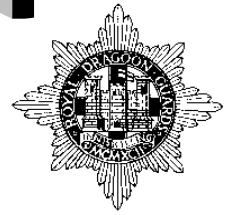


# "OUT & ABOUT"



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



**01904 642036**

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

**SEPTEMBER 2006**

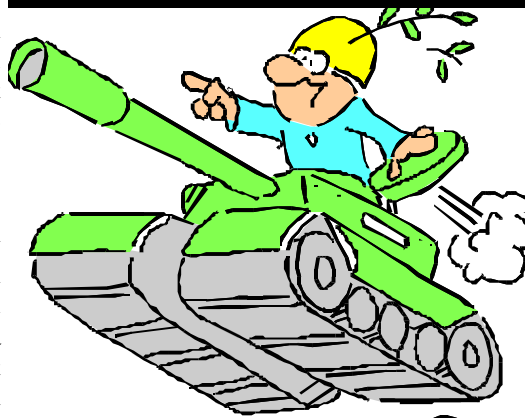
I hope that you have a relaxing summer and that the weather has been better for you at home than it has here in Münster. As ever, it has been a busy yet rewarding period for the Regiment.

**TRAINING:** Our focus in the first half of this year has been with three periods of collective training. First, in March we deployed to Poland for Regimental armoured training. The exercise was set in an expeditionary context and conducted as an operational deployment. Initially troop-level training was conducted under squadron arrangements. The end of this phase coincided (quite by chance!) with St Patrick's Day, which was celebrated with gunfire, a drum head service, a Regimental photograph, and a Maintenance Day. On the evening of St Patrick's Day the sabre troops deployed into two assembly areas for the start of Regimental Troop Tests. Over the next

48 hours they completed two lanes within a common scenario. The first lane was a general warfighting advance to contact. The second lane was a convoy protection task, set in the context of a counter-insurgency operation, during which each Troop was confronted with a roadside improvised explosive device, an illegal vehicle check point and an atrocity being committed against civilians. The scenario allowed for an escalation/de-escalation between the two lanes as appropriate for each Troop. The standard was universally high, but in the end 1<sup>st</sup> Troop C Squadron (led by Sgt McCormick, with Cpl Richards as the Troop Sergeant) came out on top. 1<sup>st</sup> Troop D Squadron (Mr Morris and Sgt Jones) came a very close second. Thereafter, squadrons carried out their own training before deploying into hides for the start of a 36 hour Regimental exercise. There is no doubt from the reports I received from those who saw us go about our business that the Regiment performed to a characteristically high standard; a no-nonsense, highly professional and cheerful organisation on good form was the essence of the feedback. Specific reference was made to the manner in which everyone approached the training; I was particularly pleased to be told that we are the most robust armoured regiment the Armoured Training and Advisory Team have seen in recent times. Then in May we conducted dismounted training at Haltern. This was set in a counter insurgency environment and concentrated on team, multiple and squadron level operations in a rural setting. This period included Regimental Dismounted Troop Tests, which involved a forty-eight hour rural patrol, during which each Troop was

required to deal with a range of tasks and situations with which they are likely to be confronted when in Iraq or other such operational theatres. As with mounted Troop Tests, competition was fierce and close, with 2<sup>nd</sup> Troop B Squadron (Mr Hinckley and Sgt Lloyd) winning-out in the end. Thereafter, in June we conducted a two week period of live-fire training at Sennelager. Each Squadron spent a week conducting live-fire exercises mounted on their tanks (be that Challenger or Scimitar), focusing on urban and contemporary operating environment shoots, building on the more technical gunnery shoots conducted during an Annual Firing period. These were challenging battleruns, with both loaders and co-ax machine guns firing si-

## COMMANDING OFFICERS NOTES



**LT COL TD HYAMS**

multaneously, targets presented between 5 and 1200 metres and arcs described as "if it is presented, it is in arc." In their second week, squadrons moved to the dismounted role to conduct urban and fire-team rural live-fire battleruns. This was the first time an armoured regiment had conducted mounted and dismounted live-fire in the same period and in the context of the contemporary operating environment. In this regard we are leading the way for the RAC. During the middle weekend we were joined by some 120 wives and children for a Regimental Families Day, for whom we laid on a static display, bouncy castle (supervised by the troop leaders – a most effective form of contraception for young officers!) and children's assault course. After a BBQ lunch the day was rounded-off by a parachute display before the families departed for Münster, leaving the Regiment to watch England play Uruguay during the World Cup. Separately, Reconnaissance Troop spent two weeks earlier this month in Bavaria training with the German Mountain Troops. This is a link established by The King's Royal Hussars that we have maintained. We have invited the German Mountain Troops to send a number of their JNCOs with us to BATUS next year. The Langlauf team trained with them last year and will train again in Bad Reichenhall this winter. Reconnaissance Troop's exercise saw them conducting dismounted patrolling and Observation Post work in the mountains around Bad Reichenhall. It was demanding training that did much to reinforce the sense that Reconnaissance Troop is a high-grade organisation to which our young soldiers aspire to join. I understand that they were active also

on the local social scene.... The summer months have been dominated by conversion to the BOWMAN communications system. As a result of an immense amount of hard work by the NCOs and troopers our vehicle fleet has been presented to the highest standard for physical conversion by the contractors. Indeed the contractor's conversion manager told me that the fleet was the best presented he had seen across the Army to date. As I write we are in the midst of the five-week training period. Thereafter, we look forward to playing with this new beast during our field training in Poland; I will report back in the next newsletter! Poland will mark the start of a training cycle that will take us to BATUS next summer and then on to Pre-Deployment Training next autumn; itself the pre-cursor to operations at the end of 2007. This training cycle will see A Squadron join 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards Battlegroup and C Squadron join The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment Battlegroup. The Regimental Battlegroup will comprise PoW, B & D Squadrons, C Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards, Burma Company and the Anti-Tank and Mortar Platoons from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

**REGIMENTAL LIFE:** In June we were delighted to be joined by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Old Comrades Association for the Dettingen Weekend. We had designed the weekend as a family event, appealing to those at Regimental Duty and the wives and children just as much as the old comrades. The weekend included an all-ranks dance, inter-squadron boxing evening, a parade and drum-head service, a static display demonstrating the capabilities of the modern Regiment, and the finals of the various inter-squadron sporting competitions (rugby, cricket, football, hockey and tug-of-war). Catering Troop laid on a series of BBQ lunches, and some of the best food I have seen at an all-ranks dance. All-in-all, a wonderful Regimental weekend. Remaining, somewhat unusually, with matters ceremonial, we were tasked earlier this summer with providing a Guard of Honour for the swearing-in of new recruits into the Bundeswehr's Wacht (Ceremonial) Battalion. This is a high-profile event held on the anniversary of Count von Staufenberg's execution on Hitler's orders, to which the British had been invited for the first time. The Secretary of State for Defence from both governments took the salute. Once we had come to terms with the concept of performing foot drill on a hot and humid July evening live in front of an audience of thousands in the stands and (apparently) millions on German national television, it was enormous fun. Both our German hosts and the German press were extremely complementary about our performance. The Second-in-Command of the Wacht Battalion described our performance as 'near perfect' and much was made in the German Press of the fact that we are armoured soldiers who did this with little practice, whereas the German contingent are full-time ceremonial troops. It was a characteristically stylish and professional performance from the Regiment.

<b>HHQ STAFFING</b>	<b>OBITUARIES – NOW LET ME THINK!!!</b>
By the time that you receive this Newsletter, sadly, staffing at Home Headquarters will have changed. Mrs Sandra Wilkinson, so well known to many of you, has retired and her last day of service at HHQ was on the 15 September. Sandra joined the team in February 1998 and has given loyal and conscientious support to both the Regiment and Regimental Association throughout her eight and a half years with us. I would very much like to take this opportunity of wishing her a very happy retirement and to thank her on behalf of us all for her splendid support over the years. Should you wish to write a letter or note to Sandra, please forward to HHQ and I will ensure that it is passed on.	Was it 1958, 57 or 60? With the passage of time, memories dim and fade and what was certain yesterday can be uncertain today. It often becomes the task for many of us to write an appreciation or obituary for a former friend or comrade and I feel sure we would all wish for our account to be accurate and to do justice for a fond memory. It is not easy for so much happened during our service of yesteryear and what you remember today someone may have forgotten next year. The task could be so much easier if we each took a little time to write down our own little history to be left with our next of kin and passed on following the 'grim reapers' visit, or you could send it to HHQ for filing. You may think it a little difficult, but, imagine if you are asked to write an obituary for a friend how useful this would be to you. Which reminds me, I must write my own short notes!

**FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER ABBEY THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2006**

The opening ceremony for this year's Field of Remembrance Ceremony will take place on Thursday 9th November at approximately 1050 hrs. (*RDG Plot Number 199*). 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 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.

**PREMIUM RATE NUMBER WARNING**

The Trading Standards Service is repeating its warning to consumers and businesses about a premium rate scam from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service). People have received a postcard from PDS suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). **DO NOT CALL THIS NUMBER**, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655

**LOST, FOUND, HELP**

**JEFF LAWTON** (4/7DG) is trying to get in touch with ex-TPR **GARY (NAFF) ROBERTS** who was in A Squadron when Jeff joined in 1980. When Jeff went to Berlin in 1981, Gary went to Catterick in FFR Troop. Any information please to jef-frey.lawton@btinternet.com or telephone 01287 678363.

**JOHN BARR**, on behalf of **JIMMY BAKER'S** family, is looking for photographs of Jimmy during his time in the Regiment. Could anyone with photos of Jimmy please send to: Major W J Barr MBE, OC Recruit Selection Centre, St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena. BT43 7NX. He will of course return all photographs received.

## OBITUARIES

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

- MR AG ALDRIDGE, 5 INNIS DG, 1935 – 48, 16 Barrowdale Close, Exmouth, Devon,  
who died 6 February 2006
- MRS R ALTUCCINI, 27 Hart Dene Court, Bridge Road, Bagshot, Surrey,  
who died 21 March 2006
- MR HJ ANDREWS, 5 INNIS DG, 1948 – 77, 1 Robin Hill Drive, Standish, Wigan, Lancs,  
who died 18 July 2006
- MR AG BAKER, 4/7DG, 1946 – 48, 113 Foxhunter Drive, Oadby, Leicester,  
who died 24 May 2006
- MR A BRITTEN, 5 INNIS DG, 1944 – 46, 10 Admirals Way, Daventry, Northants,  
who died 13 November 2005
- MRS K BURDON, 6 Botany Court, Workington, Cumbria,  
who died 3 May 2006
- MR P BUTTERFIELD, 5 INNIS DG, 1958 – 76, 37 Stirling Drive, Bedlington, Northumberland,  
who died 16 June 2006
- MR MJ COATES, 5 INNIS DG, 1957 – 59, 25 Dene Wood Avenue, Bramcote, Nottingham,  
who died 15 November 2006
- CAPTAIN JK CROOKSHANK, 5 INNIS DG, 1954 – 64, Ivy House, Westbourne, Emsworth, Hants,  
who died 1 May 2006
- MR SHV DALLEY, 4/7DG, 1942 – 47, 12 Grindstone Crescent, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey,  
who died 10 September 2006
- MR F DELAHUNTY, 5 INNIS DG, 1965 – 84, 141 Huntsdown Wood, Mulhuddart, Dublin,  
who died 17 April 2006
- MR D FLANDERS, 4/7DG, 1948-50, 51 High Street, Camelford, Cornwall,  
who died 21 September 2006
- MR S FLETCHER, 4/7DG & RDG, 1987 – 2005, 23 Denfield Crescent, Ovenden, Halifax, Yorks,  
who died 26 April 2006
- MRS M GRAHAM, 1/77 Reid Drive, COFFS HARBOUR, Australia  
who died 15 August 2006
- MRS G GREEF, 14 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Dersingham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk,  
who died 9 January 2006
- MR J F HOLMAN, 5 INNIS DG, 1947 – 53, 35 Brook Road, Merstham, Redhill, Surrey,  
who died December 2005
- MRS M HORNE, 11 Dolfin Place, Bradley, Huddersfield, Yorkshire,  
who died 24 March 2006
- MRS E KHAN, 15 New City Homes, Curzon Lane, Alvaston, Derby,  
who died 4 April 2006
- MR J KHAN, 5 INNIS DG, 1954 – 73, 15 New City Homes, Curzon Lane, Alvaston, Derby,  
who died 10 June 2006
- MR AB KIMBER, 4/7DG, 1942 – 47, 12 Gillmans Road, Orpington, Kent,  
who died 7 March 2006
- MR C MACMILLAN, 4/7DG, 1938 – 42, 4 Frog Lane, Upper Boddington, Daventry, Northants,  
who died 16 July 2006
- MRS E MANN, Vineyard House, Church Street, Bowerchalke, Salisbury, Wilts,  
who died 22 August 2006
- MR I MARTIN, 4/7DG, 20 Hillcrest Road, Queensbury, Bradford, Yorkshire,  
who died 2 May 2001
- MRS A MILLEN, Isabella House, Gilling West, Richmond, Yorkshire,  
who died 12 September 2006
- MAJOR GENERAL THE VISCOUNT MONCKTON OF BRENCHLEY CB OBE MC DL,  
5 INNIS DG & 9/12 QRL, Runhams Farm, Runham Lane, Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent,  
who died 22 June 2006
- MR AL MORRIS, 4/7DG, 1966 – 89, 70 Ley Flakes Road, Idle, Bradford, Yorkshire,  
who died 13 February 2006
- MR S J MULFORD, 4/7DG, 46 Cheltenham Road, Paulsgrove, Cosham, Hants,  
who died 18 September 2005
- LIEUTENANT DK O'MEARA, 5 INNIS DG, Wartime, 17 Hurst Farm Road, Weald, Sevenoaks, Kent,  
Who died 12 September 2006

MAJOR HFH PHILIPS MC, 5 INNIS DG, 1939 – 45, Cleave, Honey Row Lane, Bicknoller, Taunton,  
 who died 14 February 2006

MR TC PHILLIPS, 5 INNIS DG, 1951 – 53, 28 Vittoria Street, Birmingham, W Midlands,  
 who died 3 February 2006

CAPT A POWNEY, 4/7DG, 27 Blakesley Raod, Birmingham,  
 who died 16 October 2006

MRS R SCOTT, Court House, Shipton Moyne, Tetbury, Glos,  
 who died 20 April 2006

MR E SHORT, 4/7DG, Wartime, 75 Greenway Gardens, Chippenham, Wiltshire,  
 who died 20 May 2006

MRS S TAGGART, 57 Castle Grange, Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh,  
 who died 29 June 2006

MR EW TARRANT, 5 INNIS DG, 1940 – 46, 8 Hebden Moor Way, North Hykeham, Lincoln,  
 who died 10 August 2006

MAJOR GJ THOMAS MBE, 4/7DG, 1944 – 68, Heathfields, Long Lane, Derrington, Staffs,  
 who died 18 May 2006

MR RWE WARNE, 5 INNIS DG, 1951 – 66, Wardens Flat, Carthew Court, Woodbridge, Suffolk,  
 who died 8 June 2006

MR JO WATTS, 5 INNIS DG, 1951 – 53, 82a Moor Lane South, Ravenfeld, Rotherham, Yorkshire,  
 who died 28 February 2006

MR DR WOOD, 4/7DG, 1949 – 71, 9 Gilbert Road, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middlesex,  
 who died 18 July 2006

### CREULLY 2007

The outline plan for Creully 2007 will be to travel to Creully on the 5 May returning to UK on the 9 May. HHQ are more than happy to make the travel and accommodation arrangements for the annual pilgrimage but in order to make the visit cost effective we will need a minimum of 30 travellers. Would all interested in making the visit please notify HHQ by the end of October. A tear off slip can be found at the end of the Newsletter. Approximate costings (based on last year) will be in the region of £270 for a shared twin room and £420 for a single. Naturally friends and families are more than welcome. If we fail to make the numbers for the normal luxury coach, the only alternative will be for a mini-bus or private cars.

### LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR ADRIAN CARTON de WIART, VC, KBE, CB, CMG, DSO.

Born in Brussels (Belgium) on 5th May 1880. Died in Killinardrich, County Cork (Ireland) on 5th June 1963. Author of the book 'Happy Odyssey'. Wounded 11 times on active service, of which 8 times during the First World War. Colonel 4/7DG 1940 – 1948.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1916, Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Carton de Wiart, 4<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards (Royal Irish), attached to and Commanding Officer of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, inspired his men in La Boisselle with such energy, inspiration and courage that the Victoria Cross was bestowed on him. He was probably the only Belgian participating in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. Exactly 90 years later, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2006, the Belgian National Remembrance Committee inaugurated a commemorative plaque at the church of Thiepval. In the presence of 12 standards of war veterans and patriotic associations, two members of the family and the chairman of the Committee evoked Sir Adrian's life and military career, followed by the reading of the citation awarding the Victoria Cross and of the special message of the Victoria Cross Association. Countess Renée-Victoire de la Kéthulle de Ryhove, born Carton de Wiart, the only person present to have known Sir Adrian, unveiled a commemorative plaque, blessed by the Chaplain of the Committee, the Reverend Dirk Milio.

**Campaigns:** South Africa 1902, Somaliland 1914, World Wars I and II. Officer with the 4th Dragoon Guards (Royal Irish), Attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment (on the Somme) 1916, Commanding the British Military Mission in Poland 1918-1924, British Military Mission attached to the Polish Army 1939, Central Expeditionary Force during the Norwegian Campaign 1940, Military Mission in Yugoslavia – taken prisoner in 1941 for 2 years, Released in 1943 in order to negotiate the surrender of the Italian Army in 1943, Special Military Representative with General Chiang-Kai-Shek 1943.

**Decorations :** Victoria Cross, Knight Commander in the Order of the British Empire, Companion in the Order of the Bath, Companion in the Order of Saint-Michael and Saint-George, Distinguished Service Order, Officer's Cross in the Order of the Crown and Croix de Guerre (Belgium), Croix de Guerre and Légion d'Honneur (France), Cross of Merit 1920 and 1939 (Poland).

**Citation of the Victoria Cross in The London Gazette of 9 September 1916:** "On 2/3 July 1916 at La Boisselle, France, Lieutenant Colonel Carton de Wiart's dauntless courage and inspiration averted what could have been a serious reverse. He displayed the utmost energy in forcing the attack home and after three other battalion commanders had become casualties, he controlled their commands and made sure that the ground was held at all costs. In organising the positions to be held, he exposed himself fearlessly to enemy fire. He was wounded eight times (including the loss of an eye and his left hand) during the course of the First World War."

**Excerpt from** "The British Campaign in France and Flanders 1916" by Arthur Conan Doyle p.108. – Hodder & Stoughton 1928: "By 9 pm. on July 2 the south end of the village (La Boisselle) had been captured but the resistance was still very fierce. Two British colonels, one of the 7<sup>th</sup> South Lancshires and the other of the 8<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters, particularly distinguished themselves in this close fighting. The latter, a dragoon like his commander, was a hard soldier who had left an eye in Somaliland and a hand at Ypres, but the sight of him in this day of battle, tearing out the safety-pin of bombs with his teeth and hurling them with his remaining hand, was one which gave heart to his men."

## VETERANS' BADGE

The eligibility to apply for a HM Armed Forces Veterans' Badge has been extended to those veterans who served at any time up to 31 December 1959. After the demand from this group of veterans has been met we will further extend the eligibility to apply until all veterans have received their badge. The HM Forces Veterans' Badge was launched in May 2004 with the intention that it would be made available to all First World War veterans and the Second World War veterans who, under the Heroes Return scheme, travelled back to the battlefronts they had fought on. Because the badge was so popular, eligibility was quickly extended to include all Second World War veterans and those who have served at any time up to 31 December 1954. Further extensions to the eligibility criteria of the Badge will be announced in due course. Included in eligibility for the Veterans Badge are the widow(er)s of those Service personnel whose spouse died as a result of an injury or illness attributable to their military service and who are in receipt of a United Kingdom war widow(er)'s pension. Applications for the badge detailing, name, address, date of birth, service number, period of service and theatres of service should be sent to Veterans Services, Veterans Agency, Norcross, Blackpool, FY5 3WP. Further information on the Veterans Badge, along with the help and advice on any issue affecting veterans' lives, can be obtained from the free National Veterans Helpline 0800 169 2277 or website [www.veteransagency.mod.uk](http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk)

## THE VETERANS AGENCY

In April 2002, as part of the Government's Veteran Initiative, the War Pensions Agency was renamed the Veterans Agency. The new name reflects the intention for the Veterans Agency to provide a single point of contact within the MOD for all veterans' issues. The Veterans Initiative gives clear recognition to the special status of those who have served in the armed forces and the unique contribution they have made to the country. It works towards better co-ordination and communications - not only with the veterans community, but also across Government and with charities and the voluntary sector - to improve the level of services and support available for veterans and their families. It is responsible for the assessment, administration and payment of war and war widow(er)s' pensions and supplementary allowances, and the new Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. It manages the free veterans Helpline, (the War Pensioners Welfare Service (the face-to-face advice arm of Veterans Agency based in 25 offices throughout the UK and Eire). Callers to the Agency's help line - 0800 169 2277- can receive advice on a wide range of subjects such as service records, health, employment, accommodation, finance, statutory entitlements, war pensions, medals,, medals, military graves and welfare issues. Lines are open, Mon-Thurs 8 15am-5 15pm, Friday 8 15am - 4 30pm The veterans website at [www.veteransagency.mod.uk](http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk) was launched in 2002 and was redesigned in October last year, the site includes a comprehensive search facility to access almost 20,000 pages of information including useful links to other organisations and Government departments A full electronic version of the newsletter VETERANS WORLD can also be found on this website. E- mail: [help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk)

**ESHRA** The 'Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency' is part of the RBL. ESHRA offer advice on all ex-service Care Homes, Respite and Short Welfare Breaks, as well as Independent Living, Sheltered Accommodation, and funding problems. In conjunction with advice GIVEN regarding the Ex-service homes and accommodation a database is used which incorporates registered Care Homes providing Residential and/or Nursing care in the Voluntary and Private sectors. It also includes information for Local Authority homes Details are also available on Retirement Housing to rent and buy In addition other sources are used to enable a wider search range if required. Information has been accumulated from various sources, like Help the Aged. Counsel and Care, and numerous others which enables relevant and useful information to be passed on to people who often find themselves not knowing where to start.

**QUESTIONS:** *A loved one is suddenly in hospital having had a stroke, where do they go from here? A couple just wants advice on Respite places, or they want to move into sheltered accommodation in a different area, A person is suddenly being evicted or given notice in his present home, where can they go now? Somebody has Alzheimer's, and the family is unable to locate suitable homes. A person is unsure what to do when their partner needs nursing care, will they have to sell their house? An elderly gentleman would like to locate an ex-service home where he will be with like-minded people. Someone is looking ahead 'just in case' and would like general advice.* The subjects are varied but impartial and sound advice is given to help people find suitable accommodation for themselves or their families. Advice is mainly geared towards the elderly Ex-service but if younger enquirers' problems cannot be solved by ESHRA they will put them in touch with those who can help For further information call them on 020 7839 4466, or visit their website at [www.eshra.com](http://www.eshra.com)

## WAR GRAVES FLOWER DELIVERY SERVICE

WGFDS operates a War Graves flower delivery and photographic service to France, Holland and Belgium for relatives across the world. These services will include delivering flowers to the graveside and recording the moment by means of a photograph, which will be sent to the customer. **Service 1 - WGFDS will deliver the following choice of flowers to the appropriate cemetery in France or Belgium where they will be placed in front of the headstone 8 white lilies, 8 red, white or yellow roses or a spray of 12 flowers. Cost: World War I cemeteries £34.00, World War II cemeteries £37.50. Service 2 - WGFDS will purchase a single rose or lily and deliver it to the appropriate cemetery where it will be placed in front of the headstone. Cost: World War I cemeteries £24.00, World War II cemeteries £27.50. Service 3:- WGFDS will take a photograph of the headstone of a fallen soldier. Cost: World War I cemeteries £12.00, World War II cemeteries £15.00.** Deliveries to World War I cemeteries in France and Belgium will be within a 100 miles radius of CALAIS. Deliveries to World War II cemeteries in France, Belgium and Holland will be within a 250 mile radius of CALAIS. Deliveries outside this area may also be considered. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission gardeners will not remove these flowers until they wither and die. To order Telephone 01303 268009 or email [checkit55@aol.com](mailto:checkit55@aol.com). **Note:** A member recently wrote to us to say how delighted he was at the first class service he received when using Service 3 of the WGFDS Although the cemeteries were situated quite far apart the whole set of photographs (of headstones of Australian veterans' from World War One who are buried in this country) were received within seven days A notable achievement in this day and age.

## M6 TOLL EXEMPTIONS

The M6 Toll motorway was opened in January 2004. It is a 27-mile, three lane motorway and is Britain's first toll motorway. Some vehicles will be exempt from paying a toll when they use the M6 Toll motorway. Disabled customers can use the motorway free of charge by applying in advance for a Mobility Exemption Pass. Veterans Agency customers who are in receipt of a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement will be exempt from this M6 Toll charge. Customers will be required to produce a photocopy of their Vehicle Exemption Certificate (WPA 0442) with their application form. For further information contact the M6 Toll Helpline number 0870 850 6262 or, alternatively application forms are available by downloading them from the M6 Toll web-site [www.m6toll.co.uk](http://www.m6toll.co.uk)

## REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION BRANCHES

### CREULLY CLUB

The calendar of events for 2007 commences with the Memorial Service at Fort Henry, Studland Bay on Wednesday 4 April at 1100 hrs. There will be the annual Pilgrimage to Creully for the Memorial Service on 6 June, again at 1100 hrs. Details are elsewhere in the Newsletter and you are urged to inform HHQ as soon as possible if you wish to attend. The Reunion this year will be Saturday 11 November and Sunday 12 November. There will be an AGM at 1500 hrs and the reunion dinner, both at the Roebuck Inn Alcester on Saturday at 1900 hrs and the Remembrance Parade on Sunday at 1100 hrs; rendezvous at the Swan Inn car park, Alcester at 10.30 hrs. This will be followed by The Royal British Legion Alcester Branch Lunch. 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 our web site. [www.creullyclub.freeuk.com](http://www.creullyclub.freeuk.com)

### LONDON AND SOUTH EAST BRANCH

This has been a very quiet six months owing to other commitments i.e. the visit to the Regiment which was enjoyed by all and holidays of the members. We are at the moment without a Secretary. Howard has been Secretary since the formation of the Branch and has now joined the Oxo Club. The whole branch wishes him well and all the best for the future. We hope to resolve the job at our next Branch meeting on Thursday 5 October at the British Rail Club, Selhurst at 1 pm for the meeting at 2 pm. Old and new members welcome. Enquiries to PB England, 59 Guards Close, Towngate Wood Park, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3RT Tel: 01732 352138.

### NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

The Northern Ireland Branch has had a busy period over the last few months. Since the last write-up members of the branch held their annual dinner in the Park Avenue Hotel and a great night was had by all. We had some guests attend who had a great "Skins" night and we hope to see them back again. As usual Hank Johnston and his waiter friends provided the entertainment. The meal was excellent and our late member Jimmy Taggart via his daughter Jean provided the wine. Jimmy can raise a smile from high knowing that not a drop was spilled the whole night though a few members did spill out onto the road. Members of the branch managed to attend the annual British Legion Parade in County Down to commemorate the Battle of the Somme on 1st July and a few BBQ's have been held over the summer months with the odd Ulster rain shower helping to keep everyone cool. There is no truth in the news that Walter Browne has reached "60" years old, he just looks like he has had a hard life. Members will receive word shortly on the next branch meeting but in the meantime you can contact the secretary on news or membership details as follows: George Clarke Tel: 02890 202696

### THE 5 INNIS DG OLD COMRADES REUNION

A Reunion Weekend will be held in Blackpool from 13-16 April 2007. Further information and group details from Mary Liquorish, 8 Willow Way, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 7PT. ( 01535 635777 email [Mliquorish@aol.com](mailto:Mliquorish@aol.com).

### 5 INNIS DG NORTHERN IRELAND

Are planning a visit to friends in Dublin and their Balaclava Ball to be held in Belfast on 28 October. Details from Jack Halliday, Tel: 02890 768098

### CUMBRIA BRANCH

I am pleased to report that the Cumbria Branch is still going strong. However, in the last 6 months, we have been unfortunate to lose two staunch supporters of the Branch: Kath, the wife of our Treasurer, Marty Burdon and Derek "Timber" Wood. Kath was always consistent with her support at our social evenings over the years and "Timber" was always keen to visit to enjoy those same Socials, despite the long journey from Harefield. Both will be greatly missed. We had an exceptionally good Winter Social in February as a memorial to our late Secretary, Dennis Wallace. The evening was attended by approximately 120 members and guests, including the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Clendon Daukes. We had visitors from as far afield as Devon, Scotland, Yorkshire and the North East. A good cabaret was provided by ex-regiment member, John Maudling. 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](mailto:roger@bright188.fsnet.co.uk)

### YORK BRANCH

Our annual Branch Balaclava Dinner is to be held this year on Saturday 21 October. On the morning of the 21 October, the 60th Palestine anniversary Parade is to be held at Eden Camp and entry is free to members who are there for the Parade. There will be ample opportunity before and following the Parade to look around the camp. There is a bar and café situated in one of the huts. Due to some complaints regarding the venue for the last Dinner, we are trying the Beechwood Close Hotel, 19 Shipton Road. The Dinner is at 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs at a cost of £20 per person. A raffle will be held and any donations gratefully received of course. Further details from Capt (Retd) B Grimshaw, 28 Foley Avenue, Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 8PB, Tel: 01226 759662

### OXFORD BRANCH

We have enjoyed a branch outing to RMCS Shrivenham. SSM Trevor Boyd (QRL) recently left, and he really did look after us whilst we were there, to be replaced by SSM Dave Danson (KRH) who has already been very helpful. Cpl Karl Pope (RDG) who has been there for two years is on his way back to the Regiment. He is thanked for the help he has given and wish him and family all the best at the Regiment. His replacement is Cpl James Shillington, son of Capt P Shillington (5DG 60/70s) who was my troop leader in 1961, a small world. Thanks also to Lt Col Stafford (QRL) who, of course, sanctions all of these visits and the WO's & Sgts Mess where we always have an excellent lunch and a "few beers". We have also been to Warminster for Fire Power Demos. This year, after the event, we were given a small lunch and well looked after by A Sqn 1 RTR, organised by Mr Bert Dower, Oxon RTR Branch. We were introduced to a group of USA Tankies who had, for the first time on UK soil, 5 Abraham Tanks which we were shown over, inside and out. They could not have been more welcoming – it was quite an experience I can assure you. Paul England, Dave Holland and I are the Assn reps on the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Committee. I am happy to report that the Parade goes from strength to strength. This year the march past numbered 1791 of which were 170 RDG and it was nice to see many younger men from the Regiment marching with us "older boys". At the time of cuts in the army to have five bands on parade was quite unique. The year's highlight must, of course, be the visit to the Regiment for the Dettingen Weekend. The Oxford

Branch was well represented and of course the Colonel of the Regiment, also a member of the Branch, took the salute. From the moment we arrived at Dortmund airport to the hour of leaving we were so well looked after. Particular thanks to Lt Col Tim Hyams, RSM Ian Pennington, Capt John Nicholl and staff and Lt Jeremy Hann. Regimental boxing always goes down well as did the sports and many displays set up for us. The BBQ's were a credit to the Regimental Catering Staff, the all ranks Summer Ball really was a delight – quite the best for many years. The drumhead service and parade was, as you would expect, faultless. It was a privilege to be there and to be a part of it. As always we were entertained by the WOs' & Sgts Mess' and the Cpls' Mess, our thanks to all. It was quite unique to be present when the Colonel presented the Warrants to the WOs and Long Service Medals in the mess. I would like to mention the Annual Old Comrades weekend at Blackpool where 240 ex-skis, wives and friends sat down to dinner on Saturday. More and more attend each year and long may they continue to do so. This year in Oxford I recruited two former members, Sgt Tom Hunt (60/70s) and his son Steve (80s). They came to Blackpool and it was so good to see them meeting old and of course new friends. This is what it is all about and we should all continue to pass the word of our local branch meetings as I am sure there are a lot more Dragoons out there waiting to be re-stabled. Once again fellow comrades take care, see you at Hyde Park, or wherever. We are looking forward to our annual dinner to be held in Falklands House Officers Mess OUTC on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 1900 hours for 2000 hours. We welcome you all but spaces are limited so please contact us as soon as possible. Why not make a weekend of it? We have many that do, ask "Hank the Piper" invited again this year, who always brings a good group with him. We have been using a good hotel for four years now in the city centre at very reasonable rates. Further details from Jack Bellinger 01865 730303.

*Fare Thee Well. John Walker Oxon.*

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### **Dunkirk: Fight To The Last Man**

This recently published book contains a new angle on how the 1940 British Expeditionary Force came to be evacuated from Dunkirk: it was not just because of the courage of the men on the beaches as they were rescued by the Navy and those celebrated little ships. According to author Hugh Sebag-Montefiore, the evacuation would never have taken place had it not been for the bravery of the British soldiers who were left behind to hold back the Germans while the evacuation went ahead. While units such as the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards were retreating from the Franco-Belgian border to the Dunkirk perimeter, a series of rearguard actions were being fought around 20 miles to the south of Dunkirk. It was these actions which were to determine the fate of the British Army. Battle was joined at this point because the British Commander-in-Chief Lord Gort had decided there was only one way to save the majority of the British troops in France: the infantry backed by whatever armour could be mustered had to shield the corridor up which the British Army was retreating to Dunkirk by holding a string of strong points. They were to stand and fight, whatever cost, even if they had to fight to the last man. This they proceeded to do. However, their rearguard actions fought at towns and villages such as Casel, Ledringhem, Wormhout and Le Paradis have been forgotten by previous histories of the 1940 campaign. It is unlikely they will be omitted from future accounts. Anyone who reads this book will know the true story of how the British Army in France was really evacuated. It should be noted that the book's author had hoped to write up some of the most heroic battles fought by the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards (in particular their actions inside the Dunkirk perimeter) and the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards (in particular their last ditch action at Lessines) during the campaign. Unfortunately he was unable to do so because he could not find enough vivid accounts of their progress and retreat. If any soldiers from these units, or their families and friends, have accounts which vividly describe what happened to them during the 1940 Dunkirk campaign, the author would be pleased to hear from them – ideally before the publications of next year's paperback edition of this book – at 37 Tanza Road, London, NW3 2UA, email address seabags@dircon.co.uk *Dunkirk: Fight To The Last Man* is published by Viking/Penguin and can be purchased from most bookshops for £25.

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### **GET SAFE ONLINE - BANK ONLINE SAFELY**

**Risks:** Phishing, which means being tricked into disclosing your password and details to online criminals. Identity theft caused by viruses or spyware, giving criminals access to your bank account and other personal information stored on your computer.

**Don't be fooled by impostors:** One of the biggest risks in banking online is identity theft. Fraudsters send out emails that look like they come from banks (or other trusted organisations) and which contain links to fake websites which also resemble the real thing. Phishing scams are like a fake cashpoint machine that looks like the real thing.

**Be wary of phishing emails.** These may appear to be from your bank but are really from criminals trying to lure you to a fake website to get your personal information. Banks will never send you emails asking you to disclose PIN numbers, passwords or other personal information or which link to a page that asks you for this kind of information. If you click on a link in an email that takes you to a page that requires a password or personal information, it is very likely to be a scam. Always make sure you are using a secure Internet connection to connect to your bank. Look for 'https' at the beginning of the address and the padlock symbol. Although many trusted organisations do send emails containing legitimate links (for example to websites that contain more information on a given subject), always be careful when clicking on them. It is better to enter your bank's address into your web browser directly or use a bookmark that you created using the correct address. If you believe your details may have been compromised in some way, always contact the bank.

**Make sure your computer is secure:** Because criminals can get your passwords and personal information using viruses or spyware, it is vital that your computer is as secure as possible. In particular: install anti-virus software, stop spyware, use a firewall and get the latest Windows updates.

**Use common sense:** Learn your password and PIN. Destroy any written record as soon as you can. Don't write down your password or PIN. Use different passwords for bank and credit card sites. Don't use the same password for every website. Don't fall for money-laundering scams. Be wary of any 'business opportunity' that involves receiving or holding money for strangers. A good source for further information, including information about known frauds, is your own bank's website.

**Keep tabs on your money:** If you spot any unusual transactions in your statement, report them immediately.

## HHQ NOTE

HHQ, on behalf of those who visited the Regiment on the occasion of the Dettingen Weekend, wish to thank the Commanding Officer and All Ranks for the outstanding hospitality, generosity and comradeship extended to us during the Dettingen Weekend visit. Association members from RDG and your predecessor Regiments were unanimous in their praise and pride of the serving Regiment. Thank you all. At our last AGM it was suggested that members be encouraged to inform HHQ when a fellow Old Comrade falls seriously ill so that this may be relayed to friends who may wish to visit and offer support. It was also suggested that HHQ maintain a roll of members who could offer or assist comrades in finding employment. Should you fall into this category please notify HHQ. For those of you with internet access, please do keep HHQ informed of any changes to your email address. For those of you who are new to the internet and have not as yet registered with HHQ, please go to [www.rdgmuseum.org.uk](http://www.rdgmuseum.org.uk) and follow the links to register your details with us.

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### 2006 CHRISTMAS CARD

This year's card is from an Officers' Mess painting 'Dawn Patrol' and (once received) will be available from HHQ at a cost of 35p plus p&p. The cards will naturally be in full colour. Last year's cards are still available at the reduced price of 25p plus p&p. Orders being taken now. All profits to the Museum Fund

## DIARY DATES

London & SE Branch Meeting 5 Oct 06  
York Branch Balaclava Dinner & Palestine Parade 21 Oct 06  
5 INNIS DG N Ireland Reunion 28 Oct 06  
Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey 9 Nov 06  
Creully Club Reunion Alcester 11&12 Nov 06  
Oxford Branch annual Dinner 23 Nov 06

Captain Oates Service Chelsea 11 Mar 07  
Studland Bay Memorial Service 4 Apr 07  
Blackpool Reunion 13/16 Apr 07  
AGM & Committee Meetings Chelsea 12 May 07  
Regimental Officers Dinner 12 May 07  
Cavalry Memorial Parade 13 May 07

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## CREULLY MEMORIAL PILGRIMAGE

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to attend the annual pilgrimage to Creully in June 2007

\*\*\* *My preference is for the return journey to be on the 8 June 2007 (5 to 8 June)*

\*\*\* *My preference is for the return journey to be on the 9 June 2007 (5 to 9 June)*

The majority view will prevail & if we return on 9 June, the 8th would be for the choice of rest day/shopping or organised tour.

\*\*\* **PLEASE DELETE AS APPROPRIATE**