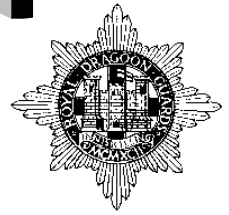


# "OUT & ABOUT"



**HOME HEADQUARTERS  
THE ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS  
3 TOWER STREET  
YORK YO1 9SB**



**01904 642036**

**[hhq@rdgmuseum.org.uk](mailto:hhq@rdgmuseum.org.uk)**

**JULY 2008**

The single most important item of news is that the last man from the Regiment now has returned from operations; whilst there have been some injuries, we have not lost anyone during the deployment to Iraq.

I have covered before much of the detail of the Regiment's operations in Iraq, and you can read a full description in this year's Journal (which will be with you in the next few weeks). But in summary, the Regiment has conducted demanding Battlegroup level ground and air manoeuvre operations at distance and of duration. Resupply has been constrained to what we could carry or get flown forward by helicopter (and that included engines and spares). Young captains in Battlegroup Headquarters planned and executed routinely the integration of manned and unmanned reconnaissance assets and fast air support. For the first time since Ko-

rea we conducted a (very lightly) opposed night deliberate obstacle crossing. And for the first time since Korea young soldiers from the Regimental Battlegroup closed with and killed the enemy.

Meanwhile the detached squadrons have had a similarly demanding time and were, not least, required to remain in Theatre until the very end. B Squadron has been employed as the sole in-role Challenger 2 Squadron in Theatre and fired the Regiment's first 120mm rounds in anger since Korea (there is a theme here...). The Squadron's tanks have led the way during each and every of the Scots Guards Battlegroup's operations; B Squadron as a direct result holds the dubious record for the number of IED strikes received across the Brigade. In the latter stages of the tour, the Squadron acted in direct support of Iraqi and MNF led strike operations in the centre of Basra City. D Squadron, mounted in Warrior (two of which were disabled by enemy action), formed part of 1 SCOTS Battlegroup. The Squadron's primary role was that of mentoring and training the Iraqi Army and they deployed into the centre of Basra City from April in order to facilitate and mentor Iraqi Army armoured operations. This was a demanding role, conducted in extremely austere conditions.

The Regiment's preparation for and deployment to Iraq has been demanding in the extreme. Completion of a standard pre-deployment training package is, when set in the context of a tight timeframe and all that had preceded it, of itself an exacting requirement. The additional conversion requirement placed upon us a demand not replicated elsewhere amongst those preparing for Op TELIC 11. And to com-

pound the issue there were, up to and during deployment, frequent changes in mission, task-line and task-organisation. Such is life. But it stands testament to the quality of the young officers that the demands have been managed so effectively and that we have de-

ployed in extremely good order, with high morale and sense of purpose, and that we have achieved success on operations. And the foundation upon which this success has been achieved is the professionalism and dedication of the WOs, NCOs and troopers. We have asked a vast amount of them. They have responded magnificently. They have demonstrated adaptability, flexibility and quickness of thought and action; they have exhibited good humour and a measured and entirely appropriate

approach. But they equally have demonstrated robustness, fitness and dismounted skills of the very highest order. In short, they have been simply outstanding.

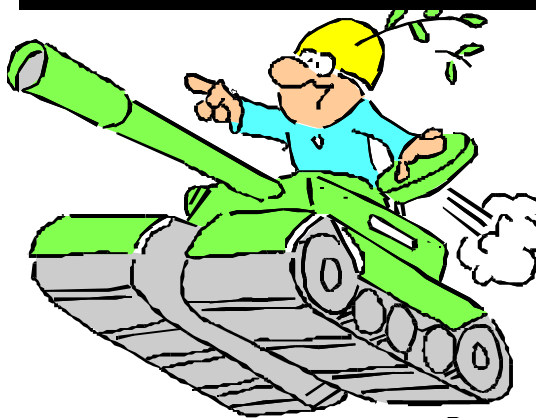
In the immediate future the Regiment is preparing for the move to Catterick, which itself will be complete by 15 September. In and around this move we are undertaking a period of programmed recuperation in the summer and early autumn. The aim is to allow soldiers to complete career and pay related individual courses, take the opportunity to participate in adventure training, battlefield studies and sport, and capitalise on the opportunity for leave and long weekends.

- Nearly 200 soldiers from the Regiment will have, by September, undertaken some form of Adventure Training:

- We entered two teams in the Alpine Challenge, an endurance-navigation competition over 70km in Bavaria, this June. In addition, we will send downhill and Nordic skiing and snowboarding teams to the Alps this winter (although if the latter attempt to produce a Regimental 'Hoody' again this year, their funding may be cut!).

- We entered a team in the RAC Boxing Competition. The inaugural event, it was this year competed for on an individual basis rather than being an inter-regimental competition. The boys did themselves huge credit and this, together with the last inter-squadron competition, has sparked real enthusiasm across the Regiment. We intend to run an inter-squadron competition this winter, which will allow us to select a Regimental Team (coached by WO2 Hilton) for next year's RAC Competition.

## COMMANDING OFFICERS NOTES



**LT COL TD HYAMS**

- With what was in essence a C Squadron team we reached the semi-finals of the Cavalry Cup, losing on penalties (we woz robbed!) to the eventual winners (QRH).
- The inter-squadron sporting competition (The Shamrock Cup) will be held during a Regimental Sports Week this autumn.
- The Regimental Polo Team conducted a three-day training camp near Cadiz prior to taking part in the inter-regimental competition (the Captains and Subalterns) later this month. This autumn, we will conduct a visit to the Deccan Horse, during which Polo will feature predominately. That aside, we are scoping the potential to enter a combined RDG/LD team in the world Elephant Polo Championships in Nepal.
- Ex HUNTING DRAGOON in June saw five officers and a SNCO spend ten days shooting in South Africa.
- Our longer term approach to sport is part of the overall plan for the return of the Regiment to its Home Area, the principle behind which is that we will live in rather than be garrisoned in Yorkshire. All sports officers have been directed to establish links with the local sporting leagues such that we can compete against local civilian clubs and teams; this providing greater opportunity for our sportsmen and serving to strengthen our overall links with the local community.
- All squadrons will have participated in a Battlefield Study by the end of September. To date we have undertaken studies of Salamanca, Berlin and Normandy. B Squadron will travel to Arnhem and Waterloo in the autumn.
- There will be two Regimental Medal Parades. Both will be in Desert Combats. The first will be held for the whole Regiment at York Barracks on Saturday 19 July and will include a service of thanksgiving for the Regiment's safe return. It will be taken by the Colonel of the Regiment. The parade will be followed that afternoon by a Families BBQ and All-Ranks Party that night. The second will be for just over ninety of all ranks (with the emphasis being on the younger, more junior element of the Regiment) and a small number of the wives and children at Clarence House during the following week. The parade will be taken by the Colonel-in-Chief, who will host a reception afterwards. We will parade along the Mall, with the Regimental Pipes and Drums and the Band of the Heavy Cavalry in support.
- The Regiment will exercise the Freedom of York on Saturday 11 October. The Parade, to which you are invited, will be in Desert Combats such that it allows York to welcome home from operations its Regiment. Following the Parade we will hold an Open Day in Catterick for the Old Comrades Association and families.
- Manning has improved and we nearly are back at full strength. From having had the second worst retention figures in the Army in 2004-05, we now have been for last three years below the RAC average for the outflow. In terms of recruiting in the coming period, activity will be focussed on Op PRODIGAL DRAGOON in Yorkshire (which started in June) and Op ENNISKILLEN DRAGOON in Ireland (starting in late August). Both will see teams surge in support of Army Recruiting Teams and conduct activities that enable the Regiment to be seen to be helping the local community (examples include rebuilding a footbridge over the River Swale and tidying and repainting a children's play park). These activities are linked to key events: in Ireland the opening of the Inniskilling Regiments' Museum; in Yorkshire the Regiment's Freedom of York Parade. Both are underpinned by an overhaul of Regimental marketing and the re-vamp of the Regimental website.

Looking further ahead to next year, 2009 will see the Regiment undergo a period of individual and collective training, including exercises at the British Army Training Unit at Suffield in Canada. Thereafter, the Regiment will begin to prepare for the next planned operational deployment in 2010. This deployment may be to Iraq or to Afghanistan; at this early stage the detail (including role and tasks) has yet to be decided.

I hand over to James Carr-Smith later this month. The Regiment is therefore in the best of hands for the next few years. The last three years have been an extraordinary period. Much has been asked of the Regiment. Not once has it failed. That it is without question the pre-eminent Armoured Regiment (and, we all would argue, the best Regiment regardless of role and type) in the British Army is due entirely to the officers (be they young DE or not so young LE!), warrant officers, NCOs and troopers who grace its ranks. I stand in awe of what they have achieved. And I am more privileged than I can express to have been afforded the honour of commanding them.

### **FREEDOM PARADE 11 OCTOBER 2008**

As the Commanding Officer has mentioned, the Regiment will exercise the Freedom of York on Saturday 11 October. The Parade will form up in Duncombe Place, in front of York Minster at approximately 1030 hrs. Following the Parade and review by the Lord Mayor, the Regiment will march through York and return to the Minster area. The Commanding Officer has also invited members of the Association to an open afternoon at the Regiment's new home in Catterick. Stands and displays will be on show and the afternoon will end with a Beating to Quarters ceremony by the Regimental Pipes & Drums. Regrettably overnight accommodation is not available in Catterick (due to the infrastructure & accommodation re-building programme on-going in Catterick Garrison). For those who wish to make a weekend visit to York and require addresses for B&B or Hotels, please contact HHQ for a list of addresses and contact details. Obviously transport to Catterick and return to York could be a problem for those travelling by rail and should there be sufficient interest HHQ will organise a coach for the visit. Again, depending on numbers wishing to attend, we could arrange an informal social on the evening of Friday 10 October. In order to begin planning, could you please complete the form at the end of the Newsletter if you wish to attend.

### **CEREMONY OF DEDICATION FOR HCAV AND RAC WAR MEMORIAL BOVINGTON**

There will be a Ceremony of Dedication on Tuesday 11 November 08 for the new HCav and RAC War Memorial. The criteria for inclusion on the memorial is for those capbadged HCav and RAC having lost their lives post 1945 whilst on operations or campaigns during 'medal earning time'. The Memorial and garden are situated outside the new Tank Museum extension. As well as serving and retired members of the Armoured Corps and those associated with the construction and design of the memorial, relatives of those whose names appear on the memorial are also invited.

The basic concept is to have a ceremony based around a Drum Head Service conducted by the Garrison Padre and a representative from the Chaplain Generals Office and that includes the Remembrance Day 2 Minutes Silence at the appropriate time. It is expected that a VVIP will be in attendance at the ceremony. The Light Cavalry Band will support the occasion. The intention is to keep the ceremony as simple and low key as possible but producing an event that is appropriate and fitting to the occasion. There will be an informal reception after the ceremony.

Provisional timings are: 1000 – 1030 Assemble Memorial Garden, 1030 –1040 Move to positions for the service, 1055 – 1120 Ceremony of Dedication, 1115 – 1230 After ceremony Reception (Ticket holders only). There will be no limit on the numbers who can attend however there will be a limit of 2 members per family (of those named on the memorial) for the reserved area in the immediate vicinity of the memorial for the ceremony and for the reception. Naturally, relatives are extremely difficult to trace particularly for the earlier campaigns that appear on the memorial. Should you be in touch with any of these relatives, please inform HHQ of their names and addresses so that they are invited. Should relatives not be found, members of the association who served in those theatres of operations may attend in their place, so if you wish to be included and meet those criteria, again please notify HHQ. Dress for serving Officers and Soldiers will be Service Dress with Leather & Medals. Civilian guests will be asked to wear suits.

**Melissa Cordingley’s Help for Heroes Bike Ride**

HOORAY! I’ve done it and what is more I loved it.....well most of it! I must confess that at one stage struggling up a very steep hill in the cold and pouring rain I was mentally composing a letter to my lovely sponsors telling them that I had failed and would they like me to return their cheques! Perish the thought, if the Headley Court team, the boys with their severe injuries, could do it so could I. We cycled 350 miles, climbed a total of 12,000ft and in the process used 33,000 calories. It was an emotional ride seeing the endless cemeteries from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> world wars and being told by our accompanying historians about the battles. We cycled from Ouistreham to Le Havre, Dieppe, Amiens, Bethune, Dunkerque, and laid wreaths at Pegasus Bridge, St Valery-en-Caux, Grandcourt, Thiepval, HMS Bulwark (carrying us back to Dover) and finally at the Cenotaph, Whitehall. On the walls of the huge Thiepval Memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, are engraved the names of 72,000 men who died in the Somme area and have no known grave. You can imagine that was a very poignant moment for us. I like to think that the spirit that spurred on the heroes of yesteryear still lives in the present day. The camaraderie on our bike ride between bikers from every walk of life and every shape and size was tangible. I think that is what made it so special. Cycling through French villages was always a happy experience as the French love cyclists and would shout out words of encouragement. Outside every bar would be the inevitable pile of English bikes.....well it would have been rude to be in the land of Calvados, le cidre et le vin and not sample their produce! Through your and others huge generosity I have raised £20,000 and the Big Battlefield Bike Ride altogether raised £1.5million. Headley Court will get its new swimming pool and gymnasium! A highly satisfactory end to what has been the most amazing experience. Thank you so very much for your support, both in money and spirit.

<p><b>ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR VETERANS</b>          In November 2007, Health Secretary, Alan Johnson and Veterans Minister, Derek Twigg announced an expansion of NHS Priority Treatment to all veterans whose injuries or ill-health are suspected of being due to their service. It is hoped that this could make a significant difference to a small number of veterans. From 1 January 2008, all veterans should receive priority access to NHS secondary care for any conditions which are likely to be related to their service. However, clinicians will retain the right to determine the allocation of priority treatment, based on patient need. This expansion updates the Department of Health's existing guidance on 'Priority Treatment for War Pensioners' HSG (97) 31. Hull Primary Care Trust has recently extended priority to all veterans whose conditions meet these criteria in accordance with Best Practice and this has now been extended to veterans across the country. The Department of Health is responsible for issuing guidance to remind clinicians of the priority treatment provisions.</p>	<p><b>ERSKINE HOSPITAL</b>          The Erskine Hospital Charity operates four commercial businesses from its headquarters, each offering a range of high quality products and services for sale, from garden plants and sundries to pine furniture, print and stationery services to conference/training facilities. Operated under JobCentre Plus Workstep Programme, the workshops have provided rehabilitation, training and employment for many of the ex-Service residents and disabled workers. One of the businesses is Erskine Furniture, which was established towards the end of the First World War and today manufactures a range of quality furniture which can be purchased at retail shops throughout the UK. There is a showroom open to the public on the Erskine Estate and a factory shop which sells end of range items and discontinued lines at reduced prices. Should you be north of the border and wish to visit, the address is Erskine Hospital, Bishop-ton, Renfrewshire. PA7 5PU.</p>
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**CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE**

Cruse Bereavement Care, the leading national charity providing support and information for anyone who has been bereaved, has won a major grant from the Department of Health to develop services for military and ex-military personnel and their families. The grant will total almost £200,000 over three years and will enable Cruse to develop specialised training for its volunteers so that they can meet the particular needs of this group of people. Military deaths are often sudden and traumatic, and following the loss of a serviceman or woman, families can face major disruption to their lives. In addition to training existing volunteers, the grant will enable Cruse to reach out to more bereaved service families and to recruit and train new volunteers with a military background and understanding of the issues. Cruse Bereavement Care has a mission to promote the well-being of bereaved people and to enable anyone bereaved by death to understand their grief and cope with their loss. It has more than 5500 volunteers in nearly 140 branches across England, Wales and Northern Ireland and operates a national helpline (T 0844 477 9400) together with a specialised website for children and young people [www.rd4u.org.uk](http://www.rd4u.org.uk). For further details please see [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)

### **THE HAMILTON PROJECT**

The Hamilton Project is an initiative providing business support for ex-service personnel. It was set up by not-for-profit Communities in Business Ltd and provides access to on-line business education, workshops and an e-mentoring programme, all tutored by highly qualified instructors. The project was piloted with the Royal Marines in May 2006, and in 2007 was opened up to a wider audience, to include those leaving the Navy due to medical reasons. It is currently being sponsored in the Oxfordshire area by Oxfordshire County Council, who is covering the cost of 50 ex-service personnel wishing to attend the course, however it is hoped that funding will be secured in order to allow the project to be rolled out nationally and to all services by 2010. The project is run in memory of Richard Hamilton, who served for five years with 21 SAS but who tragically died in a canoeing accident. For further information, or to obtain a booklet please contact Dr Tracey Marr at Communities in Business Ltd. Tel 01844 278448 or [www.hamiltonproject.org.uk](http://www.hamiltonproject.org.uk)

### **UK ONLINE CENTRES**

UK Online Centres is a government-funded initiative to provide people with free or low cost access to computers and the internet, as well as offering help and advice on using them. There are 6000 Centres throughout the UK and all have staff on hand to help individuals, and to give advice and assistance on using computers and the Internet. For further information please see [www.ukonlinecentres.com](http://www.ukonlinecentres.com) Tel 0800 77 1234.

### **INHERITANCE TAX**

Did you know that some veterans may be eligible for inheritance tax exemption if they die as a result of injuries or disease received during service...? When someone dies, Inheritance Tax must normally be paid on their estate (everything they owned, at the time of death), if their estate is worth more than a certain amount (at present £300,000). The main exception is if they leave their estate to their husband or wife. However, if a serving or former member of the HM Armed Forces dies from (or death can be shown to have been hastened by) an injury sustained or disease contracted on active service of a warlike nature, an application may be submitted to consider whether or not the estate should be exempt from inheritance tax. All successful applications are subject to the set criteria, as much information as possible must be provided and include: full service details, copy of death certificate and medical records. Do remember, a veteran being in receipt of a war pension is not guaranteed exemption, even if death is a result of the conditions for which the pension is paid. Applications must be made in writing and sent to Service Personnel & Veterans Agency, Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre, (Deceased Estates), Room 43, Building 182, Royal Air Force Innsworth, Gloucester, GL3 1HW. For further enquiries, call Wendy Gower on 01452 712612 ext 5680.

### **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](mailto: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 are about to hit 60 you have to apply to them, they will not let you know.

### **GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL (Suez Canal Zone)**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has now graciously approved the award of the General Service Medal (Army and Royal Air Force) instituted in 1918, with a clasp 'Canal Zone' for specified service in the Suez Canal Zone between 16 October 1951 and 19 October 1954. Veterans of the Canal Zone, or the next of kin of those who have died, should apply in writing to the newly formed Ministry of Defence Medal Office, Building 250, RAF Innsworth, Gloucester, GL3 1EZ, giving full name, date of birth and Service number. The next of kin of those who served will be required to supply supporting documentation.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

RDG Munster to Catterick Aug 08  
London & SE Branch Summer Lunch 13 Aug 08  
Oxford Branch Meeting 8 Sep 08  
Commemoration Service St Pauls Op Banner 10 Sep 08  
Freedom of York Parade 11 Oct 08  
York Branch Balaclava Dinner 25 Oct 08  
Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey 6 Nov 08  
West Yorkshire Branch Stag Night 8 Nov 08  
Creully Club Reunion Alcester 8/9 Nov 08

RAC War Memorial Dedication 11 Nov 08  
5 INNIS DG Southern Branch 14 Nov 08  
Regimental Officers Dinner 27 Nov 08  
Oxford Branch Blenheim Dinner 28 Nov 08  
West Yorkshire Paddy's Day Function 21 Mar 09  
Blackpool Reunion 24/26 Apr 09  
AGM & Committee Meetings Chelsea 9 May 09  
Cavalry Memorial Parade 10 May 09  
Creully Pilgrimage TBC Jun 09

## OBITUARIES

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

- Mr G ABBS, (Graham), 4/7DG, 1962 – 80, Flat 5 Highfield House, 4 Albert Street, Keighley, W Yorks,  
who died 5 June 2008
- Mr J ALDHAM, (John), 4/7DG, 1956 – 58, 7 Richdore Road, Waltham, Canterbury, Kent,  
who died 19 November 2007
- Mr H BACON, (Harry), 22 Dgns & 4/7DG, 1942 – 47, 23 King Edward Close, Onchen, Douglas, Isle of Man,  
who died 1 June 2008
- Mr CD BARR, (Christopher), 1942 – 48, 49 First Avenue, Bridlington, East Yorkshire,  
who died 6 December 2007
- Mr CH BOWDEN, (Clifford), 4/7DG, 23 Princes Close, Berkhamsted, Herts,  
who died 27 March 2008
- Mr HG BROWN, (Hugh), 4/7DG, 1942 – 44, 99 Percy Avenue, Kings Gate, Broadstairs, Kent,  
who died 12 April 2008
- Mrs JESSIE CARR, 22 Lucas Court, Northampton Lane North, Moulton, Northants,  
who died 31 January 2008
- Capt EPH COLES, (Edward), 5 INNIS DG, 1944 – 47, 4 Deane Cottages, Deane, Basingstoke, Hants,  
who died 20 March 2008
- Mr J COSTEN, (Jim), 5 INNIS DG, late 1960s, Canada,  
who died 9 July 2008
- Mr G FOWLER, 4/7DG, 8 Jacktrees Crescent, Cleator Moor, Cumbria,  
who died 28 March 2008
- Mr E GAUNT, (Ellis), 4/7DG, 1950 -70, 9 Hill Rise Drive, Market Weighton, York,  
who died 21 June 2008
- Mr D GORDGE, (David), 5 INNIS DG, 1950 – 55, 1 Windmill Rd, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks,  
who died 6 April 2008
- Capt CTA HAMMOND, (Tim), 5 INNIS DG, 1952 – 54, White Plat, Colemans Hatch, Nr Hartfield, East Sussex,  
who died 18 April 2008
- Mr L HAYSTEAD, (Len), 5 INNIS DG, 1951 – 69, Howe Cottage, Evie, Orkney Islands,  
who died 29 January 2008
- Mr JH HODGIN, (John), 5 INNIS DG, 1951 – 53, 16 Ridge Balk Lane, Woodlands, Doncaster,  
who died 9 May 2008
- Capt RAW IRWIN, (Ray), 5 INNIS DG, 1942 – 46, 10 Colenso Court, Colenso Parade, Belfast,  
who died 13 March 2008
- Mrs DORIS JOHNSON, 19 Boughton Road, Moulton, Northants,  
who died 27 May 2008
- Mr E KETTERIGHAM, (Eddy), 5 INNIS DG, 1951 – 74, 66 Edgehill Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire,  
who died 15 July 2008
- Capt PR KIDDLE, (Peter), 5 INNIS DG, 1943 – 54, Camino de la Cruz S/N, Nobles 2-A, Seniorio De Marbella,  
296000 Marbella, Malaga, Spain, who died 12 July 2008
- Mr JL MARSHALL, (John), 5 INNIS DG, 1942 – 47, 29 Colster Way, Colsterworth, Grantham, Lincs,  
who died 10 May 2008
- Mr EJ McGINTY, (Eddy), 5 INNIS DG, 1954 – 77, 19 Drumbeg, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh,  
who died 9 July 2008
- Mrs MARY MILLEN, Victoria Stables, East End, Ampleforth, North Yorkshire,  
who died 29 June 2008
- Mr H PARSONS, (Henry), 4/7DG, 1934 – 46, 12 Church Causeway, Church Langton, Leicester,  
who died 15 June 2008
- Mr DS PERRY, (Derek), 5 INNIS DG, 1953 – 56, Manor House Bungalow, Stapleton, Darlington, Co Durham,  
who died 2 November 2004
- Mrs JOYCE PETERS, Tennant House, 2 Spur Hill Avenue, Poole, Dorset,  
who died 5 April 2008
- Mrs JEAN PHILO, 53 Mill Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire,  
who died 15 July 2008
- Mr HJ RIDLEY MBE, (Henry), 5 INNIS DG, 1942 – 47, Fern Cottage, Penny Lane, Stockbridge, Hampshire,  
who died 29 May 2008
- Mr TJ RYAN, (Buck), 5 INNIS DG, 1943 – 68, 2 Park Crescent, Pontyclun, Glamorgan,  
who died 4 March 2008
- Mr G SAUNDERS, 4/7DG, 1942 – 46, 19 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex,  
who died 2 March 2008
- Mrs SALLY SCOTT, 8 Laural Gardens, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim,  
who died 21 April 2008

Mr R SIMS, (Roy), 5 INNIS DG, 1942 – 46, The Radbrook Nursing Home, Stanhill Road, Shrewsbury, who died 6 March 2008

Mr EA STROWGER, (Eddie), 4/7DG, 12 The Fitches, Knodishall, Saxmundham, Suffolk, who died 29 April 2008

Mr GW TAYLOR, (Wilf), 4/7DG, 1942 – 47, Highfield House, Scratons Lane, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, who died 5 February 2008

Mr RS TEAGUE, (Ron), 5 INNIS DG, 1944 – 68, 226 Kingshill Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex, who died 27 February 2008

Mr JE THOMPSON, (Joe), 5 INNIS DG, 1932 – 60, 21 Lypiatt View, Bussage, , Stroud, Glos, who died 5 April 2008

Maj MA TRASENSTER CVO, (Mike), 4/7DG, 1942 – 52, Lane End, Itchen Stoke, Alresford, Hants, who died 17 July 2008

Mr J TRIGG, (John), 4/7DG, 1956 – 59, 5 Hazlewood Drive, East Preston, Litlehampton, who died 8 June 2008

Mrs ANN TUCKER, Rectory Bungalow, Southwick Road, Wickham, Fareham, Hants, who died 10 May 2008

Mr G WILDE, (Gerry), 5 INNIS DG, 1946 – 47, 15 Werneth Crescent, Oldham, Lancs, who died 27 February 2008

Mr JC WILSON, (James), 4/7DG, 1956 – 59, 23 Rossmount Crescent, Birkhill, Dundee, who died 29 November 2007

*Mrs Joyce Teague and family would like to thank all for their letters of condolence and their contributions to Great Ormond Street following the funeral of Ron. At the time of writing to me contributions were in excess of £500.*

### **Commemoration Service at St Paul's Cathedral for UK Forces who served in Northern Ireland**

The Ministry of Defence is holding an official service to honour members of the UK Forces and civil servants who lost their lives or were injured in Northern Ireland. It will also pay tribute to over 300,000 personnel who served in the Province on Operation Banner, the official title for military operations in Northern Ireland, between 1969 and 2007. There are 2,000 tickets available for people to attend the event, which is being held on Wednesday 10 September 2008 at St Paul's Cathedral, London.

The service will be an opportunity to give thanks to the many servicemen, women and civil servants who served in Northern Ireland and to remember those who gave their lives helping to bring stability to the Province over 38 years.

Veterans Minister Derek Twigg said:

“ The Armed Forces made an enormous contribution towards the peace and stability that now exists in Northern Ireland. Operation Banner lasted for 38 years, with several generations of servicemen and women taking part in often extremely challenging circumstances. We should never forget the loss of so many Service personnel and the thousands who were wounded over that period. The service at St. Paul's will be an opportunity for us all to pay tribute and say thank you for their considerable efforts.”

Andrew Bennett, now Chair of the Northern Ireland Veterans Association, was a member of the Royal Corps of Signals. He served in Northern Ireland between 1986 and 1990 as an Electronic Counter Measures Operator with a Bomb Disposal Team, and with a Brigade Signal Squadron. He said:

“ Operation Banner is the longest campaign in British military history, and those who served, and in some cases lost their lives over the years, deserve this national recognition. As a Northern Ireland veteran I am proud to have the opportunity to attend this service alongside former colleagues and families.”

Tickets are available for the Commemorative Service for Armed Forces veterans of Operation Banner, including MOD civilians, and the families and friends of those who lost their lives. An application form can be downloaded here. Closing date for applications is Wednesday 13 August 2008. Tickets will be issued to successful applicants by 27 August 2008. Each applicant will receive a ticket and one for their guest as required. Further details from SPVA Tel: 0800 169 22 77.

### **CREULLY CLUB**

The Alcester Reunion, AGM & Remembrance Parade will be 8/9 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](mailto:cnewton@freeuk.com). Information about the Creully Club can also be obtained from [www.creullyclub.freeuk.com](http://www.creullyclub.freeuk.com)

### **LONDON AND SOUTH EAST BRANCH**

The next function is our Summer Lunch to be held on Wednesday 13 August at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo. Cost of the three course lunch including wine is £20. Further details and 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](mailto:alfandshirley@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH**

Old and new members, all are welcome, can contact the branch secretary George Clarke on Tel: 02890 202696

## **T**HE 5 INNIS DG OLD COMRADES REUNION

A reunion weekend will once again be planned for 2009 in Blackpool on the weekend 24-26 April, Details of the weekend and group membership can be obtained from Mary Liquorish on 01482 893255 or email: liquorish@liquorish.karoo.co.uk

## **5** INNIS DG NORTHERN IRELAND

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

## **C**UMBRIA BRANCH

The next Winter Social is still in the planning stage but members will be notified once the date is firmed up. Congratulations to John Muir on being appointed a Committee Member of The Royal Dragoon Guards Regimental Association. 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

## **Y**ORK BRANCH

The annual Balaclava Dinner will be held on Saturday 25 October 2008. Further details will be published nearer the date. 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.

## **O**XFORD BRANCH

Congratulations to Steve Hunt on being appointed a Committee Member of The Royal Dragoon Guards Regimental Association. The next Branch Meeting will be on Monday 8 September. The annual Blenheim Dinner will take place on Friday 28 November 2008 both 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.

## **W**EST YORKSHIRE BRANCH

West Yorkshire Branch Stag Night 8 November, Oulton, Nr Leeds and Paddy's Day Function 21 March 2009 at the Leeds Irish Centre. Membership & further details from the Chairman Ian Knipe on 01274 614011 ian.knipe2@btinternet.com or the Secretary John Speers on 01274 652345 or johnbev@speers4.fsnet.co.uk Should you wish to get notice by the Lazy Dragoon List of events please email John Speers.

## **5** INNIS DG SOUTHERN BRANCH

The 2nd Annual Weekend is to be held at Falklands House Oxford UOTC on Friday 14th of November 2008. 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs, again, an informal meeting followed by a curry supper. Sat 15th local military visits followed by informal gathering in Oxford. Already spaces are filling up, so please contact me ASAP. John Walker at jwalker77@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01865 863235 for further details.

### **NEW REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION AND RAC JLR FORUMS**

The web address for our new Regimental Association Forum is <http://rdg.coolforums.org> and the address for the JLR Forum is <http://jlr-rac.forums-free.com> They, RAC JLR intend to hold their first reunion during September 2009. More information from John Walker 01865 863235 or [jwalker77@hotmail.com](mailto:jwalker77@hotmail.com)

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### **FREEDOM PARADE 11 OCTOBER 2008**

Name(s) & Address: .....

I/We wish to attend the Parade and would also like to attend the following activities if arranged.

Informal Social on the evening of Friday 10 October ..... (How many attending)

I wish to be included on transport to Catterick if arranged ..... (How many seats)

I/We will go to Catterick but by private arrangements ..... (Numbers going)

*Please delete as necessary*