



REGIMENTAL NEWSLETTER – JULY 2016

The Royal Dragoon Guards

“Quis Separabit”

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year a busy few months with lots going on, hopefully reflected in this Newsletter. We are always looking for submissions particularly, historic reflections or research to publish. So if you have anything that you would like to contribute please forward to HHQ.

“Quis Separabit”

Oates Sunday 13 March 16

This Years' Service was attended by 110 Members of the Regimental Association and Serving Members, which along with 50 members of the public ensured our Regimental Church was full. Many members of the congregation chose to wear the Shamrock that was on offer. The Service was conducted by The Revd Jane Nattrass with the Sermon being delivered by The Regimental Padre, Father Alex Strachan. The Commanding Officer read the extract from Scott's Diary with both the Colonel of the Regiment and Stuart Hopper, as Vice Chairman of the Regimental Association Reading the Lessons. Following the Service tea and biscuits were very kindly provided by the Church before moving onto the Hilton Hotel. 74 Members of the Association and Regiment sat down for Lunch in the Hilton, they also took up the opportunity to visit the Regimental Museum.

The Oates Service in York, now represents an enduring opportunity for both the serving Regiment and the Association to gather and pay tribute to a very Gallant Gentleman. Whose determination, courage and selflessness continue to provide inspiration to today's Regiment.

Next years' Service will take place on Sunday 12 March 2017 and will again be followed by a Carvery Lunch in the Hilton. Further details will be promulgated nearer the time.

Blackpool 16 April 16



This year's Blackpool Weekend was attended by close to 400 Association members over the 3 Days. With 208, including the Colonel of the Regiment, sitting down for dinner on Saturday evening. They were joined later by a further 60 or so to enjoy the bar and entertainment. Which this year included the 'Skins' Band conducted by John Etherington.



Now in its 17th Year the weekend continues to be dominated by those who served with the 'Skins'. However an ever increasing younger element, having served through amalgamation, continue to add their support to what remains the largest Association event of the year. It's difficult to put your finger on any single reason that makes the weekend such a success, clearly Phil Jackson's tireless contribution aided by Garry Smith's enduring support, help. But I sense much is owed to

the fact the activities are spread over a whole weekend. There is no pressure to drink the bar dry, unusual I know! But there is plenty of time to enjoy the company of old friends and make new ones. If you can't make the Saturday attend Friday, alternatively just arrive for the Saturday and Sunday enjoy a meal, take in a show, play golf, 'Pronto' Marsh organised a number of 'four balls' this year. At £135 full board, including the Gala dinner, The Blackpool weekend continues to represent outstanding value for money. And while the accommodation may be forgettable, the memories are permanent.

Studland Memorial Service 4 April 2016

This year marked the 12th Anniversary since the dedication of the Memorial at Studland to the tank crews lost on Exercise Smash 1. Their Valentine, Duplex Drive (Swimming) Tanks were overcome by a heavy swell that forced the flotation screens to collapse and the tanks and some of the Crewman were lost. The tragic lessons learned that day would go onto save many lives on D Day, with the tanks of The 4/7th RDG being ferried as close to the beach as possible before wading the short distance to the beach. Where they provided close support to the hard pressed Infantry, notably The Green Howards.

This years' service was made all the more poignant as members of General Sir Robert Ford's family and friends participated. Following the Service Lt Col Simon Ford, the Generals son, cast his late father's ashes into the sea. There to wash over the sunken tanks, from which he had been fortunate to escape 71 years earlier, to re-join those that had been lost alongside him that fateful day.



With thanks to Miss Polly Ford for the Photographs. From L to R Lt Col Simon Ford, Capt Shaun Leavey, Mr John Pearson (owner of a surviving Valentine), Peter Kirkbride, Mr S Ford, Captain Douglas Mann, who recently received his Legion d'Honneur, Mrs C Illingworth, Miss Annabel Ford, Lt Col Richard Illingworth and Colonel David Corbin.

Details of next years' service will be released in a later edition.

Cavalry Memorial Parade

This year's Cavalry Memorial Parade was attended by over 250 serving and retired members of the Regiment. Numbers were swelled slightly by the Regiments Participation in this year's Cavalry Cup Final. Where they narrowly lost to The Royal Tank Regiment 1-0 to an extra time goal. The Regiment was well supported with the Pipes and drums.



The Commanding Officer commiserates with the team who narrowly lost out following a hard fought contest.

The following day in bright sunshine members of the Regiment met on the Broad Walk in Hyde Park ahead of stepping off to the salute



Manchester Choral Society 9 April 16



Home Headquarters was approached by the Manchester Bach Coral Society for permission to use an Image of the Dettingen Standard on their programme for a forthcoming concert. That included the 'Dettingen Te Deum'. Composed by Handel at the behest of King George 2 following his victory that day. Having agreed to the use of the imagery and following further dialogue. We thought it would be appropriate to support the event by taking along one of the original French drums captured at Dettingen by the 7th Dragoon Guards. The event was attended by over 200 people. Many of whom were fascinated to see the drum and learn more about Dettingen , Cornet Richardson and The Regiment.

Carrickfergus Museum



In January the Museum was invited by the Council of Carrickfergus to help it promote the granting to The North Irish Horse the Freedom of the Borough. Following consultation with East Antrim Museums and Library Service. It was felt that a temporary Exhibition celebrating the Irish Cavalry Soldier would complement this event. Particularly as the Irish Cavalry Museum, including much of our own collection had been housed in the Keep of Carrickfergus Castle write up to the commencement of the Troubles from where it was moved to Chester. The North Irish Horse told the

story of their Regiment, and we took across a number of artefacts from the collection that tell the story of both the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards and the Inniskilling Dragoons.

Creully

Alan Henshall and Chalky White stand by The Blockhouse at Ver Sur Mare.





This year marked the 76th Anniversary of the D Day landing and the 25th Year of the Creully Memorial. The refurbished Memorial stands proud and pristine below the Castle Walls on the entrance to the Village. Before the D Day Service members of the Association joined members of the Yorkshire Regiment and the Green Howards at their Memorial in Crepon. The village that lies to the north of Creully that marks their limit of exploitation on D Day. The Green Howards reciprocated by attending our Service at Ver Sur Mare before going on to Creully. This years' Service was delivered entirely by the inhabitants of Creully and the local Mayors Office. An enduring sign of their commitment to not only mark their liberation but a recognition of the sacrifice made by our soldiers on their behalf.

The Colonel of The Regiment pays his respect alongside Colin Clements who landed on D Day with The Regiment.



Following the Service a picture of the School children of Creully commemorating D Day at our Memorial.



The Colonel of the Regiment stands alongside the new Memorial at Lepe in Hampshire. The Memorial marks the point where The 4/7th RDG loaded their tanks before heading to Normandy.

The Zambelli Trophy



This year's Zambelli Trophy was played at Catterick on the 25 June 2016. Once again organised by the irrepressible Alex Kurlandski and supported by over 40 Golfers. Following a Clubhouse breakfast attended by the Colonel of the Regiment. The putting competition was organised by Ted Blakey ahead of the Trophy Competition that teed off at 1030. The weather behaved itself for most of the day. However for those finishing later in the afternoon an all too familiar summer storm put pay to some high scores. Following a fantastic dinner Keith's Widow, Christine accompanied by her sister gave out the prizes.



Winner Brian Frame
Runner up Jim Bowie
Third Jason Monks
Best Guest Marc Claxton
Best Lady Pauline Claxton
Runner up Harriet Ramsden
Putting Competition Neill Moss

Mrs Christine Zambelli presents Brian Frame with this year's Zambelli trophy.

Congratulations once again to all those that participated this year's competition raised £1071.25 towards Robyn Carters nomination of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Details of next year's competition will be distributed once confirmed.

The Serving Regiment

OATES PARADE AND ST PATRICK'S DAY

With the sound of Pipes, 'gun-fire' was served in the lines to the Regiment before jumping on buses up to Richmond Castle. The Regiment marched onto parade in Service Dress and held the customary Oates memorial Drumhead Service, at which the Colonel of The Regiment presented Shamrock. Following a Regimental photograph, all ranks were back in camp for Irish Stew and potted sports, culminating in the chariot race and presentations. A Sqn were worthy winners of the Inter-Sqn Tug-o-War. Once the games were complete the Regiment withdrew to their various messes to toast Captain Oates and St. Patrick.



Collective Training One (CT1)

2016 is the Regiment's training year and as such finds itself deployed to training areas across UK, Germany and Canada. For the first runout, each Squadron deployed to Salisbury Plain to conduct mounted and dismounted troop foundation training.



Cold, occasionally wet and very hard work was the common reaction. In our new role of Armoured Cavalry the need to operate on our feet is a critical skill, without forgetting that we are first and foremost mounted soldiers.



This exercise set us up for the rest of the year, looking forward to Gunnery Camp and the synthetic command exercise in the summer, followed by deployment to BATUS as the Lead Cavalry Battle Group on Ex PRAIRIE STORM 4.

MARATHON DES SABLES



A team of three serving officers, Captains James McGinn, Tony McGann and Johnny Clover, have completed the Marathon des Sables. Known as the toughest footrace on Earth, the Marathon des Sables is a 160-mile multi stage ultra-marathon held in the Sahara Desert. The three Officers completed 3 24-mile stages before a mammoth 52 mile stage. The long stage was followed by a single marathon, and the team finally walked out of the desert after 7 days with a small 11 mile stage. Throughout the race they battled Lawrence of Arabia style sand dunes, alarmingly steep and rocky terrain, high climbs up Jebeles, temperatures of up to 45C and the

burden of carrying all of their own kit. Highs include being given a can of coke after the 52-mile stage by the race organisers and lows include running out of water and having to stagger for 3 miles with a mouth like Ghandi's flip-flop. The team are delighted to be back in the UK and urge anyone and everyone to help them meet their £15,000 fundraising target for the Regimental Association. Visit their just giving page [here](#).



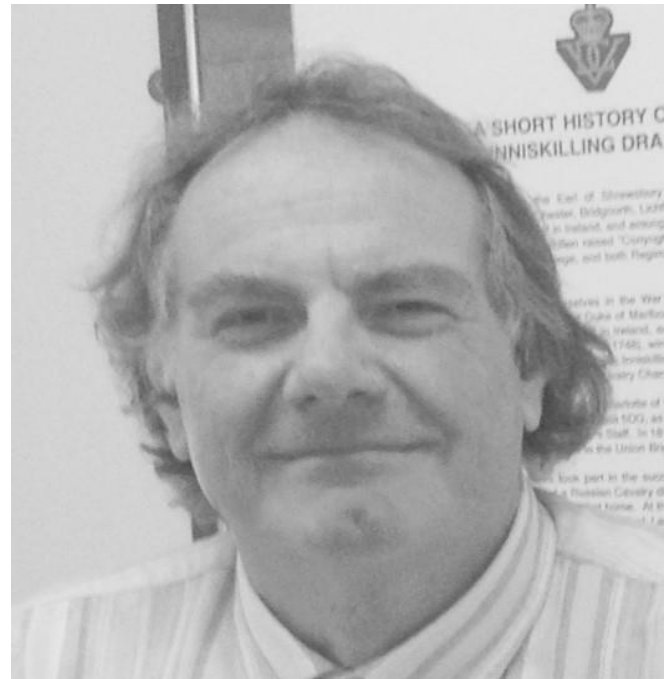
Office Manager

I have been an MOD Civil Servant since 1981 and I have held many different posts in the MOD prior to taking up post here at HHQ in 2006. I spent three happy years at JHQ Rheindahlen where I was Chief Clerk at BSSO(G). My other posts have varied from Part Two orders clerk to Contracts Officer with many others in between.

I have a keen interest in military history and I collect militaria, so coming to work at the HHQ/RDG Museum seemed a perfect fit, this has certainly proved to be the case.

It is always a pleasure to chat to the many and varied characters who ring the office and satisfying to provide help and support.

Mark Barrowby.



York Army Museum

The museum continues to go from strength to strength with both income and visitor numbers doubling compared to comparable figures in previous years. This year's temporary exhibitions continue to reflect upon the events surrounding the Great War. With two exhibitions, one looking at the story of the 'Pals Battalions'. Which has since been replaced by the Somme Exhibition focussing on the action at High Wood involving the 7DG and the Deccan Horse.

Remembrance Sunday Requirements

This year's Remembrance Sunday takes place on Sunday 13 November 2016. For those wishing to participate in the Parade at the Cenotaph in London. The Royal British Legion has changed the system for allocating tickets. With individual ticket allocations being made through Home Headquarters. So if you wish to participate at this year's Parade you will need to have registered your intention to attend with HHQ by Friday 9 September 2016. This will allow the Headquarters a week to collate and finalise our submission to the RBL.

For those that wish to participate please apply to HHQ providing the following information:

Title / Rank	First Name	Last Name	D.O.B	Place of Birth	First Line of Home Address	Town	Postcode	Service Number	Service Medals Yes No
--------------	------------	-----------	-------	----------------	----------------------------	------	----------	----------------	-----------------------------

Please note the details above are important as it will help with security and access as all tickets will be named and are no transferable.

Benevolence

Since the last newsletter the Regimental Association has dealt with 28 Benevolence Cases in direct support of our members. These cases have also been supported by the ABF, SSAFA and the RBL. However without your contributions, this support is unlikely to have been delivered. So a huge thank you to all those who continue to donate in various ways to The Regimental Association. If you wish to donate, please visit the Regimental Association Website.

[Regimental Association Website.htm](#)

Journals

This year's Regimental Journal has been released with a number of copies still available to purchase from HHQ for £10. There still appears to be a large number of members that continue to contribute to the Journal Fund but may no longer be in receipt of their copy. Please check with HHQ that we have the correct address and that your contribution is £10 per annum. Please also note that all those members that contribute £10 or greater by direct debit towards the Association over any year will also be entitled to a Journal. Again if you feel this applies to you. Please check with HHQ.

Menim Gate



Should you ever be in France and visit the Menim Gate you will see a list of approximately 20 members of the 6 (Inniskilling) Dragoons who were killed on 30 October 1914. Most people would not realise the significance of this list, however, as the Regiment were in India and did not arrive in France until December there is a story to be told.

I found a small letter in a journal, which stated that 111 Inniskilling Dragoons had been sent to join a

composite Regiment of the 2nd Life Guards in August 1914. I later had correspondence with an ancestor of one of the men killed and is transcribed as follows:

- Sergeant J. Bow, from Bewdley belongs to a noted military family, five of whose members (all brothers) are serving in the Forces. Trooper Wm. Bow, 1st Life Guards was reported missing from Oct. 30th 1914 following an engagement in which only forty-six out of one hundred and fifty men escaped. This soldier had seen service in South Africa with the Inniskilling Dragoons, for which he had received the King's medal with five bars. (Kidderminster Shuttle January 8th 1916).
- "...The heavy shelling from 6.45 to 8AM which fell upon the Gheluvelt defences proceeded in parallel to the south where the 1st and 2nd Life Guards manned trenches with the machine gun of the Blues below the hillock of Zandvoorde. The high explosive fell and blew and blasted amongst the squadrons, some of whose trenches were dug in echelon across the valley to the bank of the Ypres-Comines canal...Those on the slope of Zandvoorde hill faced west and the 400 men, the sum of two regiments, who had stood to at dawn had been reduced to 320 by eight o'clock. The brigade commander then saw a mass of Germans approaching - two regiments of the 39th Division and three battalions of jager. He decided that his regiments must be moved back before they were overwhelmed and sent these orders to the two commanding officers. But the squadrons on the slopes and the section of machine guns could not get out; the enemy guns had already fired on the target of their trenches many times and the moment they were seen in the open, shrapnel was added to the high explosive. They were annihilated. The Life Guards belonged to the 7th Cavalry Brigade in the 3rd Cavalry Division" from *Offence Renewed: October 30th 1914*" Ypres 1914 - Death of an Army AH Farrar-Hockley Pan (1967) London

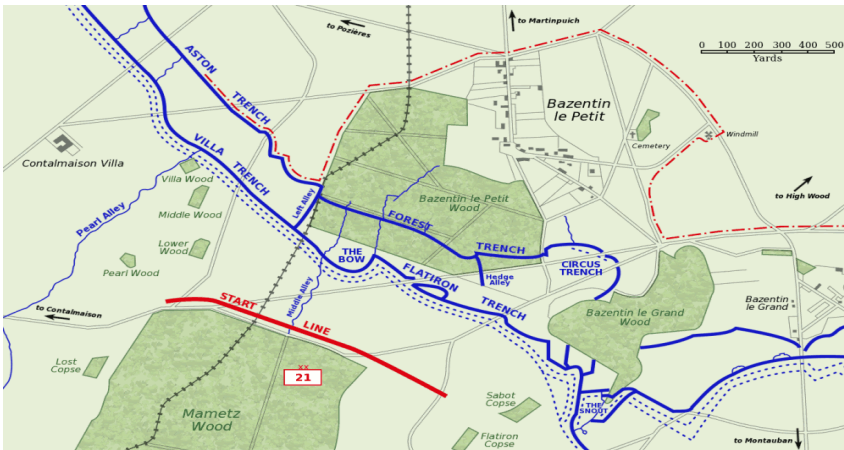
A Memorial was erected by the Life Guards but the names of the Inniskillings are not on it so sadly have faded into history.

100 years later I am glad to say that they have not been forgotten.

Fare Thee Well/Quis Separabit.

Alan Henshall

High Wood 14 July 1916



Somme Detail High Wood Line of Departure.

The first action at High Wood, known as the Bois de Fourcaux in French, took place on July 14th, 1916. During this action, the 7th Dragoon Guards and Deccan Horse, acting as part of the Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade (itself part of the 2nd Indian Cavalry Division) made the only mounted charge of the Somme campaign.

The brigade left its positions at 04.30 with the intention of capturing High Wood. Reports of the capture of the villages of Longueval and Bazentin-le-Petit, as well as the woods near to Bazentin, led to the belief that it would be possible to capture High Wood rapidly before the German defenders could reorganise around the line of trenches which ran through the wood and followed the ridge on which it sat. These reports proved ill-founded; patrols from the 7th Dragoon Guards found that Longueval and Bazentin-le-Petit Wood were still in German hands. Nonetheless, at 06.25 the 7th Dragoon Guards and Deccan Horse were ordered to advance on High Wood.



Deccan Horse at Bazentin Ridge 14 July 1916

With B Squadron – the sole lance-armed squadron in the Regiment – leading, the 7th Dragoon Guards led the Deccan Horse towards High Wood. As they approached the wood, B Squadron under 2nd Lt. H. W. Pope were the first to come under fire from enfilading MGs which did, in the words of Capt. R. J. F. Chance, ‘surprisingly little damage’.

After 200 yards the 7DG and Deccan Horse reached the shelter of an embankment on which ran the road between Longueval and Martinpuich. They then leapt the bank, crossed the road, and swept into a field of corn, sloping upwards towards High Wood itself, in which several German MG teams had taken shelter in shell craters. B Squadron was able to kill around 15 German soldiers and capture a further 32 as prisoners.

However, German fire from the Switch Trench to the North forced the 7DG and Deccan Horse to dismount. Having done so, they then brought their own Hotchkiss MGs and rifles into action against the German units. At this time, 2nd Lt. Pope rode out into the corn three times, rescuing two wounded men in doing so, for which he later received the Military Cross. In addition, Lt. D. J. Hartley was killed while attempting to retrieve one of the Hotchkiss MGs from the corpse of a dead gun horse. The Deccan Horse had galloped into action on the right flank of the 7DG, with two squadrons being engaged heavily. They had taken ten prisoners before having to dismount themselves.

The height of the corn prevented the 7DG from spotting their targets, until an RFC spotter aircraft flew above the defenders, firing tracer rounds into their trenches and shell holes. These positions were noted and the cavalry then engaged them with rifles and MGs, digging in to avoid incoming German fire. There they remained until ordered to 'stand to' at 03.30 on July 15th. Withdrawal began at 03.40, with stretcher cases carried on blankets slung between lances; these were recorded as being extremely uncomfortable but were necessary owing to the lack of stretchers. As they disappeared into the pre-dawn mist, they concluded what would be the only mounted action for any British cavalry regiment until 1918.

Total losses for the 7DG were one officer wounded; two ORs killed and twenty wounded; 14 horses killed, two missing, and 24 wounded. D. J. Hartley, although attached to the Regiment, actually served with the Machine-Gun Corps.



Deccan Horse and B Sqn 7DG in action at High Wood

Armed forces spouses to get national insurance credit towards state pension

Spouses and civil partners of people who joined their spouses serving in the armed forces on an overseas posting will be given a new national insurance credit that counts towards their state pension.



"No, I'm a full-time employee, I just work part-time."

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) said this was to ensure they don't miss out on their state income. Up to 20,000 armed forces spouses may be eligible.

The department argued that spouses and civil partners may have been unable to work while abroad, and would therefore have been unable to make national insurance contributions.

Any gaps in contributions could "seriously reduce" the amount people receive when they reach state pension age.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Please click on the link below for further information and the necessary forms:

[National Insurance Credits](#)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

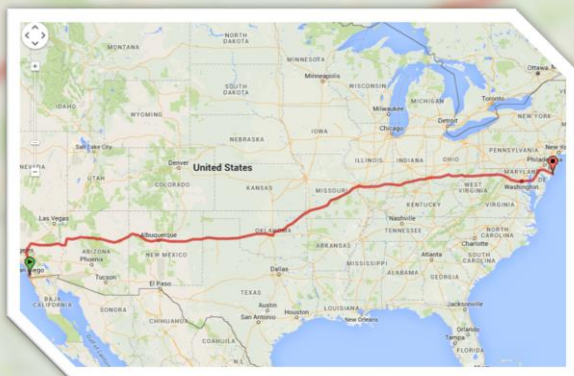
- ❖ 10th September – Salute to the Somme, Enniskillen
- ❖ 10rd November – Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, London
- ❖ 25th October – Balaclava Dinner, Dublin
- ❖ 13th November – Cenotaph Parade, London
- ❖ 24th November – Officers Dinner
- ❖ 3rd December – Oxford Blenheim Dinner

CHARITY CYCLE – CAPT RICH EMMERSON ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS

3,091 miles. 25 days. 1 bike. £10,000 fundraising target.

This July, Rich Emmerson is going

Ocean to Ocean



This summer, Rich will be commemorating RAF Squadron Leader Ant Downing, who lost his life after being struck by a mine in Afghanistan. Ant was a keen athlete, who once managed to cycle 3,091 miles across the USA in 25 days.

In July Rich will aim to follow his route from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, and match his time. In the process, he hopes to raise £10,000 for the charity Help for Heroes, which does incredible work looking after wounded service personnel and their families.

Please support via the JustGiving link below.

 www.justgiving.com/OceantoOcean

 Search: Ocean to Ocean



Cumbria Branch

Cumbria Branch's "Paddy's Day" Social, took place on Saturday, 19th March, 2016, in Workington's Royal British Legion and proved to be another successful reunion, enjoyed by all. The "Hillbillies" and all our visitors, who came from near and far, were thoroughly entertained by John Carole (our own member, John Maudling) and enjoyed our usual splendid buffet and raffles.



The date for our next St. Patrick's Social has already been booked – it will take place on Saturday,

18th March, 2017, again in Workington's Royal British Legion.

For tickets, further details of Cumbria Branch or of our St. Patrick's Day Social, contact either our Treasurer, Marty Burdon (0190-602559), or our Secretary, Roger Bright (01900-604680 or rbright2@sky.com).

Cumbria Branch continues in its support of our local Royal British Legion, with a team taking part in their monthly quiz night, run by our own Jimmy Walsh as the Question master. All proceeds go towards funding for the annual Armed Forces Day Parade, in which we always have a contingent.

Sadly, since the last Newsletter, we have lost another of our members, Vic Wragg. Vic was a member of Cumbria Branch for a lot of years and will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

Roger Bright

Oxford Branch

The RDG Branch Oxford & District had a small gathering at Falklands House for The Presentation on Wednesday 17th February of a 4th/7th RDG wall plaque.

The plaque was donated by **John Murphy** an Oxford Branch member to The Mess.

The Commanding Officer and John Murphy.

The Commanding Officer **Lt Col S Mason AAC** was delighted to receive the plaque and thanked John and the Branch. The plaque will be placed alongside The RDG & 5th R. Innis DG plaque and I will take a photograph of them and submit the photos on The RDG web-site.



Terry Bennet, John Murphy, C.O. Arthur Vincent, Ray Harden.

This photograph was taken to get The 4th/7th Men together who had supported John on the day. Big thank you to these gents as some had travelled a fair distance on the day to support John, both Terry and Ray were with their good ladies.

Myself, John, C.O. Arthur and Ray.



After the presentation we had an informal get together with Tea/coffee snacks.

Sadly we lose The Commanding Officer as he is moving on and the new Commanding Officer is **Lt Col Fiona Gordon RLC**, the 1st female CO for The Oxford OUTC.

Also a new Adjt, **Capt Charlotte Edwards RLC**, again the 1st female Officer to take this post.

As always we have again been given an open door for our meetings and Blenheim Dinner.

We plan a meeting for the summer, which will be on a Saturday afternoon here at Falklands House. As I am sure of the majority of you are aware, most of the branch prefer a meeting then as they do not like driving into Oxford during the evening.

The date and timings of that meeting will be sent out by email, Telephone, Snail-mail and advertised on The RDG site.

In the meantime, the plans for this year's Blenheim Dinner are already in Hand and the date is Saturday 19th November as always at Falklands House.
More details at a later date.

Wishing all other Branches well for this year.

John Walker