



THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF 1ST THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS



The Cavalry Regiment of
Wales and the Border Counties
'The Welsh Cavalry'





1ST THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS

Colonel-in-Chief: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES

Colonel of the Regiment: BRIGADIER A S RICHMOND OBE

Commanding Officer: LIEUTENANT COLONEL H T LLOYD

Allied Ship

HMS MONMOUTH

Allied Regiments

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HORSE GUARDS (ROYAL CANADIAN ARMoured CORPS)

THE 11TH CAVALRY (FRONTIER FORCE) PAKISTAN ARMY

1ST/15TH ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES LANCERS

PANZERGRENADIERBATAILLON 35 (AUSTRIAN ARMY)

1ST RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT (SRI LANKAN ARMoured CORPS)

1ST SPECIAL SERVICE BATTALION (SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE)

Paired Army Reserve Regiment

THE ROYAL YEOMANRY

Twinned Regiment

1^{ER} REGIMENT ETRANGER DE CAVALERIE (FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION)

Allied Royal Air Force Squadron

IV SQUADRON THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Affiliation

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF THE LEATHERSELLERS



The Regimental Journal of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards



Editor: Maj R O'Shea • Sub Editors : Capt S Maxwell, Lt R Fulloway

Contents

Volume 9 Number 2

Swanton Morley 2021

Colonel of the Regiment's Foreword..... 3	WOs' & Sgts' Mess..... 42	B Sqn AT..... 64
Colonel Commandant's Foreword..... 5	F/Major Regimental Mascot..... 44	US Army National Training Center..... 66
Commanding Officer's Foreword..... 6	Regimental Christmas Day..... 45	Op SHADER..... 67
Service Medals..... 8	Cpls' Mess..... 45	RAC Training Regiment..... 68
Diary of Events 2021..... 9	BATUK..... 47	ATC Pirbright..... 69
A Squadron..... 10	Ex Warfighter..... 48	Warfare Branch – Doctrine..... 70
B Squadron..... 14	Ex RATTLESNAKE..... 50	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst..... 70
C Squadron..... 16	Norwich City FC..... 52	Royal Yeomanry..... 72
HQ Squadron..... 24	Regimental Engagement Team..... 53	Governor General's Horse Guards..... 74
Cassino Tp..... 26	St David's Day 'a dewi sant'..... 54	1st Reconnaissance Regiment..... 76
Quartermaster's Department..... 28	2022 Bismarck Challenge..... 54	E Squadron (1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards), Dyfed and Glamorgan..... 78
MT..... 29	RSM Thomas Barlow, KDG..... 55	Clwyd and Gwynedd ACF Report..... 80
Training Wing..... 30	The Gambia STTT..... 56	The Leathersellers' Company..... 82
Welfare Team..... 31	Rugby..... 58	Regimental Comrades Association..... 83
LAD..... 32	Triathlon..... 59	Regimental Home Headquarters..... 84
SPS Detachment..... 34	Ex WHITE KNIGHT..... 60	Cardiff Reunion Dinner..... 85
Padre..... 35	Basketball..... 62	Field of Remembrance..... 86
Catering Department..... 36	Parachuting..... 62	Officers' Regimental Dinner..... 86
Gymnasium..... 38	Sailing..... 62	The Regimental Trust..... 87
Officers' Mess..... 40	Field Sports..... 64	

© Crown Copyright. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient. The views expressed in the articles in this journal are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Regiment or the Ministry of Defence. No responsibility for the goods or services advertised in this journal can be accepted by the publishers, printers or the Regiment and advertisements are included in good faith. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of the Regiment and Publisher.

This Journal is published on behalf of the Regiment by:

Crest Publications

12 Brooklands Court, Kettering Venture Park, Kettering NN15 6FD

Tel: 01536 317000 • email: journals@crestpublications.com • www.crestpublications.com

Colonel of the Regiment's Foreword



for the serving members of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, 2021 has seen no let-up in tempo and opportunity



For many the pandemic has had a detrimental effect on outputs and resulted in much more time stuck at home, but, as you will read in this Journal, for the serving members of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, 2021 has seen no let-up in tempo and opportunity. It has been a year dominated by operational deployments as it commenced with elements of B Squadron led by Major Ben Matthews, deployed on Operation CABRIT, the UK contribution to a US-led battlegroup in Poland – part of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence. In May/June C Squadron, led by Major Bryn Williams, deployed to Mali as the reconnaissance

force for the 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment-led Task Force on Operation NEWCOMBE 2, the UK contribution to the UN MINUSMA peacekeeping mission. Then at the end of the year, Regimental Headquarters, A Squadron and elements of HQ Squadron deployed to Mali and the Commanding Officer, Hugo Lloyd, is now commanding the Long-Range Reconnaissance Group with A Company from 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish, as the second manoeuvre sub-unit.

B Squadron's deployment to Poland was significant, as it formed an integrated Regular and Reserve squadron with our paired Regiment, the Royal Yeomanry. The Regular-Reserve integration worked exceedingly well and the experience has helped strengthen the relationship between the two regiments, which will greatly assist further integration as required by the Integrated Review, whereby the Yeomanry will provide QDG with a full Squadron as our warfighting

reinforcement. The relationship has been further enhanced by the healthy growth of the Welsh Yeomanry Troop based in Cardiff, which is mainly made up of QDG Regimental Comrades. It is proving to be an excellent opportunity for those who leave the Regiment but wish to continue to serve part time.

C Squadron deployed in May and came under the watchful eye of another QDG, Colonel Dan Duff, the Commander British Forces in Mali. The Squadron had a very successful tour as many of you who read their 'Mail from Mali' updates will have ascertained. They deployed hundreds of kilometres from their base at Gao and for long durations and the Squadron was involved in the first combat action of the British Army (less Special Forces) since 2015. The Sun called the action on 20th October the Battle of Devil Dune with a headline of *"Crack British Troops on world's most dangerous peacekeeping mission tell of their deadly battle with ISIS terrorists"* and as we would expect, the officers and soldiers involved performed superbly and with great professionalism. C Squadron recovered back to the UK in November via a very brief decompression in Gibraltar and were able to enjoy Christmas with their loved ones.

Meanwhile, Regimental Headquarters, A Squadron and elements of HQ Squadron started their preparation for deployment to Mali. A Squadron (Major James Curry) trained in Cyprus and on Exercise RATTLESNAKE in Fort Polk Louisiana and then joined the remainder of the force for a mission rehearsal exercise in October. They all deployed to Mali in November and it was wonderful to see the Regimental family come together to bring them and their families a little Christmas cheer. Regimental comrades, principally led by Mark Ashley-Miller and our RCA Chairman, Chris Gibbons, raised funds to buy Christmas hampers, which were then delivered in person to the families across the UK. A gift to each member of the taskforce was also sent out to Mali and gratefully received just in time for Christmas. The generosity of those of you who helped raise the funds for this initiative was truly humbling.

Other members of the Regiment deployed in 2021 to provide Force Protection for the British Army Training Unit Kenya and individuals attended the Operational Tracking Instructor Course in Brunei and conducted capacity building in Ghana and Gambia.

For the first time in many years, the Regiment is 100% manned, but we

have work to do to increase the flow of Welsh and Marches recruits. Being based in Norfolk makes this a challenge and made our future basing solution top of my priorities, which I will return to below. To ensure we have a higher profile across our Recruiting Area, the Commanding Officer has formed a Regimental Engagement Team of a SNCO +1, reinforced by the Farrier Major and our mascot LCpl (Longface) Jones as required, all with branded 4x4s, trailer and pop-up stands. Regimental social media presence has been enhanced, with some talented young photographers and content creators. I also applaud the Commanding Officer's initiative to post some of our brightest and best Senior and Junior NCOs to AFC Harrogate, ATR Pirbright and Bovington to nurture young recruits. The Regiment has also been proactive in supporting our badged Cadets across Wales and raising money for our Welsh charity, Dreams & Wishes.

The wider regimental family has maintained contact during the pandemic with virtual and some physical events. An all-ranks reunion in Cardiff in October was so eagerly awaited that for some comrades a Saturday night event started on the Thursday – impressively, though being out of practice very few, if any, seemed to peak too early! We also held a delayed Annual Officers' Dinner in November, which was well attended. I very much hope that 2022 will see a return to some semblance of normality, enabling us to hold the full spectrum of social events and gatherings.

The long-awaited 'Future Soldier' announcement of the structure of the Army following the Integrated Review came in late November and is a broadly positive outcome for the Queen's Dragoon Guards. The move from 7th Infantry Brigade and 1st (United Kingdom) Division to a new 1st Deep Recce Strike Brigade within the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division (with effect from Sept 2022), reflects the Army's desire to enhance its ability to prosecute the Divisional Deep Battle and returns QDG to a role akin to the Medium Reconnaissance we had at the end of the Cold War and especially familiar to our Operation GRANBY (Gulf War 1) veterans. It should give the Regiment the best of both worlds – continued opportunities for overseas operations and training but also access to the best Combined Arms Training to maintain warfighting skills. The only downside is the loss of 16 QDG posts as we move towards a leaner structure with

greater dependency on Reservists.

'Future Soldier' also included confirmation that our future station (not before 2027) will be a new build two-unit barracks at Caerwent, near Chepstow, which we will share with 1st Battalion, The Rifles. This is most welcome news as it is clear that recruits increasingly wish to serve close to home and a Welsh posting will make it far easier for us to attract recruits from Wales and the Marches. Furthermore, a UK-based Army places less emphasis on family mobility and accompanied service and the direction of travel is away from service provided accommodation. So, there is a real advantage for our soldiers to serve close to their families and homes and this can be positive for retention. We will need to scrutinise DIO's plans for the site to ensure that we preserve Regimental integrity in messes, accommodation, and offices etc.

As the only Welsh regiment based in Wales, it will keep QDG firmly in the public eye and place us in pole position for major civil engagements as well as facilitate our support to our badged Cadet detachments. Ultimately, it will secure our identity as the Welsh Cavalry and I know that Wales will be delighted to welcome us home and I look forward to the opportunities we now have to enhance our profile as an icon of Wales in the UK and of the UK in Wales.

Looking ahead to 2022, we hope to return to a full programme of Reunions, Dinners and RCA Branch events. We expect a return to a traditional Cavalry Memorial weekend with our Officers' Dinner on 6 May and Cavalry Sunday on 8th May. The Regiment is also planning a series of homecoming events in the Summer for the troops returning from Mali. Parades are being planned for Cardiff, Swansea, Wrexham and Hereford so keep an eye on the www.qdg.org.uk website and your RCA Newsletters for further information.

Thank you all for what you do to keep the Regiment *First and Foremost!*

AR



The Regiment has also been proactive in supporting our badged Cadets across Wales



Lt Col Tyson receiving his regimental medal from the Colonel of the Regiment.

Colonel Commandant's Foreword

This last year has seen substantial change to the British Army as set out under the IR and the Future Soldier plan. Many of these changes will be keenly felt by the soldiers and officers of the Royal Armoured Corps. For that reason, I wrote to the Regimental Colonels in November setting out the broad order design for the Corps post IR. I enclose an extract from that letter below so that the message is transparent across all ranks. The changes to our Corps roles across the Regulars and Reserves are as follows:

- **Armour.** *The RAC will retain two Armoured Regiments (QRH and RTR) ~ one allocated to each of the two Heavy Brigade Combat Teams (BCT). The Armoured Regiments will retain four Sabre Squadrons and one HQ Squadron. Each Sabre Squadron will have four troops of three tanks, with one of the troops in each squadron provided by the Yeomanry. The King's Royal Hussars will re-role as Armoured Cavalry on the AJAX platform. The RWxY, scaled to four squadrons, will provide formed Troops to support the two Regular Armoured Regiments listed above; scaled at one Yeomanry Troop per Regular Squadron.*
- **Armoured Cavalry.** *Two Regiments of Armoured Cavalry (KRH and RDG) will be allocated at one Regiment per Heavy BCT, and the HCR and RL will be allocated to the Deep Recce Strike BCT. All four Armoured Cavalry units will lose their C&S Squadron and Surveillance Troop. Consequently, their three Sabre Squadrons will contain two Find Troops, a Guided Weapons Troop and a Support Troop. All will have an RHQ and G4 focussed HQ Squadron. Yeomanry Regiments will, in due course, be aligned with Regular Armoured Cavalry units. They will generate one Yeomanry Squadron per ACR, mounted initially in Jackal, for warfighting.*
- **Light Cavalry.** *The SCOTS DG and LD will be allocated to each of the two Light BCTs, whilst the QDG will be allocated to the Deep Recce Strike BCT. The Regular Light Cavalry Regiments will have three Sabre Squadrons (structured as they are now) and a HQ Squadron. At Warfighting these units will be augmented with an additional Yeomanry Sabre Squadron, to bring them up to four squadrons. The SNIY will continue to support the SCOTS DG, the RY the QDG, and the QOY the LD, as well as being tasked to support the ACRs.*



The capability to seize, clear and hold terrain is as relevant today as it was in World War II



You will have heard much about the changing character of warfare, of the so-called 'grey zone' and the requirement for asymmetric forces. Do not for a moment assume that the consequence of this change is a diminished requirement for armour. War remains a fundamentally human endeavour and a psychological one too. The capability to seize, clear and hold terrain is as relevant today as it was in World War II. Armour is a demonstrable statement on the ability to win a human conflict that will be high intensity and violent in nature. There is a clear imperative to extract the opportunities from the IR. We must be adaptive, innovative, and collaborative across the Corps. The blend of light and heavy armour across the Field Army will impact on how we think about signature management and the blend between dispersal and mass. We must change our tactics to suit the Equipment Programme and we will need to be bold. We must pioneer our own ideas on the application of technology through a willingness to

embrace experimentation in our training. We must collaborate across our structure so that while we maintain the unique qualities of the regimental system we *fight* as one Corps.

I shall shortly hand over the role of Colonel Commandant RAC to Major General Nick Perry. He will be a very fine standard bearer for this Corps, and I wish him well. However, my closing comments go to the fine soldiers that make up our units, both Regular and Reserve. Yet again they have delivered excellence across a diverse and busy year; whether that be in Mali, Wessex Storm, US Warfighter or on the ranges and plains of the UK, the standard has never relented. Quite the opposite, it continues to improve. Over nearly forty years in the Army I have seen the structure change many times over. It will change again. What does not change is the quality of our people and despite all the changes in the IR we do well to remember that it's the people that matter most.

Train Hard ~ Fight Easy

ES-O

Commanding Officer's Foreword

The Queen's Dragoon Guards has provided a notable operational contribution this last year of which we can all be proud. Our soldiers deployed in support of NATO deterrent operations on the Eastern flank of Poland, were at the forefront of an infantry-led Task Group on peacekeeping operations in Mali, and as I write, are currently leading that same Task Group on long range patrols. In preparation for operations, our soldiers exercised in Cyprus, USA and across the UK. Exercises were conducted despite COVID-19 related restrictions. At both squadron and regimental level, external training agencies consistently graded QDG not only 'green across the board' but also 'best in class'. Our operational reputation for excellence, therefore, continues to be built on the firm foundation of proven utility of our reconnaissance role enabled by the professionalism of our indomitable soldiers and officers.

At the start of the year, B Squadron were half-way through their six-month deployment to Poland as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence (EFP). Working in a US Army-led battlegroup, the 140-strong squadron comprised a mixture of Regular and Reserve soldiers and was called 'Cassino Troop'. Importantly, most soldiers were drawn from our paired Regiment, The Royal Yeomanry, helping to institutionalise a vital and mutually beneficial relationship. The deployment also provided a valuable vignette as to the benefit of a mixed force of Regular and Reserve soldiers who provide different but complementary skills and experiences. Major Ben Matthews' summary of their exploits conveys the challenges of operating our Jackal vehicle during the coldest winter in a generation and living with severe pandemic-related restrictions.

Concurrent to this deployment soldiers from C Squadron completed a six-month pre-deployment training package that prepared them to deploy to Mali within a Task Group led by 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. Training for a United Nations peacekeeping mission was conducted exclusively in the UK – largely in the forests of Thetford – but the squadron deployed in May to arid deserts where temperatures nudged 50 degrees centigrade. An environmental challenge presented initially in addition



Our operational reputation for excellence, therefore, continues to be built on



Williams' account illustrates the challenges of the United Nations mission in contested parts of Mali where peace is a relative term.

Over the course of the year, A Squadron enjoyed a hugely varied and demanding training programme. Initially



to the operational threats on what is routinely billed, at least by the media, as the 'UN's most dangerous peacekeeping mission'. C Squadron led the Task Group's activities throughout the

tour, from route and environmental reconnaissance through to tactical actions to find and understand human security needs and threats in hard-to-reach parts of the country. Projecting up to 250 kilometres from where they were based in the regional hub of Gao and covering circa 1200 kilometres on each three-week patrol, they traversed extremely challenging terrain with great skill. In addition to capturing these activities, Major Bryn

deploying to Cyprus for a month-long dismounted range package (entirely self-sourced and resourced), it then deployed to Louisiana. Working to a US brigade, it provided dismounted reconnaissance behind the forward line of enemy troops in the swamplands of a training area that was originally used to train US 'GIs' for the Vietnam war. Upon return, A Squadron, joined by Regimental Headquarters and members of Headquarter Squadron, entered the six-month long training progression to prepare to deploy to Mali. Now-deployed, QDG leads the third rotation of troops in Mali and, making a virtue of our ability to project and work at range, is contributing to the protection of civilians and peacekeeping reform. Major James Curry's report covers an especially diverse year spanning three continents.

Each of the activities outlined were enabled, of course, by the hard graft and expertise of our Headquarter Squadron soldiers and officers. Their knowledge, selfless commitment and tenacity got our soldiers and equipment to and from far-away countries in good order whilst

keeping day-to-day activities going. Major Rob Mansel, who commands the Rear Operations Group and describes their role in later pages, currently commands more QDG soldiers than I! I am especially grateful to him and his team's service.

Throughout the year, the QDG's main effort was recruiting. Specifically, we are attending to a decreasing Welsh and Border Country constituency at QDG that has its origins in decisions about basing and limited physical presence in The Principality. To reverse this decline we have: generated and deployed a Regimental Engagement Team equipped with 4x4s and liveried tailors to our recruiting grounds; enhanced our social media presence and content; developed new recruiting products; and tightened up our nurture of recruits through the training pipeline. Further, Welsh Troop, D Squadron of the Royal Yeomanry now provides opportunities for Reserve service in Wales in a Light Cavalry role. Most notably however, and of strategic importance to QDG, was the Army's confirmation that QDG will move to new barracks in Caerwent not before 2027. This exciting move into well-found new infrastructure provides welcome certainty

that will support individual and families' decisions about their service, living, working, and schooling arrangements that are central to the moral component of fighting power, and retention.

Next year, in addition to rounding off a bountiful operational period, we will invest significantly into the wider offer of military service that has been absent this last year. Next year's journal, in contrast to the red dust of Mali, will be a riot of other colours too. 'Build back better' (to borrow a phrase!) at QDG will involve: parades in The Principality and engagement with our Welsh and Border County community; adventurous training activities in Oman, Croatia, Malta, Spain and Canary Islands; full winter sports teams competing across all disciplines; sports tours to Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Wales; and, visits to our overseas affiliates. And our elite sportspersons competing at Army and Corps level will have every

support to enable their return to top-flight competition.

Finally, let me end by thanking our families and regimental comrades for your unstinting support during this last year. Our service has necessitated significant physical separation these last twelve months, including putting soldiers in challenging and stressful situations. No soldier is an island. Kinship is vital. But that extends beyond those of us in uniformed service. And whilst service is rooted of course in noble notions of patriotism, duty, and betterment within an historic organisation with purpose it is fundamentally rooted in love. Love of the profession of soldiering; love of fellow soldiers; and love of kin from whence comes strength. So, thank you for the loving support that you – our families and regimental comrades – provide to your soldiers. It is very much appreciated, and at the very heart of the service recorded within this year's journal.

HL

“
No soldier
is an island.
Kinship is
vital. But
that extends
beyond
those of us
in uniformed
service



The famous UN Peacekeepers Badge



The Commanding Officer briefing the Long Range Reconnaissance Group before their departure

VSC
VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

**BECOME A MEMBER OF LONDON'S
AWARD WINNING MILITARY CLUB**

Our tri-service membership is open to all ranks for serving and former serving personnel of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, Royal Air Force and their families.

www.vsc.co.uk





Service Medals

Please see below list of QDG who received service medals in 2021:

Maj Chris Homewood – LS&GC Medal Clasp
 Capt Pearce – LS&GC Medal Clasp
 SSgt Wright – LS&GC Medal
 Sgt Morgan – LS&GC Medal
 Sgt Turner – LS&GC Medal
 Sgt Williams – LS&GC Medal
 Cpl Limbu – LS&GC Medal
 Cpl Parker – LS&GC Medal

Wider Defence Awards:

CGS Commendation – Maj Roberts
 CFA Commendation – Sgt Maj Fisher
 Comd SJC(UK) Commendation – WO2 Hopkins

Regimental Awards:

Queen Elizabeth Trophy – Sgt Morgan
 The Leathersellers' Trophy – Cpl Harrison
 The Mann Trophy – LCpl Haden

GORDON'S SCHOOL

BOARDING IN SURREY

*Ranked in the top 1% of all schools in England and Wales
 for progress over the past 4 years at A Level.*

Years 7, 9 and 12 boarding places available.



BESPOKE RESIDENTIAL BOARDING
 HOUSE FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS

CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION
 ALLOWANCE (CEA) ACCEPTED

CLOSE TO LONDON AND ITS
 AIRPORTS BY ROAD AND RAIL

www.gordons.school

Diary of Events 2021

January

4 – 15	Platform Weapon Operator Course
8 Jan – 20 Mar	BATUK Force Protection
13 Jan – 3 Feb	Ex GAO EAGLE – Cyprus
18 – 22	All Ranks Briefing – Op NEWCOMBE 2
25 – 19	Tactical Commanders' Cadre – Op NEWCOMBE 2
Throughout	Op CABRIT 8

February

1 – 5	Ex BARREN EAGLE – live fire mounted and dismounted ranges
1 – 12	Crew Commanders' Pre-Course
7 – 12	Ex URBAN LION
8 – 25	Jackal Driver Course
10	Counter-IED Search Training
22 – 24	Human Security Training
Throughout	BATUK Force Protection
Throughout	Op CABRIT 8

March

1	St David's Day
1 – 5	C Sqn All Ranks Briefing
1 – 14	Platform Weapon Operator Course
1 – 18	Jackal Driver Course
8 – 12	Command Post Exercise – Op NEWCOMBE 2
15 – 19	Dismounted ranges
22 – 26	MSTAR Training
22 Mar – 17 Apr	Ex WARFIGHTER
28	CASSINO TROOP return from Op CABRIT 8

April

1 – 29	Ex RATTLESNAKE
10 Apr – 4 May	Ex GAO DAWN – Op NEWCOMBE 2 MRX
19 Apr – 7 May	Jackal Driver Course

May

5 – 7	7 th Bde Operational Shooting Competition
5 – 14	Jackal Commander Course
18	C Sqn deploy on Op NEWCOMBE 2
17 – 20	1 st (UK) Div Operational Shooting Competition
24 – 28	French course

June

7 – 20	Ex EAGLE'S FIRE – live fire mounted and dismounted ranges
14 Jun – 2 Jul	Jackal Driver Course
20 – 23	Army Operational Shooting Competition
21 – 25	Advanced Driver Training – Braunton Burrows
28	Mental Health Awareness Course
29	CH47 Training
30	Luck Cup

Throughout

Op NEWCOMBE 2

July

5 – 9	Conceptual Study Week – Op NEWCOMBE 3
12 – 16	Combined Planning Exercise
12 – 16	UAV Training Course
19 – 23	All Ranks Briefing – Op NEWCOMBE 3
26 – 30	Tactical Commanders' Course – Op NEWCOMBE 3
26 Jul – 13 Aug	All Arms Search Training
Throughout	Op NEWCOMBE 2

August

2 – 6	UN Human Security Training and Human Terrain Reconnaissance
2 – 5	Ex EAGLE'S DEVELOP
30 Aug – 10 Sep	Platform Weapon Operator Course
Throughout	Op NEWCOMBE 2

September

1 – 19	Royal Yeomanry Summer Camp
7 – 10	Detainee Handling Training
7 – 11	Ex EAGLE'S REFIRE – live fire mounted and dismounted ranges
13 – 17	Ridgeback Cross Country Driving Conversion
13 – 23	Ex JACKAL'S CHALLENGE
14 – 22	Op NEWCOMBE 3 Reconnaissance
20 – 24	All Ranks Briefing – Op NEWCOMBE 3
23	7 th Bde Dinner Night
27 Sep – 31 Oct	Op NEWCOMBE 3 MRX
Throughout	Op NEWCOMBE 2

October

8 – 17	Support to Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL
Throughout	Op NEWCOMBE 3 MRX
Throughout	Op NEWCOMBE 2

November

8 – 18	Ex JACKAL'S CHALLENGE
19	Op NEWCOMBE 3 lead elements deploy
20	C Sqn begin return from Op NEWCOMBE 3
Throughout	Remembrance events for Regimental Engagement Team

December

1	Transfer of Authority to QDG TG on Op NEWCOMBE 3
8	C Sqn complete return from Op NEWCOMBE 2
8 onwards	Ex WHITE KNIGHT 37

EH

A Squadron

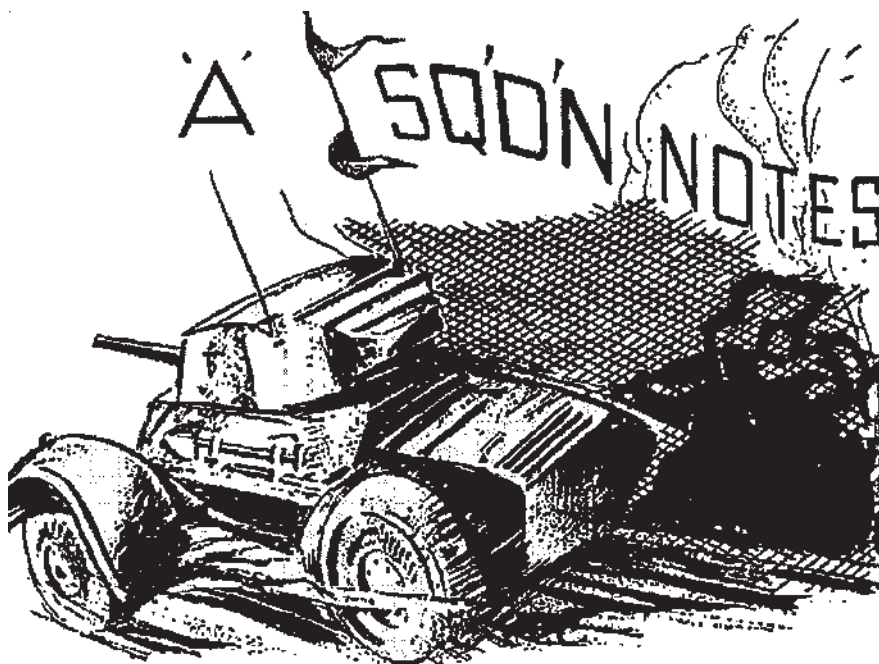
"First and Foremost" is a regimental motto that has found renewed usage in recent years, and it quite rightly is associated with all activity that the QDG conducts, irrespective of sub-unit. Nonetheless this fine publication represents an opportunity to annually highlight the exploits of the true bearers of this title, A Squadron QDG. Most importantly, it allows the reader to compare us with the 'Second/Third Foremost' (B and C Squadrons respectively), and demonstrate exactly why we are held in such high regard.

I could start this year's journal article by using hackneyed phrases such as '2021 has been a year to remember', but that would not do it justice. A Squadron has been fortunate enough to have had a year that few who join today's Army will have experienced. Whilst for many 2021 was the year of the 'staycation', we have conducted training and operations across three continents, all of which took place in the margins of a congested period of pre-deployment training. Indeed, over the course of 2021 many of our soldiers will have spent up to twenty-one weeks deployed. By way of comparison, this is more than the Royal Dragoon Guards' total over the past decade. To cover all of this in detail would be impossible within the allotted word count, but I will do my best to highlight the most significant events below.

2021: The Year Begins

January 2021 was due to start in decidedly better circumstances than those in which 2020 had ended. The trials and tribulations of a pre-Christmas Pontins were to be traded with the sunnier climes of Cyprus for a welcome return to 'green' training. Months of planning and a vast outlay of hours in preparation had been undertaken, and it appeared that all would proceed as planned.

Unfortunately, Op RESCRIPT was seemingly to rear its head once more, and at the most inopportune of times. With new variants (named after Greek letters we could still recognise) taking hold throughout the nation, New Year's Eve saw the balloon sent up for a Manchester-based testing task, again for up to a month.



Despite promises of the finest Mancunian lodging that the Army can afford, an air of despondency settled in that we would once again forfeit valuable overseas beach-time to the unrelenting nature of the virus. Fortunately, a PsyOps campaign by Maj Curry was launched, and he was able to plant the idea that the Rifles would be best placed to take on the task. These Machiavellian machinations came to fruition, and fortunately the plans to escape the United Kingdom could proceed, at the ultimately acceptable cost of a vastly increased infanteer NTT rate.

Cyprus: Ex GAO DAWN

With the unexpected curve-ball having swiftly been batted away, A Squadron could focus upon achieving their goal of gaining a winter sun-tan, with the subsidiary benefit of becoming better trained for our then long-way-off Mali deployment.

As of D-3, all looked like plain sailing ahead.

We would deploy a near-full Squadron, with all the necessary rank structure to ensure a slick and professional training package. Covid, clearly aggrieved by our luck, decided to throw all manner of spanners into the works. By the day of flying, the Squadron had been stripped of its entire NCO backbone, not least its WO2 Hopkins (SSM) and Sgt Maj Comley (SQMS) who had to (conveniently?) remain in the UK for the duration. Apparently Coronavirus is particularly adept at targeting Non-Commissioned Officers, at a rate not seen since the First World War.

The Squadron - comprising of 40 troopers, several officers, and a handful of NCOs between - arrived at Brize with more than a little bemusement at the situation. Morale was nonetheless high as we stepped onto the plane. Having been sold the dream of a tropical paradise, it is understandable that many packed summer clothing and lightweight sleeping bags. A valuable lesson was learned when the first week was spent amongst weather more akin to what our Welsh colleagues are accustomed: torrential rain and bitter temperatures. This was further compounded by the fact that the Squadron was accommodated in what can at best be called a corrugated iron hut. Despite the weather, this period proved to be key training and served to prepare all for the continuation to LFTT.

Following the exercise phase, the grouping deployed to the Dhekelia side of the island in order to progress onto Live Fire training. The accommodation slightly improved, being relocated to an aircraft hangar usually reserved for refugees from Syria, and the weather cheered up immensely. This afforded the opportunity for some much-needed downtime (NB: not a beach party), with interspersed periods of intense range time. The exercise culminated in mid-February, having markedly improved everyone's shooting, less that of LCpl Clark who decided that live fire was too dangerous for him to partake.

Exercise RATTLESNAKE

With the Covid situation having declined during our trip abroad, a two-week isolation was duly imposed by HM Government on our return. 14 days of 'free' leave was of course welcome, but it left no room for manoeuvre as we looked ahead. There were then two weeks in



Nonetheless this fine publication represents an opportunity to annually highlight the exploits of the true bearers of this title, A Squadron QDG





which the Squadron would be able to turn-around and redeploy to the USA for Exercise Rattlesnake, no mean feat given the busy start to the year. In spite of this, we accomplished the impossible and were soon boarding flights to the United States. It is testament to the industriousness of A Sqn's SNCO cohort that we were able to deploy in such good order, but particularly to Sgts Hatton and Edwards who had been instrumental in the turnaround from Cyprus.

On paper, Exercise Rattlesnake appeared to be the perfect opportunity to escape the UK. In particular, the promise of warm Louisiana weather and world-renowned Southern cuisine appeared to offer what one might consider to be close to a holiday, and certainly welcome respite from a drizzly Great Britain. Therefore, morale again peaked.

Expectation and reality of course did not marry up. The first week in the US was too cold even to conduct acclimatisation PT, and persistent rain again scuppered any chance of a sun-tan. The food meanwhile was undoubtedly 'authentic', however many were shocked to discover what exactly authentic meant. Morning gruel, of the kind that would make Oliver Twist say: 'Please, no more', was usually followed by inordinate amounts of M&Ms and high-fructose corn syrup. The accommodation, meanwhile, was a shed.

In what is probably an apt allegory for American culture as a whole, what we lacked in basic (and some would say universal) necessities, we were spoiled in regard to free guns. Each mattress hid a long forgotten M4, every second locker a Grenade Machine Gun. Sadly, these had to eventually be returned, to the disappointment of those who had hoped to smuggle them back to the UK.

After arrival, A Squadron embarked on

a further four weeks of grueling live and blank training, taking place in a forest the size of Salisbury Plain. Despite frictions with the jungle-like terrain, frequent tornadoes, and all manner of venomous wildlife, the squadron acquitted itself exceptionally well and were recognised as such by the US Brigade Commander. The standout achievement

was undoubtedly the fact that by the end of the exercise we had inserted ourselves further into enemy territory and occupied urban observation posts in the enemy's base location. Sgt Speed can regale in detail the sacrifices that must be made to live for days in a small attic, although he has sworn Cpls Bould and Woodward – the only witnesses – to secrecy.

Post-exercise, and with a lakeside R&R complete, we boarded our flight and departed back to the UK. Our American hosts lived up to the famous hospitality for which they are rightly known, and we parted with fond memories of working alongside them. The fondest of these however are undoubtedly possessed by LCpl Furley.

Summer Pre-Deployment Training

Having just about decompressed after two further weeks of isolation, the soldiers of A Squadron were once again thrown back into the mixer, and Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) commenced with immediate vigour. As a nebulous but ever-growing list of qualifications and courses became clearer, it began to become apparent how little all of us would be spending in camp over the subsequent six months. A multitude of training events ensured that the summer period flew by in a flurry of activity.

“

Morning gruel, of the kind that would make Oliver Twist say: 'Please, no more'

”

Particularly welcome was the news that none of our prior two live fire training events counted towards our preparations for Op NEWCOMBE. Thus, we embarked in June for a further two weeks of firing, the announcement of which was met with cheers of jubilation by our soldiers, ecstatic as they were to be spending yet more time in the field.

To list all of the remaining courses and events in this article would be a feat in itself, and if I am honest, even I cannot remember how I spent my July. One performance, however, that deserves particular mention is the All Arms Search course, conducted by two of our troops. Both Troops performed to an exceptional standard, with 1st Tp in particular highlighted as the best group to have passed in recent years, and Cpl Mathieson receiving an Instructor Recommend to return to the school there. Their reward, unfortunately, was to all catch Covid on the Friday that summer leave started.



Mystery Cheese...



September 21: Final Exercise

The Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) came upon us quickly, and with weather disparate to Mali and a very luscious leaguer (100m from ample beds and functioning bathrooms) we commenced the final part of our PDT alongside the Royal Irish. So, with Mali being six times the size of the UK, Thetford Training Area was “perfect” for conducting our Long Range Reconnaissance Peacekeeping training. The five weeks started with live ranges, progressing from a Squadron raid through a quarry to a night time Leaguer defence.

After a thorough Live to Blank, we commenced a period of RSOI, in which we rehearsed the skills we had learned over the preceding months. This quickly ironed out any issues, being instructed by our Observer Mentors. Recently and unexpectedly unemployed from the Op TORAL desk, these fine individuals did an excellent job of ensuring that the serials planned for Kabul city streets could equally carry over and replicate the vast deserts of Mali. Nevertheless, as we were frequently told, they were there to help and not to hinder, so better to keep them on side. As we swiftly took on board and ignored a lot of advice and continued to ace our Light Cavalry tactics we moved through the Final Training Exercise (FTX) into the MRX. This was the final Go/No Go for the Battle Group, starting with a road move to Basingbourne Barracks. This was the final straw for quite a few

wagons, with Lt Allington barely making it out the gates before he stuttered to a halt. As ever the REME LAD gave hard graft to get the wagons back up and running and A Sqn rallied to display our newly acquired peace-keeping skills. We undertook Key Leader Engagements (KLEs), Casual conversation (CASCONs) and village assessments with ease and confidence as well as reacting to IED strikes and mass casualty incidents with clear command and control. UN caps at the ready, A Sqn and ultimately the LRRG battlegroup were mission ready for Mali.

December 21: Op NEWCOMBE and beyond

And so, at the beginning of December, we finally undertook the task for which we spent 2021 away from our homes and families. At this point, the vast majority of our soldiers traded our green and pleasant land for an arid, austere and unfamiliar environment. The past month has been spent firstly learning to live with the heat, a sharp contrast to the climate that we leave behind; thankfully December sees highs of only mid-30s. Beyond this, we have deployed on multiple patrols, whilst also making every effort to maintain morale. Of particular mention was Christmas Day, which for most



it is clear to me that without this year we would not be the trained and ready force that we now are



comprised of a fairly non-traditional beach volleyball competition. More significantly, we were at this point able to rightly congratulate a number of our soldiers for their excellent performance: LCpl Haden was awarded the Mann Trophy for best Tpr/LCpl in the Regiment, whilst Tprs Furley, Cox, and Williams 216 were promoted to LCpl, a deservedly happy end to the year.

And with that, we finally say adieu to 2021. The drumbeat of activity remains high as we progress onto longer and more interesting operations in the Sahel, and 2022 has much promise ahead. A few parting comments from me remain, however. No doubt many readers, chiefly friends and family of those in A Squadron, will be all too aware of how eventful but demanding 2021 was for all involved, serviceperson or civilian. Nevertheless, it is clear to me that without this year we would not be the trained and ready force that we now are. We should be proud of this, as I am proud to be the Officer Commanding of the soldiers of A Squadron. I am grateful to all those who have enabled this via their own sacrifices – without your support it would have been an insurmountable task. We now all look forward to 2022 and the year ahead.

JC



Cavalry Officers Sword



Creating new traditions through bespoke craftsmanship.

Pooley Sword is a family owned and operated business with an outstanding reputation for craftsmanship, for the manufacture and refurbishment of Swords, Dirks and Lances. We are the leading Sword Cutlers to the British Armed Forces, as well as many Commonwealth and Overseas Defence Forces.

Pooley Sword Limited is privileged to donate the Sword of Honour at-

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Royal Air Force College Cranwell, Britannia Royal Naval College
Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, Military Academies in Australia, New Zealand and Canada

Pooley Sword Limited

No 1a Highdown House Shoreham Airport West Sussex BN43 5PB
Tel: 01273 467277

Email: enquiries@pooleysword.com Website: www.pooleysword.com
ISO 9001:2015 – ISO 14001 – ISO 18001.

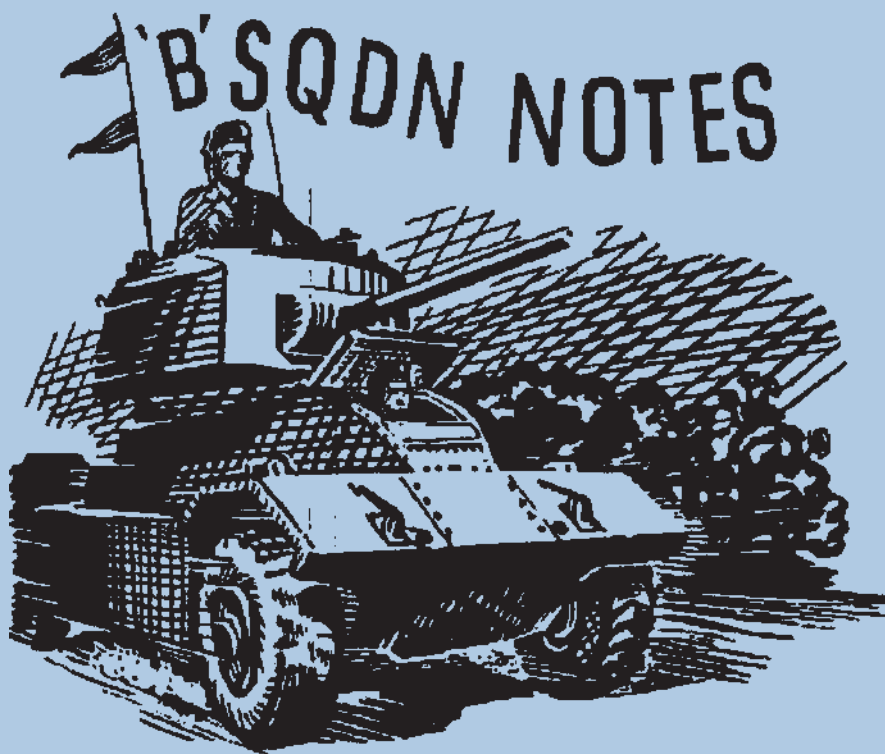
B Squadron

It has been a year of two halves for B Sqn, the Cassino Troop taking up the majority of the Squadron's focus in the first half of the year. Once the Squadron had been reconstituted into a Light Cav squadron upon the end of the deployment this marked the start of the "rebuild" phase for B Sqn. There was also a change of command in summer '21, when Maj Matthews said his farewells and Maj O'Shea took over the reins.

It was an unusual time for B Sqn, With C Sqn being deployed and A Sqn getting ready to deploy we found ourselves being pulled from pillar to post to support the wider running of the Regiment whilst also having to train for the Upcoming Ex Rattlesnake... or so we thought! The Squadron deployed on a BCS exercise, Ex Eagle's Develop, to integrate the newer members of the Squadron into how we do business and focus on core recce skills, this was an excellent way for the Squadron to shake out prior to summer leave. We used the excellent training facilities at Thetford to conduct force on force recce training culminating in an impressive dawn attack on a fortified position. For many of the Sqn this was the first time that they had conducted an exercise since joining the Regiment due to COVID 19 issues throughout 2020, so it proved a good way to get back to basics and empower junior commanders to make decisions under pressure and in the field. We built upon this later in the year with Ex Eagle's Dare, which tested junior commanders to a greater degree

in a smaller but more challenging area in Thetford.

It was excellent to see the progress that had been made



and that core recce skills had been enhanced through the BCS program. Low level exercises like this are key to developing leadership at all ranks, all it takes is the imagination to develop a realistic exercise scenario. Time spent in the field is precious and this is something that B Sqn will look to enhance throughout the next year.

Once we had returned from summer leave we were immediately called upon to run the real life support aspect of Ex Gao Tempest, the A Sqn mission rehearsal exercise for their deployment to Mali. This took considerable manpower to support, but throughout this time B Sqn was able to get a significant number of junior members enrolled in Army Parachuting courses. This was a thoroughly excellent background activity throughout the

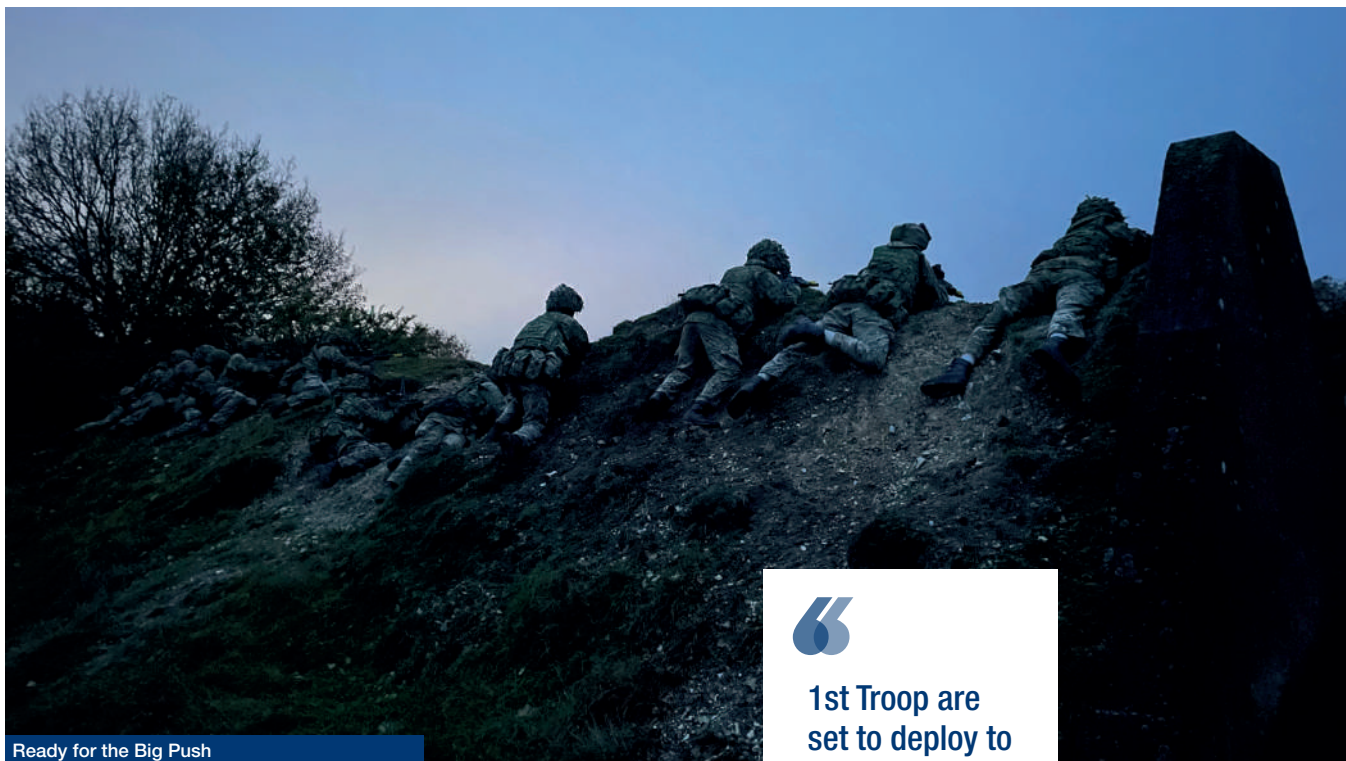
autumn and really showed the leadership qualities of our JNCOs. Indeed, I'm confident that throughout the autumn months B Sqn had more jumps than

16 Bde! Using the well-established Army Adventure Training platform was a real win for the Squadron allowing us to generate fun and challenging activity for the members of B Sqn who were not supporting Ex Gao Tempest. Once this commitment had ceased it allowed an opportunity to bring the Squadron back together and

refocus our sights onto our own deployment on Ex Rattlesnake in early 2022... or so we thought! Without drawing this joke on throughout the rest of this article, our involvement in Ex Rattlesnake was disappointingly cancelled due to a lack of RAF aircraft to get us over to Louisiana. It is said that in life only two things

“
Time spent
in the field is
precious





Ready for the Big Push

are certain, death & taxes. I would posit that there is a third certainty, that if you stay long enough in the Army the RAF will drive a coach and horses through your best laid plans at least once! This is not a cheap shot at our comrades in light blue, but regrettably one of the fall outs from Op PITTING in the summer of 2021 where RAF aircraft are still feeling the effects of the Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation.

The knock on effect was that B Sqn suddenly had a significant amount of white space in the forecast of events. This was indeed a blessing and a curse! In these manpower strapped times the Army-wide trawls come in thick and fast and without having the unifying event of Ex Rattlesnake it looked likely that the squadron would be sent to the four winds. As I write this that is exactly what has happened, but in a positive fashion. 1st Troop are set to deploy to Sierra Leone where they will carry on the work that QDG has done in recent years, revolving around training the Royal Sierra Leonean Armed Forces. This is especially important in terms of Defence's wider engagement strategy in West Africa given the fact that the long running International Security Assistance Team (ISAT) closed last year. 1st Troop will find themselves at the sharp end of Defence Engagement and it will be excellent to report on their results in the next edition of the Journal.

2nd and 3rd Troops are also about to deploy (regrettably to less warmer climates!) in support of the Light Dragoons on their rotation of Ex Wessex Storm. This is an excellent opportunity to export QDG professionalism and also

for the younger members of both troops to experience one of the best resourced exercises in the UK. Also, given the QDG's upcoming change from 1st (UK) Division to 3rd (UK) Division it could be one of the final times that we conduct the exercise in the short term.

This type of short notice activity will become more frequent across the Army as we change to new manning structures and additional pressures, either across Defence or with the support to UK Civil Powers, become apparent. Throughout the last few years the Army, and especially the QDG, has shown its flexibility to meet the challenges. Members of B Sqn have also shown their flexibility in supporting the COVID 19 booster programme and also backfilling a number of UK resilience tasks which have been



1st Troop are set to deploy to Sierra Leone where they will carry on the work that QDG has done in recent years, revolving around training the Royal Sierra Leonean Armed Forces.



asked of them. This is often overlooked in terms of how important these roles are and how much the UK relies on Defence to support them.

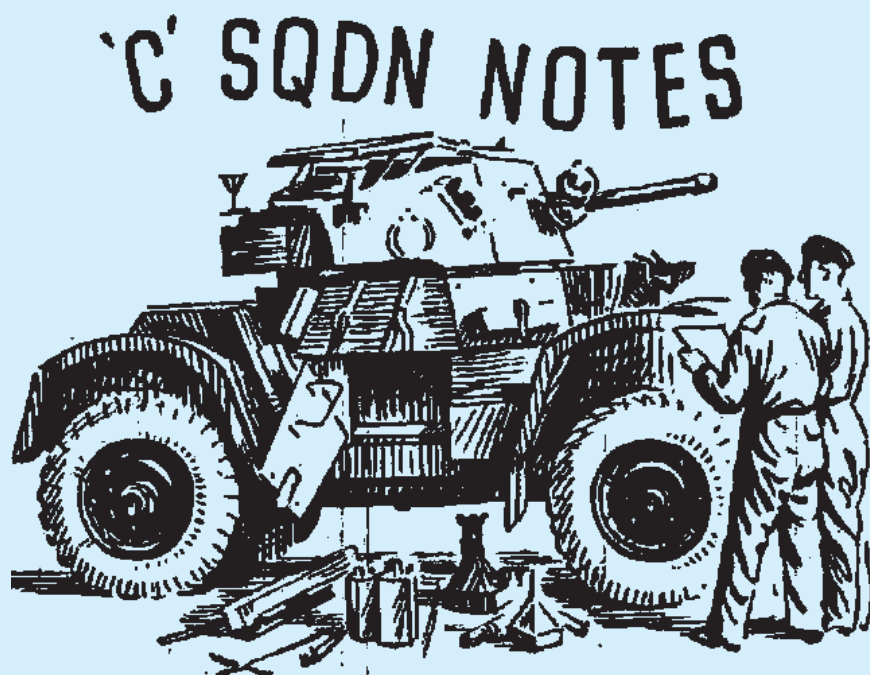
Looking forward to the next year B Sqn is in a good place. Once we are all back from our separate lines of activity we will be in a position to welcome back the remainder of the Regiment from Mali in summer 2022. There is also a large Adventurous Training window to look forward to in the spring, where it is my intent that we deploy as a Squadron to Germany to sample the delights of

Bavaria in the late spring. It will be a well earned break for the Squadron and also bring us back together having been split up for recent months.

RAOS



Sgt Williams' vape smoke screen



C Squadron

At the start of 2021, the Officer Commanding C Squadron, Major Bryn Williams, stood in front of the Squadron and mentioned that the year would be a journey throughout the entire operational cycle. We would begin at the very start of a pre-deployment cycle, conduct the required ranges, individual and collective courses and finish mission specific training with a Mission Rehearsal Exercise. Depending on the success of these courses, 91 personnel from the Squadron would then deploy to Mali and conduct a handover with the Light Dragoon Task Force. Once complete, C Squadron would then conduct a six-month operational tour of Operation NEWCOMBE in Mali before returning to the UK before Christmas. At the time of this talk, this seemed a daunting prospect with a significant workload ahead for all those involved. However, at the time of writing, as the author sits back in Norfolk having successfully completed the tour it has been an incredible journey. A journey which has seen highs and lows, some excellent operational outputs, some difficult welfare decisions but, above all and beyond, an excellent year. All of those in the Squadron must be very proud of their efforts.

C Squadron started the year with a conceptual training package where we were all introduced to the different capabilities of the Task Force. This week was followed by the All Ranks Brief,



It was a long, cold and windy week... perfect training for the 50-degree heat of the Sahel



open in order to maintain COVID-19 guidelines. This therefore meant that everyone was more concerned to not catch hypothermia than to listen to the content of the lectures. It was a long, cold and windy week... perfect training for the 50-degree heat of the Sahel. The All Ranks Brief was a 5-day programme that consisted of a combination of practical lessons and classroom briefs that gave the Sqn a comprehensive insight into what Op NEWCOMBE 2 would involve. From Counter-IED lessons to negotiation



Dear Diary, today was all about butts



skills, the Sqn started to learn about the skills and drills required to succeed in Mali. The training continued for a second week for all the commanders within the Squadron who had to complete a Tactical Commanders' Cadre. This week provided tactical considerations as well as practical scenarios to give an insight into the highly complex environment of Mali and this cadre gave the Squadron the foundations to build on during training. It again proved to be exceptionally cold!

Following the initial series of briefs, the Squadron then conducted a range package phase. This included dismounted live fire training in Brecon and Thetford, followed by a mounted range week in Lulworth, Dorset. There



Where's Wally?



it was
not worth
subjecting
almost 100
soldiers to
hypothermia –
again



vised Explosive Devices, unexploded ordnance, weapons and other valuable intelligence such as mobile phones or documentation. The course delivered by the Search Team Specialists of the Royal Engineers, involves a varied programme, beginning with theoretical

was a moment during the planning for mounted ranges where the Squadron complete would have to drive the 800-mile round trip to Lulworth from Norfolk in the Jackals and Coyotes. In the midst of an English winter this would have been almost unworkable for the drivers and commanders, who would have almost certainly suffered from cold injuries. Thankfully the decision makers realised that whilst this 'long range' patrol might have benefits, it was not worth subjecting almost 100 soldiers to hypothermia – again. The range package in Lulworth went from an individual Platform Weapon Operator Course, to the individual assessments, before progressing onto crew, troop and squadron level shoots. After a chilly but successful week, the Squadron had achieved the start state for mounted live fire tactical training. It was at this moment that Major Bryn Williams mentioned that the next time the Squadron fired live ammunition would be in the face of the enemy; it wouldn't be for another eight months before this was realised in reality.

As the Squadron charged towards Easter leave, we had a number of other key courses including the Human

Security course and one focussed on Human Terrain Reconnaissance. The key course for this period was the Intermediate Search Course. Nine members of the Squadron conducted this three-week course enabling them to search areas of interest and exploit Impro-



Bisci Bisci!!!



lectures and practical demonstrations, before conducting realistic practical taskings covering all elements of the discipline from route to building or area searches. Once at a level that was considered proficient, the team began test week. Test Week involved a rigorous few days battling through some cold and snowy conditions, culminating in the full team qualifying. A great result for C Squadron! The Squadron went on two weeks Easter leave with everything prepared and ready for the Mission Rehearsal Exercise which would begin on our final weekend of leave.

The Mission Rehearsal Exercise was the final hurdle for the Squadron before being able to deploy to Mali. It was primarily run by the Mission Ready Training Centre, who aim to challenge, test and advise all deploying subunits to ensure they are at the required standard for operations. C Squadron embarked on their exercise on the final Saturday of their Easter Leave, which was a tough sell to all members of the Squadron. The first week included low level training at crew, section and troop level, gradually escalating towards an integration exercise with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (The Poachers) and the respective Light Mechanised Infantry Company and support echelon. Once this integration had taken place, the task force then opened itself up to the assessments, with the main exercise taking place. Throughout a ten-day period, the Squadron and task force were tested on every situation which we could potentially face in Mali. This varied from route reconnaissance, detention operations, interaction with the media, casualties, mounted and dismounted patrolling, and human terrain analysis. Of great satisfaction to the entire Squadron, despite the best efforts of the directing staff, they were unable to target us with weapons or IEDs, testament to the excellent tactics employed by all the soldiers and

“
Another highlight was the visit to the Squadron by Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex



had an exceptionally successful exercise and we left fully qualified to deploy on operations.

What followed the MRX was, for most personnel, the hardest part of the entire deployment year. Due to the requirement to conduct COVID-19 isolation, the majority of the Squadron had a weekend off after the exercise to pack their final bits of kit and say goodbye to loved ones before heading north to Linton-on-Ouse to begin the fourteen days in quarantine. Straight off the end of a gruelling pre-deployment pipeline and an arduous exercise, whilst the weekend was welcome, it was also far too short ahead of a seven-month deployment. However, despite these challenges, the Squadron took the next steps with enthusiasm. Sergeant Morgan will forever remember the trip to Yorkshire for another reason as he was denied the chance of a last McDonalds due to an overly cautious Officer Commanding!

The two weeks in quarantine in Linton-on-Ouse can be compared to the Stanford experiment, with all ranks being chaperoned throughout the RAF station to ensure social distancing guidelines were being adhered to. It was a difficult time for everyone as the Squadron



officers. Another highlight was the visit to the Squadron by Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex. On the penultimate day of the MRX, the Countess of Wessex saw the Squadron deal with a mass casualty incident and held a forum to discuss the impact of sexual assaults against both men and women. It was a sobering experience for all those involved. C Squadron

grappled with leaving loved ones and the prospect of seven months away from home. However, everyone took it in their stride and worked on novel solutions to endure the hours, from fitness to purchasing the last-minute items they needed for their tour. It was with great relief for all members of the Squadron when they were taken from Linton-on-Ouse to RAF Brize Norton for their onward flight to Mali. On several occasions, groups were taken from Yorkshire to the flight line, only to be turned around due to a fault with the flight. One such flight made it to the Mali border before being turned around back to the UK! However, gradually the flights successfully arrived in Mali, bringing C Squadron personnel out into the Sahel and by the end of May everyone was in theatre. The Squadron was ready for its operation – Operation NEWCOMBE 2.

The operational tour for C Squadron can be split down into three distinct phases: the first few months were occupied with accounting for equipment, handover and the familiarisation patrols; the second being the operations during the height of the wet season; and the final section being the more complex patrols and the end of tour.

The Advanced Party were able to deploy on the first patrol, which was a 3-day handover patrol between A Squadron, The Light Dragoons and C Squadron, QDG. It was an excellent opportunity for these early arrivals to understand the ground, the environment and the threat, as well as acclimatising people to the intense heat. Concurrently, the rest of the Squadron finished their Reception, Staging, and Onward Integration (RSOI) phase before achieving the required training objectives to enable them to be ready to deploy. These



Still quicker than the road through Watton

lessons included revision on medical training, intelligence briefs and voices of experience from the individuals who had completed the first rotation.

The first hurdle following the handover patrol was to prepare the equipment, vehicles and personnel for the six-day long familiarisation patrol. This patrol was a necessity in order to qualify the Task Force for longer and more arduous patrols. June was therefore spent reflecting on the handover period, remembering the tips and tricks we were told and going through the preparations for the patrol. A factor which we had to contend with at this stage, unlike the first rotation, was the beginning of the wet season. Nobody knew quite what this would involve but as June progressed the winds whipped up the dust and the thunderstorms became more frequent, as did the mud (!) storms. Despite these frictions, the Squadron deployed towards the end of the month on the patrol. As with the handover patrol, this familiarisation patrol began with a day on the ranges, aligning our weapons and test firing the vehicles' weapons. It was during this stage that C Squadron were tasked with filling cages with sand as a makeshift barrier. Rotating through this task, we filled the HESCO bastion in the hottest hours of the day. It was a great success, until night fell and the civilian population took it upon themselves to remove the wiring from the cages, allowing all the sand to return whence it had come; a frustrating day but gave the Squadron an insight to the operating environment. Following the ranges, there



I miss the rains down in Aaafricaaaa

was a three-day patrol around the local area to best understand how the vehicles worked off road, how to interact with the civilian population and to confirm our understanding of all the techniques, tactics and procedures we had learnt from the Light Dragoons. All was going well until the last night when an almighty storm hit the Task Force Leaguer, knocking everyone sideways! The low point being all the medics having to hold onto their tent to prevent it blowing away! Fortunately, everyone returned safely and immediately started the preparations for the next patrol – Operation MAKARA 1.

Operation MAKARA 1 would see the Task Force going further than the previous rotation. After a potential COVID-19 scare, which caused the Task Force to quarantine for 24 hours,

the Squadron deployed on the 17-day operation at the beginning of July. Op MAKARA 1 was designed to visit difficult-to-access parts of Mali and reassure the population, and where possible, to spread the word of the United Nations and our Peace Keeping role in Mali. The operation was a real success with the residents of Tin Hama and Tassiga being pleased to see us and receptive to our engagement. A highlight was the annual festive of Tabaski (known elsewhere as Eid Al-Adha), which is the Muslim festival celebrating Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail, to Allah. As this operation was in the midst of the wet season, it continued to be a challenge. It would vary from thunderstorms at night, to temperatures in excess of 50 degrees Celsius by day. Thankfully



Don't worry, I'm also not in the REME

everyone adapted ways of mitigating against the unrelenting heat, including the use of sunshades, umbrellas and water in a damp sock. This operation coincided with the Football European Cup and therefore inevitably meant we missed most of the games. However, Sergeant Brocklehurst managed to tune the HF radio to enable the Squadron to listen to the final few games from the back of a Jackal. A seriously impressive bit of radio magic; a shame the football team couldn't also deliver. After 17 days on the ground, the Squadron returned to Camp Bagnold in Gao to be welcomed back with a cold can of coke and a beef burger. This was a real treat after weeks on a ration pack diet. After this first major Operation, the Squadron took part in Talavera day, a day which marks the anniversary of a famous battle honour for one of the antecedent Regiments of the Royal Anglian Regiment. This celebration included an Olympic style sports competition, with table tennis, volleyball and weightlifting being among the competitions. C Squadron, thankfully,



Just another day on the A1075

were the overall winners, with Sergeant Humphreys winning the weightlifting competition. In the evening, the Officers and Warrant Officers hosted their UN partners in an operational dinner night.

As the Squadron progressed into August, the intrigue built as this month was associated with being the wettest month of the year. Preparations for the patrol included working out how best to waterproof the vehicles, our equipment and ourselves. This second major operation, Operation MAKARA 2, was focussed on the towns and villages along the prominent road in Mali, where the Squadron would speak to the residents to understand their issues and

concerns. We would also have a physical presence to provide them with security. C Squadron had considerable freedoms and visited difficult to reach villages, utilising our off-road capability to its fullest extent. On one of the days we were fortunate enough to visit a forested area which not only provided an opportunity to put 'UN Berets in remote locations,' but also allowed the soldiers and officers to appreciate another beautiful part of Mali. The forest was a large expanse of lush vegetation around a natural water feature, with some not wanting to leave this tranquil part of Mali! As the operation progressed, we provided support to civilian agencies working on behalf



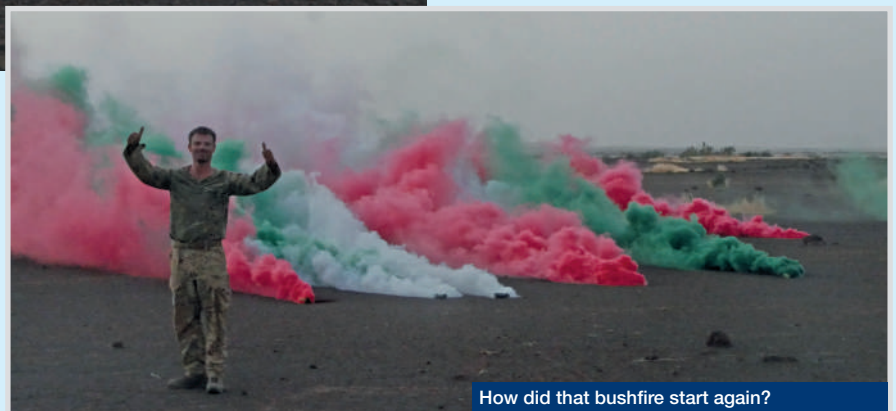
And that's how you swear at the French



Barren featureless desert... just like STANTA

of the United Nations and other government agencies. During a maintenance period in a camp outside of Ansongo, the Squadron organised a football game against the Senegalese Army. Whilst we lost the game, it was a great opportunity for partnerships to be formed and the national anthems to be sung. The Operation lasted the majority of August, with the weather remaining largely kind to us, although a few were caught out by thunderstorms which most inconveniently occurred between 0300hrs – 0500hrs in the morning. Over the course of this operation, C Squadron covered over 1300km per vehicle, an illustration of the distances covered.

September was quite the month for C Squadron; one which can be considered a real success and will be remembered by all the personnel in years to come. The month started quietly with the Squadron conducting the administration, maintenance and checks following the completion of Operation MAKARA 2. Once this had been completed, 22 members of the Squadron conducted the 'Honouring Heldon' Half Marathon, a running event organised to raise money for the German soldiers who were injured at the start of our deployment. It involved running four laps around the UN Camp and included 500 personnel from across the nations represented in Camp Castor (Germans, Swedish, Irish, British and Romanian). Over £7000 was raised for the charity. Special mention must go to Lance Corporal Wilkinson and Trooper Carew who completed the half marathon in uniform and carrying 16kg in their backpacks, and to Cpl Thapa who got the fastest time from C Squadron. Once everyone had recovered from the half marathon, the Squadron spent a day on ranges outside of Camp Bagnold to



How did that bushfire start again?

test fire the weapon systems. Trooper Sell was the best shot on the Heavy Machine Gun and LCpl Lewis was the top shot on the Grenade Machine Gun. We were also fortunate to be able to host the Commanding Officer and BGLO who were visiting for the recce over a Gurkha curry. The curry was organised to raise money for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Whilst the majority of time between operations was spent on personnel and vehicle recovery, there was also the opportunity to conduct career courses and the RSM organised a two-day JNCO cadre. Of particular note on this course was Trooper Carew winning the 2-mile race against the infantry!

Operation MAKARA 2B was the operation which dominated the rest of September. On the first day of the operation, the skill and experience of the Squadron shone through. During an insertion into an area called Sorori Forest, the Squadron identified an area which was used by insurgents. Instantly the skill and experience of the officers and soldiers kicked in and they managed to detain one of these insurgents. Following a search of the



Well well well...



...with some not wanting to leave this tranquil part of Mali!



surrounding area, the Squadron found rocket propelled grenades, weapons and other items of military kit. The professionalism of all the members of the Squadron was exceptional and we entered the rest of the operation in the knowledge that we had protected civilians and contrib-

uted to the security in Mali.

Towards the end of the operation, the Squadron was fortunate to be joined by the Medical Team, elements of the deployable hospital, explosive experts and elements of resupply as we headed East cross country. This move was pioneering for the Long Range Reconnaissance Group and set the conditions for success. It was during this phase that the Squadron identi-

fied another pair of insurgents trying to escape on motorbike. The Squadron again managed to interdict the insurgents and detained them, finding them in possession of weapons and other nefarious items. This detention was yet another example of the Squadron making tangible differences to the population of Mali. This operation ended outside of Indelimane and marked the end of the tour for Captain Cooper, the

Troop Leader for 2nd Troop. It was therefore fitting that in this village Capt Cooper had a camel riding lesson.

With the onset of October, we prepared for the final operation of the tour, an operation called MAKARA 3. This included the usual vehicle maintenance, personnel rehabilitation and usual battle procedures. A pause was granted to celebrate another Gurkha festival, that of Vijaya Dashain, involving the Gurkha personnel of the Task Force kindly cooking a curry for everyone. Operation MAKARA 3 was scheduled to be the longest patrol we would conduct and due to the long distances involved, it would also be the hardest and most complex. The Squadron prepared for this patrol by cramming as many noodles, fizzy drinks and snacks onto their vehicles as possible! The operation started with a 500km route reconnaissance led by C Squadron. While this is our core business it was still a testing and challenging phase for the Squadron as we led the remainder of the Task Force across difficult terrain. Some new arrivals were also with the Squadron for this patrol, with Lt Fetherstonhaugh, LCpl Tomkins and Tpr Wilson all experiencing their first patrol.

On 20th October, after three days on the march, elements of the Squadron were sent off to find alternative routes. On their return, and in a similar scenario to the incidents in September, the lead Troops identified insurgents on motorbikes with weapons. The Troops set about interdict the individuals in order to detain them for carrying illegal weapons. The insurgents moved into an area of dense vegetation and, to great surprise to all the Squadron, they shot at us. C Squadron returned fire and neutralised the situation, again showing the difference we made to the security situation in Mali and the protection we provided the population.

A day later, with the previous day's incident still in the forefront of our minds, a number of the Task Force were caught in a

bush fire. Sadly, one of the Squadron's vehicles was set on fire and went up in flames whilst trying to help the Task Force. Thankfully the crew managed to get away safely.

Despite the challenging and eventful first few days of the operation, the Squadron managed to find a route all the way to a town called Menaka. Here we stopped for a few days in the UN Super-camp, enjoying some rest and well-earned Wi-fi and air conditioning. The middle phase of the operation saw C Squadron hosting journalists from The Sun and The Independent as we entered remote villages to speak to the population and provide security. It was a pleasure to host them and provided an opportunity to capture lots of Squadron and Troop photographs, including an iconic photograph of Trooper Faulkner with a goat. The final phase of the operation saw a quiet return from Menaka to Camp Bagnold. What took eight days on the way out, only took four on the way back, testament to the skill of the drivers in the

Squadron. The Squadron drove up the road on the final day flying the Squadron Standard, Welsh Flag and Fijian Flag as a celebration of our successful last patrol.

The Squadron started November on the final few days of Operation MAKARA 3. Everyone was delighted to enter Camp Bagnold following this arduous and challenging operation. Once we were back in camp and following the initial welcome of a burger and cold can of coke, everyone started the process of preparing their kit, vehicles and themselves for the handover. This involved a thorough inspection procedure, followed by demanding the required spares and lots and lots of cleaning. Due to the vast distances we had travelled, a large amount of ammunition had to be destroyed. Capt Lewis therefore led a patrol to demolish this, which resulted in six almighty bangs. On one of the weekends, Capt Groome organised a cricket match against the contractors and despite our best efforts, they convincingly beat the Task Force, testament to their excellent cricketing skills. The Task Force also organised an

excellent BBQ for everyone which had a virtual boxing competition and karaoke. The highlight of the evening had to be the walk on for Corporal Rowlands who was representing C Squadron for the virtual boxing. Marching on in a pair of miniscule leopardskin shorts to the song 'I want to be in the Cavalry,' he was received with rapturous cheers. Thankfully C Squadron won this boxing competition – again! A low light was definitely LCpl Rees doing an enthusiastic version of Celine Dion's 'My Heart Will Go On.'

Throughout November there were flashbacks to May as the Squadron became hugely reliant on the Royal Air Force, and this time, it was even more important as they provided our escape from Mali. The first flight was delayed due to numerous excuses including crew food poisoning, hitting birds on the runway and technical issues in Nigeria. The month also saw the QDG Task Force and A Squadron arrive, which was a great sight. To enable their arrival, the majority of the Squadron moved across to the German accommodation on Camp Castor. Whilst the commute to work was slightly longer and the accommodation slight older, the great benefit was the German Wi-Fi and regular supply of coffee. It meant that for our last days of the tour, we had reliable internet! As A Squadron arrived, the Squadron provided a comprehensive RSOI package.

This included everything from our lessons learnt, through to kit issue and



The Squadron drove up the road on the final day flying the Squadron Standard, Welsh Flag and Fijian Flag as a celebration of our successful last patrol





the mandated briefs. Towards the end of this package, there was a three-day handover patrol, very similar to the one conducted by C Squadron back in May with the Light Dragoons. The patrol was a real success as we tried to handover all our lessons learnt and had the obligatory photo! As November became December, the last few members of C Squadron handed over their kit, bid their farewells and headed out of Mali marking the successful completion of Operation Newcombe 2.

As the Squadron gradually left Mali, all personnel went via Gibraltar in order to complete decompression. This 24hr period saw the Squadron enjoying their first alcoholic beer in months and an enhanced meal. Once the hangovers had subsided the following day, activities such as climbing the famous Gib Rock, banana boat riding, a tour of the cave network and paddle boarding were all avail-

able. There was also the opportunity to sit in the cooler sun and enjoy a coffee or two, which at the end of a seven-month tour was most welcome. From here, the RAF took us the final bound back to RAF Brize Norton where the journey had begun. It wouldn't have been Op NEWCOMBE 2 had there not been the mandated PCR test on arrival into the UK! After saying our farewells to friends from other Units, the C Squadron personnel headed back to Swanton Morley and started the beginning of well-earned leave.

Just before the Squadron finished its Operational deployment year, it had one more week in work ahead of Christmas leave. This was an opportunity to 'normalise' and saw the entire Squadron back together before the inevitable career courses kick in and people are distributed throughout the UK. This

week saw the C Squadron Christmas day which allowed everyone to enjoy a few beers and sing the now traditional Christmas carols, one of which Sgt Morgan will forever be immortalised in! It was during this week that Cpl Harrison won the Leathersellers' Trophy and Sgt Morgan won the Queen Elizabeth trophy, testament to their hard work and dedication over the year. As the Squadron departed on leave, spirits were high after what had been an almighty fun and interesting journey.

I will finish with two quotes that were the bedrock of the Squadron for the deploy-

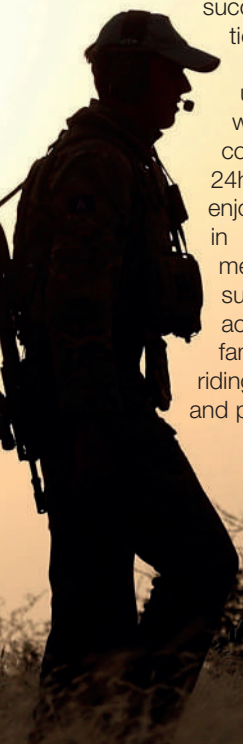


"In the Great Sand Sea, the Cavalry are King."



ment.
*"Be Steady and Be Blue."
 "In the Great Sand Sea,
 the Cavalry are King."*

BW



HQ Squadron

Logistics is perhaps the most complex and interrelated capability provided by today's Army. To those unfamiliar with its intellectual and technological breadth, depth, and complexity, it can be considered an assumed capability. Hence, on entering the QDG Quarter-master's Department, you are greeted by the (tongue in cheek) sign that reads, "Do not criticise that which you do not understand!". Indeed, as I compile my notes on this year's instalment for HQ, the one thing I find hard to comprehend is the vast amount of planning, tasks and event support executed by our boys and girls in HQ, often concurrently, to ensure overall success for all that the Regiment does. In the words of Sun Tzu, "Every battle is won before it is fought and the line between disorder and order lies in logistics!".

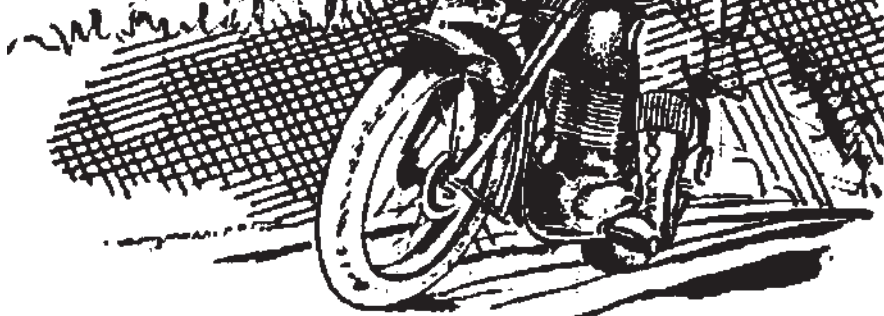
More often than not, Light Cavalry Regiments deploy their Squadrons on individual tasks throughout the year, and the 'single' Regimental deployment on either exercise or operations is a rarity. This 'Modus Operandi' requires a great deal of planning and flexibility from the enablers within HQ Sqn. January and February of 2021 are a good example of this theme, with HQ supporting A Sqn's deployment to Cyprus on Ex Gao Eagle, whilst simultaneously enabling pre deployment training for C Sqn's deployment on Op NEWCOMBE 2 (in the form of Ex Barren Eagle), and having key elements of the Sqn, such as Capt Matt Hansen (MTO), deployed as the National Support Element (NSE) OC with B Sqn and The Royal Yeomanry on Op CABRIT 8 in Poland.

The ebb and flow of overseas deployments and recovery continued throughout the year, requiring some members of HQ Sqn, namely Capt Butch Davies (QM(T)) and SSgt Taylor (HQ SQMS) to spend much of their time with the RAF Movements Sqn, organising the



RCMO taking flak

H.Q. NOTES



sending or receiving of freight, weapons, and vehicles, which I am sure they have earned mention for in the RAF Brize Norton Annual Journal 2021.

The spinning plates theme continued unabated throughout March and April; however, the role of chief plate spinner was handed over in March with the arrival of Maj Rob Mansel (the new HQ Sqn Ldr). After a comprehensive HO/TO with the outgoing Sqn Ldr, Maj Paul (Pecs) Jones (who, after a brief period in 7th Bde HQ would be returning later in the year to deploy on Op NEWCOMBE 3 with QDG as the Battle Group Liaison Officer (BGLO)), the plate spinning continued in earnest. The Sqn thank Maj Jones for all his hard work and guidance as HQ Sqn Ldr and wish him every success in his new role and operational deployment.

Handover complete and it was straight back to business for HQ Sqn, firstly, supporting A Sqn's deployment to Louisiana (USA) for Ex Rattlesnake. Secondly, enabling elements of B Sqn's recovery from Op CABRIT in Poland (whilst supporting remaining elements of the Sqn deployed to BATUK in Kenya). Finally, HQ was organising support to C Sqn who were embarking on the Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) for Op NEWCOMBE 2, all amid yet another COVID wave.

May and June of 2021 saw an additional focus for the Sqn. Whilst two large tasks included the recovery of A Sqn from the US after a very successful exercise with the USMC and the deployment of C Sqn to Mali on Op NEWCOMBE 2,

the focus now had to switch to setting the conditions for the next six months. This would culminate with BGHQ and A Sqn deploying on the QDG-led Op NEWCOMBE 3 and the formation of the Rear Operations Group (ROG) back in Robertson Barracks, which would be much larger than a normal ROG, including C Sqn, B Sqn and 92 members of HQ Sqn.

In order to achieve the desired end state of mission ready elements of the Sqn to deploy as well as a fully functioning ROG (all whilst planning and supporting much of our own training), the Sqn had to restructure and divide its efforts allowing for success in both camps (the requirement for the flexibility aforementioned). The requirement to train those people who would take up positions in the ROG started in earnest to ensure the mandated qualifications were achieved at the same time as planning and executing comprehensive training for the deploying elements of BGHQ and A Sqn. The Training Wing, under the stewardship of WO2 Griffiths (Training

Officer) and along with Capt Max Carter (Ops Officer) excelled in both managing courses as well as the planning and delivery of some excellent training. This training included Ex Eagle's Fire (a comprehensive range package) and Ex Eagle's Wheels, which under the instruction of Sgt Hazelwood (Training Wing SNCO) saw some of the most realistic and demanding driver training, which took place in both Bovington and Braunton Burrows, which boasts some

the one thing I find hard to comprehend is the vast amount of planning, tasks and event support executed by our boys and girls in HQ



HQ SQMS looking for a golf course

of the highest sand dunes in Europe.

From July 2021 the ROG, under command of HQ Sqn Ldr (although not formally at this point), was required to take over most responsibilities, allowing the deploying elements to concentrate on the Pre-Deployment Training, unimpeded by the day-to-day management of the Regiment. The initial training included a Conceptual Study week, MCPX, All Ranks Briefs and a Tactical Commanders' Cadre. During this period the Regiment also had the Annual Land Equipment Assurance (LEA), which is our annual inspection from the Field Army. Thanks to the hard work and diligence of the QM(T) Capt Jason Davies (Butch) and RQMS(A) WO2 Thomas, a high pass was achieved, not an easy feat with only half the team available and as you have read, a very busy department.

OP NEWCOMBE 3 is a three hundred strong Task Group (TG) led by QDG BGHQ, comprising of personnel from thirty-six different Regiments, Battalions, Arms and Corps. Fifty personnel form the National Support Element (NSE), the majority of which are from the QDG Quartermaster department and HQ Sqn. From Jul 2021 the team underwent the UN mandated courses, taking part in logistic seminars to understand the logistics procedures and nuances within the UN. They are somewhat different from how we do business within the Field Army.

The Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) which was held in Oct 2021 was the first major test for the team. Firstly, preparing Bodney Camp in Thetford was a QDG responsibility with the QM Maj Dan Brown and the RQ(T) WO2 Martyn Ruddy leading the charge with all Real-Life Support (RLS). RQ(A) WO2 Dale Thomas also played a vital part in dealing with the ammunition issues, mainly the excessive amount left-over that Mission Ready Training Centre (MRTC) had ordered. Subsequently, the QM(T) Capt Jason Davies (Butch) and RQ(T) had the mammoth task of organising the vehicle fleet, ensuring that all the platforms were available and ready to conduct the exercise and then organising the

recovery back to their original owners. Also, having to deal with the Mastiff Ridgeback Wolfhound (MRW) fleet in theatre due to the cracked suspension issues... getting the resilience fleet from the UK to Mali on a C17 to replace it was no easy task.

Much credit to the success of the MRX lies in the efforts of the Light Aid Detachment (LAD), led by the Electrical Mechanical Engineer (EME) Capt Archie Selka and the Artificer Sergeant Major (ASM) WO1 Dave Cross. Through their leadership and the 'can do' attitude of the whole department working long hours fixing kit and equipment, the 'big wheels kept turning' - with a vehicle availability of over 85% throughout the exercise.

During this exercise the J1 team led by the Regimental Administration Officer (RAO) Capt Mark Eldridge and the Regimental Administration Warrant Officer (RAWO) WO2 Chris Farr ensured that all personnel deploying had the correct information and documentation to deploy. The detachment exercised en masse which saw eight (of twelve) SPS move to Bodney. The RAO being the Unit Deployment Officer (UDO) ensured that the movement plan to theatre was fit for purpose, not an easy task when you have thirty-six different units/regiments.

A1 was led by the Motor Transport Officer (MTO) Capt Trev Homer and was essentially a manoeuvre subunit during the MRX and for deployment, responsible for over 23 vehicles from A1 (Stores/Fuel vehicles including the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Ground Manoeuvre Surgical Group (GMSG), including the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) led by Maj Charles Lyne-Pirkis). I have to say this has put ten years on the MTO, he is now a well weathered LE. The MRX was a huge success, which set the TG for a successful mission in Mali.

By Oct, the ROG was formally stood up under the direction of Maj Rob Mansel, C Sqn were still deployed in Mali and the remaining elements of HQ, along with B Sqn, were divided into supporting

the MRX as Real Life Support (RLS) or guarding the Camp in Norfolk.

Frenetic activity returned throughout November and December. Firstly, with the recovery of C Sqn from Mali, which was staggered over a period of five weeks, each group arriving at Robertson Barracks in the early hours of the morning where they were greeted by members of HQ ready to conduct the return administration (all under the guidance of the RQ(T) WO2 Thomas and his team). This was intertwined with the deployment of A Sqn, deploying G4 elements of HQ Sqn and BGHQ all on their way out to Mali to take over the baton of Op NEWCOMBE 3.

We have seen a large influx of QDG recruits pass out of Bovington and arrive in Norfolk over this period and they have formed a troop during the ROG centred around Command Troop. They will spend their

time over the next six months completing courses, AT and low-level training. The Regimental Engagement Team (RET) under Sgt Scott Grills has been a huge success and is, in part, responsible for our strong recruiting numbers (you can read more about the RET in a following article).

December also saw the normal traditional Christmas activities, which is covered in more detail in a following article within this edition. There was also planning and Recces to Wales and the Borders in preparation for Ex Eagles Return, which will be taking place in July 2022 and will see the Regiment parade through the streets of Cardiff, Swansea, Wrexham, and Hereford with swords drawn, drums beating and Standard flying... we hope to see you there!

I am sure you will agree with my opening comments relating to the sheer amount of activity that has been undertaken by HQ Sqn over this last year and I must commend all members of HQ Sqn for a job well done in achieving our Mission of ensuring the Regiment meets its commitments, with the right equipment in the right place at the right time.

RCM

“big wheels kept turning”



HQ Sqn OC delivering Gunfire on Christmas Day



Dogging – not all glamour



One day they'd be allowed inside the tent



Finally, a windscreen



Bemowo Piskie ranges



Cassino Tp

The Second Half of Tour

As the last Journal went to press, Cassino Troop, the regular-reserve hybrid Squadron group, deployed to Poland over winter 2020/21 as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence. The coldest winter in a generation in Poland and a COVID-19 outbreak at the Bemowo Piskie camp made for a challenging second half of the tour.

With temperatures below -20°C for the month of January and struggling to get above -10°C until early March along with the record low wind chill reported as -56°C on one particularly cold night range, the Troop's soldiers did superbly well to continue activity both mounted and dismounted. Through good drills, kit and management we continued to operate when certain allies didn't, proving the British soldiers' capability in all weather. January and February were training heavy with a



The 16 students (from 30) who passed should be very proud of their achievements



focus on gaining as many qualifications for the soldiers in theatre as possible. Sgt Tom Biddlestone RY, Sgt Glyn Williams and Sgt 'Mitch' Mitchell RA led an excellent and highly demanding (for the instructors and students) fortnight of range qualifications in sub-zero temperatures working all hours. The end result was 40 students awarded their SA-M and SA-E range qualifications, who will now add exponential value to all their units. Lt Joe Wightman RY and Sgt Matt Henley RY ran a superb PNCO Cadre in the extreme cold weather pushing students to the limit. The 16 students (from 30) who passed should be very proud of their achievements. They will, I have no

doubt, remember the course for the rest of their lives. In a rare moment of indecision Lt Joe Wightman, while awarding top student, concluded that he could not split the top students and so a joint top

student was awarded to Tpr 'HJ' Hell-yar-Jones QDG and Cfn Jodie Culley REME. The unglamorous parade in the US Welfare tent courtesy of COVID-19 and extreme cold weather will perhaps, sadly, be less memorable to those who passed.

During the PNCO Cadre (or LCpl ALDP MT as it is now known) we were very grateful for our first visit of the tour from the United Kingdom's Ambassador to Poland Her Excellency Anna Clunes. The Ambassador was treated to an exciting drive through the snow between stands led by the SSM, WO2 Navunisaravi (time on recce was definitely not wasted!); exceptional food courtesy of Sgt Hodgson RLC; a set of static stands in our hangar demonstrating our capability, where she tested out the commander's seat of a Jackal, upon which a Ferrero Rocher had been left by one of the enthusiastic Troopers; and a brief from the OC and US Battlegroup commander (less exciting perhaps).

In early March Cassino Troop delivered a combined arms live fire exercise (CALFEX). This had been months in the



Laserquest for big kids



Surprisingly relevant training



A walkover in the 'best flag competition' final



Better than airsoft

making, planned and delivered by Capt Tim Dalton. The Sqn deployed on the training area with Polish artillery, Croatian rockets, mortars, US infantry, Polish aviation, Polish fast air (though this was cancelled last minute) and Romanian air defence all working together and in support of the British Sqn. This was an opportunity driven by the Troop to test the battlegroup's integration, communications and capability to execute multiple strikes together. Exciting mounted ranges were followed by a dismounted raid and reaction to enemy armour advance (cue use of NLAW). We were lucky to have the full support of the US CO from 2-2 CR War Eagles, Lt Col Jason Adler, an Anglophile who had only been in theatre a month but proved to be a great champion of the exercise and Cassino Troop in general. We were rightly proud of our efforts in driving this activity which saw the best of the multinational community - both battlegroup and host nation.

With the tour ending imminently handover takeover was at the front of our minds ensuring we set the follow

on Company from 2 Royal Anglian up for success. No handover takeover is perfect but the team put in exceptional effort and this was evident with an appreciative incoming team.

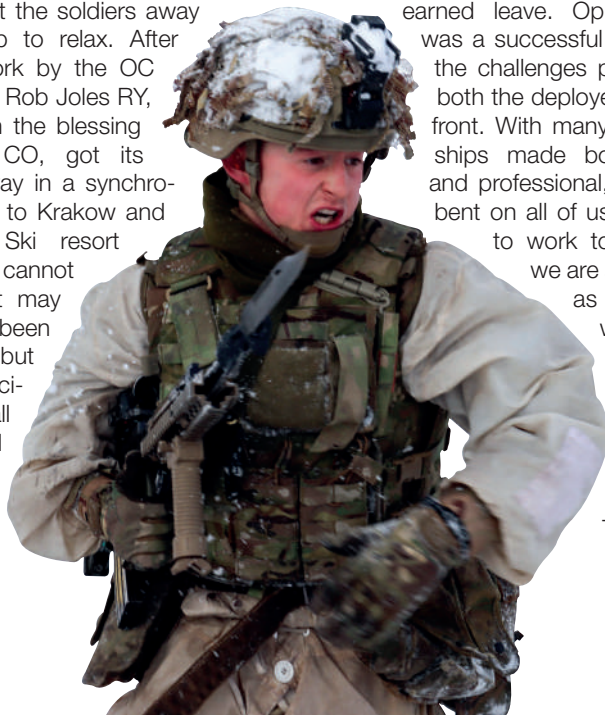
With COVID-19 headlining both in Poland and UK there had not been a chance to get the soldiers away outside camp to relax. After significant work by the OC and 2IC Capt Rob Joles RY, the Sqn, with the blessing of the US CO, got its personnel away in a synchronised fashion to Krakow and Szczyrk, a Ski resort which I still cannot pronounce. It may only have been four days but was appreciated by all in lieu of all the activity experienced on previous tours and those since.

Unlike tours with a regular Sqn where you get to reconvene once back in the UK, it was the end of the story for Cassino Troop once back in the UK on 17 April. The Sqn dispersed, some of us back to QDG and the Reserves back to their civilian jobs after some well-

earned leave. Op CABRIT 8 was a successful tour despite the challenges presented on both the deployed and home front. With many new friendships made both personal and professional, it is incumbent on all of us to continue to work to make sure we are as integrated

as possible as we look to the future. We are, as the NATO phrase aptly puts it, 'Stronger Together'.

BM



Quartermaster's Department

Supporting independently deployed sub-units, a dispersed workforce, a busy and fluid Forecast of Events and a high turnover in appointments – the department has been operating at high tempo for all of this year, with little chance of a change of pace due to operational commitments in late 2021 and into 2022.

That said, although at times it has been quite frustrating, this emotion have been dominated by the feeling of reward from what has been achieved and the results of the team's work has been tangible and appreciated across the regiment. The experience the team has gained over the last year has been invaluable, and has ultimately shaped the department nicely for the future as the whiteboard is never cleared and the relentless onslaught of trawls and taskings will inevitably continue.

Early in the year, the handover of the QM(T) appointment took place between Captain Jason Davies (Bongo type) and Captain Jason Davies (Butch type). Fortunate enough to secure the rank of Major, we said farewell to Bongo Davies on his way to the Royal Yeomanry in Leicester. We wished him the very best on his next appointment – although we see him in the QM's building more now than when he actually worked there.

In April we also said goodbye to the outgoing RQMS(T) WO2 John Davies. Successful off the WO1 promotion board, Mr Davies was hurried to Bovington as the RQMS(T), working under Lt Col Jerome Tyson whilst managing a civilian Babcock

team. Mr Davies had put in a sterling effort at regimental duty supporting his QM(T) and handed over seamlessly to WO2 Ruddy, who quickly grasped the reins and started to conduct his business with purpose.

April also saw the deployment of A Sqn on Ex RATTLESNAKE in Louisiana, which was supported by Cpl Richie Powell as the deployed Ammunition Storeman. Cpl Powell was tasked to work independently while deconflicting with the US G4 counterparts at reach – an impressive performance and as always, conducted without complaint. At the same time, C Sqn were deep into Mission Specific Training for Op NEWCOMBE 2 and although they were deploying with 2 Royal Anglian, they leant heavily on both QDG G4 departments for ES and Clothing Packs. WO2 Thomas firmly directed the action required for clothing demands while the technical side monitored the use and scheduled maintenance of the HMTV fleet.

Slipping into June, the Regiment's focus switched to ranges and driver training, with Ex EAGLE'S FIRE and EAGLE'S WHEELS in both Lulworth and Braunton Burrows consecutively – both of which meant splitting the G4 team in order to deliver support throughout. LCpl Cosby, the Ammo JNCO, was put under pressure along with the RQ to deliver the ammunition requirement, whilst Sgt Trudgill was stretched to deliver the accommodation plan in both locations. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Captain Chris Homewood

prepared his handover notes ready for his departure to ICSC(L) and looked forward to handing over the office keys to Capt Dan Brown, the incoming Quartermaster, ready for MST and leading into Op NEWCOMBE 3. We wish (the now) Maj Homewood and his sidekick Staffy 'Bo' all the very best for the future.

Throughout the year, the Logistical Support Detachment (LSD) has been critical in supporting Regimental activity and without them much of what we do would grind to a halt. At the helm is SSgt Alan Pope who is often found furiously tapping away on his MJDI terminal, placing and tracking demands through to completion. Never far behind is the quiet yet personable Cpl Thurston, who monitors the Unit Spares Account to ensure that our fleet is provided with a steady supply of parts for repair. LCpl Awudey (AKA Sky) and Pte Limbu are also an important part of the LSD and are always there to meet customers with a ready and willing smile and are quickly learning how to say "Sorry, can you come back tomorrow?" – a fundamental skill in a G4 streamed career!

Just as the department managed to reset, July delivered several MST serials that once again required the support of the G4 team. The All-Ranks Brief prior to Op NEWCOMBE 3 meant that there was an accommodation and feeding bill that fixed certain individuals to task which continued through to the Tactical Commanders' Cadre a week later in Lydd, Kent. Late night and early morning weekend travel was a common theme for some, but all involved tackled it without complaint in order to deliver what was required to meet the arrival of the Task Group on a Sunday evening. The summer leave period broke up the year and the team dispersed for a much-needed break with their families. LCpl Bobo and Cpl Delana led the close down of the stores while Sgt Buddhi Gurung finalised any MJDI account work ready for the last quarter. September would see the dawn of the Op NEWCOMBE 3 FTX and MRX on Thetford Training Area which would once again require a great deal of support from the team so forward planning and setting the conditions early was critical.

In the blink of an eye the summer stand down was behind us. Tpr Williams had clearly had a good leave period and was once again ready to deliver some additional challenges for the chain of command. Cpl Limbu and LCpl Sweeney were clearly eager to get back into the swing of things whilst the QM(T) could already be heard cursing down his telephone to ridiculous external last minute taskings and demands.



learning how to say "Sorry, can you come back tomorrow?" – a fundamental skill



The RQ testing Trimble accuracy

The pre-deployment training for the QDG Task Group offered a plethora of daily challenges and the QM's department had been tasked not only to conduct the training, but to deliver an element of the Real-Life Support throughout. WO2 Thomas once again leant in to assist, and his forward thinking and proactive nature helped tackle a lot of what couldn't be managed by those tied into the training serials. Although chaotic at times, the exercise flew by, and before we knew it those who were deploying were packing their bags with the QM for a 7-month Operational Tour. The remainder of the QM's department headed up by Capt Davies, were to hold the home soil and support the ROG and B Sqn on their overseas exercise to the US.

Those that deployed now formed part of the National Support Element (NSE) in Camp Bagnold, Gao, and their

task is to support the QDG Task Group under the NSE OC, Major Dan Brown. The handover of accounts from 2 Royal Anglian went smoothly due to the diligence of the team and everyone in the NSE had to grasp their roles and responsibilities quickly, as the first Task Group departure into the arid Malian environment was but a week away. It may have initially seemed like a lengthy operational tour with an absence of R&R, but the pace of life within the NSE and the daily complex challenges that present themselves will pass the time and see it through to completion quickly. Before we know it, the department will be reunited with the remainder of the G4 team back in the UK ready for the homecoming parades in July, which will once again require that critical G4 support.

DB



Nothing to see here Sir

MT

To use a driving analogy, this years tempo within the department has been akin to driving at speeds which would result in a one way conversation with the Brigade Master Driver. With the LSA&I and LEA inspections, green and white fleet management, force generation of A1 Echelon for OP NEWCOMBE 3 and the deployment and recovery flights OP NEWCOMBE 2/3, the department has been constantly engaged.

There has been a number of personality changes in 2021. At the beginning of the year WO2 Tom Hughes was in the twilight of his tenure as MTWO before posting to Cyprus as RQMS, he was also covering the duties of the MTO. From there SSgt Will Hughes took over for a short period before Capt Trevor Homer and WO2 Mike Beal came into the department in June. Sgt Korovulavula (Sky) was the constant figure head maintaining best practice and managing the department throughout. He has done a great job being constantly trawled to support training as a D&M ninja whilst preparing himself and the A1 grouping for operations.

The junior NCOs and soldiers in MT have continued to perform to a high level despite the high tempo. Cpls Retallack,



Halt Parades

Finlay and Yard have led the way for all GS courses and vehicle familiarisation training, enabling the sub units to crew their green fleet for training events. Cpl Williams and LCpl Young have managed the Green Fleet desk to ensure our vehicles remain task worthy. They regularly tell me how much they love JAMES and wish it were a real person.

Tpr Vaughan has operated the White Fleet desk for the majority of this year. He has managed our fleet of 31 assets with distinction. This desk is the primary daily output of the department and managing the many details, servicing events and the unit's insatiable appetite for lift was no simple task! There is a great deal of work that goes by unseen by the majority of the unit, but the junior NCOs and soldiers are the backbone of the department and have maintained the fleet and kept the Regiment on the road.

Due to the A1 Echelon for OP NEWCOMBE 3 being made up of MT personnel, the department effectively split into 2 groups in July; A1 and the ROG in order to maintain departmental outputs and train for OP NEWCOMBE 3. When Capt Homer took over as MTO he had to quickly ORBAT his A1 workforce and vehicles and prepare for the Mission Specific Training events forecasted by RHQ and MRTC. In June they conducted dismounted and mounted live fire ranges



Safety First

on STANTA and Lulworth before looking ahead to the All Ranks Briefs and mandated individual training courses which were sprinkled throughout.

The Mission Rehearsal Exercise was conducted on STANTA and was the culmination of all the preparation. This was over a six-week period, Sep – Nov, directed by MRTC and the troops were based from Bodney Camp which represented Camp Bagnold. This was a particularly compressed and exceptionally busy training progression with not much time to re-cock between training events, but the team did excellently and went into isolation for a well-earned rest before their respective deployment flights.

From the 10th November MT had to manage a complex transport plan for twelve OP NEWCOMBE 2 and 3 recovery/deployment flights, many of which overlapped. The department successfully recovered all of C Sqn personnel (without too much waiting at Brize) and deployed the Task Group on time in good order.

Looking ahead to 2022 the department will undoubtedly deliver exceptional results as A1 Echelon on OP NEWCOMBE 3 and continue to support the Regiment back at RBSM as it prepares for OTXs and other events.

EH



The MTO overseeing business in Mali

Training Wing

The team here in the Training Wing isn't a large one with just SSgt Comley, Sgt Hazelwood and Cpl Williams in place to help the ever pragmatic WO2 Griffiths in his ever changing role of TO and TWWO. Even so the team did a sterling job over the year with regard to all internal courses and preparing our soldiers for their external courses to improve the standard of the training within the Regiment.

The big hurdle for the Training Wing was the delivery and support of a complex mounted range package; Ex Eagle's Fire, and a driver enhancement package; Ex Eagle's Wheels. A lot of thought had clearly gone into naming both events. After Capt Pearce released version 15 of the admin instruction and numerous meetings of how to get Jackals dropped off in a car park the size of a Kit-Kat we were set and good to go. The Regiment deployed to Lulworth on Ex Eagle's Fire with our RY paired Squadron along with all the atts and dets deploying to Mali.

The package was split into two with WO2 Beal and SSgt Comley taking the reins running Bindon Range as the Mounted Close Combat subject matter experts. This firing package was designed to bring all soldiers up to the required level of training prior to exercises later in the year. Bindon Range was focused on all those that needed to complete Platform Weapon Operator, the MASTIFF group, the TES SVs and a troop of RY. Capt Kite and Capt Brockless took the reins of 5 Tips Range with their priority being A Sqn and all those atts and dets that deployed to Mali later in the year.

Bindon Range was the scene of the night firing where SSgt Comley managed to get all 200 firers through with the constant problems of vehicle breakages,



comms and weapon faults. This turned out to be a massive achievement and saved a lot of time on further night firing days so the RCOs could concentrate their efforts on battle runs.

The ranges themselves ran very smoothly despite the weather as it rained consistently for two days in the summer with constant high winds throughout the package. The weather was worst at 5 Tips where at one point Capt Brockless could be seen contemplating his career choices.

As a bonus we managed to get the RY to fire up to LF6, the first time anyone in the RY had gone so far in a range package. As a result of a very well-run range package the Squadrons and the RY gained some

great results whilst maintaining a positive attitude throughout.

Once Ex Eagle's Fire was complete the Regiment along with atts and dets moved five Jackals and two Coyotes to Braunton Burrows in Devon to start the second phase of the Range and Driver enhance-



ment package. This part of the exercise was called Ex Eagle's Wheels which saw, in the first week, the training being focused on crews conducting obstacles in Bovington, before moving back to Braunton Burrows for further training delivered by DMIs across the Regiment.

We arrived in good time and in daylight hours to assemble a leaguer ready for the following day. The first morning we were awoken to reveille by Sgt Korovulavula's snoring which ensured crews started bright and early!

The first week saw them progress over ascents, descents, tilt angles and a few more areas as a remind and revise of what the vehicle's limits and capabilities were, along with giving the DMIs confidence that the vehicle crews were competent before moving onto a more advanced training area.

Braunton Burrows is a key enabler hidden in north west Devon which is ideal to train on with the Jackal platform and its natural terrain, unlike Salisbury Plain which sees vehicle crews bogged in after moving 100m. Owned by the Christie Estate but rented by the military, the area is heavily populated by civilians due to it being a prime location for tourists. An area for concern when 100 Welshmen and 20 Jackals turned up.

Overall a very good but busy period for the Training Wing and we see 2022 being just as busy if not busier.

RJC



at one point
Capt Brockless
could be seen
contemplating
his career
choices



Welfare Team

When units deploy on operations the Welfare Team needs to be in a position support the triumvirate of the deployed force, the wider Regiment and all of the dependants. This was crucial with C Sqn deployed on operations and A Sqn (with RHQ) shortly about to depart also.

The year has seen personalities change in the Welfare Department: Capt Trevor Homer moved to the MTO role straight into a busy PDT schedule before deploying to Mali. He handed over to Capt Gareth Pearce who assumed the UWO role in June. The welfare continuity and corporate knowledge which is vital in any role remained with newly promoted Sgt Maj John Hinton handing UWSNCO over to Sgt Kevin Young who returned from an SQMS role at CJSU out in sunny Cyprus. LCpl John Bernard has also continued to ensure the PRI stock and welfare facilities are readily available during the two appointment changes.

It has never been so important to promote a community ethos and the Welfare Team have strived to achieve this by engaging with the families and community and ensuring where possible local amenities were still accessible, despite challenges due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The focal point of the community being the Dragon's Den and soft play area, which has seen an abundance of events held over the past year, from charity coffee mornings/cake sales, mother and baby groups, kids tea for the deployed families and numerous children's birthday parties.

Throughout the year the Welfare Team have also organised seasonally themed activities and events. Some of which consisted of:

Easter, when the Welfare Officer was definitely not dressed as the Easter Bunny! But the Welfare Team delivered an Easter Egg Hunt for all



The Norfolk gene pool is shallow

the children of Robertson Barracks, which was very kindly supported by Dereham Tesco who donated the eggs.

And it was no ordinary Easter Egg Hunt, as it had to comply with Government guidelines. The team used their initiative and with a technical twist, eggs were placed strategically around camp with a QR code, which provided an anagram and once all the words to the puzzle were complete, the children could collect their prize from the Easter Bunny. The activity was a real success allowing the community to get out during the difficult period.

Some exciting news saw our RBSM Youth Club re-open in September. This has provided hours of entertainment and activities for the children and a safe place for them to come and play.

Four young people from the Queen's Dragoon Guards attended a residential course which was set over five days and four nights, where young people's skills in climbing, high ropes and assault course were put to the test, with 56 other young people from across the East. It was a great opportunity for children with a serving military parent to get together and share their experiences of military life.

October half term week was a great success with Sarah Coote (the CDW) organising some great activities, starting with coached football sessions run by Norwich City Community Sports Foundation, then later in the week, pumpkin carving and craft sessions, finishing off with the grand finale: a Halloween children's party at the Dragon's Den. Great numbers for Halloween week with well over 100



Two happy customers

children and young people attending and enjoying time with their friends and families.

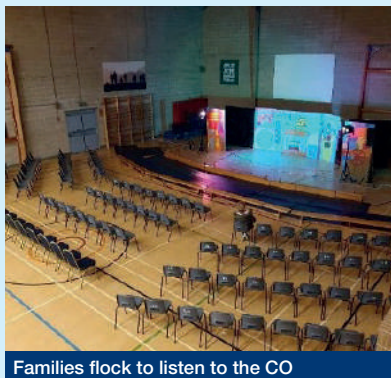
Christmas 2021 saw the Welfare Team organising the children's Christmas party and a Christmas panto (Aladdin) delivered by The British Forces Federation panto bus. We were lucky enough to be selected by

the Little Troopers charity who donated some 250 bears for our deployed soldiers' children, as well as activity packs that were sent out by post or hand delivered by the Welfare Team. There was then a trip to Roarr Dinosaur Adventure Park where families enjoyed a "Santa's workshop" as well as a fun day out at the theme park. Concurrently to the busy Christmas period in conjunction with the QDG Association and volunteers the

Welfare Team played a key role in collecting and distributing over 130 Christmas Hampers to the families of the deployed soldiers. With the distribution areas being split between the RCA and the Regimental Engagement Team, the Welfare Team took the remainder in the Norfolk area. The 2021 year ended with the RBSM Community Christmas function providing the wives and spouses an opportunity to get out and socialise whilst enjoying great food and a festive drink down at the local venue Darby's.

It has been a challenging but great year for QDG Welfare Team and everyone who supports us daily. We look forward to welcoming the Regiment back in 2022 and continuing to support all our soldiers and their families.

GP



Families flock to listen to the CO



Who recovers the recoverers?



I'd pay a civvy thousands to do this instead of me



If you don't inspect them they stay green on JAMES



Anyone know how to fix this thing?



LAD

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards LAD have had a high-tempo year in preparation for, and deployment on, Op NEWCOMBE 2 and 3 in support of The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). This has included Ex GAO EAGLE in Cyprus, Ex RATTLESNAKE in Louisiana, USA, and Op NEWCOMBE Pre-Deployment Training (PDT).

With one Sqn deploying on Op NEWCOMBE ROTO 2, and the Regiment leading the Long Range Reconnaissance Group (LRRG) for Op NEWCOMBE ROTO 3, the LAD has been spread across the world to complete its mission and deliver ES Effect over the last year.

In January 21, C Sqn Fitter Section started PDT for Op NEWCOMBE 2 while successfully keeping an aging and neglected fleet operational. At the same time A Sqn Fitter Section deployed on Ex GAO EAGLE, a

month-long deployment in Cyprus.

Shortly after returning to the UK from Cyprus, elements of A Sqn Fitter Section deployed once more, this time in support of Ex RATTLESNAKE in Louisiana, USA for two months. A mixture of dismounted and mounted training, the LAD got to experience how to survive in a swampy, humid environment, how to operate in American vehicles and how the US Army conducts Equipment Support.

With C Sqn Fitter Section deployed the LAD had a large reshuffle, as well as having many people posted out in quick succession. SSgt Shinn took control of both remaining fitter sections and they all worked extremely hard to get the training fleet ready for A Sqn to begin pre deployment training for Op NEWCOMBE 3.

Being the closest geographical REME unit to Thetford training area, the LAD has

We were also called upon to assist in the recovery of a helicopter that had emergency landed in a carrot field



What's the policy on denial again?

been frequently called upon to support various units that are exercising in the area. Cpl Brown deployed on a Sunday to recover a recovery vehicle that had become immobile on the training area and assisting the Infantry Battle School on numerous occasions. We were also called upon to assist in the recovery of a helicopter that had emergency landed in a carrot field near Ipswich, much to the farmer's annoyance as he was in the middle of harvesting the crop.

In summer A Sqn and HQ fitter sections went into full pre deployment mode, whilst, like C Sqn Fitter Section, attempting to keep a neglected and



Lefty tighty... righty loosey isn't it?



Recovering a helicopter



If we drain all the green out of this one, we can put it in the other one



5* performance – from start to finish I was hooked!



Magazine!

aging training fleet operational. Many of the fitter section went away on required courses and training to ensure their successful deployment at the beginning of December.

In November 21 the LAD HQ and A Sqn Fitter Section deployed, taking over responsibility of the LRRG fleet on 1st December and briefly catching up with C

Sqn Fitter Section before their return to the UK. Out until June 22, the LAD are greatly looking forward to the challenges over the next few months as they fight to keep the LRRG moving through the dry, rocky terrain of the desert.

It has been an extremely busy year for all LAD personnel, with an extremely high percentage deploying or getting qualified

to deploy as a reserve. COVID has obviously made this more challenging with people having to self-isolate sporadically.

There have been many personnel leave us who we wish all the best to, and many posted in who we welcome to the QDG LAD Family.

AWHS & VF

SPS Detachment

The SPS Detachment have been put through their paces this year. We have been part of every exercise and deployment, providing continued support to the Regiment. We are always busy providing a service to the Regiment and there are no days off!

A SQN

To begin the year, A Sqn MPA Cpl Bakhem and Pte Clough went to Cyprus for Ex GAO EAGLE. They conducted various ranges and section attacks throughout the month-long exercise. They both showcased their skills in the field alongside doing their MPA admin work. This shows the flexibility and adaptability that our job requires us to have.

After coming back from Cyprus, the MPAs had a few weeks in Robertson Barracks before heading off to Ex RATTLESNAKE.

B SQN

Cpl Hodgson was on Op CABRIT before the year started. Over the duration of the 7-month deployment, COVID caused considerable constraints and there were limited opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Cpl Hodgson however, still managed to conduct the Cold Weather Operators' Course, which consisted of survival techniques over 3 days including making shelters, cooking chicken and fish, then finishing with a refreshing lake submersion.

C SQN

LCpl Robyn Purvis deployed on Op NEWCOMBE 2 with her Sqn. She deployed as a gunner and had to do all the courses prior to deploying. She has achieved this through her hard work and willingness to deploy outside of her job



The SPS Det in Mali

role. It takes some courage to go out of your comfort zone and she has done exactly that.

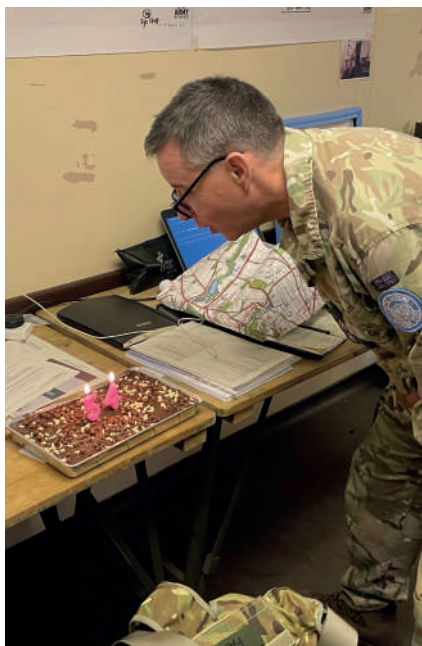
HQ

The main effort for the unit this year was deploying to OP NEWCOMBE 3 as it was QDG led. The preparations for this began in early June and became one of our main priorities. The first day of our

5-week MRX showed us everyone that was deploying. The list of tasks that had to be completed for each individual to deploy was long and time-consuming. These tasks were a continual commitment throughout the exercise; however, this was nothing the team couldn't handle. Having planned extensively, the team was well prepared for any fast balls. Always expect the unexpected!



Rigid SPS Dress Standards



Promotions

We saw a couple of promotions in the Det this year and would like to congratulate LCpl Jukesh Gurung promoting to Cpl and Cpl Greenwood promoting to Sgt. Furthermore, we would like to mention an exceptional accomplishment from one of our dearest, Sgt Chilvers, who not only promoted to SSgt but was also



successfully selected for LE Commissioning.

We said thank you and farewell to Capt Nathan Rixson, Sgt Sasha Chilvers, Sgt Shelly-Ann Berry, Sgt Ashley Greenwood, Cpl Jukesh Gurung and LCpl Ganga Limbu. We welcomed Lt Andrew Huntley, Sgt Manasa Raikoso, Sgt Adil Saleem, Sgt Lamin Sonko, Cpl Christo-

pher Cooper, Cpl Toni Parker and LCpl Leonie Thornton to the team.

The forthcoming year already looks to be action packed and the Det continues to work hard to ensure the Regiment is 100% ready to deploy. We will always overcome any challenges that we face.

SL

Padre

How do we reflect on the past year? What has it meant to each of us. The past two articles that I have written in 2019 and 2020 have been heavily influenced by the 'C' (COVID) word or the 'P' (Pandemic) word but for the most part of 2021, whilst ever present, it has not controlled our lives quite as much as it did during the 'lockdowns' that we have lived through. For the QDG, it has been a busy time building up to and going on deployments as part of the UN Peacekeeping Mission to Mali, with C Squadron returning home to their families just in time for Christmas.

The 1st January is designated Global Day of Peace and Sharing around the world by the United Nations. In this year of preparation and deployment on Op Newcombe, we must all hope that our contribution, along with that of the other nations serving in this part of the world, will make a difference to the people of Mali and in turn, to stability of peace more widely.

In the Bible, Matthew Chapter 5, verses 1-12 contain The Beatitudes, which includes the verse 'Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' Taken from The Sermon on the Mount, The Beatitudes challenge us to take on Jesus' revolutionary call to

turn to the poor, the mourning, the weak in order to see and experience the shape of God's kingdom.

Whether you are a person of faith or not, it is a fundamental human right that peoples of all nations should be able to live alongside one another peaceably. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations says this ... 'In the end, it comes down to values ... We want the world our children inherit to be defined by the values enshrined in the UN Charter: peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance and solidarity.'

Words that in very real terms echo those of Jesus. I tend to think that all of the Operations that we are involved with in the military around the world are 'Peacekeeping' missions in the sense that sometimes peace needs to be fought for. In Mali, we seek to keep the peace and to bring stability, disrupting the activities of those who would seek to undermine those values.

As we hold Church services, we pray each week for our families. Thank you for your support and the sacrifices that you make in supporting us and particularly whilst we are deployed. You have been very much in our thoughts and prayers and we give thanks to God for each and every one of you.



The 20th March every year is designated 'International Day of Happiness', by The United Nations. The day was established in 2012, with the following narrative ... 'Conscious that the pursuit of happiness is a fundamental human goal, ...recognising the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach ... that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and the well-being of all peoples, ...'

'Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'

The last verse of Romans, Chapter 8 reminds us of the promise that nothing '... in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:39)

SW

Catering Department

2021 has been an exciting albeit challenging year for the catering department, filled with uncertainty from one day to the next with the pandemic and its ever-changing rules regarding feeding and functions. However, the department were kept busy in other ways especially with ongoing Brigade trawls happening consistently throughout the year.

Sgt Hodgson and LCpl Watson started the year already deployed on OP CABRIT with B Sqn, fulfilling all the feeding requirements which was met with high praise from all those in attendance. We then said goodbye to the Unit Catering Manager, SSgt Neil McDermont, on what was a successful assignment. He left us on promotion to WO2, starting his new challenge with The Rifles in Bulford.

The next main focus was to get the Catering Department ready for the upcoming LSA&I, which was overcome with great success. Then came the preparations for the delayed Waterloo celebrations. The Catering Department were thrilled with finally being able to showcase their skills and deliver a high-class function, and play their part in important Regimental traditions. Unfortunately, due to reasons beyond our control and after much preparation the celebrations were cancelled the day before they were due to take place.

After summer leave, we had an opportunity to again showcase our skills in what was a successful Officers' Mess Summer Ball; which was met with high praise with



Almost as good as pie in a bun

all those in attendance. Cpl Gurung and Pte Wanjiku then had the pleasure of a 6 week-long trawl to Linton on Ouse to assist in the busy feeding of an Quarantine Facility (QFAC).

Then came the 6 week long exercise EX GAO TEMPEST to oversee and supply manpower to 3



The Catering department were thrilled with finally being able to showcase their skills and deliver a high-class function



busy kitchens in STANTA, helping to get the Regiment ready for deployment to OP NEWCOMBE. Sgt Dunn, Cpl Akerman, Cpl Gurung, LCpl Tice and Pte Wanjiku were joined by some interesting characters from 1 PWRR in what was another successful campaign.

Worthy of note, Pte Wanjiku would then complete his Production Chef Apprenticeship. He achieved an outstanding distinction grade and as a reward received a brand

new set of chef's knives from the Army School of Catering.

We then came towards the final months of the year. The newly joined Pte Papworth would be sent on his first trawl to Linton on Ouse (QFAC). He was shortly followed out of the door by Cpl Akerman deploying to Germany on EX STEADFEAST LEDA, and Sgt Hodgson unexpectedly getting sent to Gibraltar with only a day's notice!

We would like to welcome the following into the department: LCpl Tice posted in from St Athan, and Ptes Wanjiku and Papworth posted in straight from training. We said goodbye to some members on their well earned promotions: SSgt Neil McDermont posted to 2 Rifles and LCpl Gitau posted to Sennybridge with the Signals. Also congratulations to LCpl Watson on his promotion from Pte, who has chosen to stay on with the QDG for his next assignment.



Capt Owen's lunch will be served in the anteroom

EDWARD FRASER

Manufacturing Jeweller and Regimental Silversmiths

Bespoke engagement rings and jewellery
handmade to your budget



Contact: Warwick Fraser Gück (ex QDG)

Email: warwick@edwardfraser.com

Tel: +44(0)1386 871139 Mobile: +44(0)790 5040035

www.edwardfraser.com



Christmas fancy dress run



Do you think this pipe is burst?

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12...
Yep that's all of them!

Swinging...not all glamour

The slow roll out of
Regimental PT kit
was evident!

Gymnasium

Introduction

2021 has been a great year for the Gymnasium. 2020 was the year of individual PT and 2021 was the year we got our teeth back into some real phys. This year has brought new fitness testing that replaces the Annual Fitness Test (AFT) for the attached arms called the Role Fitness Test (RFT(S)). This aligns with their Physical Employment Standard (PES) so that each capbadge has its own standard, appropriate to its role. Build-up training has paid off and the testing has been successful.

COVID-19 still restricted training during 2021, but we had the chance to mitigate this with the introduction of the Lateral Flow Testing Facility. The Gymnasium was the chosen location for the test facility and this meant that the AAPTIs got to show off their versatility whilst leading the testing. The testing facility enabled pre-deployment training to continue for both Op NEWCOMBE 2 and 3.

C Sqn Pre-deployment PT

At the start of the year, C Sqn was almost ready to deploy, but just before they did, we provided one more week of decent PT for the Sqn. The gym was still out

of bounds, so myself, LCpl Gutttridge and Sgt Taylor ran a few big outdoor circuits with a final Mali-themed tactical PT session.

Gaining Strength

It had been a while since the unit conducted real strength-based PT. The barbells were set up outside and lifting techniques were checked before progressing to some real weight. The goal was to build a stronger muscular-skeletal foundation prior to loading the body with heavy bergens; we worked on the main compound strength exercises, deadlift, squat, row, bench press, shoulder press, lunge and heaves.

Building Team Cohesion Through Physical Training

After the strength phase we started working on muscular endurance. Tuesdays were now muscular endurance days and through the summer months these took place outdoors. We structured team-based sessions which gave the sessions more of a competitive feel, you could clearly see the effort teams would put in to beat others.

The session is
always kept
a surprise,
to keep the
troops on their
toes



always kept a surprise, to keep the troops on their toes. The sessions start with a good warm up, after which the troops begin running, only to find logs and stretchers lined up around the corner.

A good way to build courage and confidence in soldiers is to run combat conditioning sessions. We set up 4 stations, punching pads, casualty evacuation, partner exercises and the big one which is wrestling. This a good exercise because all the soldiers sit in a circle facing outwards, the PTIs walk around the circle building suspense before picking the two soldiers to wrestle, once the pair are picked the words of command are "turn and face", all the soldiers turn around and those nominated enter the circle, bang their hands on the ground 3 times before going head-to-head with the aim



Change front right!



Stand by, GO!



B Sqn after a Tab



Ellis, Marais, Rees

LANCE CORPORAL PAUL FARRELLY

LCPL PAUL FARRELLY DEPLOYED WITH A SQUAD OF THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS ON OP TELIC 6. HE WAS ON HIS 2ND TOUR OF IRAQ WHEN THE PARADE HE WAS IN WAS ATTACKED BY A ROADSIDE BOMB IN AL JAZZARA DISTRICT OF NORTHWEST BAGDAD, ON 29TH MAY AT 23:30HRS IN 2006. LCPL FARRELLY WAS PART OF 1ST TROOP WHO WERE TAKING PART IN A TRAINING TASK WITH THE IRAQI SECURITY FORCES. HE WAS DRIVING AN AMTRAC WHEN HE WAS INJURED WHEN THE INCIDENT KILLED HIM AND THE VEHICLE COMMANDER, LT TOM MILDENHALL. PAUL WAS INJURED TO THE HEAD AND NECK AND WAS LATER DECEASED. HE WAS A DEDICATED, PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER WHO WAS WELL RESPECTED AMONGST HIS PEERS.

PAUL WAS A BROTHERLY, SUPPORTIVE AND DEDICATED SOLDIER WHO WAS WELL RESPECTED AMONGST HIS PEERS.

LCPL FARRELLY WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A HAPPY, JOVIAL SOLDIER WHO WAS A DEDICATED PART OF HIS UNIT. HE WAS DECEASED TO TRAVEL AND TRAVEL WITH HIS CHILDREN AND WAS REMOVED FROM FAMILIAL CARE. FARRELLY WAS ALL THINGS.

HE OF THE IRAQI BORDER POLICE, WHERE HE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND DILIGENT OFFICER.

TOM WAS A BROTHERLY, SUPPORTIVE AND DEDICATED SOLDIER.

HERO WORKOUT "FAZ"

3 PARTS - HIS CHILDREN

1. DEUCE - 5 AMRAP (YOU-GO-I-GO)

11 X PRESS UPS

11 X SQUATS

11 X REVERSE LUNGES

2. MORGAN - 5 MIN AMRAP (YOU-GO-I-GO)

11 X JUMP SQUATS

11 X JUMP SQUATS

3. BROCKE - 200M RUN (YEAR)

IN PARS

HERO WORKOUT FAZ & TOM
ALWAYS DONE TOGETHER FAZ THEN TOM

LIEUTENANT TOM MILDENHALL

LT TOM MILDENHALL WAS THE TROOP LEADER FOR 1ST TROOP OF THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS ON OP TELIC 6. HE WAS ON HIS SECOND TOUR OF IRAQ WHEN THE PARADE HE WAS IN WAS ATTACKED BY A ROADSIDE BOMB IN AL JAZZARA DISTRICT OF NORTHWEST BAGDAD, ON 29TH MAY AT 23:30HRS IN 2006. 1ST TROOP WERE TAKING PART IN A TRAINING TASK WITH THE IRAQI SECURITY FORCES. HE, AND HIS DRIVER LCPL PAUL FARRELLY, WERE IN AN AMTRAC WHEN HE WAS INJURED WHEN THE INCIDENT KILLED HIM AND THE VEHICLE COMMANDER, LT TOM MILDENHALL. PAUL WAS INJURED TO THE HEAD AND NECK AND WAS LATER DECEASED. HE WAS A DEDICATED, PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER WHO WAS WELL RESPECTED AMONGST HIS PEERS.

TOM WAS A BROTHERLY, SUPPORTIVE AND DEDICATED SOLDIER.

LCPL FARRELLY WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A HAPPY, JOVIAL SOLDIER WHO WAS A DEDICATED PART OF HIS UNIT. HE WAS DECEASED TO TRAVEL AND TRAVEL WITH HIS CHILDREN AND WAS REMOVED FROM FAMILIAL CARE. FARRELLY WAS ALL THINGS.

HE OF THE IRAQI BORDER POLICE, WHERE HE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND DILIGENT OFFICER.

TOM WAS A BROTHERLY, SUPPORTIVE AND DEDICATED SOLDIER.

HERO WORKOUT "TOM"

10 AMRAP (YOU-GO-I-GO)

30 SEC MAX EFFORT (BOW/RW/SKI)

400M AS PAIR

HERO WORKOUT FAZ & TOM
ALWAYS DONE TOGETHER FAZ THEN TOM

of pinning their opponent on their back for a count of 3. Lt Holland is a keen wrestler and is currently undefeated, claiming the title of 'The QDG's Achilles (Heel)'.

The obstacle course has been back in action for 2021. The team had to initially demonstrate the basic techniques for tackling an obstacle course as many soldiers had yet to face one. Once the training was out of the way we could enjoy some competition in the form of a log and stretcher race, finishing with the obstacle course.

These type of CO's PT sessions have successfully prepared A Sqn and the deploying HQ element for Op NEWCOMBE 3.

Hero Workouts

The RSM approached the gym with the idea of dedicated PT sessions to remember our fallen Dragoons, each with a personal element. LCpl Marais (now Cpl Marais) took the lead on this and designed the workouts around their personal attributes, family members and hobbies.

A framed citation was made with photos of the fallen and the workout that was designed in their memory. Our first hero workout was for Lt Tom Mildenhall and LCpl Paul 'Faz' Farrelly. It consisted of a gruelling session in which the whole Regiment took part and was a great success. The PT wing will continue to

design and conduct hero workouts for our fallen Dragoons.

AAPTIs

I would like to congratulate Cpl Marais (the brains behind the gym) on the birth of his twin girls Beatrix and Skyla on the 29th December 2022. I would also like to congratulate the following: Tpr Fogarty, LCpl Hellyar-Jones and LCpl Lewis on passing their AAPT course. We look forward to developing our potential PTIs in 2022 with more and more soldiers showing interest in becoming PTIs. The hard work of our quality AAPTIs has made all the above possible.

CE



Officers' Mess

The year 2021 began under the heavy restrictions of Covid-19. Early on, however, the Mess identified a good excuse for some outdoor fun in the form of some minor pest control; kindly provided by the Keiths at their farm next door. Fortunately, this was allowed due to the Mess being one household. It was a long day of walking, and great fun was had by all, with several members being able to bag their first bird.

C Sqn deployed to Mali on Op NEWCOMBE 2 in June with the Royal Anglians and took with them a large chunk of the Mess. From that point the Mess would not return as a single unit until well into 2022. In the meantime Mess traditions very much stayed alive. The Orders of Dress photo went ahead with some more recent additions being shown: Zoom Order and King Faisal



A duly outraged Mess then resorted to curry takeaways, pub dinners, trekking to the Sgts' mess and Pot Noodles



Order. There was the usual posting of champagne corks to Officers deployed overseas; just to ensure they remembered exactly what they were missing back home. As a result there are now there several well-placed corks spread over Camp Bagnold and Poland for subsequent rotations to puzzle over.

Brexit continues to impact the lives of those in the Mess, and 2021 was no different. Except this time it was deadly serious: the Roger Brun Champagne stock almost ran dry. Luckily salvation arrived in the form of Henry Sugden (Defined Wines), an ex-QDG, who was on hand to save us from total disaster. They produced a large quantity of individually branded QDG Sparkling wine from the 'Garden' of England. After the initial shock and spluttering at no longer drinking cham-

pagne, the Mess managed to pause their Chin-ery and began to use their palettes; it swiftly became a favourite and is certainly here to stay. Furthermore we are glad that we can share it with the RCA, in such a way that it is distributed all over the country to be enjoyed by current and ex QDG officers alike.

An ongoing theme in the Mess is the Senior Curry Club of The Line (SCCoTL). Typically this involves an officer, on his return from the warm bosom of London, picking up a bootful of curry from Spice Fusion on their way back to the Mess. This peaked with Lt Al-Khamiri collecting the meal in his personal TukTuk, for a truly authentic experience. SCCoTL proved to be a much more practical addition to Mess life when our beloved contractors revealed that all the chefs had left due to having their salaries cut and being heavily overworked for no overtime, and that they were closing the Mess kitchen for the foreseeable future. A duly outraged Mess then resorted to curry takeaways, pub dinners, trekking to the Sgts' Mess and Pot Noodles – some members of the



Mess didn't even notice the difference.

September was the shining light on the horizon with the Summer Ball due to go ahead on the 11th after a year's hiatus. Breaking from tradition, there was no theme and the Livers In spent a furiously busy two weeks getting it ready. The highlights were the Royal Yeomanry Band, who delivered a fantastic Quartet performance at the drinks reception followed by an exceptional performance during dinner. Changing the tempo a little, a more contemporary band then struck up in the ballroom with dancing going on into the small hours.

The highlight this year for the remainder of the Mess (Sorry B Sqn) was the deployment to Mali on Operation NEWCOMBE ROTO 3. This served as a reminder that though we may enjoy all the finery and fun the Mess has to offer, we also have a role to play in UN Peacekeeping and ensuring the British Army continues to be held in such high regard by other nations. HQ and A Sqn

officers left a skeleton crew of B Sqn and returning C Sqn officers at home and flew out to Mali in November to begin the handover from 2 Royal Anglians, completing the Transfer of Authority on 1st Dec 21. Working alongside numerous nations, QDG now have the enormous responsibility of taking on the Long Range Reconnaissance Group, improving and

developing it during our tenure. Luckily, we need only look back to 1942, to the KDG and Queen's Bays of North Africa for some pedigree and precedent which should stand us in good stead for the coming months. The Mess will continue to live on out in Mali with 22 officers deployed, safe in the knowledge that B & C Sqns are holding the fort for a grand reunion in June 2022.

GWB

“
**The Mess will
continue to live
on out in Mali**





The RSM Hosting

WOs' and Sgts' Mess

The WOs' and Sgts' Mess began the year by bidding farewell to the previous RSM, Mr Homer, and welcoming in the current RSM, Mr Chant. Capt Homer has been a great figurehead throughout his tenure and kept the Mess in good order during a very turbulent time, managing Covid 19 rules and restrictions. As a Mess, we wish both Capt Homer and his family all the very best for the future and thank him for all the good times that have been shared.

I would also like to thank my predecessor, the RQ(T) Mr Ruddy, for a brilliant hand over. His hard work, drive and attention to detail has put the Mess in a great place and set the conditions to move forward. With Covid 19 now starting to dissipate, we can begin to move forward as a Mess and plan some good activity for 2022.

The initial big-ticket item in the FOE was Waterloo 207. The planning for this began in May and although the original date

was cancelled on us, we still managed to have an impromptu Waterloo dinner night to mark the occasion on the 5th August. The hours put in previously ensured the night ran as smoothly as possible, but unfortunately with the Covid Force Health Protection (FHP) measures thrust upon us, we were not allowed to celebrate in the usual manner. Due to these FHP measures, we were not able to play the usual cricket and rugby matches as the risk was deemed too high. We were hugely disappointed due to the amount of effort put in by all Mess Members, but our hands were tied and we had no room for manoeuvre.

This year's Waterloo dinner night was unlike any previous and was massively

“
...our hands
were tied
and we had
no room for
manoeuvre”



Welsh slate



Wine tasting

dialled down. The night mostly entailed eating Beef Wellington and sampling copious amounts of alcohol, with various members of the Mess putting in a great shift. Even Sgt Maj McKinnon managed to last an hour before sleeping in a ches-terfield! The evening was very different and although it never substituted the formal dinner, it was the best that could be put together and it is hoped that next year we will be able to celebrate it in true tradition. For members of the Regiment that have not been to this dinner, it's a tradition that has been going on for over 200 years since its inception after the battle of Waterloo in 1815.

The next event was organised by Sgt Speed and came in the form of wine tasting. The evening began with a civilian company showcasing their wares, and with most of the Mess cradling full glasses of "rouge". We went at it. Mess members were given five different glasses of wine to taste, but after only one glass it was as if Sgt Maj Comley was born in France and was the world's leading connoisseur in wine tasting! I could continue with the story, but to cut it short he is now nick-

named "Bobby one glass" and the rest is history. The evening was a great success and activities like this is what it is all about.

On the 2nd September the Mess hosted F Sqn for their inaugural gathering. For this event, many members of ERE (Extra Regimental Employment) returned to Robertson Barracks and were hosted in their respective Messes. The day started at 1230hrs with lunch and then all attendees went into a period of briefings. It was great to see everyone and understand what they have been up to! The Colonel of The Regiment and 7th Brigade Commander also presented the Regimental Medal to Lt Col Tyson and the Op TURUS medal to WO2 Griffiths. Afterwards, a game of cricket was played in which F Sqn were crowned champions. With the day almost over, the main focus switched to the evening and with the Officers' Mess now retired to their own Mess, a BBQ was

put on and many drinks were consumed. It was a great evening, and it was brilliant to see everyone. Hopefully as the years progress, we can build on this and welcome back even more Dragons.

In November we said goodbye to RHQ and A Sqn who deployed to Mali on Op NEWCOMBE 3, shortly afterwards we then welcomed back C Sqn. We managed to organise a few drinks at Christmas before C Sqn went on their post operational tour leave and it was great to see them and catch up. There were a few sore heads the following morning and everyone had a good evening.

With the end of 2021 now in sight, everyone is now looking forward to 2022 when TGHQ and A Sqn return. Hopefully COVID19 will take a back seat and we can all enjoy the Mess returning to a state of normality.

SW



**Hopefully
as the years
progress,
we can build
on this and
welcome back
even more
Dragoons.**



Sgt Wilkins



Mr Griffiths

A History of The Princess Mary's Hospital

Royal Air Force Akrotiri 1963 – 2013

Written by Colonel David Vassallo L/RAMC

A new 120 page paperback book about the hospital's history packed with intriguing photographs that raises funds for RAF Akrotiri Station Charities.

If you were posted to Cyprus you will enjoy the memories and delight browsing through the images, if you were born there you will cherish this unique keepsake. Buy it as a gift.

ISBN 978-0992798017



Available to buy online at www.thegreatbritishbookshop.co.uk, Amazon and The Museum of Military Medicine



Always at the ready

F/Major Regimental Mascot

2021 has been a challenging year for LCpl Jones, due to the restrictions of Covid 19 that we have all shared. We had to be careful of the events that he attended, as well as sticking to the guidelines that have been put in place to protect and stop the spread of 'the disease'. The way we achieved this was by allowing the public to approach him, in order to see and take photos, whilst also abiding by the two-meter rule. This could be challenging as the members of the public just love to come and have selfies taken with him!

The year started off slow for LCpl Jones and the Farrier Major due to travel restrictions and cancelled events. But soon as we had the go ahead LCpl Jones was galloping straight back out to Wales, getting himself back out in the public eye.

Once the restrictions had eased off and events started to reopen, it didn't take long for the requests for LCpl Jones to flood in. Things rapidly picked up pace, seeing LCpl Jones trotting back into action. This year LCpl Jones and

the Farrier Major joined the Regimental Engagement Team (RET) where they attended Colleges, as well as Military Prep Colleges in Wales. Below is a short list of some of the events that LCpl Jones has attended:

- Harrogate Phase One pass off.
- Winchester Phase One pass off.
- Three Counties Show.
- Military Prep Colleges around Wales and Border Counties.
- Remembrance Parade within Wales.
- Field of Remembrance.
- Festival of Music.
- Ethnic minority Remembrance Parade.
- Royal Salute Wales.
- RBL poppy collection within Wales.
- Army in Wales Awards
- Cadet visit within Wales and Border Counties.
- Dreams and Wishes.

LCpl Jones' Final appearance for 2021 will be supporting the charity Dreams and Wishes in Wales. There he will visit some of the Welsh hospitals and deliver gifts to the children's wards. Once we have

finished, LCpl Jones will be heading to Dorset where he will take a well earned break and just generally hoof around and enjoy his Christmas leave. After gaining a few Christmas pounds, LCpl Jones will be ready for 2022 and the usual requests for the Senior Regimental Mascot of The Line to attend various events in Wales and the Border Counties.

MH



Rigid Sword Drill

Cpls' Mess

Unfortunately, much like 2020, 2021 was another quiet start for the Cpls' Mess. With Covid Lockdown welcoming the Regimental return after Christmas Leave, things could only get better throughout the year.

With C Sqn shortly deploying on Op Newcombe there were a raft of changes to the committee, seeing Cpl Pugh hand over PMC to Cpl Griffiths and then quickly again to Cpl May upon the promotion of his predecessor. Many other committee positions also changed hands to keep the Mess going over the upcoming and extremely busy year for the JNCOs. The PEC (Cpl Parsons), Treasurer (LCpl Purvis/LCpl Thornton), Bar Manager (LCpl Kenny) and his staff (LCpl Parsons, LCpl Logan and now Cpl DT), Property Managers (LCpl Sweeney and LCpl Tekin) and Fire NCO (LCpl Cosby) were all charged with getting the Mess running again, once restrictions have lifted.

The beginning of summer saw restrictions ease so the Mess could finally open again, just in time for the delayed Euros! After a quick dust off, bar restock and the

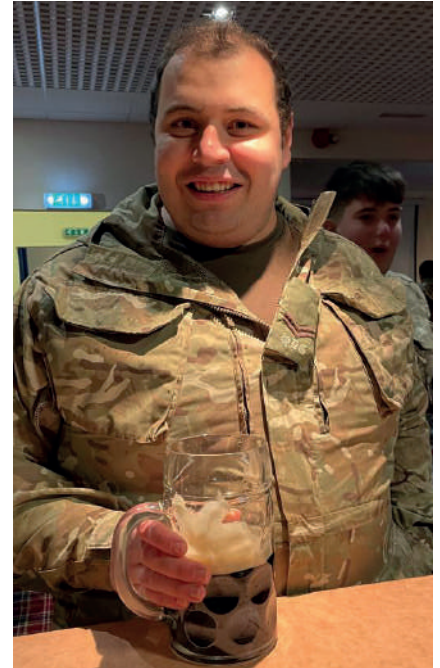
usual formalities the bar finally opened it shutters again for a warm up Pizza Night before the Football, with both new and old PMCs (Sgt Griffiths and Cpl May) serving the first drinks in over 6 months. This was on the house, after a whole unclaimed year of £100 being put behind the bar for every Wales and England game. It was clear to see by the numbers attending, the Mess had been sorely missed!

With C Sqn deployed and A Sqn on PDT the Mess had a quiet Summer with less than 20 Mess members remaining on camp! However, using this time we planned the annual Lucknow function, which turned out more difficult than planned! With only one week on the FOE free for functions; every mess, squadron and department had the same idea: functions. Meaning our formal dinner was not able

to go ahead as planned. Determined not to let this opportunity pass, our normal formal event was quickly changed to become the first, and probably last, informal Lucknow night. Much to the relief of everyone still trying to get the stains out of their Mess Dress after the Lucknow before! The theme decided



It was clear to see by the numbers attending, the Mess had been sorely missed!



Just a small ale please

was a Casino night. No actual money was used during the night! However, the Winner did get a prize from both the Mess and the Casino company, so there were a lot of impromptu rivalries between the top earners! Cpl Bould claimed the top prize with the very last card on the final hand of Blackjack!

With C Sqn's return in November and A Sqn's departure it was time to celebrate Regimental Christmas Day. With C Sqn on some well-earned leave, the ROG JNCOs were severely outnumbered as the Mess invited up the Tprs, for what was for many their first taste of Mess. The annual Christmas Day Raffle had a wide range of prizes from TVs, Laptops and all the way down to the less elaborate Blu Ray DVDs. A week later and with C Sqn back on RBSM for a week before Christmas they too had their own Christmas function before departing once more.

With Covid restrictions reducing, 2022 should bring the Mess back to its former glory ready for the return of A Sqn with an extravagant summer ball!

CM



Roll up! Roll up!



Port for the winner!



Military Medical Revolution

How the UK's Defence Medical Services transformed in conflict, 1990–2015

A new book by Colonel David Vassallo FRCSEd MA L/RAMC

Foreword by Lieutenant General Louis Lillywhite CB MBE

An inspiring analysis of life-saving advances in military medicine and how these are catalysing better trauma care worldwide.

ISBN 978-0-9927980-2-4 paperback ISBN 978-0-9927980-3-1 hardback

RRP
£15
Also available
in hardback

Available via the Museum of Military Medicine (www.museumofmilitarymedicine.org.uk) and main bookshops

Sgt Maj Comley marches the Regiment to church

Regimental Christmas Day

This year's Regimental Christmas Day was held on Tuesday 7th December, obviously. It was particularly important this year for the Rear Ops Group (ROG) to spend the day together as a family due to C Sqn and A Sqn's operational commitments in Mali.

The day started off with Gunfire, the traditional early call from the Officers and Seniors of the ROG clambering through the accommodation blocks armed with copious amounts of coffee that may, or may not, have had a spirit or two added in for good measure. As B Sqn had their Sqn function the night before there was a lot of weary faces (and some that were suspiciously still happy) when they were woken by the dulcet tones of SSgt Comley and SSgt Davies 220 singing "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" at full volume.

The QMSI SSgt Ellis and his staff had prepared a Regimental potted sports competition with such activities as a three-legged sack race, egg and spoon race, and wheel barrow racing. These events were all hotly contested, with the top team each being award a certifi-

cate by Maj Mansel at the end of the session. All this was organised to help invigorate the troops and generate a healthy appetite before Christmas lunch.

SSgt Comley, in the RSM's absence, then formed the Regiment up and marched them through Swanton Morley Village to the Village Church, giving an opportunity for the locals to see the style and panache of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards. The locals were assured that, even though we were deployed, we are still very much a part of the community.

The local Vicar hosted the service in Swanton Morley Church. The songs were all sung loud and proud, which is a big a victory as could be asked for. It turns out not every Welshman grew up in a choir, sorry Zulu.

Regimental Christmas

lunch was served by the Officers and Seniors in the traditional manner. This year

went with out a single sprout thrown, although on clear up a lot of throwable food was piled on the troops' tables. The food and setup were a testament to the catering staff, headed up by Sgt Dunn.

After lunch the Tprs were hosted by the JNCOs in the Cpls' Mess to allow the festive activities to continue. Meanwhile the remaining Officers on camp descended onto the WOs' and Sgts'

Mess in a break from tradition due to the Officers' Mess being shut down. Both parties then engaged in humorous carols and, although not a competition, the WOs' and Sgts' Mess carol was much worse than the Officers' Mess's. The banter between both parties was taken on the chin and we look forward to the carols next year.

The evening then continued and inevitably the game of nails was started early, although it was never officially started by Sgt Trudgill, as he couldn't hit a nail even after 50 attempts and was swiftly removed from the log. Overall a great day was had by all, and I hope you too had a very Merry Christmas.

“It turns out not every Welshman grew up in a choir, sorry Zulu”



A "light" gym session to kick things off

RJC



The Battle for Hesco



Is this how you hold it?



Smart as carrots



Election purdah? Never heard of it...



The new England 1st XI top order



No, I promise, this is where Wales is, honestly!

BATUK

While C Sqn enjoyed their buckshee drive around West Africa, B Sqn were gearing up for the real fight - stopping an infantry battlegroup from contracting as much COVID as they could on Askari Storm. Making up the majority of a composite QDG/RDG/RYPWRR/R ANGLIAN force, Gazala Troop led the way in BATUK with equal measures of professionalism and panache.

After a longer than average isolation period in "Tin City" the soldiers were able to break out into town and enjoy the local delights. From unique mass produced wood carvings to the dodgiest goat curry they had ever laid eyes on, the treats did not stop coming. From QRFs to STAPs, the acronyms - much like Tpr Tamani's

grog - did not stop flowing. As COVID-19 tore through the Mercians' impromptu "Mombasha" home on the fence line, the QDG soldiers found solace in the actual Mombasa. Close friendships were formed there, such as Tprs Brown and Baker bonding over a Kit-Kat, and love blossomed amongst backpackers, tourists and JNCOs.

Away from the city lights, Gazala Troop was throwing itself into a variety of sports with mixed success. Tpr George walked away as the inaugural BATUK Boxing Champion, while Lt Fulloway was out for a duck (and a wine) at the Nairobi Cricket Club and Bar. Off the field and in the bush, boys tracked poachers and learned about savannah flora and fauna. Learning

to live in austere, extreme conditions 300 miles from the nearest civilisation did not, however, stop them watching the England-Wales 6 Nations game (40-24 to Wales, much to Tpr Walker's dismay.)

As the deployment came to a close, 9 RLC took over thanks to the indefatigable LCpl Newbold, who conducted the most thorough HOTO he could. After a month's delay due to everybody getting COVID, Gazala Troop finally recovered to the UK. Tanned, fit and full of ally dits about Troop Leaders chartering private planes, the QDG will wave a sad goodbye to the BATUK Force Protection commitment with their move to 3 DIV at the end of 2022.

RF



Ex Warfighter Fort Hood, Texas, USA



Taking a walk on the wild side

March and April saw the deployment to Texas of 3 of the QDG's finest (and most available) soldiers and officers to take part in the USA-hosted, multinational Corps-level planning exercise, Exercise Warfighter. Warfighter is as large in scale as it is impressive in ambition - 3 different divisions from the USA, the UK and France come together to test their interoperability at divisional level in a fluid and ever changing campaign. Utilising the CAT/CAST system the allies had to work together to combat an "anonymous foreign opponent" whose capital, unsurprisingly, looked very similar to Moscow...

Captain Hugo Martel (now sadly resigned to 1 UK Civ Div), Lt Upward and Tpr Sheal flew out to Fort Texas in early March as part of 7th Infantry Brigade and HQ East. 7X had been specially chosen to prove the concept of fitting a British light brigade in amongst an American heavy armour division, something that brought with it a number of perks and challenges in equal measure. The American 1st Division, for starters, has in its arsenal more artillery and helicopters than the combined British Armed Forces which substantially increased the resources usually available to British



exercising troops. Secondly the US Army has not developed its own version of our own light cavalry doctrine, which meant that they were able to provide an interesting outside perspective on the way that the QDG operates in the field. As the exercise started, the Three QDG Musketeers were moved from the British FOB in the Texan desert to the luxury of Fort Bliss, El Paso. Goodbyes were said to the FIBUA bedrooms, portaloos and solar showers and a very warm welcome given to the soft mattresses, air conditioning and proper indoor plumbing within the vast US base.

There was not much time to enjoy the full array of restaurants and bars however, with the exercise kicking off immediately. It was all hands on deck with Captain Martel taking the lead as the UK 7X/US 1XX Liaison Officer, Lt Upward stepping up several ranks to become virtual QDG CO and Tpr Sheal keeping the whole thing running as an RLS driver (the most



The American 1st Division, for starters, has in its arsenal more helicopters and artillery than the combined British Armed Forces



(regrettably posthumous) medals in the process.

The exercise itself was a success and demonstrated the importance of regu-



Lt Sam Upmountain

vital role as the camp itself is bigger than Reading!). Lt Upward performed valiantly and successfully forced the Russians to unmask their gunline - earning many

early integrating with our allies, especially in the face of renewed Russian aggression on Europe's eastern border. The Three Amigos finally returned to the UK with new tans, new US Army merch and a new perspective on the role that light forces can play in a wider strategic context.

SLU



Not B Sqn...



99% need not apply



Do I look ally?



Ex RATTLESNAKE Louisiana, USA

In March 2021, whilst preparing for mounted operations in the Sahel later in the year, A Squadron were sent to the swamps of Louisiana to partake in a dismounted exercise in the same training area used by the US Army for pre-deployment training to Vietnam, no foreshadowing intended.

On arrival, the entire Squadron and attachments were crammed into a large hangar with only cupboards for internal partitions and fold out cot-beds. Breakfast was usually a 'grits' or a sugary cereal with seemingly sugar-enhanced milk, on some days we were even gifted salty breaded chicken in a sweet waffle bun! We all thought that they shouldn't have gone to the effort of such a delicacy. Throughout our isolation we ran some low-level soldiering



the entire Squadron and attachments were crammed into a large hangar with only cupboards for internal partitions



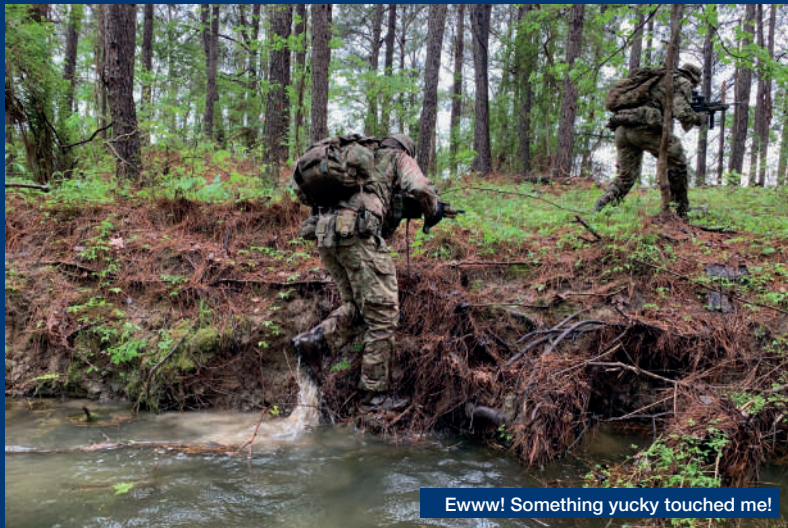
training, including tracking and observation training from those who recently qualified from the Operational Tracking Instructors Course in Brunei. By the time we were out of isolation, A Squadron was well drilled and ready for the live fire package.

Lt Felix Holland started off this Live Fire Tactical Training taking us up to Section by night. Having recently returned from Cyprus, most of the Squadron had already completed this. After that, we were able to taste the fruits of a large defence budget, as the Squadron went into the US led Live Fire Exercise. It started off with the entire Squadron being dropped off in one go by a fleet of Blackhawks. After we had reconnoitred for the rest of the Battle Group, the targets were softened by an Apache gunship firing live missiles

and the 30mm cannon, followed up by targets firing flares and having explosions back at us as the Squadron advanced through the positions. You will be no doubt pleased to hear that we won.

Once into the exercise proper, the Sabre Troops of A Squadron spent a lot of time walking around the woods with our lives on our backs, and the Squadron HQ filled their hours fending off enemy attacks and in most cases singlehandedly saving the BGHQ, until the OC got killed. SHQ, as a matter of fact, 'killed' the highest number of the enemy, and apart from the OC were mostly unscathed! Thank goodness it was blank fire.

Overall, the ground was undulating with the density of woodblocks varying with the distance to streams. Around the water features, the ground was excessively boggy, and the vegetation thick enough to halt almost all advance. It meant that we spent a lot of time meandering through the woods and trying to cross larger features along fallen trees. Throughout our entire time there we were



Ewww! Something yucky touched me!



So the Tuk-Tuk is going to struggle over this terrain here



Muzzle!



Not even in jest

battling with the heat, intense humidity, and horrifically heavy downpours, the end state was everyone being damp for the entire 15-day exercise.

The US forces were hamstrung to the roads and so once we walked 200m off them, the enemy did not look for us. At one stage, A Squadron Troops were over 16km (10 miles) ahead of the American front line. We all absolutely loved this,

though it caused for some very still lying as enemy trucks drove past - it felt like proper reconnaissance and the BG were amazed when we gave our grids back to them. We were so far ahead that the enemy didn't even think to expect us, and that meant we had a lot of freedom as we understood their dispositions. That was all of us bar Lt Carter, who had a lot of KFC once he was captured!

Broadly speaking the exercise was very enjoyable, especially the Troop Cohesion that we enjoyed on swamp tours and having photographs with baby alligators. As a result of it, the soldiering skills of everyone in A Squadron developed considerably, and it saw us going into pre-deployment training with all cylinders firing.

ZAK



Do you think they'll notice that I didn't shave this morning?

Norwich City FC

Since our arrival at Robertson Barracks the Regiment have maintained an affiliation with Norwich City Football Club (NCFC). Throughout recent years, members of the Regiment have had the opportunity to attend training sessions and represent the Regiment at several different football matches. This year the Regiment was asked if they would like to attend NCFC's act of remembrance for the Norwich v Leeds match at Carrow road stadium. We were invited to host the Chelsea Pensioners in Delia Smith's restaurant before laying a wreath on behalf of the Regiment and for NCFC pitch side. It soon became apparent that Delia's cooking skills massively outweighed her team's footballing ability.

After laying the wreath live on Sky Sports, we then moved into the hospitality section to watch the game and continue to host the Chelsea pensioners, this is where Cpl Cope realised that

pensioners can still drink!

During our time in the VIP lounge we got to mingle with players and soon learnt that the father of one of the Chelsea Pensioners had served in the KDG and a few years earlier had attended an afternoon in both the Officers' and WO's & Sgts' Messes to tell us all about his time in the KDG.

The affiliation with NCFC is something we as a Regiment look to maintain, as it not only keeps us in the public eye, but also gives soldiers a well-earned opportunity to go to these key events.

HM



L to R in Red: QM, QM(T), Welfare Officer, HQ Sqn Ldr, RCMO, MTO



Regimental Engagement Team

The Regimental Engagement Team was formed in June 2021 with the help from the Commanding Officer Colonel Hugo Lloyd, his volunteers, and a huge input from Capt Daniel Brown. Every step was meticulously scrutinised to achieve the best. From marketing to branding and personalisation everything was cross-referenced before we went live for us to achieve our very best outcomes.

Getting the RET out of RBSM was the hardest task, Capt Brown has very high standards he expects nothing more than perfection, even down to the most minuscule of detail. For example, cutting the grass outside the QM's to have the final display on show for the CO's inspection, making sure the photos were the best quality, everything had to be done and finished to the highest of standards which I believe has made every bit of a difference with how we present to the public.

Being permanently based in South Wales has had its perks with Amey coming around my home cutting the grass weekly and changing my light bulbs – 'Win Win'.

On a serious note the RET, Farrier Major and LCpl Jones have hit the ground running, engaging with future dragoons, cadets and colleges, thus having a powerful impact on our footprint in Wales.

Our main effort since leaving RBSM has been putting QDG proudly back on the map in Wales and our border counties where we rightly belong. This has been no easy task, however our enthusiastic and dexterous engagement team have only grown in perseverance.

To date we have done over 30 engagement tasks in Wales and its

border counties. From working with colleges, providing informative briefs with the military preparation colleges, and as varied as family days in Bulth Wells. We look to expand and continue our vigorous search for new dragoons to strengthen the connection to our Welsh origins within QDG.

Our most recent activity planned by the RSM was a massive undertaking. With the support from 10 soldiers from B Sqn we helped the RBL with selling poppies in over 34 different locations around Wales for 14 days. We visited and collected from town centres, highstreets, supermarkets and various other locations. I am proud to say that as a Regiment we managed to collect and raise an impressive £15,340.89, which is a massive achieve-

ment and one we wouldn't have been able to achieve without the phenomenal support from B Sqn.

Lastly, the recent great news of the Regiment finally moving to Wales will have a huge impact on recruitment. Recently the RET delivered a presentation in the Cardiff Army careers office with 5 potential dragoon's in the recruitment process, all of whom stated they would like to join us due to the location move. This is only going to go from strength to strength as the date gets closer to 2027.

SG



as a Regiment we managed to collect and raise an impressive £15,340.89



St David's Day 'a dewi sant'

As much as we try to retain our regimental traditions in celebrating St David's Day, this year it was almost cancelled. But with so much already turned off it was increasingly important that we celebrated our national day! The very reason we celebrate it in the first place is to exemplify everything that is good not only about being a Welsh person in a Welsh Regiment, but also being a Dragoon. We now have soldiers from many backgrounds and communities, ranging from: Treco Bay to Montego Bay in Jamaica. The important take away from this is that no matter where you are from, when you join "The Welsh Cavalry" you identify as a Dragoon and are part of a unique team. Whilst we capitalise on all things Welsh, the day is a cultural one that brings us all together to work collectively towards completing the Commanding Officer's challenges which are distributed on first parade.

This year St David's Day was completed within the parameters of Covid 19 and was therefore unconventional. Due to Force Health Protection measures, we were unable to complete the usual challenges, such as: Capturing the most senior officer, acting out skits of Twin Town and the normal chariot race with the oversized Welsh Dragon. Whilst this year was different, the spirit of the day was not. This resulted in members of both the regiment at RBMS and F Sqn taking part in various challenges.

On St David's Day C Sqn were hot on the heels of a 7-month deployment to Op NEWCOMBE 2 (Mali) and most were attending the All Ranks Briefs. However, this didn't

stop them, and they still found time to participate despite this busy period of pre-deployment training. With B Sqn largely deployed to Poland and Kenya, the day was never going to be easy to organise. From the off I felt it very important for the Regiment to work towards a shared purpose, by raising funds for the Dreams and Wishes charity back in Wales. Subsequently, it was decided that by utilising Strava, individuals could accumulate the mileage of 589 miles virtually and add it to their independent Sub-Unit groups. This challenge spread over several countries, from America, Poland, Kenya and Wales to name but a few. An important point to note on this challenge is that 589AD was the year our Patron Saint passed away. In total, the mileage split down between: HQ, A, B, C, E and F Sqn was 3,534 miles!

The day started at 0400hrs with the Regimental Mascot and Farrier Major leading the way. They were rapidly followed by C Sqn, who set off early to complete the mileage before heading to Thetford for their All-Ranks Briefs. The collective effort from C Sqn to achieve the mileage was outstanding! With C Sqn now on the run everyone else was close on their tails. Both myself and

Tiffany Wright set off at 0630 and there were a lot of Dragoons running around the local area. The Les even managed to bust themselves out of their Zimmer

frames and clocked in a solid 7 miles each!

By 1000hrs the mileage was increasing and so were the donations. We had raised £1,000 before starting the event, but by 1000hrs we were already at £4,000. With the money coming in we reviewed the soldiers clocking up the mileage and it wasn't long before it was recognised that SSM HQ Sqn, Mr Walker had run 31 miles – MADNESS! Other members of the Regiment also made some heavy contributions with both Tiffany Wright and Davidson completing Marathon distance.

With most of the running now complete the attention switched focus towards the tasks the Commanding Officer had set. First on the agenda was to get a supportive message for The Welsh Cavalry from somebody famous. For this, Wynne Evans gave C Sqn a shoutout on the radio, with A Sqn receiving a video message from Johnathan Davies. After this, the Sqn's then presented three Welsh Cakes and whilst I could lie and suggest it was difficult to decide, I won't. The RQ(T), Mr Davies presented his cakes on a silver platter with fresh coffee – a clear winner! The next task was to present the largest daffodil to the Commanding Officer which A Sqn won. With the scores now in, the only thing left to do was to pray that the internet would support a live broadcast to everyone. Luckily, the G6 gods were on our side this time and we prevailed! Utilising Microsoft Teams the Commanding Officer introduced St David's Day and spoke to the wider regimental family and after this we then went



when you join "The Welsh Cavalry" you identify as a Dragoon and are part of a unique team



2022 Bismarck Challenge

Wednesday 20th October 2021 was the day of the 1 UK Division's now famous Bismarck Challenge which is a 4 mile relay race with 15kg. The build up to the event was a busy time for the Regiment but we were lucky to find the right personnel for the job. Build up training was headed up by myself, with SSgt Ellis overseeing the admin. The training involved interval sessions, long boot runs and Bergen training. We also had to make sure we were in date with our MATT 2 fitness tests and MATT 3 Battlefield Casualty Drills, luckily LCpl Higgins was available to run the training in the gym for those that needed it.



The Bismarck Challenge Team

into presenting the completed tasks. At this point it was easy to see the lengths and depths that the Sqns went to. For C Sqn to complete 608 miles at 0400hrs was pretty remarkable. They were also joined by many others, firstly the OC and SSM F Sqn (Colonel of the Regiment & WO1 Pete Cubitt) who also racked up the miles and many other members of the wider regiment. Even Capt Evans of Welsh Troop managed to throw the walking stick aside for an hour. I'm told he is still recovering now!

The final broadcast was to announce that HQ Sqn had won the day and to thank everyone for raising such a huge amount of money. We initially started off with a £5,000 target, but by the end of the day we hit £7,000. We would have been nowhere near this figure if it wasn't for the collective buy in of the Regiment, the Regimental Comrades Association and the wider regimental family. It was extremely humbling to see such a huge amount of support both in and out of RBSM and next year we look forward to setting more challenges and hopefully seeing the Association take part in some of the challenges themselves. We are massively grateful of every penny raised and it will all go towards a great cause.

Until next year and for everyone who contributed and supported this event Diolch yn Fawr, and to coin St David's last words:

'Gwenwch y pethau bychain mewn bwyd'
'Keep doing the little things well'

1st HQ Sqn

2nd C Sqn

3rd A Sqn

4th F Sqn

5th E Sqn

6th B Sqn Deployed on Op CABRIT

7th RCA 2022

DC

We entered 2 teams into this year's Bismarck Challenge, a male team and a mixed team. 2Lt Swailes, 2Lt Clark, LCpl Hellyar-Jones and LCpl Palmer made up the Male team and LCpl Thornton, Tpr George, Tpr Eade and Tpr Hudson made up the Mixed Team.

The team set off for Strensall at 0400 with SSgt Ellis driving to give the team a chance to finish off their sleep cycles. Four hours later we were there and it wasn't long before the first wave set off. The route was hard going, really wet under foot and the rain did not stop all day.

Worth the effort

After each member of the team finished their leg of the relay they had a chance

to get some warm food and a free sports massage from student sports therapists. All the team then took part in the health fair stand and took part in the health quiz.

The plan was to try and get the faster males in the mixed team in order to try and stand a better chance of a good position. This didn't work and in fact after the results came in the Regimental 2iC Maj Hoey worked out that if we had stacked the Male Team rather than the mixed team they would have had a time of 2:30:06 which would have been 21/62. But then the Mixed Team would have been 10/23.

We look forward to competing in next year's Bismarck Challenge.

JG



RSM Thomas Barlow, KDG

Born circa 1785, Thomas Barlow, the Regimental Sergeant Major of the King's Dragoon Guards at the Battle of Waterloo, enlisted in the KDG on 18 April 1801, and spent the next fourteen years of his service in England and Ireland progressively working his way up through the non-commissioned ranks. A man of strong religious beliefs, Barlow was a Methodist Lay Preacher, and at the time of the KDG's embarkation for the Low Countries in April 1815, a married man but with no children.

On the field of Waterloo, Barlow as RSM rode ahead of his regiment in order to indicate the path of the KDG's advance in the first great charge of the Household Brigade (1st and 2nd Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards and KDG – 1220 sabres in all) against the 1st and 4th Cuirassiers of Dubois's Brigade which resulted in putting the four infantry divisions of D'Erlon's Corps into full flight. In so doing he met a French officer of the Cuirassiers in the open ground between the two sides and engaged him in hand-to-hand combat. Notwithstanding his disadvantage in being armed with the standard British Heavy Cavalry sword, which was six inches shorter than its French equivalent, and despite the fact that the French officer was reputed to be one of the finest swordsmen in Napoleon's Army, Barlow succeeded in disabling his opponent bringing him to the point of surrender. As a token of his submission, the French officer yielded his sword which Barlow immediately presented to his Commanding Officer, who, in praising him for his bravery, expressed the wish that he had many more such Methodist parsons in his Regiment. During the course of the battle, the KDG were involved in some eleven charges and by the time victory was secured the regiment had sustained casualties of eleven officers and 275 other ranks killed, wounded and missing. Barlow's obituary maintains that at the close of the day only fifteen King's Dragoon Guards remained mounted of whom the senior officer was a Lieutenant, and the senior NCO was RSM Barlow.

In recognition of his general bravery and in particular his combat with the Cuirassier officer, Barlow was rewarded with a commission and continued in the KDG until transferring to the 23rd Light Dragoons as a Captain on half pay on 16 April 1818. In 1819, he became adjutant of the Prince Regent's 2nd Regiment of Cheshire Yeomanry, an appointment which he held until 1833, when he retired having received a commuted allowance for his commission. Described by a contemporary as 'a bold soldierly looking man, who spoke in a very pompous style', whose 'remarks from first to last were generally of the cutting and slashing character', Barlow became a local Methodist preacher and for some years lived at Pickmere, Cheshire.

WO1 RSM Thomas Barlow passed away at the age of 72 at his home in East Collingwood.

The above, along with a replica of the medal can be found in the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess.



Trooper George on the run!



See, I told you 220 was out here



Guard mount



The Volleyboys

The Gambia STTT

In October Lt Upward was lucky enough to be selected to join a pan-army Short Term Training Team deployed to The Gambia to teach the skills and drills of reconnaissance to the Gambian Armed Forces. Surrounded to north, east and south by the Francophone Senegal, The Gambia is an oasis of English speaking peoples which helped Lt Upward blend seamlessly into local life.

Deploying as part of the 1RIFLES-led STTT Lt Upward was SME and lead instructor for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. Alongside him was a 2Lt from 2 Royal Anglian, a Sgt from the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment and a LCpl from the Intelligence Corps. The GAF were easy to work with and maintained a heedy

professionalism, honed since the 1970s by generations of Gambian and British instructors alike, throughout. With one eye on next year's deployment to the Central African Republic, the 11-pax STTT had a wide array of skills to teach - anti-tanks, snipers, mortars, fire support, artillery, and reconnaissance were all included. Despite initial incredulity by the Gambians that a 6'3" borderline albino could teach them anything about being sneaky, Lt Upward eventually was able to

“

Lt Upward eventually was able to impart the same knowledge and doctrine that the QDG prides itself on perfecting

”

impart the same knowledge and doctrine that the QDG prides itself on perfecting.

By the end of the course it was felt that the GAF were ready to advance to more complex PDT ahead of their deployment. The skills and drills learned will be built upon by a second QDG STTT to deploy to The Gambia in Q2 2022. They were not, however, the only ones to learn something and Lt Upward came away a better soldier (with a nicer tan) from the experience.



Mag to grid...get rid.



Nothing to see here...



One for the downstairs loo



Hi, I'm Simple Jack, nice to meet you!





Tag me in Coach!



All very 1970s

Rugby

This past year has been one marred by the spectre of Covid-19 putting a stop to sports for most of the year. This combined with a busy FOE in the build-up to operations has seen much of the year severely lacking in fixtures. Even with the constant presence of Covid-19 and the busy schedule the regimental rugby team has still been getting out and playing some hand-egg. In the summer we saw the QDG get back into the swing of things with several rugby 7's tournaments, this combined with the return of training really got the ball rolling for the rugby team to come back in force.

As the year went on, we have seen multiple call ups for Corps Rugby - Tprs Laverua and Roper, both brand new to regimental duty, represent the RAC against the likes of the Infantry and the Royal Signals -momentous achievement for two Troopers straight out of training. They were of course joined by multiple other QDGs, who maintained our now seemingly permanent presence on the RAC Rugby team. Trooper Roper went on to Captain the Army U23's and lead them to a dominating victory in the Inter-Service Championship, person-



As the year went on, we have seen multiple call ups for Corps Rugby



ally running in a brilliant try against the Royal Navy. Despite being deployed on operations, rugby is still an integral part of day-to-day life. Op Newcombe 3 has seen a Christmas touch rugby competition, bringing together all members of the British Task Group but also the wider Mobile Task Force, with teams from our Swedish Counterparts entering. With the Six Nations looming this has not gone unnoticed by those deployed, with Cpl Jones and LCpl Rees planning a Six Nations competition involving Swedish, German, Fijian, Irish, Welsh and English teams. Lt Allington also completed

a three-day RFU coaching course bolstering the QDG's available qualified coaches ensuring we are able to train and develop in the best way possible in line with RFU rules.

Once the QDG returns in full to Swanton Morley we are on for our first fully manned season in almost two years, now looking at the pedigree that has been developed across the regiment even without regular training sessions QDG RUFC will become a force to be reckoned with on the Army stage.

AA



The RAC (QDG) team



Triathlon

During 2021, there were many uncertainties for sports due to Covid-19. Nevertheless, government guidelines were reduced in the summer and the Regiment snatched the opportunity to get involved in the Norwich Triathlon at Whitlingham. Two teams entered the summer's event, a male group with three competitors: WO2 Walker (HQ SSM), WO2 Beal (MTWO) and SSgt Welfoot (RACTR JCC TP LDR) and a far superior female group with the wives of serving personnel: Susie Lloyd (CO), Lydia Hoey (2IC) and Nicola Pearce (UWO). The standard distance triathlon was 1500m open water swim, 38km open road bike and 10km mostly off-road run.

It was a classic British summer, freezing in the morning, then slowly warming in the afternoon. Nevertheless, both teams were braced and ready to take on this Norfolk challenge, with SSgt Welfoot making sure his false teeth were safely tucked away. After receiving several comprehensive briefs at 0700hrs in the morning, in true army tradition, competitors were still left unsure of the route and transitioning sequence. One wonders how D-Day actually took place. I think the strategy was to just 'roll with it'. As our competitors were conducting the relay event, the order of the day would be swim, cycle, run and beer.

SSgt Welfoot and Mrs Hoey were up first, which in itself is a first for SSgt Welfoot. They both approached the temple of doom where the wetsuits were waiting for them. Mrs Hoey took the lead and quickly slipped into hers, whereas for SSgt Welfoot it was slightly more problematic. It's fair to say Mr Walker and Mr Beal will need extended leave after providing a two-man lift, to get SSgt Welfoot into his wetsuit. As they reached the starting



One wonders how D-Day actually took place



the latest army intelligence reports and maps, most of the competitors ended up taking the scenic route, as opposed to the actual route. Nevertheless, given the extra distance, SSgt Welfoot managed to make the transition in 29:06mins and Mrs Hoey achieved 35:48mins. Then we were onto the Cyclists, with Mr Beal and Mrs Pearce looking sharp in their lycra and after a smooth transition they were hitting the road. Weaving in and out of traffic our cyclists were strong contenders throughout. Mr Beal achieved a time of 1hr 7mins and Mrs Pearce close behind in 1hr 10mins.

Finally, our runners were up. Given it had been two hours since the competition started, the runners were a classic D shape pasty and three brews in to keep the energy levels high. However, this transition didn't quite go to plan for the male group. Mr Beal ran across the mat with the timer in his hand in an attempt to

handover to Mr Walker quickly. However, the Gestapo marshal of the event, didn't view this as appropriate. Mr Walker was then pulled to the side to wait, popping and locking, it was clear to see his frustration. This gruelling run was at its peak throughout the hottest part of the day. Running on the sandy banks and around the lakes, our runners were determined to finish strong. With all in attendance at the finishing line, in came our two, looking like possessed terminators. Mr Walker achieved the run in 42:21mins and Mrs Lloyd following shortly after in 55:06mins.

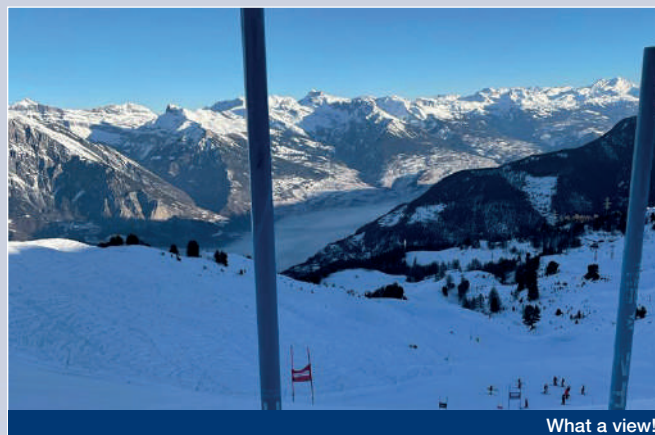
Overall, the Norwich Triathlon was an excellent opportunity to get our teams out of the office for the day and 2022 has plenty more to offer. Out of 277 competitors and 20+ categories, the male group came 3rd overall in the relays, with a combined time of 2hrs 20mins, 30 seconds behind a silver medal. However, the ladies achieved 2nd in the female relay, with a combined time of 2hrs 43mins, an excellent achievement for both teams. As Covid-19 restrictions reduce, more events will be announced, and the Regiment will be keen to get more teams involved.

SW



That was easy!





Ex WHITE KNIGHT

EX WHITE KNIGHT is the annual RAC/AAC downhill ski training exercise and Alpine Championships held in Verbier, Switzerland. The QDG attended this year with a 10 man team, 8 of whom were novices. Upon arrival in Verbier no time was wasted, and training began immediately. Individuals were grouped based on ability and were each assigned world class instructors from the Ecole Suisse de Ski. The instructors had quite a task, to take complete novices and develop them to a racing standard in under 3 weeks, yet they managed it, with every individual competing in the downhill racing. All team members achieved respectable times in the races but a special congratulations to LCpl Brewster who seeded highest of the team.

On top of the skiing, each Regiment was responsible for organising and hosting a social, with the QDG being assigned Christmas day. We once again



turned to our friends at the Snowpark, who have kindly let us use their facilities for a number of years now, and hosted a Regimental jump competition. After a

few glasses of bubbly up the mountain, the competition began, with Regiments being judged on their composure, commitment and flair. Each Regiment





Slowest



Kelvin picking up tips for delivering on time

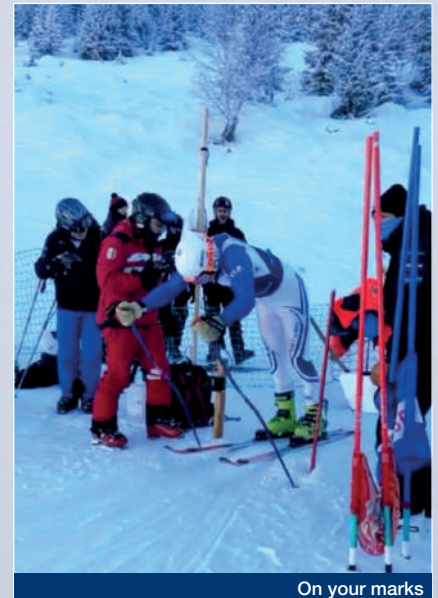
performed with their own style and panache, our very own 2Lt Clark demonstrating a rigid salute whilst mid-air, but the judges were set on Sgt Graham of the AAC after an impressive 360 degree turn whilst wearing his ex-wife's wedding dress.

COVID was of course rearing its ugly head at times, but was well managed by the Exercise staff. Despite restrictions the HCR/HCMR were able to host their notorious NYE party which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, including multiple American tourists who happened to be walking by. The exercise sponsors, without whom the exercise

would not occur, were still able to attend race week which allowed the team the pleasure of hosting a former QDG, Kelvin Thomas from General Dynamics.

The marked improvement in all team members' skiing ability is notable, but further to this, each skier has shown an increased confidence both in the face of physical fear and in a social capacity, as well as demonstrating a high level of teamwork skills and self-discipline. Ex WHITE KNIGHT has been a great tool for development, and has provided the team with an experience they will cherish.

AW



On your marks



Basketball

With a very busy regimental calendar, combined with the ongoing impact of COVID-19, this year has been a relatively quiet one for QDG Basketball. The team have, however, found themselves reinvigorated with a fresh drive for training now that restrictions have eased. It has been heartening to see the enthusiasm with which all the players have approached sports afternoon sessions. We've had a consistently high turnout of players who are keen to play and continue to improve themselves. Various regimental commitments have made consistent training difficult, however, those who are able to, have consistently shown up to training.

The coming year will hopefully see a resurgence in QDG Basketball, with the eventual goal of having an internal Level 2 Coach and two internal Level 1 Coaches to develop the team. New additions to the QDG team have displayed plenty of talent, with 2Lt Walsh showing particular promise. The team will look to send its members down to the RAC try-outs to ensure the QDG continues its strong tradition of representing the RAC in sport. Over the coming year the QDG Basketball team will again attempt to organise a two-week training camp, with the last two camps having been cancelled by COVID. This will be a fantastic opportunity to bond as a team and test ourselves against other teams.

After a challenging two years for sports in general, the Basketball team is looking forward to being able to throw itself back into normal sporting life, being able to play some friendly games against various other teams and have some players represent the RAC.

FH

Sailing

The second week of September saw teams from across the Combat Arms descend on a picturesque village on the Isle of Wight, Seaview, to partake in the annual Combat Arms Regatta. Equipped with Seaview Yacht Club's fleet of Mermaid yachts (a brightly coloured keel boat), we raced around inshore courses. The inexperienced QDG team, consisting of Lt Fulloway and 2Lts Clark, Swailes and Fetherstonhaugh spent a weekend bonding before their races began. Over three days the team took part in eight races, consistently finishing in the middle of pack, with the one exception being a strong 2nd place finish. The racing was thrilling, with adrenaline fuelled overtaking, crashing and heckling of the Household Cavalry's team. The weather throughout the Regatta was pleasant with varied wind, with windier races providing most of the excitement. When the winds died we were incredibly frustrated, our four man crew, instead of the average three man, made us considerably heavier and thus slower than most of the fleet. Despite this, we were still lighter than the 3 man Cavalry and Guards Club team. The evenings were hosted wonderfully by the Seaview Yacht Club. Our first evening was spent on the race deck enjoying champagne and canapés, we sized up our oppo-



The racing was thrilling, with adrenaline fuelled overtaking, crashing and heckling of the Household Cavalry's team



Parachuting

Throughout the month of October, B Sqn has been supplementing the training programme with a range of AT packages designed to stretch all ranks. In total B Sqn sent 21 soldiers on a week-long parachuting course which would eventually see 21 parachute foundation qualifications being awarded. The week started with a day of ground training, where students learned of all the things that could go wrong. The boys quickly became acquainted with all the kit they would be using and after a quick written test we were ready for our first solo static line jump. The Tuesday morning jump was cancelled due to high winds which only prolonged the excitement, anticipation and nerves. Fortunately, the weather

improved and it wasn't long before we boarded the single propeller plane called "the caravan", ready to take a big leap into the unknown from 4,000 ft. The boys, despite having some nerves on the ground, were all stoic once on the aircraft and correctly made use of the stress management techniques we had been taught on the course. Once the door opened, the adrenaline pumped but the boys remained calm and one by one exited the aircraft. We all quickly learnt that enthusiasm to leave the aircraft is no substitute for technique, Tpr Eade nearly back-flipped and Tpr Dempsey's twisted parachute caused a few seconds of panic. It was not long before we were all gliding towards the ground and were enjoying the awesome



nents and exchanged sailing jargon, with the hope to fit in. The Regatta culminated in an impressive outdoor dinner overlooking the Solent, the food was delightful and the night was enjoyed by all.

The Army Offshore Regatta took place during the week following and the QDG had two sailors selected to represent the Royal Armoured Corps on its yacht, White Knight 7. The first race started in Portsmouth and finished in Yarmouth, strong tides in the Western Solent made for some challenging racing and gave the skippers plenty to contemplate. On the second day the fleet set off for Poole, the lack of wind

dashed our hopes of victory, but nevertheless we persisted. Unfortunately the fleet was forced to retire and motored into Poole Town Quay. After filling up on fish and chips the team was feeling confident for day three. Things looked promising after a good start, we sailed comfortably to Weymouth achieving our best result. Weymouth Yacht Club were excellent hosts, and the evening was well received by all crews. Whilst unsuccessful in winning any silverware, the week was enjoyed by all aboard White Knight 7 and lessons were learnt in preparation for next season's racing.

TC

The Forgotten Campaign

By William Crawford and Jonathan Hunt

Illustrated by Rosemary Coates



Includes the last British Mounted Actions

Features:

- The deployment of the Yeomanry of 1st Cavalry Division with 5000 horses to Palestine in 1940 – 42
- Task: To protect the Middle East
- Describes: All arms fighting incursions into Iraq, Syria and the Lebanon, including cavalry, to deny Axis control.
- Laid the foundations for some of the great fighting regiments of the war
- However being Yeomanry:
 - Whilst Churchill was planning to fight on his beaches they were racing horses on theirs.
 - Also included; Illegal Wives, Illicit Foxhounds and selective deafness plus more!

Price £25. All Net proceeds, approx. £15 per book to **ssafa** the Armed Forces charity

Order from: julia.rouse@southyorks.ssafa.org.uk

feeling of flight. The landing for the most part was uneventful, Tpr Eade decided that he didn't need to use the brake and heroically hit the ground at 25 mph, he seemed unfazed by the impact and remained enthusiastic to jump again.

During the week, everyone completed three solo jumps, the week was enjoyed by all, with Tprs George, Wilkinson, Dempsey and Eade all keen to go back and attempt the intermediate course. The instructors were impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of the boys and emphasised how rare it was for a syndicate to all jump without hesitation.

TC

Field Sports

As we all know, due to restrictions last season and two of the three Squadrons being deployed on Op NEWCOMBE over most of this season, field sports as we know it have taken a bit of a hit. However, necessary pest control was always permitted under the governments guidance and as one can't break any rules these days without facing serious sanctions that is what happened.

The murder of crows took a hammering in the rookery above the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess with various methods, including the use of a full size ladder trap that was knocked up from scratch and mounted clearance patrols in the Orderly Officer Tuk-tuk, all of which produced some good results.



C Sqn Ranges 2022

The C Sqn Officers enjoyed a nice days shooting in Staffordshire on their return from Mali which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Next season will see the QDG Field sports back into full swing with Highland Eagle booked for September along with various shoot days later on.

EC



Is that an Over/Under!



My first ever bird!

B Sqn AT

Our Autumn AT commenced with a multi-activity week in the picturesque resort of Castlemartin. The week was designed to introduce ten students to wide range of AT offered in the Army in the hope that they would be inspired to specialise in at least one activity. On offer was rock climbing, hill walking and mountain biking. Hill walking not only blew away some navigational cobwebs but also allowed for some education on local flora and their uses in a survival situation. Mountain biking was by far the most popular as the Pembrokeshire countryside offered some challenging riding compared to the flats of Norfolk. Particular merit goes to Tpr Shuttlewood who initially was not a fan of the bike but soon got the hang of it. Tpr Dempsey, Baker and Day were very competent on the trails and grasped the opportunity to get some airtime. Tpr Baker, despite already somersaulting off his bike earlier in the day, slightly overcooked one of the jumps and didn't quite land on both wheels. After a brief period of unconsciousness followed by a murmuring to Tpr Dempsey, "Am I dying?", the Emergency Services were called. They were sadly in no rush and gave Tpr Baker 4 hours to reflect on how he could have improved his landing whilst he clutched his ruptured kidney. Eventually an Air Ambulance arrived, Tpr Baker was in flight



All good up here!



B Sqn enjoying some rock climbing

to Cardiff Hospital and the remainder, undeterred, cracked on with the rest of the activities. Trooper Baker is recovering well at home and is keen to get back on his bike soon.

HS

INDEPENDENT EXPERT EMPLOYMENT ADVICE FOR OFFICERS

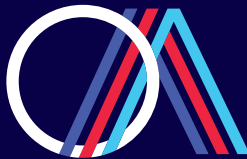


The aim of any career transition is to achieve fulfilling and sustainable employment in a role that feels right and takes into account career aspirations and skills.

Whether you are in transition or considering your next civilian role, call us on 020 7808 4160 or register for our services at: officersassociation.org.uk

**YOUR LIFE
BEYOND THE
SERVICES**

officersassociation.org.uk



**OFFICERS'
ASSOCIATION**

US Army National Training Center

Since October 2020 I have had the privilege of working at the US Army's National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. Many QDGs will remember this as the location of Exercise Diamondback, the Mojave Desert installation trains 6000 troops a month in a bespoke \$35 million force-on-force then live fire package. As Squadrons from The Regiment did in 2016 & 2017, we often have coalition units join the US Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), themselves either "Armoured" or "Stryker" combined arms units operating within a DATE scenario that requires them to attack and defend across a huge area that stretches from Barstow to Las Vegas (a decidedly more attractive location).

My original role here was as a Cavalry Operations trainer – working to coach the Bradley units that operate as the eyes of the BCT. They perform reconnaissance by force, and each armoured cavalry unit even has a reserve Sqn of tanks to achieve their mission sets. Since June 2021 however, I have been the Brigade plans coach, working to keep the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP – their equivalent of the 7Qs) on track to enable an effective cascade of training.

It is an unforgiving location, in California by name only. During the Summer the



During the Summer the heat gets up to 55 degrees



presence can shut down training and the local town is best passed at high speed.

I did have the pleasure of joining A Sqn QDG in Fort Polk, Louisiana, in March of 2021 (See the Ex Rattlesnake article for further detail). As I worked to enable their training on Ex Rattlesnake, it was great to reconnect with members

heat gets up to 55 degrees Celsius, yet training carries on. There are packs of wild coyotes, tarantulas, black widows, poisonous snakes, water hunting desert bees, endangered tortoises whose

of The Regiment who I hadn't seen in years, especially following them across (and occasionally off) the logs over the alligator infested swamps as they moved through terrain judged by the enemy to be completely impassable.

It has been an amazing year supporting the US Army, and absolutely an uphill battle of learning while attempting to execute my role. I'd encourage any member of the serving Regiment to join me out as a rotational guest OM for their own personal development, if you are interested and are supported by your CoC, please get in touch.

AM



...and then we'll wrap it up after lunch and head to Vegas



Maj Dumont – wide load



With my interpreters: Erbil & Kurdistan

Op SHADER

Deploying into a role in the US 3rd Coalition Joint Task Force HQ on Op INHERENT RESOLVE (Op SHADER for the British) was my first experience of working in a multi-national head-quarters on operations.

As planning officer for the Syria Cell, I've worked primarily in a directorate with 20 individuals from 9 different countries and had to quickly get to grips with the intricacies of classification levels between different nations and the working dynamic when it came to reporting on the civilian environment. I was fortunate to be able to spend the majority of my time at Erbil airbase in N. Iraq/Kurdistan. Here I was co-located with a multi-national team which meant I had the opportunity to engage with a variety of different representatives on their roles in advising and assisting the Iraqi security forces in their mission to defeat Daesh. Through video links and time-zone coordinated phone calls, weekly engagement with the US Department of State, various NGOs and UAPs was another crucial aspect that providing a civilian perspective on the refugee and displaced population crisis currently facing the majority of Syria's population.

With the campaign in its final stages and the spectre of the withdrawal

from Afghanistan lingering over the US military, the tour has been a fascinating opportunity to understand more of the convoluted political, economic and social climate in the Middle East. It will be very interesting to see how the campaign can move forward or indeed conclude in the region in the near future.

Outside of work, whether it has been the fiercely debated subject of cricket vs baseball with the Americans or explaining the nuances and history of

the British regimental framework to the Europeans, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a diverse cohort at the strategic level. It has given me an invaluable insight into the planning processes and the complicated nature of operations within a coalition whilst also benefiting from the opportunity to meet and get to know a wide variety of people from around the world.

GJ



Outside Ba'ath Party HQ, Baghdad, Iraq

RAC Training Regiment

Throughout 2021 we welcomed two new additions to the RAC Training Regiment; Maj Thomas as OC Waterloo Sqn and SSgt Welfoot as JCC Troop Leader. During this time, there have been numerous opportunities for the ITTs (Initial Trade Training) to interact with those at Regimental Duty (RD) from the link meetings to Regimental visits.

Prior to deploying on Operation Newcombe, C Sqn SSM, WO2 Davies delivered a PowerPoint to the ITTs about life at RD, Operation Newcombe and future commitments. We were also joined by JNCOs who were attending JCC Command to explain life at RD from a JNCO perspective and what to expect. Shortly after, C Sqn were conducting mounted ranges in Lulworth, this saw an opportunity for the RACTR to join C Sqn and observe live firing as well as getting hands on new optic sights and ask questions to their peers.

During the Summer, the CO, RSM, along with the QDG battlegroup consisting of RHQ, HQ and A SQN began a range package for their pre deployment training. This was another

great opportunity for the ITTs to visit the Regiment at Lulworth. The CO and RSM welcomed the ITTs to the Regiment and briefed the ITTs with regards to future of the Regiment. The ITTs were then shown how mounted ranges were conducted and watched some live firing.

RACTR also received numerous visits from the RET team under Sgt Grills who attended with the Farrier Major and LCpl Jones. The ITTs had the opportunity to meet the RET team and LCpl Jones who provided the ITTs with an insight of the extra benefits at RD such as AT and recruitment. Later, we joined the RET on the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal to raise money for veterans involved in conflicts since the First World War. Sgt Petre and Cpl Rose assisted along with 5 QDG ITTs. This saw us conducting activities from selling poppies to visiting the Regimental Museum and gaining a greater understanding of

the Regimental history. The feedback received from the ITTs was positive and they enjoyed their time in Cardiff working alongside soldiers at RD. Upon returning

back to RACTR the Regiment passed on that we had helped to raise over £15,000.

ARMCEN hosted the RAC Boxing which saw the HQ Sqn Ldr, Maj Mansel and the RCMO, Capt Hansen attend. Whilst at Bovington, Major Mansel and Capt Hansen welcomed the ITTs and delivered an in-depth brief about the Regiment's current and future commitments as well as all the opportunities at RD, from AT and promotion prospects to future tours in Mali.

To close the year off Cpl Rose and QDG ITTs worked together to send Christmas parcels out to those deployed on Operation Newcombe.



To close the year off Cpl Rose and QDG ITTs worked together to send Christmas parcels out to those deployed



JR



ATC Pirbright

It is a challenging time for the staff here at ATC (Pirbright). Covid restrictions have not only impacted the delivery of training but also our lived experience. Fortunately, with the roll-out of the vaccine, recruit numbers are increasing, and the delivery of training is returning to normal.

I took over my current role from Sgt Warner in Apr 21 and have delivered three Common Military Syllabuses. The training environment is more complex than one may initially realise. My role at ATC (Pirbright) entails facilitating this training at all levels, both up and down the CoC, to ensure the training being delivered is current and to the highest standard, in true QDG fashion.

Being part of the transition of these recruits from civilians to professional soldiers in only 14 weeks is incredibly rewarding – especially those joining the QDG of course! Passing on my regimental passion and pride is the simplest responsibility I have. Being witness to those QDG recruits relishing the future challenges they will face at ITT and RD is fantastic.

Another rewarding aspect of this post is the multi cap-badge environment. This is a unique experience and one that allows the opportunity to develop and mentor the very best corporals from across the Army.

The QDG continues to be pro-active in 'nurturing' future soldiers here at ATC (Pirbright). Sgt Grills delivers the comprehensive QDG recruiting packs whilst Maj Mansel and WO2 Walker both regularly attend the Pass off Parades. There's no



doubt that the QDG leads the charge when it comes to regiments supporting their future soldiers and showing that we are truly a family regiment.

Finally, if anyone is ever in the area,

please feel free to drop in; the kettle is always on and I am always looking forward to catching up with my fellow Dragoons.

NP

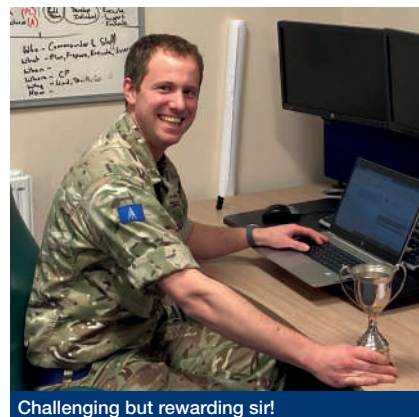


Warfare Branch – Doctrine

'The most important six inches on the battlefield is between your ears' Gen James Mattis.

A posting to work in the doctrine engine of the army is, on the face of it a hard sell, it was to me. Four months into the job and I would recommend working in Warfare Development Doctrine to allcomers, it has proved an excellent place through which to develop professional knowledge, influence force development and is a place from which one can add real value to the Field Army and its soldiers. Coupled with an interesting job, Warminster and the Land Warfare Centre remain a hub of activity with critical organisations such as Junior Staff College (now also owning JCSC(L)), Combined Arms Staff Trainer, Combined Staff Tactical Training Group and Directorate Land Warfare to name but a few. Warminster is also a great place to be, good phys options, great mess (the Infantry Mess is of a high standard (both in terms of service and infrastructure)), sadly now in the minority in the Army.

As with many areas the WARDEV doctrine branch is a relative shadow of its former self composed of a relatively small team of regular and FTRS personnel and a number of gaps. As SO2 Command (a typically nondescript title) I have the genuine privilege of being the custodian of the Planning and Execution Handbook, Staff Officers' Handbook, Standard Orders Cards, Slate Cards and various other command related documents as well as some 'cutting edge' doctrine notes. This gives a real sense of purpose to the job knowing that the things you write and how you write them may be someone's lynchpin when they are under pressure be it in contact or as staff in a HQ. Doctrine is about what can be done 'here and now' with our current capabilities and, not the 'jam (capability) of tomorrow' which lies firmly in concepts arena, an issue that is misunderstood across the army. From this perspective it is good to be at the doctrine coal face as the Field Army focuses on Combined Arms Manoeuvre helping maximise the



Challenging but rewarding sir!

capabilities it has now.

A lot of work goes into producing the good doctrine we have, I can only encourage you to read it, remembering that it is a handrail for the way we do business and if you have improvements or suggestions then get in touch.

Watch out in 2022 for the new ADP series, C2 Resilience Doctrine Note, a refreshed Planning and Execution Handbook, refreshed Slate Cards and Standard Orders Cards, and a replacement/update to the Staff Officers' Handbook.

BCJM

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS)

Having come to the end of my second term as an instructor at RMAS, the novelty and feeling of privilege still very much remains. From a personal point of view, the ability to work with the quality of SNCO that this place attracts has taught me a great deal. Thankfully the relationship I have with my current CSgt differs significantly from the one I had as an OCdt 6 years ago.

With the Regiment in mind, it has been fantastic to entice/snare/educate some of the brilliant talent that would perhaps

have been tempted to look elsewhere, and encourage them to consider the QDG as a Choice of Arm – although with the work that the Regiment is doing in Mali this has not been too onerous.

It has been somewhat of a relief, now that the Academy is operating as normal following the constraints on training arising from C-19 which affected PT, lessons, sport and in particular exercises are now infinitely more

“
with the
work that the
Regiment
is doing in
Mali this has
not been too
onerous

rewarding for both the OCdts and Staff. Now sport is back up and running, and as one of the Rugby coaches, I have absolutely used this time as an influence opportunity and to ensure that the Regiment's team remains strong (and the Officers Mess remains victorious on Waterloo Dinner night).

I have been fortunate enough to be posted to Marne Coy within RMAS. Marne Coy is responsible for the Academy's Defence Engagement and delivers elements of the Regular Commissioning Course abroad using RMAS instructors. Frustratingly our deployment to Iraq has been postponed until the New Year, however the Company has recently returned from Belize and Jamaica and has completed recces in Oman and Saudi Arabia.

RMAS needs a greater RAC influence, Light Cavalry in particular. I would thoroughly recommend a posting here to both SNCOs and Officers so please do get in touch if you have any questions.

WS



You should follow our insta, @REALMEALUK

ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

The Army's National Charity

FOR SOLDIERS FOR LIFE

As the Army's national charity, we're here for soldiers, veterans and their families when they need us.

We stand at the forefront of support for the Army family, reaching 60,000 people in 63 countries last year. Our help is here for soldiers from the start of their careers and continues for life, long after service has ended.

SUPPORTING

60,000

INDIVIDUALS &

43

ORGANISATIONS

* figures taken from the 2020-21 financial year

**SEARCH ABF THE
SOLDIERS' CHARITY
TO FIND OUT MORE**

ABF The Soldiers' Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (SC039189) and registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609).



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



Cobseo
The Confederation
of Service Charities

**SUPPORT US
AND YOU SUPPORT
THE WHOLE ARMY FAMILY**

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE 43 OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS WE FUNDED IN THE 2020-21 FINANCIAL YEAR:

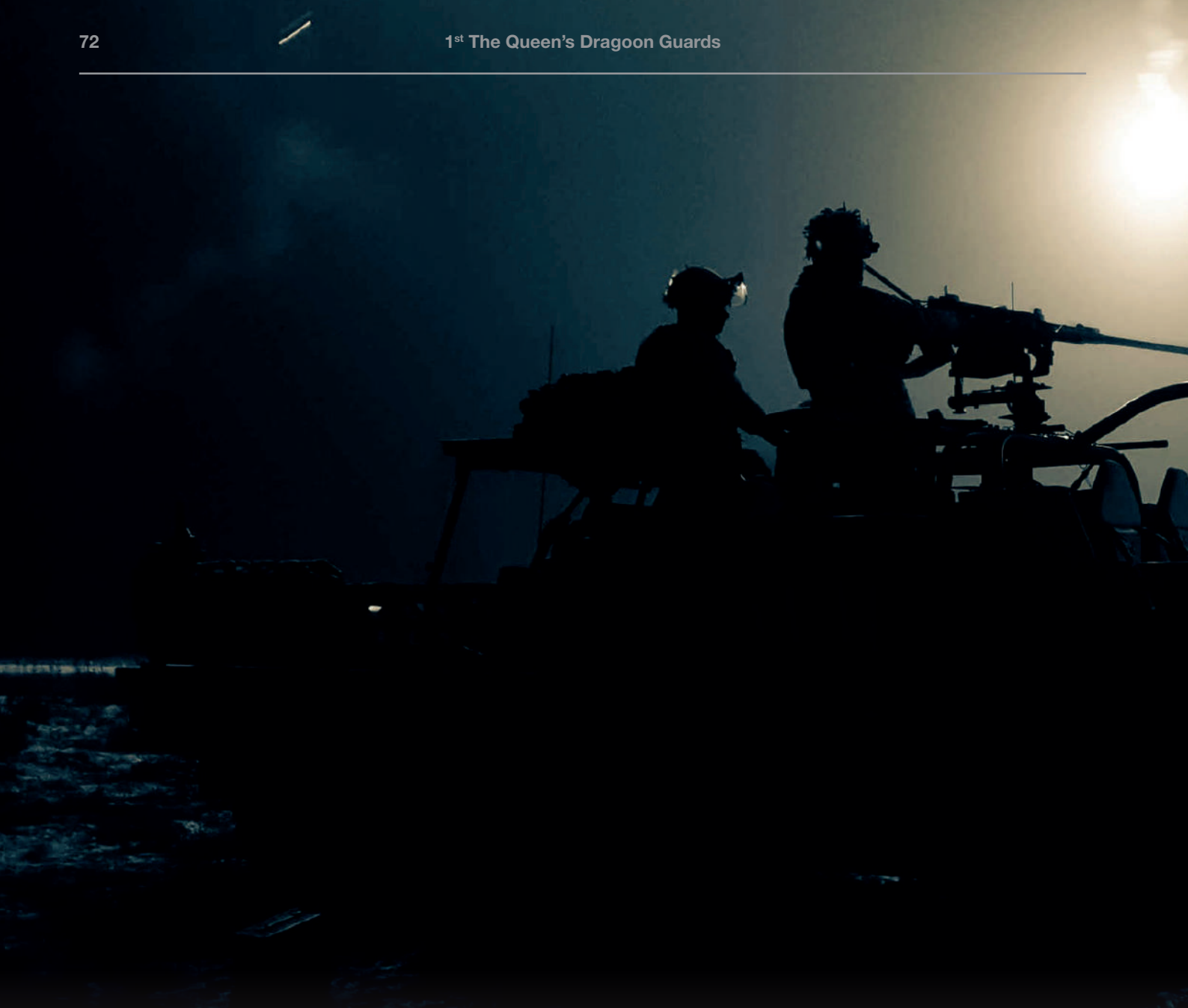


**BROUGHTON HOUSE
VETERAN CARE VILLAGE**
WE CARE FOR THOSE WHO SERVED US



ERSKINE
Caring for Veterans since 1919





Royal Yeomanry

For that noble and puissant regiment the Royal Yeomanry, 2021 was the year of rousing herself like a strong man after almost twelve months of enforced Zoom-based training, and shaking her invincible (albeit immaculately tonsured according to QR) locks. It was the year when the QDG, like a double-headed eagle mewing her mighty youth, strengthened her partnership with the RY as both regiments saw their soldiers return from a unique hybrid deployment to Poland. This much-vaunted, oft-imitated but never-surpassed pairing, regularly held up to the undazzled eyes of the Army as an exemplar of the Regular-Reserve relationship, has continued to leap from strength to strength and even now endures steadfast as the Rock of Gibraltar.

But while other units, like timorous birds, flutter about amazed by this radiant relationship, what have the RY been up to over the last twelve months?

We do not here shrink from describing the RY's achievements even though they seem small in comparison to her mighty sister regiment, remembering that nearly a year of online-only training (with a few exceptions, of which more later) can erode the spirit, the memory and the will of even the strongest amongst us. Others, less blessed with knowledge than we, might scoff at what they consider a year half-fallow and dedicated to rebuilding; however, those who 'darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge' are not here our audience.

Spurred on by the inspired and inspiring leadership of Col Tom Bragg, who continued to juggle scalpel and Skype throughout his tenure, the RY plunged back into the waters of face-to-face training over a series of testing

weekend training exercises. These took place in such compact and bijoux training areas as Pippingford Park, Yardley Chase, and Leek & Upper Hulme. In these arenas the Yeomanry, in Sqn groupings, took the bull of basic fieldcraft by its slippery green horns, proving they were no greenhorns to the tricky business of tough reconnaissance soldiering, even after such a prolonged absence, an absence made perhaps more protracted by the increasing risk-awareness of the modern era.

Following the departure of the relentlessly dedicated and tirelessly efficient XO Maj Ryan Morgan RTR in the summer, the RY rolled seamlessly into a 'courses-camp' Annual Deployment Exercise (ADX) on the hallowed grounds of Swanton Morley, with the great ship



We do not here shrink from describing the RY's achievements





of training now helmed by Maj Arthur Purbrick RL. This packed programme happily coincided with the QDG Officers Mess Summer Ball, and an opportunity for some RY officers to spend a much-missed social evening with their regular peers.

As the summer turned slowly into autumn, Mr Charlie Nash RY achieved the signal honour of being the first officer across the Army to lead an AT expedition overseas following the descent of the viral curtains of closed borders across the world. His sea kayaking expedition to Cyprus was a phenomenally hard-won achievement, and a success which demonstrates the ability of subalterns to achieve anything if a week in the sun and an ice-cold pint of Keo are involved.

With the year almost at a close, and the invisible clouds of a possible lockdown gathering over the temporal horizon, the RY embarked upon a Troop Test weekend on Salisbury Plain to test



Civvies pay thousands for this

and confirm the skills they had already proved during the year's field training. The winning troop, from C Sqn (led by Mr Calum Alister-Jones), were commended for their dauntless yet considered approach to attacking all of the problems set them by the Directing Staff, and

showing themselves as the epitome of the tough recce soldiers the RY and her sister the QDG continue, in concert, to train; 'to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield'.

BD-P



Governor General's Horse Guards

Canada's military response to the COVID-19 pandemic mirrored many of our allies. The official approach started from 'preserve the force' and support Canada and Canadians.

During the initial response, members of the Governor General's Horse Guards (GGHG) volunteered immediately for Operation GLOBE, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) commitment to active engagement abroad, supporting the repatriation of Canadians stranded abroad amid flight restrictions and border closures. Around 700 Canadians were successfully repatriated and reunited with loved ones following the mandatory isolation periods.

Almost simultaneously, our soldiers were volunteering for Operation LASER. Despite the unknown health risks, Horse Guards were involved in the supporting overwhelmed long-term care facilities as well as in the creation of dedicated teams reacting to requests for assistance from the Province of Ontario.

As a Reserve Regiment in the CAF, the Governor General's Horse Guards had almost half of its effective strength on named Operations. This level of Regimental deployment has not been seen since the end of the Second World War.

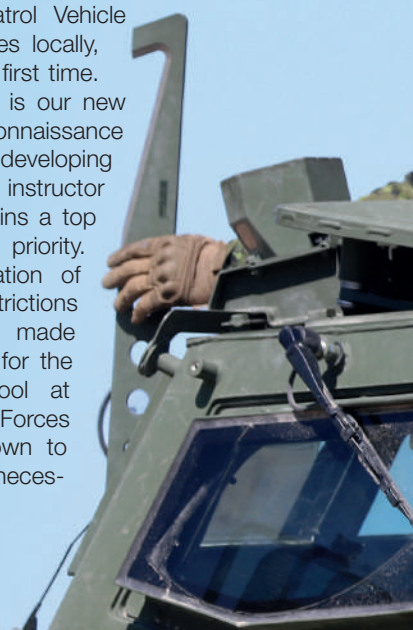
At the start of the pandemic, all non-essential training was temporarily stopped. We then shifted to virtual training and administration to slow the erosion of key Armoured skills. Not only did the soldiers of the Regiment have to adapt to remote training, but they also had to adapt to supporting Domestic Operations in a persistent COVID environment. Operation LENTUS is the CAF response to natural disasters in Canada. While Provincial and territorial authorities are the first to respond when a major natural disaster occurs, if they become overwhelmed, they may ask the CAF for help. These natural disasters often take the form of forest fires, floods, ice storms, or hurricanes.

In early 2021, the CAF resumed in-person Individual Training, to rebuild key skills and capabilities across the Forces. Where possible, Distance Learning and Virtual Training were used, but the resumption of Developmental Period (DP) training courses that provide basic armoured training was permitted, following strict Force Health Protection Measures.

While many of the Regiment's Senior NCOs and instructors were running or overseeing training courses, key members of the GGHG were also employed on Operation VECTOR with the planning and logistics with Public Health Agency of Canada. Op VECTOR is the CAF's support to the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

The remainder of 2021 continued at a blistering pace. With the resumption of overseas Operations, the Regiment continued to provide officers and soldiers for both Operations IMPACT and UNIFIER, supporting the Middle East and Ukraine respectively.

The Regiment conducted Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) courses locally, some for the first time. As the TAPV is our new armoured reconnaissance platform, developing crew and instructor skill set remains a top Regimental priority. The combination of COVID restrictions and logistics made it impossible for the Armour School at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown to provide the necessary training.





These GGHG-led courses included TAPV Gunnery with its Remote Weapons System (RWS), Armoured Crew Commander (ACC), Armoured Reconnaissance Troop Leader (ARTL) & Troop Warrant's course, and the Direct Fire Instructor Gunner (DFIG) course. The fact that the GGHG were permitted to run these centrally controlled courses outside of the Armour School is a testament to the strength and skill of the Regiment and its soldiers.

For a brief period, the public health posture also allowed the Regiment to resume a few limited public duties with the Band and the Cavalry including the Queen's Plate and Remembrance Day.

In 2022 The Governor General's Horse Guards will commemorate 200 years of continuous and continuing service to



Canada. Throughout these 200 years, the Regiment has been proud of the connections to our Allied Regiments, like the Welsh Cavalry, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

EH





The 1st Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Troops of 1st Reconnaissance Regiment were mainly engaged in the tasks to control the spread of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka in the year 2021, in addition to operational commitments. Whilst accomplishing all of the tasks laid out before them, the Regiment performed exceptionally well during the course of the year.

As per the present deployment, the Headquarters Squadron, A and B Squadrons are located within the Regimental Headquarters at Rock House, Colombo. 1st Troop, B Squadron is deployed with the RHQ Battalion of the Special Forces Regiment SEEDUWA and 2nd Troop, B Squadron is deployed at Ordinance Regimental Headquarters DOMBAGODA. C Squadron is located at the VP Camp – KERAWALAPITIYA.

Lieutenant Colonel W D S D Wickramarachchi RWP RSP USP psc assumed the duties as the 37th

Commanding Officer of the Regiment, and Major MMDSK Bandara psc took over duties as Second in Command of 1st Reconnaissance Regiment. Presently, Captain HGRD Wijewardhana functions as the Adjutant.

Being located in close vicinity to the country's economic hub, 1st Reconnaissance Regiment is entrusted with the task of rapid deployment of troops to the high security zones and vulnerable points of the Western Province. For this task, the Regiment was reinforced with the troops of the Commando Regiment as well. Apart from this, the Troop located at SEEDUWA with the Special Forces Regiment was tasked to facilitate the rapid deployment of troops at the Bandaranaike International Airport and the surrounding High Security Zone, during emergencies.

Amidst the heavy operational commit-

ments, two troops of B Squadron (with BTR 80 As) joined the eighth edition of a bilateral joint exercise "Mitra Shakti" between the Sri Lanka Army and the Indian Army. It was commenced on 3rd October 2021 at Combat Training School, Ampara in Sri Lanka. The aim of the exercise was to promote the close relations between the Armies of both the countries and enhance interoperability and share the best practices in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations.

The 3rd Combat Convoy Team, consisting of Officers and Soldiers of the Regiment with BTRs, was deployed for the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in Mali on 25th March 2021. They conducted a number of successful convoys, and the United Nations persons were provided with safe passage. As their tenure is scheduled to be terminated on 25th March 2022 the 4th team of the Combat Convoy Company is currently undergoing training to depart the country to relieve the 3rd Company.

Further, 2 x 27 Troops participated in a tank firing exercise organised by the Armoured Brigade at KALPITIYA range with 2 x BTR 80 As and 2 x WMZ 551s.

“
two troops of
B Squadron
joined the
eighth edition
of a bilateral
joint exercise
“Mitra Shakti”
between the
Sri Lanka Army
and the Indian
Army





This was conducted in two phases. The first phase of the exercise was conducted on 21 and 22 September and the second phase was conducted on the 7th and 8th October 2021. Additionally, under the commitments of operational and non-operational deployments, the Regiment was able to release a number of Officers and Other Ranks for the training programmes conducted both in local and overseas institutions which are immensely beneficial to their career development process.

Adding glamour and honour to the President Standard awarded to the Regiment, a newly constructed Colour Chamber was declared open by Major General DBSN Bothaota RWP RSP USP psc, the Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps on the invitation of then Commanding Officer of 1st Reconnaissance Regiment Lieutenant Colonel SJ Samarasinghe psc on 23rd June 2021.

Being the most senior Regiment of



**Adding
glamour and
honour to
the President
Standard
awarded**



the Sri Lanka Army, the 1st Reconnaissance Regiment is known to many as a Regiment with pride and dignity which intends to carry out each and every order by being exemplary to other Regiments in the Corps. In order to maintain the

prestige and values of the Regiment, all Officers and Other Ranks are contributing their maximum to the Corps and the Army to fly high the Regiment colours for the years ahead.

EH



E Squadron (1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards), Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force

2021... and we thought 2020 was bizarre – 2021 has been just a big a challenge but with some fantastic achievements from both cadets and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs)!

Going straight into the breach starting with a much anticipated return to parading at Detachments (with masks and 2m separation of course), non-residential training at Army Reserve Centres (ARCs) in Llanelli and Haverfordwest ensured Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire suddenly becoming alive with cadets and CFAVs and then more recently, being given the green light to return to residential training! It has been a welcome change from the 'virtual training' environment where Zoom has really played its part but you cannot beat face-to-face training at the end of the day.

As mentioned, we initially had a return to Detachments where under strict guidelines we tried to pick up from where we left off. Some cadets had unfortunately

aged out, a small handful were not to be seen but I am glad to say the lions share made an enthusiastic return. This was mainly due to keeping them engaged during difficult times so the home fires were still burning throughout closures and restrictions.

After the initial parade nights at Detachments we then proceeded to organise the training for the year; unfortunately the Annual Camp at Sennybridge fell by the wayside due to Regular Army priorities so we switched to a 9 day package at Templeton Airfield, near Narberth, Pembrokeshire. On the run-up to this we conducted beat up training on Saturdays and Sundays at the ARCs so cadets and CFAVs could be up to speed with Skill At Arms inc. their Weapon Handling Tests (WHTs) as well as some refresher training on Navi-

gation and Fieldcraft. This meant that we went straight into our Hybrid Annual Camp 2021 and hit the ground running.



Zoom has really played its part but you cannot beat face-to-face training at the end of the day



Exercise First Knight The first 2 days were further refresher training and issuing of kit for the Field Training Exercise (FTX) as well as some last minute WHTs and this enable us to then 'get on the bus!' and deploy on our 3 day FTX where we had assistance from Sgt Grills and the boys from Regimental Engagement Team all sharing their expertise. This was hugely appreciated – thank you to all that assisted. After the cadets saw off the enemy on the final day with a Squadron blank firing

ambush we had the Water Activity Centre at Llanion Cove, Pembrok Dock booked where laughter and fun was abound with Paddleboarding, Canoeing, Canadian





Kayaks, Raft Building etc. Interesting to meet many of the centres instructors whom were ex-forces. Following on from that was the 3 day Expedition Training where both cadets and non-qualified CFAVs were able to participate in the required training and assessments in order to pass relevant Star level or Expedition Supervisor status. This culminated with a surprise Fish and Chip shop slap up meal on the last evening before handing back kit and returning to home locations.

Outside of our 'Hybrid Summer camp' we have also managed to get a minibus of cadets to represent us in County Sports events and even pushing on to some National events due to their skills. In addition to this, 5 of the Squadron's cadets attended Kinmel Camp in North Wales to achieve their 4-Star CIS Signaller Course and subsequently are

now sporting the Cross Flags badge on their uniform. Well done to all!

Exercise Muzzle Flash at the Infantry Battle School in Brecon has allowed us to hone the cadets skills with both Basic and 1-Star Shooting as well as some much needed residential training on Drill & Turnout and Military Knowledge. This confirms the cadets training at Detachment level and a good fistful of 1-Star badges and Shooting badges were presented.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Parades 2021

had E Squadron covering Llanelli, Trimsaran, Burry Port, Tenby, Pembroke, Pembroke Dock, Llanion Welsh War Cemetery, Freshwater West, Haverfordwest, Broad Haven, Milford Haven, Neyland and Narberth to name a few and

was attended by cadets and CFAVs that proudly paid their respects and remembered the fallen. Lest we forget.....

CFAVs and cadets from across the Squadron would like to take this opportunity to thank the Regiment for their brilliant assistance and support during these difficult times and we look forward to catching up with you all again in 2022!

On a final note, 2021 has seen a plethora of new recruits through the doors of some Detachments, but we are still able to take more. So if you know anyone who could benefit from the opportunities we (and other Cadet Force units) offer, then get them to visit www.armycadets.com. Finally, we are always on the lookout for Adult Volunteers in west Wales, so if you feel you have something to offer our 'Future Troopers' then contact me direct.

MM





Clwyd and Gwynedd ACF Report

Clwyd and Gwynedd ACF have two detachments that are proudly affiliated with the Queen's Dragoon Guards - Mold and Porthmadog detachments.

The year has been one of challenges but with the easing of restrictions tentative steps were possible for detachments to reopen and thanks to some considerable efforts a series of mini-camps were possible during the summer bringing a very welcome return to cadet activities. We also managed a short camp at Ness-cliff in October.

As the COVID-19 restrictions eased both detachments were delighted

to receive visits from the Regimental Engagement Team in September.

Star of the evenings was Lance Corporal Emrys Forlan Jones the QDG Regimental Mascot. LCpl Jones, together with his personal chaperone Farrier Major Mark Holland. Mark enthralled cadets with his passionate explanation of role Farrier Major and life with LCpl Jones. This 365 day a year job is in addition to his normal role within the QDG. LCpl Jones was well behaved and met a number of cadets and paid particular attention to those with his special treats. Thankfully all fingers were

accounted for during the encounter.

One of the visitors to Mold was Trooper Jack Wade, who is a former Clwyd and Gwynedd Cadet Sergeant from Holyhead who has been with the QDG for four years. Jack, who has recently been busy supporting the NHS Covid efforts, is currently supporting the QDG Engagement Team whilst on stand by for operations. Jack spent time with the cadets demonstrating some personal equipment currently in use and chatting about his army career following his time as an army cadet.

In Porthmadog Sgt Scott Grills, who



arranged to bring members of the Regimental Engagement Team to the detachment, was delighted to present certificates to cadets who had recently completed their basic training.

In October members of Mold detachments once again supported the Run Wales Flintshire 5k and 10k runs helping with marshalling, water stops and baggage control.

Mold Detachment was able to take part in the Mold Remembrance Sunday Parade and was delighted to welcome several QDG veterans.

JVB



The Leathersellers' Company

The past Livery year is likely to be recorded in history as one of the most unusual and unexpected, with every aspect of the Company's activities dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Hall was closed for lengthy periods and Zoom became the norm for Court, committee, staff and Governors' meetings. This was an expedient medium, although the loss of face-to-face interaction and lack of fellowship was sadly missed. The staff team, under the leadership of our retired Clerk, David Santa-Olalla, and our new Clerk, Matthew Lawrence, responded with professionalism and diligence to all the diverse challenges of the past year, ensuring the continuation of our work covering the development and maintenance of our estate, the stewardship of our finances, our grant giving activities and our relationships in the City and beyond. A series of webinars focused on different areas of our activities were greatly appreciated by Liverymen, Freeman and staff.

The 2020-2021 Livery year saw a range of new challenges faced across the charity sector, with funds normally raised through events, corporate donations and community fundraising heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and many resulting practical challenges to ensure safe operation for many vulnerable groups. The former indicator of the success of a charity holding multiple and varied income streams suddenly became a concern as it became clear the pandemic would not be a short-lived alteration to our lives and ways of working.

As a long-standing charitable funder we were able to pivot to meet emergency needs in the early months of the pandemic, but the question of how to adapt to the changing needs for the 2020-2021 Livery year presented a fresh set of considerations. Fortified by the many centuries of giving we stayed true to our giving principles of providing and honouring multi-year commitments, supporting charities undertaking transformational work within their communities and seeking to constantly improve our own approach and processes. As a result we focused our new in-year funding on two areas, homelessness and domestic abuse, whilst continuing to provide long-term support to other charity partners.

Giving by the Leathersellers' Company to Education in the last year totaled over £1,000,000, continuing our long heritage of sharing resources and skills to enable children, young people and adults to unlock their potential. Recognising our strengths we provided a combination of support, via long-standing partnerships, to provide certainty and stability through these tumultuous times, and sought to be flexible, open and responsive to ensure that we remain accessible and impactful.

The Company's partner schools, Colfe's and the Leathersellers' Federation, excelled themselves in tackling the challenges of the pandemic with innovation, resilience and tenacity. We continue to work with their senior leadership teams to improve our support, from small changes to the match-funding programme to enable pupils to get more involved in charitable work from an early age, to shaping and funding new programmes to increase opportunity and social mobility. We are so grateful to all those associated



with our schools including teachers, staff and Governors and of course to the pupils who despite all the adversity of the past year have continued to inspire and motivate us for the future.

Life at Leathersellers' Close, the Company's almshouses in Barnet, was also affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the need to stay physically apart we were keen to ensure that our residents knew they were in our thoughts, and so we found different ways to connect with them. We now provide a welcome pack for new residents introducing the Company and Charitable Fund (along with

a fruit hamper), the Trustees (and some former Trustees) phoned and caught up with residents particularly during lockdown periods, and we kept in regular contact via letters and through the Scheme Manager who continued to be a supportive presence at the Close throughout.

Our military affiliations continue to be important to us and we value the opportunity to offer support. The past year saw our affiliations across the forces addressing significant challenges at home and overseas. We were also delighted that HMS Audacious was commissioned.

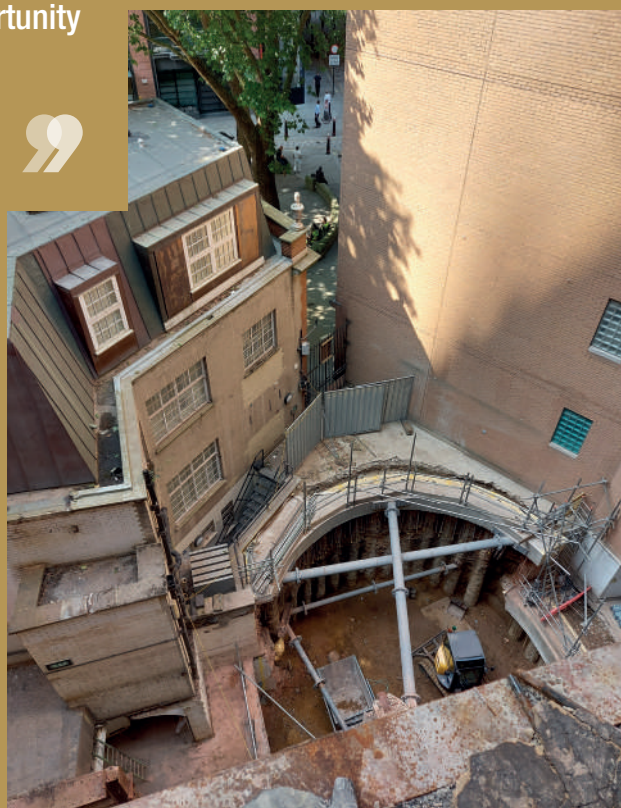
Despite the challenges of the past year work has continued uninterrupted on the much-needed refurbishment of 3 St Helen's Place. All the demolition works are complete and we are now entering the re-building phase of the project. The following fit-out phase will take some five months, with the completion date set for mid-2022.

On behalf of all the Members of the Leathersellers' Company and its staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

PJ MBE



Our military affiliations continue to be important to us and we value the opportunity to offer support



Regimental Comrades Association

President: Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier AS Richmond OBE

Chairman: Mr C T Gibbons

My, where has that year gone! I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. It was great to see many of you at the Reunion who decided to take the plunge and attend. More on that later. This past year has seen some normality for most of us now that restrictions are being lifted. I do hope that you are all now moving about seeing family and friends alike.

Sadly, over this past year we have lost a number of our Veterans to this dreaded virus as well as through natural causes and I would therefore like to extend the Association's sincere condolences to the bereaved families. Don't forget that the Regimental family are always here to lend a helping hand when needed.

It was pleasing to have managed to make contact with an ex-Bay Donald McCaig who celebrated his 100th birthday on 11 November. Donald saw action at El Alamein and in Italy. Yet again the power of Facebook works wonders.

Some encouraging news. Since the introduction of the new online application form on the website we have had a steady stream of applications which is good to see. If you know of anyone out there who is not yet a member please steer them to: qdg.org.uk/join-the-rca/.

Social gatherings have been steadily returning albeit with reduced numbers. Oswestry still went ahead without the sit down meal but thanks to the Sandbaggers turning up with their entourage and a few additions, namely Ivor Morris and crew, we still had a great weekend. Wessex Branch managed to hold two BBQs courtesy of Dave and Sally Way again keeping within government guidelines managed to raise £600 that will go towards the Christmas hampers this year. For the first time, with thanks to Ivan Schumskji, the Sandbaggers visited The Ukrainian Youth Camp in Derby. Another excellent venue which included a pub on site....result!

Thankfully we managed to hold the Reunion this year at a new venue, the Masonic Hall in Cardiff, with eighty plus sitting down to a lovely meal of Beef Wellington. The attendance was very good considering some restrictions and I know that many came away having enjoyed it and will look forward to it again next year. Also encouraging was a new adoption to the family,

namely The Old Arcade pub (courtesy of Chris Jones) as The Goat Major (now The Bluebell) is no longer fit for purpose. It's a traditional rugby pub so a perfect venue anytime of the year.

There are currently nine branches that are active, but we still need enthusiastic individuals to help extend our

Branch network in South West Wales and North East Wales. We are also looking to expand as far north as Catterick or Scotland as I know there are many ex-QDG that have made these areas their home. If you are interested in the above or indeed an area not listed, please contact HHQ or myself. Contact details are on the website at qdg.org.uk/branches.

Once again thank you for your continued support to the Regiment and Regimental Comrades Association over the past

year as without you we would not continue to exist. We look forward to meeting up with you all sometime next year.

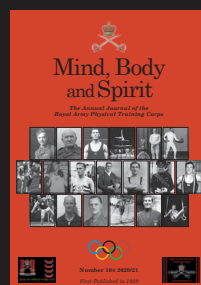
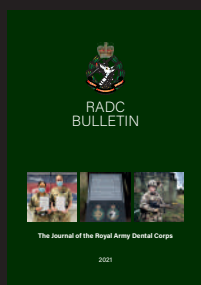
CTG



Since the introduction of the new on-line application form on the website we have had a steady stream of applications



This is what we do...



and who we are...

crest

DESIGN & PUBLISH

t: 01536 317000

w: www.crestpublications.com

Regimental Home Headquarters

Mark Hawtin – Regimental Secretary • Kate Cox – Assistant Regimental Secretary
 Catherine Symons – Subscriptions/General Enquiries • Sophie Poeton – Shop/Lottery/General Enquiries
 Mark Evans – Regimental Curator • Hannah Searle – Regimental Assistant Curator

Over the past 12 months Home Headquarters has returned to some semblance of normality with many of the pressures from Covid-19 lifting, this is after experiencing multiple lockdowns, the team having to work from home for most of the year and tighter restrictions enforced in Wales. Many RCA events were organised, some had to be cancelled or reorganised due to restrictions or changes in Covid policy, but all those that ended up going ahead were well attended, especially considering the vulnerability that many of our comrades find themselves under from the virus. Although most of us are now double and even booster jabbed, we once again find ourselves facing tougher restrictions over the winter months due to Omicron and anticipated future variants, but I'm hopeful that come the Spring things will become much more normal and we'll be able to hold all our traditional annual events. Throughout this year's disruption the HHQ team has supported

the Regiment, our comrades, and their immediate families, I would like to thank the Regiment, the Trust and Committee and all those Regimental family members that have assisted us throughout this difficult period, especially enabling us to support those that have found themselves struggling or facing difficulty.

I'd also like to thank Mark Ashley Miller and Chris Gibbons, who on behalf of the RCA have once again supported those Dragoons serving on operations, organising a Christmas gift for those on Op NEWCOMBE 2 and 3 and a thoughtful Christmas hamper for their immediate families back in the UK. HHQ has received many extremely grateful letters of thanks from those families on behalf of the RCA and I know that those QDG on tour really appreciated the gesture, so a big thank you to all those that donated into the fund, an outstanding £9000 has been raised so far.

I think that after a year

of strict lockdown we were all looking forward to getting together. The first live event this year was the Border Counties and Powys Branches Oswestry Gig in July, organised by Dave Maltby. Sadly it had to be cancelled last minute, once again due to government restrictions, but Martin Orde managed to keep the use of the Oswestry RFC pitch and a very well attended, open air, Sandbaggers bash was held in its place. Dave and Sally Way were once again able to hold their Tank Fest BBQ, minus the Tank Fest, but with 30 guests. Next up was the Hay on Wye Armed Forces weekend with Kelvin Jenkins as one of the main organisers, a large attendance from the Sandbaggers camping out over the weekend and more RCA members turning up on Sunday parading through Hay to the Service of

Remembrance. The RCA Cardiff Dinner at the Masonic Hall was a resounding success, a big thank you to Chris and his committee for organising and all the RCA feedback was positive, especially the price of a pint! The last function of the year was the Officers' Dinner with 70 sitting down, not bad considering that infection rates were starting to grow exponentially due to the cold and flu season.

We were once again able to attend Remembrance Parades, with many of our comrades laying Regimental Wreaths at their local Cenotaphs. We also had a pretty good turnout at the Welsh National Service of Remembrance here in Cardiff. This year we are considering having a marching contingent at the Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Cenotaph in London, if you would like to attend, please contact HHQ. We were also extremely fortunate that Marc 'Sparky' Davies is currently working over in the UAE as he was able to represent the Regiment and RCA at a Remembrance Service in the former RAF Sharjah Churchyard, Dubai, now known as St Martin's Church. The church has a number of Commonwealth War Graves that have recently had their headstones replaced due to erosion from the harsh desert environment. This is very poignant and relevant to us as a regimental family as sadly on the 27th July 1967 LCpl Keith Ainsworth died whilst serving in Sharjah, whilst serving on ERE with HQ Land Forces. Marc attended the service, placed a Regimental wreath at



**a big thank
 you to all those
 that donated
 into the fund,
 an outstanding
 £9000 has
 been raised so
 far**





Keith's graveside and read out the Regimental Collect on our behalf.

If you live locally or are visiting Cardiff and can go to Llandaff Cathedral you will see that the Standard is finally hanging over the Regimental Memorial, completing our spiritual home here in Wales. The Regimental Secretary initially tried to put it in place earlier in the year using a triple ladder, however after much Elvis knee, realisation of mortality and egging on by Father Mark, the Cathedral's Canon Precentor, he chickened out and hired a local Ely firm of scaffolders to assist. I think you will all agree that the Regimental Memorial looks splendid and is a fitting tribute to our fallen comrades.

I would once again like to thank all those of you who donate to our Regimental Benevolence Fund, via the 1 Day's Pay Scheme, donations straight to the Trust and through our Virgin Money Giving page on the RCA website. All benevolence grants awarded, many of which are life changing, are gratefully received with HHQ receiving many letters and phone calls of thanks on your behalf. Virgin Money Giving ceased to operate in December, so we now use 'Give as you Live' as our online donation platform, the new link can be found under the donate tab on the RCA website and I would ask you to please use this if you wish to give

as it hugely simplifies our claiming of Gift Aid. This past year has been a very quiet one for benevolence, so far, we have only given out ten grants, hopefully, because the Armed Forces Covenant is now more widely understood and simplifies the access to assistance for our service personnel, veterans and their immediate families. We have also awarded quarterly, annual, fuel and Christmas grants and distributed Christmas hampers to members of our Regimental family. The total value of grants awarded by the Regimental Benevolence Fund in 2021 has been £10,119.98. We have also once again received great support from the ABF, BLESMA, H4H, RBL, and SSAFA.

As you have read, your support is vital in assisting those comrades, serving and retired, or their immediate families that find themselves in times of need. If you know of anybody who is struggling, please contact HHQ in the first instance, all information is treated in confidence and with discretion.

To finish I would once again like to thank all who have supported the HHQ team over this difficult and challenging year, if you have any queries or questions, please don't hesitate in contacting the team, or if you find yourself in Cardiff pop in for a cup of tea and a chat.

MLH

Cardiff Reunion Dinner

After a few disappointing and costly dinners in Cardiff's hotels we were fortunate to be invited by the Free Masons of Cardiff to use their hall in Guildford Street for our 2021 Dinner. Although there were a few initial queries and worries from a small number of us I think you'll all agree that Chris and his Committee organised a cracking Dinner and follow up entertainment. Over eighty of us sat down to eat with many more congregating in the bar area. The Band and Drums of Gwent and Powys Army Cadet Force played for us during the meal and were outstanding and even I was shocked by how many boogied on the dancefloor, obviously helped by the very competitively priced beverages and energised by the late night bacon butties! I think we can all agree that it was a great location to hold our reunion, the food and drink were good, and we were extremely well looked after by the Hall's team, a venue to return to.

The Following Association members sat down for dinner:

Brig Richmond, Maj Larminie, Maj Mansel, Maj Ruggles-Brise, Maj Garland, Lt Col Brace, Mr C Jones, Maj Matthews, Mr G Jones, Maj O'Shea, Mr D Way, Mr N Davies, Mrs Davies, Mr Crane, Mr D Rash, Mr P Ford, Mrs Ford, Mr Humphreys, Ms E Lloyd, Mr C Gibbons, Mrs Gibbons, Mr Walker, Mrs Walker, Mrs Patalano, Mr Sullivan, Mr Williams, Mrs Williams, Mr Churchill, Mrs Churchill, Mr Yoxall, Mr Burman, Mr Dicken, Mr Jones, Mr Burgess, Mr Scott, Mr Hallowell, Mr Pickford, Mr Reed, Miss Lloyd, Lt Falloway, Lt Swailes, Lt Clarke, WO2 Navunisaravi, Sgt Grills, Cpl May, Tpr Hill, Tpr Dempsey, Tpr Rowland, Mr Harrison, Mrs Harrison, Mr Thayer, Mrs Thayer, Col Deacon, Mrs Deacon, Lt Col Bell, Mrs Bell, Mr Duruty de Lloyd, Miss Forse, Mr J Schumskji, Mr Clare, Mr Hughes, Mr Whitehead, Mr Chilcott, Mr Thorley, Mr Andrews, Mrs Andrews, Mr Clare, Mrs Clare, Mr Hawtin, Mr Tyndall, Lt Col Corfield, Maj Corfield, Mr Seddon, Mr Burns, Mrs Burns, Mr Evans, Mr Williams, Mr Lee, Mr Maskell, Mr Palmer, Mr Prest, Mr Kear, Maj Jones.

MLH

Officers' Regimental Dinner

This year due to the physical Cavalry Memorial Parade being cancelled and the uncertainty of dates due to Covid restrictions it was decided to hold the Officers' Family Drinks and Regimental Dinner later in the year on the 18th November. The Dinner was attended by 71 officers, past and present - good numbers considering that most of the serving officers were deployed on Op NEWCOMBE 2 or away training ready for 3, and that even up to an hour before numbers were dropping due to positive LFT and PCR tests. As usual the food was outstanding, the company excellent and Ollie Larminie ensured that all had a glass of Regimental port to toast C Sqn's achievements during their tour and RHQ, HQ Sqn and A Sqn success on their forthcoming tour. Those who dined are listed below:

Mr E Barham, Mr J Coleman, Mr N Lykke Dahn, Mr A Clay, Capt Hansen, Lt Col Brace, Mr C Robinson, Lt Col A Roxburgh, Mr O Larminie, Mr E Stenhouse, Mr A Roe, Maj Ruggles-Brise, Mr J Barker, Mr T Smart, Lt Gen Mayall, Mr

G Streatfeild, Capt O'Connor, Mr D Warner, Mr A Wood, Mr R Robinson, Col P Andrews, Mr M Hawtin, Mr T McCallum, Mr C Martel, Brig de Quincey-Adams, Maj Ruck Keene, Brig Richmond, Mr Q Browell, Mr P Gordon-Finlayson, Mr S Patel, Mr J Lough, Mr M Ashley-Miller, Mr J Carroll, Mr D Rosier, Mr H Sugden, Mr M Thompson, Mr P Wickham, Mr P Holdsworth, Mr M Botsford, Maj Mansel, Mr R Staveley, Prof J Hacker Hughes, Capt E Owen, Col S Stewart, Maj B Matthews, Mr P Benham-Crosswell, Mr W Russell, Mr A Campbell, Mr H Renshaw, Mr C Shepherd-Barron, Capt S Maxwell, Mr C Byrd, Col J Stenhouse, Mr J Benda, Lt Col Kierstead, Maj D Wiggins, Mr C Beaver, Lt Col N Fenton, Mr K McGinnity, Mr D Owen, Mr J Beatson-Hird, Lt E Cooper, Col G Baldwin, Mr M Groves, Mr T Mossop, Lt Col R Parry, Lt Fulloway, Lt Upward, Mr C Craven, Mr D Sheehan, Mr R Ferguson.

MLH

Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey

On Thursday 11th November The Duchess of Cornwall opened the 93rd Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. The Royal British Legion once again kindly planted our Regimental Rolls of Honour bearing the names of those from the KDG, Bays and QDG who made the ultimate sacrifice and our wooden remembrance crosses. Due to maintenance being carried out on the Sacristy,

thus the field having to be smaller only six Regimental representatives were able to attend the service and opening this year.

Those in attendance were: The Colonel of the Regiment Brig AS Richmond OBE, Lt Col Brace MBE BEM, Maj O Larminie, Maj C Ruggles-Brise, Mr D Way and Mr M Hawtin. Next year we will hopefully have more tickets to issue.

MLH



The Regimental Trust

2021 was another year when COVID-19 prevented the serving Regiment from undertaking activities such as team sports and adventure training that have been a significant part of the "quality of life" financial support the Regiment receives from the QDG Regimental Trust. Expenditure in support of the serving Regiment has therefore been minimal and much lower than the resources of the Trust are able to sustain. Hopefully these conditions will have eased for 2022 and the return of the Regiment from Op NEWCOMBE in Mali. There are many embryonic plans for sports tours, adventure training and profile-raising events in Wales and the Border Counties in the calendar for 2022.

The Trust has however been able to support the QDG Engagement Team that is operating in our recruiting area, and the important work being done to preserve the Welsh connection through many initiatives. These have included sponsorship of the Wrexham Youth Rugby Club. The

Trust has also been active in the recruiting channel for soldiers and officers to make sure we continue to recruit the best that we can.

Fortunately, the COVID situation eased sufficiently during the year for the team from Cardiff to make several visits to Robertson Barracks to continue their important work connected to the heritage assets in the three messes. These are all now the property of the Trust. The work to ensure the Timeline database has a proper record and provenance of all items is largely complete. External conservators have also inspected the collection and in 2022 a major restoration project should be completed to bring the important items up to a good standard.

For benevolence, the principal point of contact is the Regimental Secretary, and he coordinates our cases with other charities, which are mostly service ones. The majority of cases have a SSAFA case officer and overall the system works well. The Regimental Secretary

has a very good working relationship with other service charities such as ABF (The Soldiers Charity), SSAFA, Help for Heroes and BLESMA. They are generous in supporting our cases. During the year requests for benevolence have again been running at below normal levels. The reason for this is not clear but could be connected to extra funds released through various Covid support measures. We are expecting an uptick in 2022.

If any members of the Regiment were considering making a bequest or donation to the Trust, these would be gratefully received. The full name of the charity is 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Regimental Trust, and the Charity Commission Number is 274689. The Trustees would normally apply any gifts for the general benefit of the Trust, although they also maintain a restricted fund for benevolence. This is available for those who might particularly wish to support that part of the Trust's activities.

ORCL

Regimental Museum – The Firing Line

Well, as I write this journal article, the museum is temporarily closed to come in line with Cardiff Castle closing for essential maintenance on Christmas Eve – both are expected to reopen at the end of January 2022. This temporary closure has allowed us to carry out a deep clean of the museum and refresh various displays ready for reopening. Previously the museum was closed from March 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, until May 2021. During this time our staff were all placed on furlough, apart from the management team who worked tirelessly to raise funds and continue to carry out museum tasks whilst working from home. When we reopened in May 2021 it was on shorter hours in line with Castle timings. This seemed to change weekly as the year progressed. We were also restricted to a maximum of forty visitors and all wearing masks. We did see a major drop in visitor numbers as we lost a large amount of our overseas visitors. However, as we move into 2022, we are hoping restrictions will ease and we can hopefully get back to some normality. We look forward to seeing what 2022 will hold for the museum.

During 2021, myself and Miss Hannah Searle, the Assistant Regimental Curator, visited the Regiment during July and September to carry out our annual audit of the Regimental collection in the various Messes. As usual we were well looked

after. The September visit also incorporated the Annual Trustees' visit and dinner.

Since reopening, the museum was able to host some exciting visits. Peter Doogan, who is a relative of John Doogan VC, became the first family member to see and hold the VC. Peter is a serving Army Reservist with 81 Signal Regiment, Royal Signals.

The museum was also visited by the Royal College of Defence Studies, who have incorporated the regimental museum as part of their programme. During this visit, a Welsh Government representative gave a briefing to the multinational delegation on the pandemic on behalf of the Welsh First Minister.

Ongoing Exhibitions:

March 2020-present

Modern Day Regiment: Equipment

This exhibition shows the modern-day equipment that the Regiment uses now and will stay in position until 2022.

June 2019-present

KDG in Afghanistan 1919

This exhibition was set up to commemorate the last cavalry charge by the KDG in Afghanistan in 1919. There are several artefacts from that time and some particularly good personnel accounts.

Gulf War 1990/91

This has now been completed and is online to view.

Future Exhibitions:

Regimental Medals through history

This exhibition will be an interactive exhibition allowing visitors to scroll through the years of conflicts, the medals that were issued, stories of recipients and artefacts that we have on display and in our collection.

The Living Regiment

This is an exhibition of the modern-day Regiment; interviews were carried out with several Regimental personalities and this will be another interactive exhibition.

Waterloo exhibition

The present Waterloo collection in the museum will be updated and new artefacts incorporated into the present cases.

We have quite a few exciting new exhibitions and projects to look forward to in 2022. I also ask serving and RCA members to support your Regimental Museum in order for us to move forward after the pandemic. We are always looking for volunteers to work in the museum. The museum is always available to serving and RCA members for talks and visits. Please feel free to contact me for details.

The team and I look forward to welcoming you back to our Regimental Museum in 2022.

ME

Obituaries

Lieutenant Colonel SAB Ward

Simon Andrew Buxton Ward (aka SAB) joined the Regiment in Hohne in March 1973. He died from cancer on 20 April 2021 aged 68. Due to a change in the course structure at Sandhurst, three intakes passed out on the same day and he joined with four other officers, Messrs Dickie, Larminie, Macdonald and Macready. Simon was following in the footsteps of his father Ted Ward who had joined the KDGs during WWII, and who had the misfortune to be captured in 1942. He was with an Echelon convoy and in the fluid fighting conditions in the desert at the time, they unfortunately bumped into a German armoured car patrol during the night.

Simon was posted to B Squadron under John Pocock and the pupillage of Sgt Ken Hanning. 1973 was a busy year for the Regiment being its first year in Hohne on Chieftain. There was also Mark Phillips' wedding in November that involved most of the Regiment, and preparation for the dismounted Op Banner tour in Londonderry the following year. Simon quickly became a highly competent Troop Leader and later B Sqn Squadron Gunnery Officer. He received a Commander-in-Chief's Commendation following the Londonderry Tour. After a spell as ADC to General Sir Jack Harman, who was DSACEUR, he returned to B Squadron as 2IC in 1978.

In 1973 times were different in Germany and it was before the advent of BFBS television. For the officers, apart from the occasional foray to Hamburg, an exciting night out in Hohne was to go to the Thursday Disco in the Station Officers' Mess or take some Bendicks chocolates across the sports field to the SKC Cinema and occupy a box in the almost empty cinema. Simon was the architect behind a diversification from the regular after dinner poker to playing Scrabble for a Pfennig a point. Maybe he thought he had a competitive advantage because before going to Sandhurst he had attended a course at the Army School of Education at Beaconsfield. Whilst there he developed a lifelong passion for the Telegraph crossword.

Simon was clearly showing symptoms of an advanced case of bachelor Hohne-itis when one Sunday afternoon he was caught sipping a Carly whilst watching the BFBS television test card. His first Squadron Leader, John Pocock had returned to command the Regiment and in 1978 dispatched Simon to Bovington on the Long Armour and Infantry Course, telling him, "Never mind about the course, just find a wife because you are becoming insufferable in the Mess!" Simon duly met Captain Margaret Pollock-Gore, who was serving in Bovington and they were married on Cavalry Memorial weekend 1979.

Simon returned to RHQ in Hohne, initially as Assistant Adjutant before becoming Adjutant when the Regiment was in Omagh. After a posting to HQ Wales in Brecon



as SO3 G3 and looking after the Regimental interest in Wales, he returned to the Regiment and took over as D Squadron Leader in Wimbish in 1985. In 1986 he was extremely fortunate to be posted to the Australian Army as a Squadron Leader with 2 Cavalry Regiment (2 Cav) in Sydney. He, Margaret and the children made the most of their two years, helped by flights all over Australia courtesy of the RAAF at minimal cost. To quote Simon: "Two years in Australia passes quicker than a long weekend in Hohne."

After a short stint in the MOD, in 1989 Simon returned to Regimental duty for the last time as 2IC in Wolfenbuttel. Throughout his time with the Regiment, Simon was a lynchpin of Regimental cricket and hockey, even managing once to represent the Army at hockey in Gibraltar at short notice vice Tim Holmes. When in Australia he played hockey and cricket for 2 Cav who were the Army State Champions for cricket.

Simon's career had something of an old-fashioned hue to it, enjoyable jobs in interesting places. As well as Australia, he had two very agreeable years in Cyprus at HQBF Cyprus, and six years in Munsterlager and Dresden as BLOGAS (British Liaison Officer German Armour School). Here he and Margaret made many good German military and civilian friends. Simon was able to improve his golf handicap whilst Margaret continued her career teaching English as a foreign language. His final job was as SO1 DS at the Royal College of Defence Studies, where he delighted in chivvying up the high-flyers from the three Services when they were late or badly organised. He retired from the Army in 2007 and took up the appointment of Co-ordinator Army Bands as a Full Time Reserve Service Officer. In 2016 ill health

forced an early retirement after 46 years of service. He was awarded an Adjutant General's Commendation for exceptional and loyal service.

His Christian faith had always been a central plank to Simon's life. His father had taken Holy Orders after WWII and been Chaplain to HM The Queen. He had also been inspired by his Grandfather who was awarded the MC whilst serving on the Somme as a Chaplain with the Australian Army. He and Margaret settled in Winterbourne Gunner where he took on the mantle of Churchwarden and enjoyed leading services when the vicar was away. Their faith sustained him and his family through the ill health of his later years, which he faced with great courage and stoicism.

Simon was a straightforward and loyal member of the Regiment, liked and respected by all ranks. He had a great sense of humour, and a sharp and perceptive wit. He will be much missed. He was devoted to his family, and we extend our deepest sympathies to Margaret, his children Andrew and Catherine, and his three grandchildren.

ORCL



**Two years
in Australia
passes quicker
than a long
weekend in
Hohne**



WO1 LH Wright

Len, who died on 21st October 2021 aged 87, followed his elder brother into The Queen's Bays in 1952 and who referred to young Len as "our Nipper". Hence, he was always known Regimentally as Nipper thereafter.

Initially a National Serviceman he immediately signed on for an extra year and again in 1954 in order to go to Korea with the Regiment. By then he had been promoted to Sergeant – rapid progress indeed. The tour to Korea was cancelled so Nipper went with the Bays to Aqaba, Jordan. In January 1956 he left for civilian life only to be recalled to the colours in August 1956 for the Suez crisis. He was posted to the Forward Delivery Squadron based in Tripoli, happily near to the Regiment now in Sabratha, Libya. His request to re-join for a full career was accepted.

On the amalgamation Nipper was a troop Sergeant in A Squadron. After a tour at the RAC Gunnery School, he served, in quick succession, in both B and A Squadrons before going to Borneo with C Squadron as a troop leader in 1965. Another tour as a gunnery instructor, as



a SSgt, followed before Nipper re-joined the Regiment in Detmold as SQMS. By now his English paper was becoming a regular contributor to the ACE I examiners! Ultimately successful he was promoted to substantive SSM for his final two years at regimental duty. Throughout his service Nipper was utterly loyal, thoroughly dependable, steady, always forthright with his views and with a no nonsense approach to life. He played Hockey for the Regiment as well as most sports at Squadron level.

In 1971 he was promoted to WO1 and posted to the ATDU Bovington for three years and finally in 1974 as WO1 Range Squadrons, Lulworth. On retirement in 1977 Nipper took employment with the DOE at Portland Naval Base holding several positions. Ultimately he was leading driver and then coxswain of the diving boat carrying out in-harbour maintenance until 1993 when the DOE disbanded.

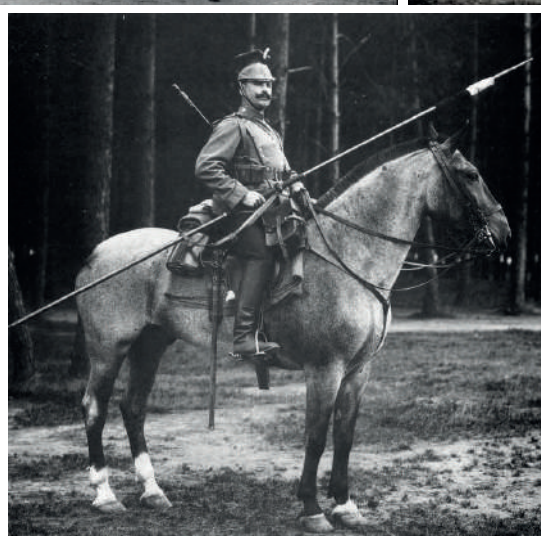
Nipper is survived by his wife, June, and their family to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

RWW



Sadly, the Regimental Secretary was notified of the following deaths during 2021.

Name	Regiment	Served	Dec'd	Age
Maj I Hodgson	BAYS/QDG	1948 – 1983	2019	89
D Bracegirdle	BAYS	1950 - 1962		88
J H Wilding MBE	KDG	1944 – 1948	Feb 21	95
S Springer	QDG		Feb 21	
A Davies 334	QDG		March 21	
Lt Col SAB Ward	QDG	1973 – 2007	Apr 21	68
M E Barham	BAYS	1952 – 1953	Apr 21	
R A Edwards	QDG	1968 – 1974	May 21	
Maj B Board	QDG/AAC	1962 - 1988	Jul 21	77
B Pritchard	QDG		Oct 21	
WO1 Nipper Wright	BAYS/QDG	1952 - 1977	Oct 21	87
NHJ Smith	BAYS	1953 – 1956	Oct 21	86
KW Gee	KDG/QDG	1955 - 1977	Dec 21	86



The Heritage Trust 2021

This last year saw two very significant acquisitions, the Waterloo medal of RSM Barlow and the sword carried by Lt Algernon Lamb at Néry.

Thomas Barlow's medal came up for auction and it attracted a great deal of interest from collectors, with five interested parties bidding against each other from the start. But fortunately, in good cavalry style, we entered the bidding at the very last minute, once the mainstream had reached their limit, and won the day. Thus, we now have a very personal possession of a man who had a tremendous impact on the Regiment which is still felt today.

Barlow was the Regimental Serjeant Major of the KDG at Waterloo and took part in that first great charge of the Household Brigade which resulted in putting the four infantry divisions of D'Erlon's Corps into full flight. On the night after

the battle, Barlow invited the officers to join the sergeants for dinner. Including the walking wounded of both Messes, thirteen dined together after the battle. It was this event that shaped the relationship between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of the Regiment to this day. The idea of this happening was unthinkable at the time because of the large social divide, and it caused quite a stir of disapproval.

Every year, this dinner is celebrated when the Sergeants' Mess invites the officers to a dinner on the anniversary of the battle. Games are played, wine is drunk, and relationships are further strengthened. Thus is created an extra-ordinary relationship not seen in other regiments in the British Army. Respectful, but informal.

And this drives the whole atmosphere of the Regiment. But above all, the memory of Waterloo still imbibes pride and a

determination not only to succeed, but to be the very best.

Thomas Barlow was born circa 1785, in Lancashire, and enlisted into the King's Dragoon Guards on 18 April 1801, and spent the next fourteen years of his service in England and Ireland progressively working his way up through the non-commissioned ranks. A man of strong religious beliefs, Barlow was a Methodist Lay Preacher. He married Elizabeth Wagstaff who was the daughter of the KDG Quartermaster William Wagstaff. The QDG Heritage Trust Archive holds twelve letters written by Thomas Barlow to his wife Betsy during the Waterloo Campaign. The letters were purchased by the QDG Heritage Trust in 2008. They had five children.

Whilst Thomas Barlow is an iconic figure, most in the Regiment will not have heard of Lt Algernon Joseph Rutherford Lamb, DSO, who joined the Bays in 1911, an early expert on the use of heavy machine guns, author of two published books on horses and their use in war. Most importantly, he played a major part in stopping the Germans destroying

“ we now have a very personal possession of a man who had a tremendous impact on the Regiment which is still felt today ”



the British Expeditionary Force and changed the course of WW1. A bold claim, I know. Let me explain why.

Néry is remembered for the unbelievable bravery of L Battery of the RHA where three Victoria Crosses were awarded. But the Bays' actions were the real show stopper and at the forefront of this was their Machine Gun Troop and their Troop Leader, Lt Algie Lamb.

In August 1914, things were not going well. The British and French forces had been driven back across the River Aisne, with the French reserve division having been decimated, and the Allies were in full retreat. The Commander of the BEF, Sir John French, decided to withdraw behind Paris, citing the need for six times the number of infantry and four times the number of cavalry. He also had no confidence in the French General Lanzerac, who commanded the forces on his right flank. Whilst awaiting instructions from London, the British fell back to a 'stopping action' at Le Cateau. Unfortunately, there was a gap between the II and III Corps

which left the British forces vulnerable to being surrounded.

Protecting this gap was 1st Cavalry Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Sir Charles Briggs, originally a KDG. This brigade was made up of three regiments of cavalry: the Queen's Bays, the 5th Dragoon Guards and the 11th Hussars. Each of these regiments had a strength of about five hundred men. In support was L Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, with six thirteen-pounder guns and two hundred officers and men.

The 1st Cavalry Brigade arrived at Néry on 31 August, a small stone village built in the twelfth century, only 63 km from the centre of Paris and 190 km from Mons. At the time, it had a population of six hundred people.

Most found billets in the village, but the Bays and L Battery, being the last to arrive just after 6pm, were not so fortunate. A and B Squadrons were billeted in a series of houses on the west side of the main street. Due to the lack of

accommodation, C Squadron with the full complement of the Regiment's horses along with L Battery, had been allocated a field on the south side of the village, adjacent to a sugar beet factory. Here, they set up their bivouacs.

Standing orders that night made each regiment responsible for the defence and security of their positions around Néry, patrolling the roads leading into their sector. On their front left flank, it was still believed that the French Provisional Cavalry Division were positioned and II Corps immediately to their front. In fact, neither was the case. As darkness fell, the issue of a detailed protective screen was deemed out of the question, as that role was held by the French and elements of II Corps. In addition, the men of the Brigade had had no proper sleep for ten days, averaging three hours per night, and they had been ordered to start very early the next day. So, it was decided to hold the village that night and not put out any patrols or pickets until early the following morning. This would allow some sleep all round and there was a general feeling of security.

Unbeknown to Sir Charles Briggs, the German 4th Cavalry Division, under General von Garnier, comprised of three cavalry brigades and three batteries of artillery, routed the French and, undetected, had penetrated the British defensive line. They arrived on a plain in this exact gap between the two British Corps, thirty miles from Paris. Their aim was to penetrate the British forces facilitating the surrounding and annihilation of the BEF. At 4am, the main body arrived at Béthisy-Saint-Martin, only 2,400 yards from the position occupied by the Bays. They had advanced through the Forest of Laigue, so were not observed by our air reconnaissance. Indeed, an observer from the RFC had overflown the area at 4,000 feet and had reported that:

'the woods were minutely examined and no enemy was observed.'

In fact, the visibility was poor due to a heavy atmospheric haze which contributed to their concealment.

On the 1st September, the Bays had reveille at 2.30am with orders to move off at 4.30am. However, when dawn broke, a thick fog lay in the valley to the east of the village with visibility down to one hundred yards at best. So, orders were issued at 5am to delay the Regimental move and stand down. Given the weather, there was no likelihood of any movement for a few hours. The horses were unsaddled, L Battery unharnessed their guns, and the animals were watered and fed. The Regiment then took the opportunity to wash and shave. They ate a leisurely breakfast of omelettes and tea.

At 5am, one of the Uhlan patrols spotted C Squadron's bivouacs and immediately reported their presence plus the fact they were resting, 'uncovered and unsuspecting.' Despite the fact that his troops were also exhausted, Von Garnier immediately ordered the division forward. Given the weather, the plan was for the three Horse Artillery batteries to lay down fire and four cavalry regiments were to dismount and to attack on foot.

Just as the Germans were moving up into position, the early daylight patrols from 1st Cavalry Brigade returned. The Bays' patrol reported no sight of the enemy. They missed both the Uhlans and the Cuirassiers by a hair's breadth. The 11th Hussars saw the Uhlans and reported back to their regiment, Brigade HQ and 5DG. But there was not enough time to warn the Bays.

At 5.40am, the first artillery shell landed on Néry – right in the middle of C Squadron's horse lines. At the same



time, the German machine guns opened up from a position seven hundred yards away, from the vantage point of a plateau which overlooked the whole village.

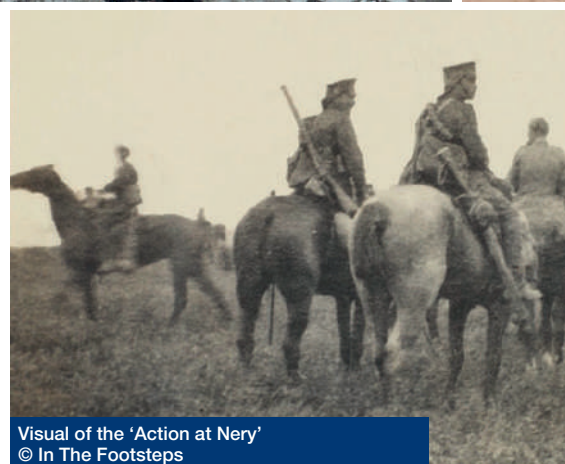
Lt Lamb was running late after checking his troops and was just about to shave when the first shells landed amongst C Squadron's horses. Those that were not immediately killed stampeded along with the horses from A and B Squadron, critically in an Eastward direction. But the casualties were not just amongst the horses. At least twenty members of C squadron were killed or badly injured in the first few minutes.

Sergeant Nelson, from L Battery and bivouacked alongside C Squadron, described the scene as the initial bombardment hit.

During the awful carnage the groaning of dying men and horses was audible amidst the terrific thundering of the cannon. The scenes were in most cases beyond description. One man, in full view of me, had his head cut clean off his body. Another was literally blown to pieces, another was practically severed at the breast, loins, knees and ankles. One horse had its head and neck completely severed from its shoulders. So terrific was the hail of shrapnel that I was bespattered with blood from men and horses.

As C Squadron scattered, Algie Lamb reacted with incredible speed and identified a fire position from where he could engage the enemy. He only had six men of the Machine Gun Troop at hand, and he led them to the corner of the field where there was a bank by a sunken road.

LCpl Frederick Webb, who was the No. 1 on one of the machine guns, heaved the gun, weighing thirty pounds, from its carriage, but couldn't manage the tripod



Visual of the 'Action at Nery'
© In The Footsteps

as well. He ran with Lt Lamb the three hundred yards to the corner of the field. Miraculously, not only was no one hit as they ran into position, but also, they were not hindered by their horses who were stampeding in the opposite direction. It was clear where the enemy fire was coming from, as at that short a distance, the flashes were visible even through the mist, which had started to lift. Webb sat down and mounted the gun on his knees. He raked the enemy positions trying to control the gun as it pumped out six hundred rounds a minute.

The Vickers was designed with a water-cooling jacket which required 7.5 imperial pints (4.3 litres) of water in its evaporative cooling system to prevent overheating. The heat of the barrel boiled the water in the jacket surrounding it after two hundred rounds and could get up to 220 degrees Fahrenheit. Therefore, the water needed replenishing every ten minutes or so. There was clearly no possibility of renewing the water under these circumstances.

Given that the whole mechanism was steel, the heat would have been conducted to the steel jacket. Webb's bravery and determination was such that he overcame the pain as the steel burnt through his uniform, causing untold pain to his knees and legs. Singlehandedly, he

During the awful carnage the groaning of dying men and horses was audible amidst the terrific thundering of the cannon



temporarily forced the enemy rate of fire to subside. This bought sufficient time for the second machine gun to be set up on its tripod and for the rest of C Squadron to take up position along the bank. Webb's tripod was brought up at the same time and once the second Vickers started firing, he paused to mount his own gun. It also enabled L Battery to get to their guns and manually swing them around to face the enemy.

To Algie Lamb, it seemed as though 'practically all their horses and a big percentage of their men' had been wiped out in minutes. Had it not been for the swift action of LCpl Webb, the whole of L Battery would have been wiped out before they could fire a shot. The survivors, each to a man, sent letters of gratitude to LCpl Webb. Winston Churchill personally sent him his Mention In Dispatches.

As more of C Squadron arrived, and more ammunition for the machine guns, the Bays began to dominate the German positions. As the sun rose, the mist started to disperse. 15th and 16th Hussars (known as the Death Heads due to their cap badge) on foot, supported by the mounted 17th and 18th Dragoons, were preparing to advance down the hill and sweep through the southern defences and around the beet factory.

The heavy fire from the Bays made that completely impossible. The Hussars were forced to advance on foot through the maize fields which had still not been cut. Unlike the British Cavalry, they were not routinely trained to fight dismounted. They were easy meat for the Vickers. The Machine Gun Troop succeeded in silencing the eight artillery guns and as the mist finally lifted, they were able to pick off any Germans trying to approach their artillery and attempting to recommence the bombardment. The Germans gave up all attempts to either operate their guns or take them to a safer position. Lt Lamb, smoking a pipe throughout, spent most of this time filling gun belts and directing the fire. All through the two hour battle, the guns did not suffer one single jam. Of the eight in the gun teams, and facing three regiments of dismounted cavalry, they only had one casualty, Private Ellicock who was hit in the shoulder whilst bringing up more ammunition boxes. He carried on until he was hit again in the neck and was forced to retire. Sadly, he died a month later.

At about 8.45am, the Germans broke off the engagement. They had reached a standstill, with ammunition running short for both their artillery guns and carbines. The 5th Dragoon Guards had made a good account of themselves and forced the Germans to divert south towards the sugar beet factory. Ironically, this applied more pressure on the Bays and as the Germans took the factory, B Squadron came forward to attack. It was then that Lt Champion de Crespigny was killed, but they successfully took back control. At the same time, British reinforcements were arriving from 19 Brigade and the 4th Infantry Division. So finally, the Germans retreated over the crest in front of the town in complete disorder. Machine gun fire from Lt Lamb prevented the Germans from retrieving their guns and eight were later captured by B Squadron - the first guns to be captured in the war.

The casualties on both sides were substantial.

The Germans lost about 180 men and about 230 horses.

The Bays lost one officer, Lt Champion de Crespigny who was on secondment from the KDG, and eight other ranks with eight officers and thirty-one ORs wounded.

In total the Bays lost 150 horses, the worst ever loss of animal life after the Charge of the Light Brigade. The entire Brigade lost nearly 650 horses.

The Bays' losses were almost as high as L Battery.

But this action by the Bays ensured that the 1st Cavalry Brigade was not routed, thus preventing the encirclement of the entire BEF.

All members of the Machine Gun Troop received Mention in Dispatches, but Ellicock was also awarded the DCM. Unlike many better known engagements, there was no need for publicity and exaggeration. Had the Bays failed, WW1 would have had a different outcome. But remarkably, this was the first time the British had defeated the Germans since the start of the War. Furthermore, the advance was stopped, Paris was saved and the Germans never managed to gain more ground.

The Bays' performance was not only heroic, but really did change the course of the war.

Lt Lamb's sword was the one he carried at N ry. It was made by Wilkinson and initialled with AJRL and engraved with the Bays cap badge. As usual with the Bays, they paid cursory attention to dress regulations and had not adopted the 1912 pattern sword as required, but continued to use the 1887 pattern.

This acquisition, as well as RSM Barlow's medal, help maintain the culture, traditions and justifiable pride felt by all ranks in being part of this very fine Regiment.

Valetes

Lieutenant Colonel Nick Fenton

Nick Fenton joined the Regiment in Wolfenbuttel in Aug 1987 and having prepared for the well known first question from the CO (Mike Boissard) 'how many polo ponies are you going to buy?', as an eventer replied 'none' and was posted to B Squadron.

These were the golden days of BAOR exercises across Germany, which Fenton enjoyed as both a scimitar and support Troop Leader, although starting an Easter Troop Training Nick was surprised to find an unamused CO by his vehicle which had been decorated with small east-er-egg fluffy chickens. The nickname Fluffy Chicken was a Goldsborough legacy that stuck and had, of course, nothing to do with his thinning golden locks. He quickly demonstrated a keen sense of judgement for priorities and people. Having an important party in Berlin with the Black Watch to attend and Troop Training dragging on for longer than anticipated, he delegated. Tpr, later Lt Col, Paul Corfield covered for as long as possible until faced with an ultimatum over the net from the Sqn Ldr, 'where is Fenton?'. There was a pause. Then, 'he's gone to Berlin Sir'.

Sent to run the QDG Snow Queen 'hut' in Bavaria in 1989, he was one of the first in Germany to start snow-boarding, although it was sailing that proved his most lasting diversion from the tank park. He led a number of Exercise 'Dozy's Diamonds' which involved arduous adventure training - sailing around the Baltic. His laid back skippering and proclivity for heading straight to Denmark and only overnighing at ports with a decent nightlife persuaded even the most reluctant troopers that sailing was good fun. It was on one of these exercises in August 1990 that the crews learnt that Kuwait had been invaded by Iraq. Regimental life was to change.

Nick was posted to A Squadron Support Troop to replace David Warner who, much to his irritation, had broken his leg playing rugby. The Troop did what Boot Troops do and was almost always in trouble with the Squadron leader, Hamish Macdonald. On one desert build up Exercise, Nick's main task (according to his Troop) was to lean out of the turret and let CO2 gas out of the rapidly fermenting grape juice in two jerry cans. The subsequent hooch was used to lubricate the Squadron's carol singing for the BBC, which fortunately was postponed at the last minute as most of the Squadron were drunk due to the strength of the brew. Once the Gulf War started, the Troop came into their own and were responsible for much of the destruction of 'Objective Lead' using M-Star in its early days to great finesse to allow Sqn HQ to call-in both MLRS and A-10 airstrikes.

Following conversion to Challenger back in Germany and subsequent endless BATUS deployments (plus some excellent R&R), Nick went for SF Selection and to his credit twice got through the hills and jungle phases. This paid huge dividends when he was subsequently posted to 3 Commando Brigade as whenever Royal



The Troop did what Boot Troops do and was almost always in trouble with the Squadron leader



Marine officers made an assumption that as a cavalry officer he wouldn't understand the jungle he was able to put them back in their box. When not on Exercise in Brunei, Norway or embarked on HMS Fearless he made the most of being in England by racing yachts at Cowes or two handed round Britain; hunting with three separate packs in Devon and getting married to Chris SB's sister.

In 1998 Nick returned to regimental duty as A Sqn Leader and deployed to Kosovo in 1999. The Squadron put tanks to great use, including using them for arrest ops. Although having for one such op sent a warning order back to the Squadron telling them 'to stop the party, we are deploying' Nick was unamused to return and find the messages had never got through, clearly the music was too loud. Fortunately the op was cancelled.

Having always dreamt of sailing round the world, Nick applied to skipper one of the yachts in the 2000/2001 BT Global Challenge, which the Army amazingly allowed him

to do. The race came with massive highs and lows. Skippering a team through the Southern Ocean at its most angry were one of the best; the low came when he was hospitalised at the race start in New Zealand after their boat was hit by another yacht – the delay meant they were always playing catch up, frustrating when they managed to finish 3rd on one leg.

After this he was posted to London as a Military Intelligence Liaison Officer, effectively a Defence Attaché without portfolio. This saw him variously in Africa at 6 hours notice to organise a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation out of Ivory Coast and in Nepal for three weeks when India and Pakistan were having a spat in 2002 and Nepal was in the downwind fall out zone. Other highlights were setting up the DA post in Uzbekistan; walking into Afghanistan over the Bridge of Friendship; and driving from Baku, Azerbaijan to Tbilisi, Georgia and then flying to Moscow to give the Embassy a briefing before a night at the Bolshoi – Nick always ensured that culture was factored into any trip.

Nick was then 2IC Devon and Dorsets in Ballykinler and Catterick, taking them through the first of several amalgamations into what is now the Rifles before a spell at CATAC in Warminster. Promoted to Lt Col in 2008 he went to Baghdad to work in the main US HQ on reconciliation and managed to stay in the Middle East with a family posting to Kuwait in 2009 to teach at their Staff College. No sailing this time, but an excuse to buy a speed boat with two indecent engines on the back. He also managed to visit the date palm which was the last position A Sqn cleared back in 1991.

Having wangled a year in Fontainebleau on the Long Riding Course after the Gulf War, Nick had not only improved his riding but also his French, both of which he now put to good use during four very happy years at the French Cavalry School in Saumur. He escaped a subsequent rather dull job in Warminster by deploying to MINUSMA, Mali as Chief J3/5 for 11 months. Back in his element: planning operations and speaking French, Nick was able to set the early work in place for what is now Camp Bagnold.

Faced with the prospect of a final posting at HQ Field Army in Andover, somewhere he had avoided his entire career, Nick opted to leave early and head off to work for the UN – who he had first served with back in Bosnia in 1995 on Op Grapple when one of his responsibilities had been to run a project mapping the various ceasefire lines to identify where unmarked mines were laid.

Looking back, it would be hard to find anyone who managed in an Army career to get in as much riding, sailing and soldiering – and avoid as many staff jobs.

HFAS



SANDHURST TRUST



The Sandhurst Trust is the Army Officers' charity and is the alumni organisation for all serving and retired Army officers.

- The Trust fosters an esprit de corps and enduring sense of belonging and connection through reunions and events.
- We sustain the ethos and preserve the heritage of RMAS through events and guided tours.
- By holding events for Trust Members with military and business leaders and through the publishing of occasional papers we promote the understanding and development of leadership beyond the Academy.
- The Trust provides charitable support to Officer Cadets and staff at RMAS as well as the retired officer community in partnership with the Officers' Association.
- 100% of donations are disbursed charitably.
- **Membership from £15**

JOIN TODAY

www.sandhursttrust.org
Telephone 01276 412 000



The Cavalry and Guards Club
127 Piccadilly
London W1J 7PX

The Cavalry and Guards Club has one of the finest Edwardian buildings in London with stunning views of Green Park that is ideal for:

Weddings • Receptions
Dinner Parties • Business Meetings • Lunches

For further details and information please contact our Banqueting Co-ordinator on:

Telephone: 020 7659 0905 Fax: 0207 659 0909
www.cavguards.co.uk

Captain Hugo Martel

Hugo Charles Giffard Martel was the first person that I met upon arrival at Sandhurst. Aloof, finely accoutred, and possessing of numerous, nonsensical names, it was immediately apparent to everyone that he represented the archetypal image of the young cavalry subaltern. Stemming from a long and storied lineage of army officers, minor gentry, and 8th Century Carolingian royalty, it was clear where he would end up in the regimental process. Of course, Sandhurst is full of young pretenders with royal connections, and this may have presented some competition to the finer regiments, most notably the Queen's Dragoon Guards. Hugo's debut at Sandhurst, was a decidedly less nervous affair than experienced by most.

A man with a penchant for the finer things in life, Hugo immediately assumed the dilettante lifestyle of a cavalry officer, much to the disdain of the Sandhurst Directing Staff. Undoubtedly, this resulted in some stern treatment at the hands of Line Infantry Colour Sergeants, jealous of his refined RP accent and extensive connections to the cast of *Made In Chelsea*. Nonetheless, despite these initial frictions Hugo soon established himself as a proficient and capable tactician, thereby silencing (most of) the jibes about cavalry incompetence.

December 2017 saw the end of Hugo's time at RMAS. Having proven his ability to heroically endure weeks away from the King's Road, he moved on to the one part of the army where one can exercise a decidedly more *laissez faire* approach to military studies. The first half of the year was therefore spent in Dorset, reacquainting himself with the finer things in life.

The easy days had to end at some point, though. With Troop Leaders' over, an imminent deployment to Poland beckoned. All of this was to take place under the command of consummate professional/sadistic taskmaster Major Charlie Ruggles-Brise, the sharpest of reality checks. The MRX for Op CABRIT was Hugo's first foray into proper Light Cavalry Troop Leading. Fortunately, it was soon clear that Hugo was the finished product, with even Lt Col Stenhouse noting that there was nothing more that he could do to teach him.

As such, Hugo was paired with a Tp Sgt who would benefit from his erudite tutelage. With Sgt Speed firmly under his wing, the by now Lt Martel set to work making the frozen wilderness of Eastern Europe safer and more prosperous. Critical reconnaissance patrols to Warsaw soon established the Marriott rooftop bar as Key Terrain requiring more detailed surveys. The result of this diligent

work speaks for itself: throughout Hugo's entire career, Russia dared not so much as resort to anything less than genial exchanges with its Eastern European neighbours. I have no doubt that his departure from the officer corps directly correlates with Putin's recently bellicose approach to Ukraine.

The end of Op CABRIT in March 2019 saw a new era of hope for Hugo, with firm promises of Adventurous Training, exciting new ventures in West Africa, and plenty of free time to spend with his new fiancée, Lexi. Nonetheless, it was made clear that a year of hard work would first be required, most notably in partaking in two Ex WESSEX STORM iterations. In this role, Hugo acquitted himself admirably, again acting as a mentor, this time training Cpl Turner in the art of anti-tank warfare.

With WESSEX STORM ticked off in January 2020, it appeared that everything would turn out well for Hugo. A short spell in convalescence after shoulder surgery would then be followed by a period of FCDO working in Nigeria, apparently to be centred around the bar of the diplomatic compound. Unfortunately, the much promised return for his service was not to be, sabotaged as it was by China's release of Covid into the wild. Fortuitously – cynics would say suspiciously so – Hugo's surgery proved to be a much more debilitating affair than expected. He therefore managed to recuperate away from a locked-down Swanton Morley, remaining Chelsea-based until the summer.

A flurry of different jobs ensued, namely IO then Sqn 2IC. By 2021 however, Hugo was now sporting a new wife, dog, and car. Despite an admirable attempt at a parsimonious lifestyle, the wage of a Captain would clearly not suffice and he began to look towards the civilian domain. More significant to his subsequent decision though

was his sense of public duty. A staunch Europhile who abhorred Brexit and its reckless move away from EU jurisdiction, Hugo sensed an opportunity to right at least a few economic wrongs. Thus he prepared to move on to pastures new, establishing his own business in London, before making his final departure in July 2021.

Hugo will be sorely missed in the Mess for his sense of humour, sage advice, and his level-headed approach to all things military. We wish him and Lexi all the best in their future ventures, where no doubt he will continue to go from success to success. Adieu to a brother officer, but above all to a fantastic friend.

JEB



Sgt Panks

Sgt Steven Panks left Caerphilly at the age of 16 to begin Phase 1 Training at AFC Harrogate in Sept 2006, the rumour is this was his very first time leaving Caerphilly! On completion of his training in Harrogate he moved to the other side of the country to start specific to arm training at Bovington where he trained as a CVRT Driver and Crewman.

Steve arrived at the Regiment in 2008 where he was fortunate enough to be shipped to Salisbury Plain to join 1st Troop C Sqn on the first day of Ex Druid's Dance. Steve struck lucky as his first role was to be Tp Sgt's driver for the now QM(T), Capt Jason "Butch" Davies. Steve took that much of a shining to his new Tp Sgt that he earned the nickname "Baby Butch", probably for their shared love of a brew.

In November 2008 Steve deployed on his first operational deployment to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 9. He was still part of 1st Tp, C Sqn and deployed to the Garmsir District which was given the pleasant nickname of "The Snake's Head". Steve was originally the Tp Leader's Driver but after hitting a couple of IEDs he was soon reunited with his Tp Sgt, Butch. It soon became clear that Steve thrived when deployed on operations, he was always calm, collected and had a unique ability to just "get it done". In November 2011 Steve returned to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 15. This time he was deployed in his most exciting role yet, he was an LMG Gunner for C Sqn within the Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF). Steve had now switched to 2nd Tp and was surrounded by members of 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment. On returning from Op HERRICK 15 Steve was promoted to LCpl and attended JCC Part 1 & 2. He then fully resubmerged himself with life in Germany and became a very familiar face in the C Sqn Bar, ensuring all who attended enjoyed their night.

It wasn't long before Steve was back on operations in Afghanistan. This time as a Tp Cpl in 3rd Troop C Sqn, the BRF. When not out with the Tp, Steve led a small team of ANSF. Calm, friendly and very capable, these were all skills which helped him to get the best of the small team

he worked in. His in-depth knowledge of local customs helped massively, and these qualities would serve him well for later posts.

In November 2017 Steve finally managed to get on an operational tour that wasn't in Afghanistan and deployed to Nigeria. He was part of the Long-range Support Team (LST) that was deployed on Op TURUS. Steve pushed hard to go on Op TURUS and accepted a J6 Signals role to ensure that he could deploy. This was ironic because at the time he didn't even own a mobile phone! He was basically in charge of topping up the pay-as-you-go internet!

Shortly after returning from Nigeria, Steve was chosen to become an instructor at the Reconnaissance and Armoured Tactics Division (RATD) in Warminster. He was well suited to this role as he was a top-quality commander and thrived whilst teaching what he loved. After a solid 2 years at RATD Steve returned to the Regiment and joined the Training Wing where his expertise acquired as a tactics instructor were put to good use.

Steve played centre back for the football team throughout his time in the Regiment and spent stints as the Team Captain. He proclaims that he is "The best Central Defender the Regiment has ever seen and the backbone of the team." He is a keen golfer and won a Regimental golf competition shortly before leaving. He was a social member of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and a popular character in the Regiment. In 2021 after 14 years in the Army Steve had decided to leave the Regiment so that he could be closer to his two sons, Joel and Noah. He secured a role as a Surveillance Operative after coming top of his course. Steve's laid back and fun attitude will be missed by all. He now spends all his free time on the golf course and if you're around the Caerphilly area you should look him up for a game.

GG







