Goodbye,
I'll be back soon, Mum, so please don't cry".

"But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight,
(I can see it still in my dreams at night).
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire".

"Till at last, at last, the war was won –
And that's why we wear a poppy son".
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said, "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son – did he come back all right"?

A tear rolled down each faded cheek,
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the same,
For our thanks, in giving, if oft delayed,
Our freedom was bought and Thousands paid!

And so when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne,
By those who gave their very all.
When asked to answer their country's call
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy! Remember – and give!