



Regimental Association
The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire
and Wiltshire Regiment

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2009

CALENDAR 2009

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| Friday 30 January | 59-94 DERR Officers' Lunch, Davies Street, London. |
| Thursday 19 March | Executive Committee Meeting, Salisbury. |
| Saturday 28 March | RGBW Regimental Association All Ranks Reunion at The Cheltenham Regency Hotel, Cheltenham. |
| Sunday 29 March | Back Badge Service, Gloucester Cathedral. |
| Saturday 4 April | Warrant Officers & Sergeants Past & Present Reunion (Glosters), TA Centre, Gloucester. |
| Sunday 24 May | Devizes Reunion, Parade & Service at St John's, Devizes & Lunch at the Town Hall, Devizes. |
| Saturday 6 June) | 50 th Anniversary of Formation of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Norton Grange, Isle of Wight. |
| Sunday 7 June) | |
| Thursday 11 June) | The Farmers Boys (DERR) Golf Meeting, Erlestoke Sands. |
| Friday 12 June) | |
| Friday 26 June | 59-94 DERR Regimental Dinner, Hythe Mess, Warminster. |
| Saturday 11 July | RGBW Officers' Club Lunch, Salisbury. |
| Saturday 25 July) | Reading Reunion at Brock Barracks. Cenotaph Service & Lunch. |
| Sunday 26 July) | |
| Friday 7 August | Slasher's Golf Meeting, Brickhampton, Gloucester. |
| Saturday 26 September | 4 th & 5 th Bn & other Officers of the Wiltshire Regiment Luncheon Club. |
| Saturday 3 October | Back Badge Officers' Club Lunch (Gloucestershire). |
| Saturday 3 October | Band and Corps of Drums (Glosters) Reunion, Dowty Club, Staverton, Cheltenham. |
| Saturday 10 October | AGM & Council Meeting, Duke of Gloucester Bks, South Cerney |
| Saturday 10 October | Slashers' Reunion, Duke of Gloucester Bks, South Cerney |
| TBC | The Sergeants (DERR) Dinner Club, Arborfield. |
| Thursday 22 October | Executive Committee Meeting, Gloucester. |
| Thursday 5 November | Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey. |
| Sunday 8 November | Remembrance Sunday. |

The President of the Regimental Association

Welcome to the 2009 RGBW Regimental Association Newsletter. I believe it is still a very important means by which we can all keep in touch and receive news about what is happening in our many Branches, not only in the City and County of Bristol, and the Counties of Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire, but also in our other Branches around the UK.

The second anniversary of the formation of The Rifles falls on 1 February 2009 and it is a testament to the quality of our serving Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Riflemen that the Regiment is going from strength to strength, as proved on operations in Afghanistan, Iraq or the Balkans. We must continue to play our part by supporting our new Regiment and strengthening the bonds between all of us, whether young cadets wearing The Rifles cap badge or Second World War veterans from our antecedent Regiments.

It has been another busy year with a good spread of Regimental and Branch events in the main well supported. We have much planned for 2009, including the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) from the amalgamation of The Royal Berkshire Regiment and The Wiltshire Regiment at Albany Barracks on the Isle of Wight on 9 June 1959. This will be celebrated on the Isle of Wight over the weekend 6/7 June 2009 and I hope as many members of the RGBW Regimental Association will attend it as possible.

I am very grateful to Brigadier Martin Vine for being the Acting President of the RGBW Regimental Association in my absence. As I reported in the 2008 Newsletter, I was seconded to the United Nations for 12 months and deployed to Sudan in November 2007 as the Chief of Staff of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and subsequently the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). On 30 May 2008, I had to leave Darfur and I was reassigned as the Acting Force Commander of the UN Mission in Ethiopia & Eritrea (UNMEE) based in Addis Ababa.

I would also like to express my great appreciation to Colonel Stephen Oxlade, the Chairman of the RGBW Regimental Association, his Executive Committee, the Branch Committees and the Regimental HQ staff at Gloucester and Salisbury, who have all given so much time to ensure that the Association continues to flourish.

Finally, many congratulations to Colonel Nick Welch (late RGBW) on his selection for promotion to Brigadier and command of the 7th Armoured Brigade – "The Desert Rats" based in Germany. I will be handing over the appointment of Colonel The Rifles (South) and a number of other Regimental appointments to him, in preparation for my retirement from the Army in 2009.

I wish you all the best of good fortune in 2009,

Brigadier Patrick Davidson-Houston CBE

**President of the RGBW Regimental Association and Colonel The Rifles (South)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 31 October 2008**

Foreword by The Chairman of the Regimental Association

2008 has been another thriving year for the Association. The Association weekend events in Gloucester, Devizes, Salisbury and Reading this year were well attended and were a great success. We very much appreciated the attendance of The Colonel Commandant of the Rifles, Lieutenant General Parker at nearly all our weekend events this year.

We are very grateful to Mr Phil Miller, who not only was the driving force behind the formation of the new Somerset Branch this year but also is the web master for the Association web site at <http://www.rgbw-association.org.uk/>. This web site is free for Branches to publicise themselves, share photographs and to advertise Branch events – so please use it.

Many Branches have organised events throughout the year for the members of all Branches including a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum by the Heart of England Branch, which was very well received. This year has also been the Centenary of the formation of the Territorial Army and many Association members attended events throughout the country.

The Regimental Association was represented at the National Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey again this year in the presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. In addition, for the first time approximately 20 members of the Regimental Association took part in the Cenotaph Parade on Remembrance Sunday. This included a march past the Cenotaph and it is planned to make this an annual event in the Association calendar.

The dates for next year's Association events are as follows:

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| Saturday 28 March | RGBW Regimental Association All Ranks Reunion at The Cheltenham Regency Hotel, Cheltenham. |
| Sunday 29 March | Back Badge Service, Gloucester Cathedral. |
| Sunday 24 May | Devizes Reunion, Parade & Service at St John's, Devizes & Lunch at the Town Hall, Devizes. |
| Saturday 6 June) | 50 th Anniversary of Formation of The Duke of Edinburgh's |
| Sunday 7 June) | Royal Regiment, Norton Grange, Isle of Wight. |
| Saturday 25 July) | Reading Reunion at Brock Barracks. |
| Sunday 26 July) | Cenotaph Service & Lunch. |

Please note that there will be no Salisbury event this year due to the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the formation of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment taking place on the Isle of Wight on 6 and 7 June 2009. There are already over 300 people attending and so please reply as soon as possible to the Rifles Office in Salisbury or Gloucester if you would like to be included.

I thank the Regimental Secretaries and Offices in Gloucestershire and Salisbury for all their help and support in organising the various Association events throughout the year and in particular, to Lesley whose unfailing support to the Association and its members is very much appreciated.

Lastly, I very much thank Branch Presidents, Chairmen, Secretaries and the Executive Committee for all their hard work throughout the year and I wish all members a safe, happy and prosperous 2009.

Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE

Secretary's Notes

My last notes were written with only some six months experience in the job. I now have had eighteen months and have therefore been able to complete a full year as Secretary to the RGBW Regimental Association which has been a privilege. Also it has enabled me to get to know more of you and renew old acquaintances.

We had a good turnout at the Gloucester Reunion weekend and Devizes and Reading were equally successful. As many of you know I share the organisational responsibilities of these events with Lt Col Tim Lerwill who now runs the Salisbury Office. I would like to thank Tim for his support and especially for representing the Association at the re-burial of Gloster soldiers from The Great War whose remains were found in the summer.

Over three hundred attended the Back Badge Service and tea afterwards held in Gloucester Cathedral. It has been agreed that due to costs and administration advantages that this event will be held in the Gloucester Cathedral every year. When held in Bristol it was very expensive for the Association. We very much hope that our colleagues in Bristol and the Counties will make every effort to attend the Gloucester Cathedral Service in future years. The afternoon service, followed by tea, seemed to go down well and most found the timing convenient for a day out in the County City. We should all thank the support given by the Gloucestershire ACF and in particular the Band and Drums for leading the old comrades on the march past.

Once again may I take this opportunity to thank all the Branches who organised and supported the various Remembrance events especially as we had a contingent marching at the Cenotaph.

On the business side we need to amend the Association Constitution Rules to reflect the increasing number of branches, which need to be represented on the Executive Committee and to reflect other changes associated with our new links to The Rifles. Branch Chairman and Secretaries will have copies of the proposed amendments and we will post a copy on the website. Also we will email and, in exceptional circumstances, send hard copies to those who wish to see the changes. Discussions will take place until the next AGM Meeting, on 10th October 2009 when the new rules will be put forward for agreement.

Additionally may I thank all those volunteers who come and help with mail shots and assist The Regiment/ Association at various events and especially those standard bearers who turn out at short notice at funerals.

Finally may I thank Lesley for all her efforts in putting this newsletter together. Her continued support for the Association is more than outstanding.

In conclusion may I wish you and your families all the best for 2009 and hope that you will continue to support the Association with the enthusiasm you have demonstrated this year.

Lt Col (Retd) John Denley
Association Secretary

The Rifles Salisbury Office

The summer of 2008 has seen the Rifles Office Salisbury heavily engaged in Regimental and Regimental Association activities. It has all been a bit of a "Partridge and a Pear Tree"! There were three Association Reunions - Devizes, Salisbury and Reading, two Officers' Club Lunches, a Golf Meeting, a Regatta, a Cricket Festival and the Regimental Box at Lords. Mrs Sue Nelmes, the Assistant to the County Secretary, spent her summer on convalescence following hospitalisation and her 'locum', Mrs Kay Lyndley, gallantly took on the responsibility for admin support for all events. That each occasion was a success is due in no small part to her efforts: thank you Kay.

Devizes Reunion

The RGBW Association (Wiltshire's) annual Reunion took place in Devizes on Sunday 1st June when 98 Old Comrades and their guests and partners took part in a Remembrance Service and parade and sat down to a super lunch in the Assembly Rooms in the Town Hall.

Traditionally the Church Service was held in St James' Church in Southbroom where the Wiltshire Regiment Memorial is sited followed by a Parade through the town to the Market Square. However this year, St James' was under refurbishment so the Service was held at St John's Church in Long Street. There was an obvious advantage here with the distance to and from Church is 400m - much more attractive to those Old Comrades who marched.

Regrettably, the Gloucestershire ACF Corps of Drums were 'double booked' with Whitsun/school holidays but the Gloucestershire Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, Cadet RSM Ben McLoughlin provided the beat for the 60 Old Comrades that marched behind the Standards of the Bournemouth, Salisbury and Windsor Branches and the Wiltshire Normandy Veterans Association.

The Parade Commander was Major Doug Mortimer. Reverend Roger Burt, Padre to the Association, led the congregation in a rousing Service during which the Wiltshire's Chairman, Lieutenant Colonel "Lofty" Graham, led the Act of Remembrance and, together with Colonel Stephen Oxlade, laid wreaths on behalf of the Wiltshire Regiment and RGBW Regiment. Colonel Stephen Oxlade, Association Chairman, took the Salute in the Market Square.

Salisbury Reunion

The opening salvo of the Salisbury Reunion, the Dinner/Dance at the South Wilts Golf Club, was attended by 48 RGBW Association members who were entertained by the Good Old Boys Band from Hereford playing medleys of popular songs after the excellent meal; a new catering manager did the occasion proud. Sadly the numbers were down on previous years but hopefully the enjoyment of those who did attend will rub off on the Association the next time - July 2010.

The annual Church Parade had to discover a new format as the Cathedral, having changed its services, was inappropriate. The move to St Thomas' Church in the High Street found much support. It is a Church of equal age to the Cathedral and the Association was warmly welcomed by the Priest in charge, Reverend David Linaker. Supported by the Salamanca Band of the Rifles, the occasion made a strong impression on the regular congregation and the subsequent parade through Salisbury attracted many spectators. Colonel Stephan Oxlade led the Act of Remembrance, laid a wreath and took the Salute.

After the excitement of marching (and showing off those never-forgotten skills) in public, the 78 marchers were welcomed by the Beer Tent in the Wardrobe for a much awaited spot of sustenance. 130 members, guests and partners sat down to the annual lunch in the marquee at the Wardrobe.

Having discovered a 'new format' it is a little sad to report that the next Salisbury Reunion will not be until 2010. Next year is the year of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment (DERR) and all Association members are encouraged to support this important milestone.

Reading Reunion

The Reading Reunion, traditionally held on the last weekend in July, was held in Brock Barracks on 26th and 27th July. The opening activity – the ceremony before the Maiwand Lion in Forbury Park, Reading was the subject of much debate: cancelled, sombre declaration of commemoration or full parade. In the end, it was a mix of the last two options as, regrettably, the minibus to transport Old Comrades failed to appear. Nevertheless, the emotive importance of the Lion was properly recognised and a decision taken that this element of the weekend should continue.

The annual Church Parade took place in front of the Cenotaph in the Barracks on a hot sunny Sunday with 128 members, guests and partners. Canon Peter Johnson officiated; the new Branch Chairman, Ray Povey, read the exhortation and Mac McCarthy the Kohima Epitaph; and wreaths were laid by Lieutenant General Nick Parker CBE (RIFLES), Major General Derek Crabtree CB (R Berks), Colonel Stephen Oxlade MBE (RGBW Regimental Association), Ray Povey (Reading Branch) and Major Tom Hutton-Stott MBE (7 RIFLES).

80 Old Comrades, to the tunes 'Dashing White Sergeant' and 'Farmers Boy' then marched past Lieutenant General Parker before Brian Williams, the Parade Commander, asked the Colonel of the Regiment for permission to march off parade. General Parker then spent an hour talking with the Old Comrades before leaving for a fishing holiday.

Interment Ceremonies – France

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Lerwill, RIFLES County Secretary Salisbury, represented the Regiment at an Interment ceremony, in Flanders, on 29th April of two unknown GLOSTER soldiers who fell during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The bodies, identified only by their GLOSTER insignia, had been discovered the previous autumn: one during pipe laying works alongside the D929 road running north from Albert; the other during excavation of foundations of a new house near the village of Longueval.

Little in the way of identifying insignia was found with the bodies but, after months of painstaking work, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) confirmed that the unknown soldiers belonged to the GLOSTERS. As a result, the bodies were given a formal burial separately in Ovillers Military Cemetery, Ovillers-La-Boisselle and London Cemetery High Wood, Longueval.

The Deputy Defence Attaché, Capt Philip Stonor RN, was in attendance with Mr Derek Symons, Dir CWGC Europe, and CWGC HQ Staff. There was a lively collection of expats, around 50 local French and some 'tourists' – none with links to the Regiment and having heard about it by word of mouth – ensured that these soldiers were properly respected. Among the tourists was a Kiwi Piper who upon invitation (not by this Sassenach I assure you!) led the procession at the second event - London Cemetery, High Wood – and played a Lament at the end of the service: it was all stirring stuff.

In all, this was a lovely occasion and I feel certain that the families would have been pleased with the appropriate solemnity, support and dignity for their loved one. The Regiment will, I trust, be happy that the Regimental Collect was read (even if by a Light Infantryman!). While I was proud to see these two brave souls finally receive recognition and acceptance with this placement among their comrades – even if it was a Piper that accompanied them on the way!

Longueval 1916 – a Background (*courtesy ex Cpl Dean Marks, 1 WESSEX /2 RGBW (V)*)

Between 28th and 30th July 1916, 12 GLOSTERS relieved 1 CHESHIRE on the front line in Longueval immediately receiving aggressive counter bombardment resulting in many casualties. The area where these bodies were discovered relates to B Coy locations and one body – the one buried at High Wood Cemetery – had identifying insignia suggesting that he was a B Coy man.

In 1935, near the crossroads, a farmer discovered the remains of four men from the battalion. Three of which carried identification: 16558 Pte. C. Love, 15018 Pte. W. Holborow and 14768 Pte. H Ridley. The fourth man carried no identification apart from 'Gloster' shoulder titles. All four men were re-buried in London Cemetery & Extension. For some reason, a German soldier was buried at the same time. This man was subsequently removed and left an empty space which, after negotiation with the CWGC, I was able to persuade them not only to re-enter the man in the same cemetery as his battalion comrades, but in the vacant plot between them. A real achievement!

In 1920, to commemorate the Battalion's action, Lt. Col Archer-Shee erected, at the cross roads outside the village of Longueval, an Oak cross in memory of the Officers, NCOs and Private Soldiers of the battalion which lasted until mid WW2 when it disappeared. It was replaced, in its original position, in April 1986 by ex Cpl Marks.

The new cross was consecrated by Rev. S. J. Davies in October 1986 with representation from 1st GLOSTERS (at that time on a posting to Berlin) that included Battalion 2iC Major Peter Cable and Battalion R.S.M. WO1 Brian Wright as well as a large contingent of Old Comrades. Rev. S. J. Davies had served with the 1st GLOSTERS at the Imjin River in Korea in 1951.

Kohima Memorial

Following the article in the last edition of the BUGLE, the plight of the Kohima Memorial to those of 1 BERKS who fell during the battle has come to prominence. The Memorial is located in Brock Barracks the "home" of the Royal Berkshire Regiment but sited on a side wall behind a beech hedge and dominated by a lime tree and is very much out of sight and unknown to many.

Ex-Sgt John Baugh, the last known surviving member from Kohima has campaigned for this Memorial to receive proper and lasting recognition before memory of it is lost for good.

Three options have been placed on the table: relocate the Memorial to a more public site within Brock Barracks; to relocate the Memorial to the Rifles Wardrobe Museum; and to cut down that part of the hedge that obscures it. All three options hold merit.

Option 1 has its advocates, not least with Colonel Stephen Oxlade holding the dual Hat of Chairman of the RGBW Association and Director SERFCA which is responsible for the whole site, and financial plans are advancing. Option 2 merits consideration as the Wardrobe is and has been the "Regimental" Museum since 1959, there is a consecrated Memorial Garden where the Kohima Memorial can rest in perpetuity. Whilst Option 3 is, not only the most practical and most easily achieved, would allow all who parade, worship and visit the Cenotaph (an exact model of that in Whitehall) in Brock Barracks to view the Memorial.

Discussions continue and views are welcome. Such is the emotion of this Memorial to one of the most extraordinary battles in WW2 and which gave deep poignancy to the epigram

"When You Go home, Tell Them Of Us And Say, For Their Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today."

that I am confident that I shall be able to report in the next edition of the Newsletter where the final resting place of the Kohima Memorial is.

RGBW Officers Lunch

104 Officers of the RGBW Officers Association, guests and partners sat down at the annual lunch in the Wardrobe on Saturday 12th July. Neither the damp, blustery weather nor the 750th Anniversary of Salisbury Cathedral activities could affect this enjoyable occasion. Though the numbers were light compared to 2007, those there found the extra space more comfortable! The occasion is an important one in the panoply of events where chums can meet once again in the most convivial of surroundings.

Among those lunching could be found; General Sir Kevin and Lady O'Donoghue, Major General and Mrs Derek Crabtree, and Brigadier Bill Mackereth.

In 2009, the Lunch will take place in the Wardrobe on Saturday 11th July and all members are invited to put this date in their diary.

Lt Col ATD Lerwill OBE MA

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Bournemouth Branch

The branch has again, enjoyed another good year. At the AGM all the existing committee were re-elected – they must be gluttons for punishment!

We paid a visit to the Newbury Branch for our Skittles Challenge – we won AGAIN, it's getting too easy! We attended the first meeting of the Somerset Branch and they made us very welcome, it's really good to see the formation of another RGBW Association Branch and we wish them good luck for the future.

Our Standard Anniversary was a great success with 89 members from various branches attending, the Salute being taken by Col Stephen Oxlade.

Seventeen of us went to Jersey for a long weekend which proved to be very enjoyable, and the red wine stocks on Jersey took a "bashing" as the ladies in our branch lived up to their reputation!!

We then attended a Veterans Parade in Swanage which the organisers intend to make an annual event. The Reunion at Devizes was next on the agenda and the overall turnout was very good. I wasn't too impressed with the Veterans Parade at Weymouth. They still keep the Veterans standing around far too long, and if they are not careful they will not have any of the Veterans in the parade, there were 28 from the various RGBW Regimental Association Branches that did not attend this year and they will lose more if they do not do something to change the order of the parade. You cannot keep these elderly gentlemen standing around for over an hour until the dignitaries decide to show up.

Twenty-four members from different branches went to Chepstow to visit 1 Rifles, and were treated to an excellent day out. Our Guide – Capt Sayer gave us a very detailed tour of the camp which included lunch in the cookhouse, (how times have changed). I would like to thank the CO for allowing us to visit 1 Rifles and Captain Sayer for showing us around.

The Salisbury Reunion, Bar-B-Q and then the Reading Reunion were all well attended and our trip to the Hungerford Canal attracted 40 members from various branches. The Reading Bar-B-Q was a good day out trip and there is no truth in the rumour that Ray Povey learnt his cooking skills from the Swedish chef from the Muppets!

Combining with members from Salisbury and Newbury Branches 41 of us travelled to the Arboretum in Staffordshire for an excellent day out organised by The Heart of England Branch.

Our Brandywine Buffet was a great success with 53 members from various branches supporting us. The cake with a copy of a Rifleman of the 49th of Foot on the icing sugar was superbly made by Mrs Joan White our Social Secretary, and was very much appreciated by everyone.

Sadly we lost one of our member's late this year, Dave Corner who served in the MT Section, 1 R. Berks in Germany, Malta and Cyprus. Dave was one of our founder members and will be greatly missed.

The year will end with our Darts Challenge against Poole RBL and then our Christmas Dinner. Another enjoyable year for the Bournemouth "Nomads" and we would like to thank all the other branches that have supported us on our travels and entertained us so superbly when we have visited them.

Finally we would like to wish all the Association Branches a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Les Devine

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The City and County of Bristol Branch

Our monthly meetings continue to be held at the RAFA Club in Westbury on Trym. The membership is made up of men who served with antecedent Regiments seeking comradeship at a nearby location rather than crossing the City during winter evenings. That said, a majority of our members also belong to the Greater Bristol Branch thus enjoying two evenings per month and social and formal events. Our Branch Dinner held in April this year found support for our sister Branch likewise we will again enjoy sharing company at the December dinner of the Greater Bristol Branch.

Sadly, we report the deaths of comrades who have meant so much to our success. Major Jim Loftus, a friend and mentor on things ceremonial died in March. His well-attended funeral service recognised the many organisations and activities honoured by his attention. Sadly, Korean Veteran Albert Perkins died in October. His funeral took place in a crowded St. Gregory's Church, he was a regular supporter of both Bristol Branches. Albert's inclination to burst into song when the chance arose was well known. His cortege left the Church at the close of the Service, not to a regimental march but to a rousing recording of "Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye".

As I write these notes, arrangements are being made for yet another funeral. Denis Williams, known to his comrades as "03 Williams" died several days ago and we shall attend his funeral on 4th November. Denis served in the 2nd Glosters in Berlin and the West Indies.

So much could be written about the above men but for the lack of page space in the Regimental journal and Association Newsletter.

Thanks once again to the Salisbury Office for a successful 2008 Devizes Reunion.

The City of Bristol welcomed The Rifles to Castle Park where a goodly contingent of the Old and Bold joined them in exercising their Freedom march through the crowded Streets.

In November, we attend Remembrance Ceremonies including our special Canford Ceremony, which we started years ago in memory of men killed in a 1940 air raid on Filton. We have hopes that the growing number of Cadets attending each year means that the younger generation will continue to parade as we old'uns fade.

Bert Fairchild

The Greater Bristol Branch

This year was very successful, but tinged with sadness. We lost two of our most stalwart members, Jim Loftus one of the founding members of the branch and a very distinguished member of the Glosters. He finally passed away after a long and brave battle with illness. His leadership and personnel qualities will be greatly missed.

Albert Perkins known to all as Polly died after a short illness. Polly was the life and sole of any social event and a stalwart supporter of the branch. He always occupied the Korea corner at branch meetings and will be greatly missed both by the members and especially the other Korean vets.

Our branch secretary Mick Strong has moved to a remote part of Devon and unfortunately has had to resign from the branch. I would like to thank Mick for all the hard work he put in to make the branch run well and smoothly. Ron Coleman our treasurer has nobly stepped into the breach and the branch will continue to run with the same efficiency.

Our numbers continue to be in the middle thirties at meetings and we are getting a number of new members. We are beginning a Recruiting Campaign in the hope that we can bring in more ex military persons who now live in our part of the area. We already have several members who did not serve in The Glosters or its successor regiments but who expressed an interest in our Branch. Since joining they have become very involved and are now contributing strongly to branch activities.

Ken Bartlett once again organised an excellent day out in June and as always our thanks go out to him. Ron ran the accounts with his usual professionalism and we have a healthy balance at the end of the year. As our only income except the grant from RGBW Regimental Charities is the proceeds from the monthly raffle I would like to thank the members for their support of this raffle.

The Greater Bristol Branch is in good shape and we look forward to another successful year. We are aware that we are a participating member of the Rifles and have contacts with the LI association in Bristol and look forward to making further contacts with other branches within the Rifles association.

**Lt. Col. (Ret'd) J. M. Blundell
Branch Chairman.**

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Cheltenham Branch

The Cheltenham Branch after many years meeting at the United Services Club, North Street has now moved location. We are very fortunate to be able to meet at The Albion Club where we now meet at 12.30 hrs on the last Sunday of the month. Meetings are well attended and the raffles well subscribed! The Albion Club enables us to have our meetings in privacy before popping down for a drink and a good old Sunday roast! If you would like to come along then please do feel free to contact me you will be made most welcome.

In March, our Branch attended the Back Badge RGBW Regimental Association Reunion at the Regency Hotel, Cheltenham. A good night was enjoyed by all and it was so nice to see faces from as far a field as North Yorkshire, Middlesex, and the Isle of Wight. The food was excellent and the company just as good.

The following day we attended the Back Badge Service where an illuminated copy of the Presidential Citation was laid up by Col Carne's Cross and it was nice to see so many Korean Veterans there to see this happen.

In late June, Phil Little and Mick Webb went to the Somerset Royal British Legion House for a well earned ten day break. It is nice to know that there are places out there that veterans can go for a holiday at no real expense to the veterans and/or their carers.

In September Mick Webb was unanimously voted in as Vice-Chairman to the Branch, when Ray Mitchell is not available due to work commitments.

Terry Keylock laid a poppy cross at the Winchcombe War Memorial on behalf of Ray Cox and all members of the Cheltenham Branch in October. The cross was laid in memory of all Glosters who have died, but in particular for LCpl Ian Bramley from Winchcombe who served in 1 Glosters and was so tragically killed in Belfast in February 1972.

The Cheltenham Branch once again attended the Service and wreath laying ceremony on Remembrance Sunday and myself, the Chairman Ray Mitchell, and the Standard Bearers Gary Hopkins and Simon 'Harvey' Moon, amongst others from the Branch attended. Our Chairman Ray Mitchell and his good lady yet again provided a buffet which was well received!!

We are steadily growing in numbers, and thanks to a very successful first Christmas Social evening, attended by many branches and Regimental Association members that do not belong to a branch, we have now decided to hold a second, in early December at the Gas Club, Cheltenham. We look forward to welcoming other branches and members of the Association to join in the fun yet again!!

I would also like to thank all members of the Cheltenham branch for all their support again this year, and extend our thanks to all other Branches that have also supported us over the past twelve months. We look forward to visiting other Branches as and when we can in 2009.

We would also like to wish all members of the Regimental family serving and retired good fortune for 2009 and especially members of the Rifles serving overseas.

Terry Cull

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Forest of Dean Branch

Our decision in the Spring, to change our meetings from evenings to lunch time, has proved a great success. We now average some 20 members and their ladies at lunch in The Fountain Inn at Parkend here in the beauty of the Forest. Our numbers now mean that we take over the restaurant completely and our President often has to explain to day trippers and visitors just who and what we are. Sadly we have had to bid farewell to a number of former members of the regiment who took up residence in the Forest on their retirement, particularly sad was the funeral of LCpl Ricky Baldwin, a member of The Rifles killed in a road accident in Germany. He was an extremely popular local lad from Lydney and the attendance at his funeral reflected this. Members of 1 Rifles from Chepstow formed the funeral party and were a credit to the Regiment, their turnout was impeccable and not once did they falter.

At the time of writing branch members are busy packing shoe boxes for distribution to members of 1 Rifles during their forthcoming tour in Afghanistan, we wish them God speed and a safe return home. We also make a monthly donation to the Army Benevolent Fund from our monthly lunch meetings.

Our sincere thanks go to the Officers of the Branch, our Chairman Ken Kerley, Jack Long our Treasurer and to our Secretary Alan Mowatt. Well done gentlemen, and thanks to their respective wives for supporting them in their endeavours.

On Remembrance Day we shall be laying wreaths at the ceremonies in Bream, Cinderford, Coleford and Lydney, the main centres of population in the Forest. The ceremony at Bream takes place at the memorial which is a replica of the Cenotaph in Whitehall. The view from this vantage point brings back many memories to those who fought in Burma as the view across the Forest is very much akin to the views from the hills in that theatre where so many made the ultimate sacrifice.

We close with our very best wishes to all who read our branch notes, and a sincere invitation to come and join us for lunch on the last Tuesday of the month at The Fountain Inn, Parkend.

Maj Leslie A Ramsden, MBE

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Gloucester Branch

It has been a difficult year again for member numbers, our average now is down to about 15 per meeting. I often ask myself how can we increase our membership, I have tried all of the usual methods; but nothing seems to work. I am quite sure many other branches have this same problem.

We have lost a couple of members this year, including George Hodges and Dot Newhouse (wife of George) a dedicated member of the association. Our Chairman, Tidd Ferris became very poorly at the beginning of the year and spent some time in hospital and through that, with regret, had to give up the Chairmanship. However, he has since recovered and is now back at our meetings. The branch will be holding its annual Christmas Dinner on the 13 December at the New Inn where a presentation will be made to Tidd Ferris for all of the hard work that he has carried out over the years as our Chairman.

The branch hopes to make several outings in 2009, first is to visit the Road Maker near Newent where 3 ex Gurkha's have opened a restaurant. Secondly; we hope to organise a small trip to France in the summer to visit some of our old haunts and maybe visit the Tank Museum in Bovington.

Even though our numbers are dwindling, we still have dedicated members who make this a branch; a pleasure to be part of. We shall have to see what 2009 brings.

Roger J Neale

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Heart of England Branch

In January we held our usual Branch gathering and in February we welcomed the Rev Alan Barrett to our evening social who is now the Branch Chaplain. Very sadly Daphne Dunn wife of Stan passed away, myself and George Dominik represented the branch at the funeral. She will be missed by all.

In April we celebrated our second Anniversary of the formation of the branch with a Skittles Night the evening was enjoyed by all.

In May, Albert Wale was elected to become the Entertainments Secretary and I paid a visit to Berlin.

June saw another Skittles Night taking place at the Branch HQ, and we welcomed the County President and the County Chairman of the British Legion for the Isle of Wight. We also paid a visit to the National Arboretum. A donation from the money raised was sent to Help for Heroes.

In July I attended the Salisbury Reunion and the Branch Standard was on parade for the service on the Sunday. A good weekend was enjoyed by all.

In September, we held once again a Skittles Night and we would like to thank Col Mike Cornwell for attending. We also held our Memorial Service at the National Arboretum and would like to thank our Guest of Honour Col Terry Daly for laying a wreath. We would also like to extend our special thanks to the following Branches for travelling such a long distance to support our Service (The Isle of Wight, Reading, Bournemouth and Salisbury Branches), the Rifles Regimental Secretary in Gloucester, Lt Col John Denley and lastly the two buglers from the Band and Bugles of the Rifles Band.

A DVD regarding the visit to the Arboretum in September may be purchased through me by sending me an email nichickman@msn.com or Tel: 01827 - 64528.

Our Branch looks forward to the next two social evenings in October and November and will naturally participate in Remembrance Sunday as per last year.

In December we aim to hold our Christmas Branch Dinner to bring all members of the Branch together and thank them for all their support throughout the past year.

May the Heart of England Branch wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2009 and we look forward to seeing many of you at the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

Nic Hickman

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Isle of Wight Branch

Greetings from across the water.

The Branch continues to meet on the 4th Wednesday of alternate months (May, July, September etc). We follow a relaxed and informal approach that encourages a good turn out at all our meetings. Of course, the odd pint or two and a good natter afterwards also help!

Our Christmas lunch was held at The Aviator, Sandown Airport last December where 30 + people enjoyed a lovely meal in very good surroundings. Such was the success of the event that members voted to return again in June for our summer lunch (shame it was burnt down before we could go back - if they did not want us to go, they only had to say!)

In March, we held our AGM - with again no change at the top.

The Branch joined with the congregation at St Thomas Church, Newport (now Newport Minster) on 30th March for our Back Badge Service. The Standard was carried and over 50 per cent of Branch members attended. We are grateful to our Chaplain for arranging this annual event in our calendar.

Sadly, Mike Hopgood, our Treasurer, decided to move back to the north island earlier this year. We were sorry to see him go, not least because it left us with the Treasurer's role to fill (not an easy task). Our thanks go to Mike for keeping our finances on the straight and narrow over the past eight years and even bigger thanks go to Roy Brown for taking that pace forward to volunteer to take over the books (mind you, it could have been the rest of us all taking the two paces back!). Seriously, we are grateful to Roy for taking up the reins as Treasurer.

In July, our Standard Bearer attended the Salisbury Reunion and AGM.

During the summer Alan, our Chairman, underwent major surgery with a quadruple heart bypass operation. Fortunately, things went well and he is now well-recovered and fighting fit.

In October, we were all devastated to learn of the sudden, unexpected death of our Secretary and Standard Bearer, Derek Williams. Derek had been instrumental in the formation of our Branch and a lynchpin in keeping us all informed of events and happenings not just on the Island but also around the Country. He willingly attended mainland meetings and events, even if it meant an early start and a 5.30 am ferry whilst the rest of us were tucked up under our duvet. Many of you will share in our loss, as Derek's sense of humour and enthusiasm will be missed not only here on the Isle of Wight but I am sure, throughout the wider network of our Association.

Derek's funeral took place at St. Catherine's Church in Ventnor. Alan Williams (Derek's brother) carried our Branch Standard and the Isle of Wight Branch members, together with twenty-four uniformed Island police officers of all ranks, joined the family and Derek for one final parade through the town. At the Church, the parade was met by a guard of honour of 15 Standards from the Royal British Legion and other Associations. The packed church heard moving tributes given by both of Derek's sons and, in true Derek fashion, everyone left the church with the sound of the Pompey Chimes ringing in their ears.

For the first time our Branch Standard was not present at any Remembrance Day services this year. Our association wreath was laid at East Cowes by one of our members, with the idea that in future years it will be laid by a member at different venues around the Island as our membership is spread across the length and breadth of the Isle of Wight.

On a happy note, we wish Ray Gibson (ex Berkshire Regiment) all the best on his forthcoming marriage to Karen Draper (currently the National Parade Marshal for the Royal British Legion) on 21st February 2009.

In closing may we wish you all the best for the coming year. We look forward to sharing a beer or two with you when you come across the water for the 50th Anniversary Parade and Reunion in June.

Kate J Draper

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London Branch

It has been another steady year in the London Branch although we would like to see younger members popping along to our monthly meetings.

In March, Sam Mercer MBE, Chairman of the London Branch attended the Back Badge Service in Gloucester Cathedral where he, with Lt Col Guy Temple MC, and Tony Eagles MBE presented a framed copy of the US Presidential Citation to the Dean of Gloucester Cathedral.

We held another successful buffet lunch at the Royal Hospital in June, where 28 members of the Branch attended, which everyone enjoyed.

May we extend our best wishes to all members of the Regimental Association and if you would like to come along to one of our Branch meetings, then please do. We meet on the first Friday of each month at 7.30 pm at the Ives Lounge, The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Dave Tomlinson

Newbury Branch

Newbury has had a fairly quiet year and attendances at the RBL Club in Pelican Lane have been well attended.

We again had an excellent Christmas Dinner in January organized by Sue Green and her helpers and were very pleased to welcome Janet and Stephen Oxlade. He kindly brought us up to date on what is happening in The Rifles.

Lt Col Tim Lerwill visited us in February, when the question of a new Standard was raised. We were delighted to learn later that there will now be Standards for all Rifles Association branches.

We missed the first visit to 1 Rifles in December 2007 but many of our members were thrilled to be able to visit the Battalion on another occasion.

We have had a couple of joint meetings with the Bournemouth branch, which are always very happy events - mostly skittles matches which somehow Newbury fail to win, and a jolly trip from Hungerford on the Kennet & Avon canal.

Many members have attended functions in Reading and elsewhere, and on the whole the Branch is functioning well under the cheerful guidance of Chris Green and Linda Steele.

Major Piers Dunn

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Reading Branch

The year 2008 has been a busy year for the branch and the Duke of Edinburgh's collectively. We started the year and have continued with our monthly meetings at the Royal British Legion, Arborfield on the first Thursday of the month. The attendance ranges from 15 to 20 ex regimental members and we always have an enjoyable evening.

Once again, we had a very successful Ladies Dinner night in April at the Hermitage WO's and Sgt's Mess with about 80 turning up for the evening. Major General and Mrs Derek Crabtree honoured us with their presence and the Corps of Drums of the Royal Logistics Corps entertained us with some very fine drumming.

Confirmation was agreed at the June meeting with Col Colin Parslow that the arrangements for the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment was to go ahead; currently we have well over 300 attending.

Ray Povey produced a fine BBQ at Brock Barracks with the Royal Berkshire Regimental Association which was well attended, thank you Ray for all your hard work in reuniting the branches.

About 15 members attended the National Arboretum celebration arranged by the Heart of England Branch we were very well received and looked after. Our thanks for a fine day, goes to the Branch Committee and our Dave and Ron for carrying the Standards, well done lads!

We still have our Christmas dinner celebrations on the 3rd December and the Ferozeshah celebrations at Swindon on the 7th December to look forward to. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership of the Reading Branch for their attendance and commitment to the continuation of the Branch: your support has been recognized not only by your Branch but by the Regiment in general. Please keep up the support and continue to encourage others to get on parade and join us at our gatherings.

Salisbury Branch

Greetings to all our friends in the Regimental Association from the Salisbury Branch. 2008 has been a busy and eventful year for the Branch.

In January at our AGM, our Chairman for the past 10 years Lt Col John Venus stood down due to an anticipated move from the area to South Yorkshire to be near his and his wife's family. We wish them well for the future and we will miss you John and Rita. We welcome Major Nigel Walker who has agreed to become our new Branch Chairman. He served with the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and RGBW and is currently employed as the Recruiting Officer for The Rifles in the Salisbury and Bournemouth areas. Welcome aboard Nigel.

At our April meeting which was held at the Rifles Office Salisbury, The Wardrobe, we had a very interesting talk called "From Line to Line" given by Lt Col David Brown former Commanding Officer of 1 RGBWLI. The talk concerned the experiences of the Regiment when they were deployed in Afghanistan for a 6 month tour of duty. Lt Col Venus thanked Lt Col Brown and he was given a standing ovation by the Branch. We also enjoyed a very nice buffet provided by Ann Dunscombe (thank you Ann) and a raffle organised by Elsie Giddings (thank you Elsie).

Both reunions in Wiltshire namely Devizes and Salisbury were well attended by members of the Branch. At Salisbury due to a religious festival being held in the Cathedral, we had our church service at St Thomas', the Salisbury Parish Church, which was a great success as all standards were paraded at the altar.

Our barbeque in July was a very good evening with over 100 members and guests attending. We were again entertained by Shrewton Silver Band and our thanks to Richard, Ann and Elsie for all the hard work they put into laying this on for us. We also had a very good raffle (I didn't win - shame), but the weather stayed fine this year.

On 7 September some 41 members of the Bournemouth and Salisbury Branches combined to accept an invitation from the Heart of England Branch to visit the National Memorial Arboretum at Lichfield. On arrival we were greeted by Brigadier Graham Coxon and Nic Hickman and members of the Branch at a RBL Club near to the Arboretum where a very nice buffet lunch had been laid on. After the lunch we went to the Arboretum where a short service was held following which a wreath was laid by Col Terry Daly at the memorial tree for the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment which is situated between the trees for the Wiltshire Regiment and Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Last Post and reveille were sounded by two Buglers from 3 Rifles (thanks to Lt Col Tim Lerwill for arranging this).

There were also 6 standards on parade from Bournemouth, Heart of England, Reading and Salisbury Branches representing the Wiltshire Regiment, Duke of Edinburgh's and the RGBW. After the ceremony we spent a very pleasant two and a half hours walking around the Arboretum, visiting the various memorials to service and civilian organisations (thank you to Brigadier Coxon and his team for a splendid day out).

On 22 September Richard and Ann Dunscombe with Bob and Elsie Giddings attended a buffet lunch with the Bournemouth Branch at the RBL Poole. This was the Anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine Creek during the American War of Independence (the British won this one). Col Mike Vernon-Powell gave a short talk about the history of the Battle and also the annual re-enactments carried out (he backed this up with some very good photographs). After this we had a lovely buffet lunch followed by a raffle (thanks for Les for letting the Wiltshire's win some raffle prizes). Thank you Les and your team from the Bournemouth Branch, for a memorable afternoon.

Our Annual Branch Dinner and Dance will be held at the Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club on Saturday 1 November so we may see some of our friends at this function.

Seasons Greetings to all members of the Regimental Association.

Bob Giddings

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Severn Branch

I am glad to report that with a membership of 28, and an average of 20 turning up for meetings, the Severn Branch is still looking good.

Member Lloyd Evans, had a big surprise when he turned up for a meeting, only to find that it had been turned into a surprise 90th birthday party for him. Lloyd, who served with the 4th and 2nd Battalions of the Wiltshire Regiment, enlisted in March 1940 and saw service in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany, before his demob in October 1946.

Even though age is creeping up on them, members take part in as many activities as they can. The members, who went to the "Rifles" Freedom march in Bristol, were relieved when it was announced that the veteran's contingent would have their own drummers and could march at a slower pace. A good time was had by all who attended.

Other 2008 events included a trip to the National Arboretum, the blessing of the Standards, with the Bournemouth Branch, the British Legions Veterans Day at Hardwicke, Gloucester, and the Royal Berkshire's Reunion at Brock Barracks, Reading.

Those who went to Brock Barracks, were disappointed that the bars opening hours were restricted, but were very pleased with the evening's entertainment. (Hope more will join us in future).

It was good to see such a good turn out for the Sunday service at Brocks' impressive Cenotaph.

On Remembrance Sunday, members attend services in many locations.

Best wishes go from us, the Severn Branch, to all Branches and to all our Comrades.

John E Orpin

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Somerset Branch

With a potential of 150 former members of our antecedent regiments resident in the Somerset catchment area it was thought high time that a Branch of the RGBW Association was formed within the County to cater for their needs. As a result an exploratory meeting was called in February 08 with sufficient support from those attending to kick start the Branch.

The option was given to members to consider meeting at various locations around the County. Those attending the inaugural meeting however were happy to make the new style Royal British Legion Club in Castle Street, Bridgwater our HQ for meetings. Members opted to meet quarterly on a Sunday morning. A committee was quickly established consisting of Chairman, John Bishop Glosters/DERR, Secretary Phil Miller Glosters, Treasurer Andy Norman RGBW, Standard Bearer Denis Bowman Glosters, Jim Fenner Glosters/Wilts and Brian Duffill R.Berks.

Since forming the committee we have been delighted to greet Lt Col (Retd) Mike Motum who kindly agreed to become our Branch President. Mike as many of you know served with 1 Glosters and was later CO of the 2nd Battalion RGBW (V). Now retired from the army Mike is employed as the Rifles Secretary, County Office based at Jellalabad House, Taunton. His guidance as President is a most welcomed asset to the Branch.

Also joining us as our Chaplain is the young and energetic Father Nic Leggett. Father Nic is no stranger to the foibles of military types as he was a TA member of the Royal Green Jackets in London. Not only is Nic our Chaplain, besides looking after his flock he is very much involved with the RBL, LI Association, ACF and other Cadet and youth and charitable groups within Bridgwater.

It can be seen from the formation of the committee that we have a good cross section of members representing our former regiments who are forward looking and represent the RGBW Association in its entirety and that is how we want it to be if we have any future at all.

At our first meeting proper we were delighted to welcome members and their ladies from Bournemouth and Plymouth, which was fantastic support and much appreciated. What a grand Branch Les Devine runs down at Bournemouth. Tony & Eileen Hooper, John & Joan Bishop and Phil & Sonia Miller were able to respond by visiting Poole for the Bournemouth Branch annual Standard Service followed by an excellent buffet enjoyed at their HQ, the Ex Servicemen's Club, Poole.

A number of our members attended a service at St. Mary's Bridgwater to Celebrate 100 years of the TA.

Chairman and Secretary represented the Association at the funeral in Chard of former L/Cpl Michael Clancey who served nine years with the DERR having left in 1973. Michael died on his birthday after a long fight with cancer.

We have been busy making friends with the Somerset Division of the Light Infantry Association here in Cider Country. Chairman John and Secretary Phil were guests at the LI Bridgwater Branch meeting where we were able to introduce ourselves as fellow members of our new Regimental Family, The Rifles.

At our last meeting we were joined by a group with their ladies from the Taunton Branch LI, as a result a strong link has been established. We in turn were invited to their annual BBQ at Jellalabad House where Secretary Phil walked away with their top raffle prize!! On the 4th October we shared a coach with the LI lads to attend the Freedom Parades in Bath and Bristol. We were disappointed to find only a handful of Glosters on parade in Bristol and not one Standard.

With almost our first year under our belt we are pleased with our progress to date although there are an awful lot more potential members out there that we would like to welcome. Our venue is one of the new breed of RBL Clubs controlled from RBL HQ at Pall Mall and brought into the 21st. Century. Comfortable surroundings, excellent bar and food, Meeting room, ballroom, skittle alley, snooker room, entertainment, what more do we need!! So come and join us.....

Our newest member is Mike Kemish late of the DERR he is anxious for more of his colleagues to join him from the DERR and R. Berks. There are plenty living in the County.

Many of our ladies are coming along on meeting days and are enjoying each others company whilst the men do their bit. After the business we are able to sit down together and enjoy an excellent roast carvery available every Sunday at the RBL Club.

We will be holding a belated Christmas/New Year dinner at the RBL Club Bridgwater on Sunday 25th January for Members, families and friends of the Regiment at the Royal British Legion Club, 15 Castle Street, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3DD from 1200hrs. Tickets will cost £14 per person and may be obtained from the Secretary Phil Miller, 45 Coleridge Gardens, Burnham on Sea TA8 2QA. Cheques should be made payable to RGBW Association Somerset. Please enclose a stamped address envelope. We do hope that you will be able to join us. Map and details can be found on our web page www.rgbw-association.org.uk/somerset.htm

Our new Branch Standard will be with us soon and we hope to invite you all to the dedication planned to take place sometime before Easter 2009.

We are making full use of the www.rgbw-association.org.uk website to communicate our meetings and activities. Find us on our dedicated page at: www.rgbw-association.org.uk/somerset.htm

Phil Miller

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Stroud Valleys Branch

It has been a fairly quiet year for the Branch, with membership remaining static.

On Wednesday 23rd April, the Branch Standard paraded at the St George's Day Service at Gloucester Cathedral. In June, a number of Branch members participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Hardwicke, which was organised by the local branch of The Royal British Legion.

Mr Dave Timbrell stood down as Standard Bearer due to ill health. Our Chairman and members thanked him for all his years of loyal service.

The Branch has formed close links with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association (RGHYA), Stroud Air Training Corps and the Royal Naval Association. All these organisations share the same meeting place and welcome a flow of information and participation in their various events.

On Thursday 6th November, the Branch Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey. It was a damp day but very well attended. Members of the general public are able to walk through and view the plots after the official proceedings and it is certainly a moving and thought provoking experience to read some of the inscriptions written on the crosses.

The Branch Standard paraded at the Cenotaph in Stroud on Sunday morning the 9th November. Approximately 250 people, young and old, attended the Service of Remembrance. An officer laid a wreath from 2nd Battalion The Rifles, for which the Branch is very grateful.

On the 2nd December, Branch members will be holding their Christmas dinner at Stroud Conservative Club and on the 9th December Branch members have been invited to join the RGHYA for their Christmas Quiz Night.

Scott McBryde

Tewkesbury Branch

Yet again, it has been a quiet year with a small but regular band of members attending our monthly meetings, although it would be good to see a few new faces.

Tewkesbury Branch members attended the Back Badge Reunion at the Cheltenham Regency Hotel where we enjoyed good food and drink and had a great evening. We also attended the Cirencester Reunion in September where we all enjoyed a good time with members of other branches and other Regimental Association members.

Roger and Joan Danter managed to persuade the local Morrisons branch to contribute £50 of 'home comforts' for 1 Rifles.

We are now meeting at the Royal British Legion in Tewkesbury on the second Thursday of each month at 8 pm except in August due to the holiday season. If you live fairly near to our meeting venue, please do pop along and join us for a cheap beer or two.

Our best wishes go to all Regimental Association members in 2009.

Capt Glyn Smart

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Warminster Branch

This year I am pleased to say that we have survived without any fatal casualties, in fact we have a new member, Mr Derek Bown a one time band Cpl who served with our Chairman in the Fifties.

Several members went on a local one day coach trip to the National Arboretum and Jim Fenner and Stan Clark went to the same place with the Koran Veterans Association where they stayed overnight and were thus able to view it at a pace suitable to their advancing years.

In September on Battle of Britain Sunday, John Case paraded with our Standard and he is hoping to attend the Bath and Avon Branch Standard presentation in November.

In October we held our annual lunch at which 31 members and their partners attended, sadly Jim Fenner (ex CSM 4 Wilts) and Les Knight a founder member and WW2 4 Wilts A/TK Sgt were unable to attend due to ill health as was Stan Clark who was in Italy. All arrangements were as usual made by Fred Davis and Chris Taylor, with the draw, which was very successful, run by Mesdames Davis, Taylor and Baggs. We owe them all a big vote of thanks. We were pleased to have in attendance Major Percy Pepler, a pre and post WW2 member of the old B Coy, 4 Wilts TA. He has recently had a long spell in hospital but I am pleased to say is now much better. Our guest for the occasion were Mr and Mrs Bryant from the RAFA and Mr John Saunders who very kindly opens up the Warminster Town F.C. for our meetings. After the meal Mr Bryant thanked us for their invite and also wished the Branch good fortune in the future. Our President was then asked to present to Fred Davis a scroll thanking him for his work for the Branch of which he (ex 2 Wilts Sigs Pln) had been a founder member. Mr Les Knight (ex 4 Wilts) was, due to ill health, unable to be present but will be presented with his at his home. Lofty Graham then gave us a brief rundown of 1 Rifles affairs and also one or two matters of interest to ex Wilts members. The Chairman then presented to the President a shield on which was mounted a cap badge of the RWAFF in which he had served in 46/47 in the Gold Coast Regt, in thanks for his work over the years as Branch Secretary/Treasurer. I gather this badge is now very scarce.

At the AGM all Officers were re-elected to the relief of those not involved. Was my plaque a bit of bribery to keep me going??

We thank the Gloucester and Salisbury Offices for their efforts on our behalf and send our best to 1 Rifles on their tour of Afghanistan and hope they will all return safely at the end of their tour.

Finally I, as President, would like to express my thanks to members for their support and especially Mack for all the time and effort he has given to make the Branch so successful.

Maj GRA Pickford, TD

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West Wiltshire Branch

Yet another year flies by and again the Branch has experienced the ups and downs of life, overall another successful year, tinged with sadness at the sudden death of Margaret Kerr wife of Mike Kerr who himself had just undergone heart surgery. Also the loss of one of the regiments great characters in the form of Pete Blandford, his humour will be missed, Pete's funeral in Hythe, Kent was well attended by people from across the regiment.

Good news is that both Mike Kerr and Norman Minty are recovering well from their operations. Mitch (Sporty) Mortimer is at present undergoing treatment for cancer so far so good, Mitch maintains a cheerful outlook on his ongoing problem.

The Branch area was visited by ex C/Sgt Brian Potter who on leaving the army settled in Australia setting up a successful business and lifestyle, a very pleasant dinner plus a few ales and stories of past years ensured his visit was both welcome and enjoyable.

A first for the Branch was a ten pin bowling evening which everyone really enjoyed although some of the "Athletes" had better stick to their day jobs. The main event was won by Andy Kitchener and the ladies by our treasurer Tracy Griffin; this is one event that will be repeated.

This year saw the branch take the lead in the Trowbridge/West Wiltshire Annual Veterans Weekend, the weather was kind and the crowds came out. The event was a combined event with local spotlight activity, static displays, plus re-enactments including German Tiger Tank plus other WW1 artefacts stretched events from WW1 up and including modern times, there was also live stage music and arena events making it a very good weekend.

The Branch manned a site which incorporated Regimental Souvenirs, Standards and a photo gallery showing past Regimental Personnel, Branch members and Branch activities. A reasonable amount was sold to aid the Wardrobe sales figures. We also ran a very successful raffle in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund raising £325.00p, double the figure of last year.

The Sunday culminated in a Parade (organised by Bill Sherman) and Drum Head Church Service with Standards of the White Ensign Association (RN), RGBW West Wiltshire Branch and Royal Air Force Association (RAFA) being laid across the Drums. The Branch had 18 members on parade and a collection raised £200 for the "Not Forgotten Association".

New members who have joined the Branch this year are Maj (Retd) Pete Stacy, D/Maj Tad Hunter, Andy Kitchener, Dave Young, Tracy Myers, and Dave Rose, and three others who have surfaced and yet to attend being "Mo" "Morris (Minden Boxer), Cpl Bob (Chalky) White (A Coy Minden then Post NCO) and Jerry Khan (Minden B Coy).

Saturday 4th October saw our annual social event at which we had an attendance of 64, this is now a well established event and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

The Branch continues to grow in numbers and our Social activities are also expanding to maintain interest and variety, from bowling to horse racing, Chinese night, night at the dogs and hopefully next summer an outing to the seaside.

We will also support "Ferozeshah" with Swindon Branch members, and are committed to the 50th Anniversary on the Isle of Wight which looks to be a very good get-together. A coach will be organised to transport from Trowbridge for those wishing to use it on a first come first served basis.

We wish the 1st Battalion Rifles, a safe and successful tour of operation in Afghanistan. We would also like to thank Sue at Salisbury and Lesley at Gloucester for their excellent support.

Best wishes

Capt Bill Sherman

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Windsor Branch

2007 ended on a high note, with our Christmas luncheon, which is now a success, being moved from the evening dinner. As we have said in the past, we are fortunate to have the well appointed Guards Club as our venue for meetings and functions. The Windlesham Branch of the British Legion also attend in numbers, to swell our depleting membership.

The early months of 2008 opened with a catalogue of sad news. In January Joan Vicary, the wife of our Secretary died. Joan devoted many years assisting Eric in the smooth running of the Branch, preparing flowers for the dinners, typing the monthly minutes of meetings, also the annual Branch notes for the Newsletter. With the death of Joan, Eric had lost his mainstay and he died in April, broken hearted.

The sad news continued early in the year, with the Chairman, Derek De-Wilde being struck down with a stroke, and to remain in hospital until August.

To end our miserable start to the New Year, news came that 'Alf' Willey, a founder member of the Branch, and Chairman for some 40 years, died. With the loss of the Chairman and the Secretary, our monthly meeting in June, had the Treasurer, Peter Langford wearing three hats, Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The AGM which should have taken place in April was postponed to July because of the loss of two main officials. Peter Langford, the Treasurer, was appointed to take overall control for future meetings.

To move at last onto a lighter note, we were particularly pleased to welcome Colonel Tim Lerwill to our June Meeting who combined his time with us with news of The Rifles, and table talk with individual members.

Our *bete noire* for many years has been the isolation of the bronze plaque to the fallen of the 1st Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment at the Battle of Kohima, hidden behind bushes. This plaque was returned to Brock Barracks after it had been vandalised at Kohima. It is now disrespectfully obscured by shrubs at Brock Barracks. Col Tim Lerwill promised to rectify the setting of this location. Let us not forget Kohima, said by others, to be one of the greatest Battles of the Second World War.

In July, the Regimental weekend at Brock brought old members of the Regiment together once again. We were blessed with excellent weather. On the Sunday we gathered for the service around the Cenotaph. Brian Vaughan, the parade marshal marched on the Standard Bearers,

with escorts, and given the age of those members, they are to be commended, they had to stand for nearly an hour in a blazing sun.

After the service the parade marshal formed up the old comrades for the march past, the salute was taken by Lt General Nick Parker CBE, they all marched in good order. They never forget their drill! After the dismiss we adjourned to the Dragon Club for a drink and chat, the day ended well.

We at Windsor will be in a state of limbo for the next few months, given the upheaval of the early months. Still we look forward to our Christmas Luncheon to cheer ourselves up. We at Windsor, send our best wishes to all branches.

Peter Langford

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RGBW Association Website

The official website for the Regimental Association is:

www.rgbw-association.org.uk

Each Branch of the Association has its own dedicated web page giving contact details, venues, and dates of regular meetings. There is also provision for Branch Secretaries to submit for inclusion details of forthcoming social events, Branch news, photographs etc.

There are also pages for the Association Chairman and Secretary to keep members informed of important events and much more. If you have access to the internet you are advised to make regular visits to www.rgbw-association.org.uk to check out your Branch page, News Page, Events page, Admin Pages etc. to see what is new.

Branch Secretaries are especially requested to keep in touch and to submit Branch news to the Webmaster, Phil Miller at postmaster@rgbw-association.org.uk. Members who find that their Branch page is not being fully utilised are advised to have a word with their respective Branch Secretary to encourage participation. More news of activities, special events and photographs will be most welcome.

A note to Secretaries who are themselves not on line. May I suggest that you try to nominate a branch or family member who has the facility and is willing to accept e-mails on your behalf? If this can be arranged would you please supply the Webmaster with the appropriate e-mail address. Hard copy for inclusion can be mailed to Phil at 45, Coleridge Gardens, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. TA8 2QA

Photographs can either be e-mailed in JPEG format as an e-mail attachment or hard copies sent to the above address. Please remember to add names or suitable caption in the body of the e-mail or accompanying letter. Photos to be returned to sender should include a SAE.

Members may also use the website to let County Office know if you change your home address or contact details.

Other significant Association Websites are www.glost.org the home of Slashers Reunited with over 780 members and www.farmersboys.com

**Phil Miller
Webmaster**

Establishing a Branch in Wales

We have a number of Regimental Association members that live in Wales but very sadly, as yet, there is no branch.

One of our members Keith Hedges who lives in Swansea would like to make contact with members living in and around that area with a view to establishing a branch. If anyone is interested in the above please contact the Rifles Office Gloucester who will put you in contact.

* * *

Devon Branch

Gentlemen,

Having recently moved into the area, I was hoping to join the Devon Branch of the Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Regimental Association in order to meet new people and hopefully make new friends. I am writing this letter in the hope that out there somewhere there are people who would be willing to make the effort to breathe life into the Branch rather than let it die completely.

Please allow me to introduce myself; I was conscripted into the Army for National Service in 1953 choosing to serve with the "Glosters" until 1955. At the end of my full time service, I still had some three and a half years to serve in the Territorial Army, after twenty-one years I was discharged from the TA as a WOII on commissioning into the Army Cadet Force, retiring with the rank of Major after a further twenty-one years service.

Having served with others who were ex-Glosters, I was "invited" to become involved with the task of forming the very successful Avon Branch (now The Greater Bristol Branch). After several years as Membership Secretary, I was forced, through business commitments to curtail my activities only to return when I retired from work. Returning to the branch, I was asked to take the post of Secretary and have carried out these duties for the past seven years, only giving up when I moved out of Bristol.

I am hoping that by offering myself as Secretary to a freshly renewed branch to find others who are willing and able to commit to restarting the branch and to serving in some capacity on a properly constituted Committee. If you are interested, could you please contact me Mick Strong, 76 Mill on the Mole, South Molton. North Devon, EX36 3QG

Tel No: 01769 - 579598

E-mail: strong327@btinternet.com

If enough people are interested, I would be willing to attempt finding a location for an introductory meeting at a location acceptable to the majority

Yours truly,

Mick Strong

* * *

Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) Committee

As Old Comrades of the Wiltshire Regiment become fewer year on year and resources diminish, a decision has been taken to establish a Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) Committee to best manage slender resources more effectively and efficiently.

The Committee consists of Lieutenant Colonel 'Lofty' Graham OBE as Chairman, Captain IJ Knight as Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel VH Ridley MBE QGM as Treasurer, and three members - Majors PAJ Brown, MA Draper, RG Hoare - with the Rifles County Secretary Salisbury, Lieutenant Colonel ATD Lerwill OBE in attendance. The inaugural meeting was held in the Wardrobe on 15th October 2008.

The Role and Responsibilities of this Committee, which comes into effect on 1st January 2009 and will meet biannually, are to coordinate and keep under review:

- a. Programme of Events
- b. The administration of Funds
- c. The arrangements for the Devizes OCA Reunion
- d. Assist with welfare of both officers and soldiers
- e. The Officers' Luncheon
- f. The Maintenance of the a Wiltshire Regiment Roll
- g. Liaison with the Rifles through the Salisbury Office
- h. Liaison with the RGBW Old Comrades Association

Input to this Committee is welcome at any time from any ex-member of the Wiltshire Regiment by contacting the RIFLES Office Salisbury or any Committee Member.

Lt Col GTLM Graham OBE
Chairman

* * *

50th Anniversary of the Formation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment

The 50th Anniversary of the Formation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment will take place on the Isle of Wight during the weekend of the 5th - 8th June 2009 at Norton Grange Holiday Village. Well over 300 people have confirmed so places are running out if you wish to attend.

If you have not applied for a ticket, you must contact the Salisbury Office as soon as possible. All the details regarding the event can be found at www.farmersboys.com where you will find a 50th tab on the home page of the website. Once you click on it, it will take you to the links with all the details about the event. Once Norton Grange is full, you will have to make private arrangements so do not miss out get your return off today, or telephone the Salisbury Office on 01722 - 414536 and ask for Sue.

For those that have had their places confirmed do not forget to contact Ray Povey, Tel: 01189 - 391286 so that he can arrange transport by coach from areas round Great Britain.

Capt Toby North

* * *

Fifty Nine-Ninety Four Club
(A Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Officers' Club)

For the first of its biannual lunches in 2008 the 59-94 Club demonstrated its membership of the new regimental family and moved the venue to The Rifles Officers' London Club.

On 25 January twenty-two officers gathered in Davies Street to enjoy a happy reunion over a thoroughly good lunch. The return to a proper Mess setting was greatly appreciated, and we

were immediately made to feel at home by Sjt Yates and his small staff. The fact that we reminisced under the steady gaze of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh wearing the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, from the picture which had pride of place in the 1 DERR Officers' Mess throughout most of the Regiment's existence, enhanced the nostalgic atmosphere still further. The RGBW Trustees, the owners of the picture since the demise of RGBW/RGBWLI which inherited it on the 1994 GLOSTERS/DERR amalgamation, have placed it at the Rifles Club on an open-ended loan.

Those attending were Andy Crocker, Terry Daly, Farren Drury, Jo Edmonds, Bill Farrington, Simon Gray, Barney Haugh, Clive Ireson, Ben Johnson, Anthony Lake, Dave O'Hara, Barry Paddison, Colin Parslow, John Peters, Hugh Purcell, John Rylands, David Stone, Richard Vaughan-Payne, Nigel Walker, Adam Westlake, Bill Wilson, and Jon Wort. It was particularly good to greet Hugh and Clive, now back in England and able to break their 59-94 ducks after long periods abroad. Fred Chedham and Andrew Gay joined later at the 'follow through' in The Barley Mow in Duke Street.

Having hugely enjoyed that first lunch at The Rifles Officers' London Club at the beginning of the year, the 59-94 Club returned to Davies Street on 20 June. The twenty-one officers present were unanimous in endorsing the 'Mess' as the 59-94 Club's chosen venue for these biannual reunions.

Those attending were Peter Clement, Simon Cook, Andy Crocker, Terry Daly, Jo Edmonds, Bill Farrington, Paul Flavell, Brian Franklin, Simon Gray, Anthony Lake, John Marsh, Barry Paddison, Chris Perkins, John Rylands, Ian Spence, Patrick Tomlinson, Jerry Tozer, Alister Turtle, Richard Vaughan-Payne, Nigel Walker, and Russ Wardle. It was good to see several friends who had been missing from lunches for a few years.

The next lunch will be held on Friday 30 January 2009, again at Davies Street.

As a result of a survey of 59-94 members, it has been agreed that the scheduled June lunch of 2009 will be replaced by a 'traditional' Regimental Dinner to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire). It will be held on the evening of Friday 26 June 2009 at the Hythe Officers' Mess, Warminster, Wiltshire. Over 100 officers have stated their intention to attend. Full details of the dinner will be promulgated early in 2009. The first London lunch of 2010 will be at Davies Street on Friday 29 January.

TMAD

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4th & 5th Battalions and other Officers of The Wiltshire Regiment Luncheon Club

The annual reunion took place at The Rifles, Salisbury Office, The Wardrobe, 58, The Close, Salisbury on 20th September 2008.

Major GRA Pickford, presided at the Lunch. Officers attending were Lt Cols. VH Ridley, GTL Graham, Majors PAJ Brown (Chairman), A Cainey, RG Hoare D Hart, DC Mortimer, MAR Oakley, DC Ryan, Captains DJ Waters, IJ Knight and Lieuts. MC Copp, J Money-Kyrle and PG Mayhew. Col Michael Cornwell OBE attended the Luncheon as a guest of the Club.

Membership is open to all former Officers of The Wiltshire Regiment who wish to attend. The next reunion is to be held at The Wardrobe on Saturday 26th September 2009 and it is stressed that all Officers of the Wiltshire Regiment are eligible to attend. If you wish to attend and are not on the current mailing list please contact the Secretary, Captain Ian Knight, who will be pleased to add your name to the circulation list and can be contacted as follows:-

Captain Ian J Knight,
32, Lowry Close,
College Town,
Sandhurst,
Berkshire,
GU47 0FJ

Tel. No. 01276 - 36581

Capt Ian Knight

* * *

Sergeants' (DERR) Dinner Club

The Twenty-fifth Anniversary Dinner of the Sergeants' (DERR) Dinner Club took place at the Bailleul Sergeants' Mess, Arborfield on Saturday 4 October 2008. Fifty members attended the Dinner, amongst them was our guests Col Mike Cornwell and Maj Nigel Walker.

As ever, good food and wine, and excellent Company, and the camaraderie amongst the members ensured the evening was a tremendous success.

At the Annual General Meeting it was proposed and agreed, that a bi-annual Ladies Dinner be held by the Dinner Club. Therefore next year's Dinner will be a Ladies Dinner Night, to be held at Hermitage in October 2009, a date to be confirmed.

Myself and Richard Dunscombe have decided to stand down as Chairman and Treasurer respectively at next year's dinner, so any keen volunteers are required to fill the respective posts.

Further details of next year's Dinner will be published and distributed to members in May 2009. Details or queries can be sought from John Venus on 01980 670984 or at sjrvenus@btinternet.com. Hope to see you and your ladies next year.

Lt. Col John Venus MBE

* * *

Warrant Officers & Sergeants Past & Present Reunion (Glosters)

The Annual Reunion of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess of the Gloucestershire Regiment (Past) took place at its spiritual home (in recent years) on Saturday 5 April 2008 - the TA Centre on Eastern Avenue. The TAC is now home to A Company of 6 RIFLES. Approximately 50 individuals attended; perhaps it had something to do with Gloucester entertaining Munster in the Heineken Cup quarter final that numbers were slightly below expectations. Next year's reunion does not clash so we are looking at increased numbers!! The evening was, as always, outstanding and we were treated to an excellent display from the Corps of Drums of the Gloucestershire ACF with Drum Major Andy Casey at the helm.

The evening offers everyone the opportunity to evoke memories of bygone days and tell tales on those who aren't there so if you feel your ears burning then make your way down to "Glawster" for an evening of fun, good humour and receding hair lines.

The next reunion takes place on Saturday 4th April 2009 at the TA Centre on Eastern Avenue, Gloucester. As in previous years the cost for the evening will be £10.00 (payable on the evening). Further details can be sought from Tim Godden on 01453 835019 (h), 07796331298 (m) or at timmy.godden@virgin.net. See you there!!

Regimental Band and Corps of Drums Reunion 2009

The 2009 Reunion of the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums will be held at *The Dowty Sports and Social Society*, Staverton, Down Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham, Glos. GL2 9QH on **3rd October 2009**.

The idea of a reunion was originated by Ray Jones whilst serving at Kneller Hall, and later a small committee was formed in 1994 and have since been instrumental in promoting the Regimental Band and Drums Reunion these past 14 years. The current committee are as follows:

Hon. President: Lt Col (Retd) P Hannam MBE BEM

Hon. Chairman: Mr J Hinchliffe

Hon. Treasurer: Mr N Webb

Hon. Secretary: Major TJ Cooper

Assistant Secretary: SSgt RG Jones

Drums Member: Mr R Turk

Memorabilia: Mr A Dunn

This will be our fifteenth successful reunion, which we could not have held without the kind support of you it's members. Unfortunately we have had to increase the ticket costs over the years due to cost of catering. However we do manage to accommodate most members who attend.

The cost of the evening will be £14.00 per head. Cheques/P.O. made payable to **The Gloster Reunion Fund**. For further information please contact our treasurer:

Mr Neil Webb

Tel: 01452 855236

email: nw005b1436@blueyonder.co.uk

If you are interested in finding out more or you are online just type in www.glostergolf.org and click on Band and Drums. From there you will be able to access the booking form and location of the venue or pass on any other information or photos to a member of the committee.

We look forward to seeing you all again this year.

Ray Jones
Assistant Secretary

* * *

The Farmers Boys (DERR) Golf Society Meeting - 12/13 June 2008

Yet again a very enjoyable couple of days were spent in June negotiating the rough and bunkers of Erlestoke Sands Golf Club (just outside Westbury, Wiltshire). Numbers were up from the previous year, which was hugely encouraging, and included both first time attendees and members from the Regular Battalions. The format, which has been developed over many years, seems to work well. Day 1 is a "warm-up" (particularly important for those who enjoy the game but don't have the time to play as much as they would like) with the team events of a Texas Scramble and Fensome Pairs in the morning and afternoon respectively. This year the coloured ball competition was played with a camouflaged ball which provided enormous entertainment as members struggled to find balls in the middle of the fairway. On day 2 the individual competitions take place with Medal (gross and nett) and Stableford (high and low handicap categories) competitions. Throughout we are extremely well fed and watered by the attentive club staff. The beauty of this format is that it has the flexibility for members to attend a single

day if they wish, and therefore we cater for all tastes. It was good also to see a number of non-playing members join us for lunch on day 2 and I very much hope that this continues to grow in the future.

Although General Pascoe was unable to play this year, we were delighted that he was able to welcome all members as they teed off on day 2 - we very much hope that he will be able to join us for a full round next year. As ever I am hugely indebted to Robin Wilson for all his assistance; to Andy Fontana who kindly volunteered to act as the prizes secretary; to John Ledgister for providing the link with the Regular Battalions and for his efforts in encouraging new serving members to attend; and to Tim Lerwill from the Wardrobe for his administrative support and assistance in "balancing the books".

Prizes were won as follows:

- Medal Gross:
 - 1st - The Gilson Trophy - Kevin Flay.
 - 2nd - The Bone Beaker - Eric Millard.
 - 3rd - Nigel Barker.
- Medal Nett:
 - 1st - The Gilson Bowl - Colin Tremellen.
 - 2nd - The Gamble Cup - Paul McLeod.
 - 3rd - Ron Cooke.
- Stableford Singles:
 - 1st (21 handicap and below) - The Education Cup - Kevin Flay.
 - 2nd (21 handicap and below) - Colin Tremellen.
 - 3rd (21 handicap and below) - Paul McLeod.
 - 1st (22 handicap and above) - The James Cup - Nigel Barker.
 - 2nd (22 handicap and above) - The Shorncliffe Cup - Luke Figurski.
 - 3rd (22 handicap and above) - Robin Wilson.
- Fensome Pairs:
 - 1st - The Wiltshire Regimental Golfing Society Regimental Foursomes Cup - Nigel Barker and David Murray.
 - 2nd - Colin Parslow and Robin Wilson.
- The Texas Scramble: Robin Simmonds, Nigel Barker, David Murray, Alan Ladds.
- The Texas Scramble (Camouflaged Ball): Andy Fontana, John Marsh, Julian Walker.
- Nearest the Pin:
 - 7th - Ron Cooke.
 - 6th - (second shot) - Ray Povey.
 - 18th - (third shot) - Bob Luckwell.
- Nearest the Line - Maj Gen Crabtree.
- Longest Drive - John Ledgister.
- Most Golf Played - The "Frog" Trophy - Maj Gen Crabtree.

Many of you will be aware of last year's debate concerning the proposal to change the name of the Society. With the formation of The Rifles, there was overwhelming support for a name that better reflected the link with our former Regiments, and therefore "The Farmers Boys (DERR) Golf Society" was adopted. We are one of the many Clubs that make up the 4th pillar of The Rifles, and so we a small but essential element in maintaining the "Golden Thread" of our former Regiments and the link to our counties. I was struck by the wise words of Roy Evans in the Slashers Newsletter - *"We have to change with the times, however we can still keep our traditions"*. This is precisely what we are doing, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at next years meeting, which will take place at Erlestoke Sands Golf Club on **11/12 June 2009**.

John Marsh

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Slashers Golf Society 2008

This year our annual meeting took place on Friday the 1st August 2008, at Brickhampton Court Golf Complex, Gloucestershire. Over 80 members played this year on a well groomed and perfect golf course. The weather was very kind to us, with a slight breeze and sunny conditions. Col Ed Brown MBE both played and presented the awards after the competition.

The society was first formed over six years ago and has steadily built up its membership, forming a good bond and reputation amongst old, bold and serving soldiers. We now have a ladies cadre, consisting of friends or family of society members and our well attended Back Badge Club has also developed into an enjoyable and competitive monthly meeting.

Games are held on every last Friday during the summer months (April to September), at different venues throughout the county bringing members together of all eras ranging from Korea to Kabul.

At long last and for the first time this year both DUKES and GLOSTERS banded together and held an extra competition between the Slashers and the Farmers Boys (ex DERR) in which each side fielded a team of eight players. The Slashers won by 27 points, becoming the opening winners of the newly created 'Burma Cup Challenge Trophy' competition. This will now become an annual event, and will probably become highly contested.

In August 2009 we will be introducing a new CAT3 Stableford section designed for those members who wish to remain 'bandits'. It will compose of those golfers with a handicap ranging from 22-28. This will enable CAT 2 players of handicap 15-22 to improve their winning status - and be in with a well deserved chance!

This year's competition awards were presented by Col. E.D Brown MBE to the following members:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Best Gross score | Roy Evans |
| Runner up Best Gross score | Rick Vale |
| Best Handicap score | Luke Figurski |
| Runner up Best Handicap score | Tony Dixon |
| CAT1 Best Stableford score | John Yemm |
| CAT1 Runner up Best Stableford score | Jim Robertson |
| CAT1 Third place Best Stableford score | Geoff Penhale |
| CAT2 Best Stableford score | Chris Wood |
| CAT2 Runner up Best Stableford score | Toby North Jnr |
| CAT2 Third place Best Stableford score | Ben Casey |

Team Prize (Martinique team)

Ladies Longest Drive
Gents Longest Drive
Nearest Pin 14th hole
Nearest Pin 17th hole
Nearest Pin 2nd shot 18th hole
Most golf played
Slashers Primrose Jacket 2007

Martin Arkle
Dave Smart
Ian Bailey
Simon Rossiter
Carol Hill
Roy Evans
Martin Arkle
M Brian
K Mitchell
Adrian Parkin
Tony Dixon

GUEST PRIZES

Joint Best Stableford (Ladies)

Runner up Best Stableford (Ladies)
Best Gross Ladies
Best Stableford (Gents)
Runner up Best Stableford (Gents)
Best Gross (Gents)
The Rifles Green Jacket
Burma Cup Challenge Trophy

Yvonne Dawson
Anthea Nicoll
Julie Hulett
Judith Davies
Ian Bailey
Dan Midwinter
C Webster
Toby North Jnr
Slashers

We look forward to next year, when the meeting will be held at Brickhampton Court Golf Complex on Friday August 7th 2009.

Our annual 'Slashers Abroad' trip saw a return to Almeria in southern Spain, where twenty of our members turned out for a very high spirited 'Primrose Jacket' competition. The holiday consisted of seven days of golf in beautiful surroundings with accommodation in a four star venue - Hotel Almerimar. The main event was played over four dedicated days and over three different courses. Throughout the competition the committee met each day to adjust each handicap enabling everyone with a chance to win the coveted prize.

On the final day the premier 'four ball' consisted of Mick Heavens, Chad Dixon, Roger Millington and Johnny Yemm. Once the final scores were confirmed, last year's Past Master Tony Dixon had great pleasure in handing over the Primrose Jacket to his son, Chad Dixon - a well deserved winner.

The whole holiday was well managed and everyone had a great time. Special thanks go to Roy Evans who organized the whole event and made it the most successful holiday to date.

The Slashers Golf Society will go into hibernation now, until our first Back Badge meeting in April 2009. We shall still play friendly games throughout the winter months and reflect on another good year - thanks to all our loyal members.

Both Roy and I wish you all a safe and prosperous 2009!

Andy Lewis
Secretary Slashers Golf Society



RGBW Regimental Association

Malta Reunion 2008



2008 Malta Reunion Review

The departure to Malta on the 13 October worked like "clockwork" with members travelling from both Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Among those travelling were members from France, the Channel Islands and all parts of the United Kingdom. On arrival in Malta we were met by Hank and Maria Barnes with transport to take us direct to our hotel. The Tuesday morning a coach arrived on time to take us sight seeing to the craft village in Ta'Qali, Mdina and Golden Bay.

Wednesday was a free day. Some members and wives took advantage of sunbathing around the pool while others continued their sightseeing. Thursday saw us on the coach again going to Valletta in particular Upper Barracca Gardens, where Queen Elizabeth II had planted a tree to commemorate her 50th wedding anniversary earlier in the year. Later in the afternoon we caught a ferry from Valletta to Sliema. Tony's bar is in Sliema where it is alleged that Pete Clayton (a DERR soldier) drank 54 bottles of Blue Label beer to beat a naval record of 46 bottles.

On Friday evening, a Gala Dinner was held in the Santana Hotel. Some 86 members, wives and guests were seated. The meal was excellent, the speeches short and the entertainment well received. The free flowing Maltese wine gave an ambience to the evening.

On Saturday, a cruise was organised to Comino and Gozo, which in general most people enjoyed. Sunday saw the party boarding coaches to take us to the Military Cemetery at St Patrick's Barracks, Pembroke where the children and members of our former regiment are buried. The service was conducted by the Rev Father Lawrence Zammit, chaplain to the armed forces of Malta. The Reverend had attended the Gala Dinner as our guest. The introduction was read by Leon (Fred) Zawadzki, and the lesson by Ray Povey. Wreaths were laid by John Gigg and Tom Cawley. The standard bearers, Dave Smith and Ron Hawkins were outstanding under the direction of Toby North. After the service, a buffet lunch had been organised at a local bar in Qawra by Steve Mcpherson (now resident in Malta).

Most comments received have been of a congratulatory nature for organising the trip. Peter Habgood suggested that the next year's reunion should be in Tarhuna Camp in Southern Libya. The present organiser declined this suggestion on the grounds that he couldn't stand sand, s** and flies.

We now look forward to our reunion in 2009 upon the Isle of Wight.

Ray Povey

* * *

A Meeting in Malta - Food for Thought

The reunion of former members of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in Malta in October 2008 was an occasion to remember. A total success; to be repeated there again, or elsewhere!

It was difficult at first to put names to faces and faces to places. Forty or more years had passed since members had last met. Athletic frames had sagged. Jaw lines had dropped. Fine brow lines had fallen and many other parts of the body had withered, or so we heard! Indeed, there was much evidence that Viagra was in popular use. Discussions amongst members soon formulated best practice. It may have convinced non-users to flag up their libido with these

remarkable pills.

There were no items of conversation that were off the agenda. We spoke freely, one to another. Death, marriages and births highlighted many topics, and in that order. To mention one absent friend was to remember many, many others. Military exercises, personal escapades and endeavours were recounted repeatedly. Each time being given more elaboration than the last as the brain switched on to military thinking and wits sharpened

After forty or more years, some stories were recounted with great accuracy. Recollections of the antics of both superior and inferior officers and men, their ladies and their wives, were all up for debate. In some cases, such stories completed the jigsaw that many had carried in their mind for years.

One member, or more, agreed that although many of them had spent much less time in military service than in a later civilian career they had found far greater comradeship in the former. The Regiment, far surpassed that comradeship attained in later life and elsewhere. All of us understood the very truth of that statement. Our reunion in Malta proved it.

We agreed that to all intents and purposes we were like one big happy family. With its trials and tribulations, its pride and prosperity, we had encountered all manner of military occasions, both at home and overseas. We remembered all those wonderful events that we had participated in and enjoyed. Those events that were not up to scratch were soon passed over in conversation, but will probably never be forgotten entirely.

One question constantly inquired between all of us, asked whatever happened to our own absent friends and comrades. The reply was nearly always the same. "He is dead!" The opinion gained was that life after a military engagement is for so many soldiers, far too difficult to bear.

The union between all of us; both ex-members of The Regiment and their women and their wives was complete. The bond of friendship, which we formed at our meeting in Malta, was instant! This proves that the formation of an Army, based upon regional recruitment by Counties, is the best form of bonding in the World. It was in our case. We were all, irrespective of rank, heralded as Farmers' boys. When we converted to mechanised Infantry in 1966, from feet to 432s, in the British Rhine Army we were also called the armoured farmers.

As Men of the soil, we went, in the words of Tom Gibson, "Up bloody hill and down bloody dale, on and on without bloody fail!" We, former members of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), gave The Regiment its enviable reputation. We were all; each and everyone of us, party to the fine history, which it much deserves and cherishes today.

In the Pembroke Military Cemetery, we stood in remembrance of three fallen Comrades. The sincerity of the occasion, the total silence, the honour of the bugler's call, the prayers and an address by The Chaplain to the Armed Forces in Malta certainly made us realise that we were all as one with Our Comrades, Our God, and Ourselves.

There always have been inadequacies when dealing with the transition of Men from military to civilian life. Men of fine valour. Men who have given part of their working life in the dedication of service to their Country. Many of them, all too often, die in total isolation and oblivion. Their readjustment to a civilian life by an incompetent, uncaring and ungrateful society being just too impossible to contemplate. It follows that there is a great importance placed upon the reunion of Old Comrades and their friends. One week in Malta certainly revived our spirits, our memories and our taste for Simons Farsons and Chisk. May we all, and any others, meet again soon.

May god bless each and everyone of us

Peter Habgood

A Glosters Reunion, Gloucester

Roger (Mac) Gladin with four other ex Glosters met at the Rifles Office Gloucester on Wednesday 3rd September 2008 for a reunion at Dr Fosters, Gloucester Docks.

Herewith his email regarding the day

Firstly may I thank you again for your help, involvement, courtesy and friendliness in providing us with drinks and the use of the Long Room.

Initially myself, and John Roberts were going to meet after over fifty years from when we were in the signal platoon serving in all four of the Grand Tour countries. Then Harry Halford (of the Grand Tour) said he would like to join us and bring Jim Taylor.

Both Harry and Jim and I served together and have been in contact for some years and meet up. Finally Graham Gordon the Museum attendant phoned me saying that Russ Alway wanted to contact me about some films and photos.....Russ said he would join us. So there were five!!!

Fosters where we intended to talk and snack said they wouldn't be open until before twelve....then you saved the day!!

We had a great get togetherall meeting Russ for the first time.....and exchanging notes and recollections. We are going to do it again but with more than two we will need to organise it properly.

Russ has a unique 40 minute collection of old films of the Glosters (1953 to 1958) which he has put on to a VHS Video which I am now hoping to transfer to DVD for him.

If anyone would be interested in joining us next year please do contact me via the Rifles Office Gloucester.

Best regards.....

Roger (Mac) Gladin

* * *

Other Reunions

Wanborough, Wiltshire

Our last reunion took place at The Harrow Inn, Wanborough on 10th June 2008 when the following nine ex Orderly Room Members of The Royal Berkshire Regt 1954 - 56 stationed in Goslar, Germany had a thoroughly enjoyable lunch and remembered many good times together.

Joe Rushen, Vic Clarke, Ron Pauffley, Ken Hillier, Pete Tickner, Bill Willoughby, Mick Lamble, Ron Prewer and Ted Travell, raised their glasses to John Boulter absent this time through illness to wish him a full recovery.

Ted Travell

Slashers Down Under

Two New Aussie ex Glosters have made contact though Slashers Reunited. Vince Lewis and Jim Morris served in the Battalion during the mid 1950's. Although we never knew each other during those times and now live in different states and many miles apart, a friendship has developed. We email on a regular bases and reminisce on old times.

During May, Vince and his wife were holidaying near Jim's home state of Queensland and a reunion was arranged. Needless to say there was plenty to talk about and a few beers went down the hatch!! We now hope to have these meetings on an annual basis. If there are any other Slashers around who would like to join us, please feel free to contact either of us via the Rifles Office (Gloucester).

Jim Morris

* * *

Op Banner Commemoration St. Paul's Cathedral

A pleasant reunion took place at the Op Banner Commemoration Service in September when Ken Fowler, (ex 1 Glosters) and Col Ian Harris, now Royal Irish (ex Glosters & RGBW) bumped into each other.

Col Harris, then Lt. Harris, was my very first Platoon Commander when I was at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Shorncliffe, Kent in 1982.

We later met up when Capt Harris rejoined the battalion and became the OC of Recce Platoon in Tidworth.

I left the Glosters in 1990 to pursue a new career in the Police Service.

Ian and I again bumped into each other in Bosnia in 2004, when he was serving with EUFOR HQ in Sarajevo and I was serving as an EUPM Inspector attached to the British Battle Group in Banja Luka. During my 2 year tour of Bosnia with the British Battle Group one of my Brigade Commanders was Brig Martin Vine RGBW (ex Glosters) and so with Ian we think we were the last three Glosters in Bosnia!

We seem to keep bumping into each other in such strange places.....

I am on my OPTAG Afghan training in December 08 and will deploy to Afghanistan in 2009.

Ken Fowler

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Op BANNER Commemoration Service

I thought you would like to know that the DERR were represented on Wednesday 10th September at St. Paul's Cathedral by myself 'Smudger 26' Mick Smith and 'Noddy' Mick Walters at the service commemorating the closure of the 38 year long Operation Banner.

We didn't see anyone else who we recognised or were wearing anything to do with the Regiment so we assumed that we were the only DERR members who were there, if we weren't we would like to know.

The service started at 11am, present was the Prince of Wales and Camilla the Duchess of Cornwall and other dignitaries including the Prime Minister Mr. Gordon Brown.

After the service there were an innumerable number of ex Soldiers who had served in Ulster who took part in a march past in two waves, the salute was taken by Prince Charles.

Following the march past we attended a reception in the Crypt of the Cathedral, one of several places designated for the reception as there were so many attending the service.

Hope this is of interest to other members of the DERR, best wishes from me and Nod.

Cheers!

Mick Smith

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The Sphinx still on Parade

The Royal Canadian Legion allows members to wear the military insignia of their units on berets and legion blazers. I wear both front and back badges on my beret and the Sphinx on my blazer.

Our Legion branch has about 180 members however although small we are quite active. Every month we hold a bingo evening for the veterans in a local vets hospital. We also support financially the following community projects:

1. Two air cadet squadrons, one English speaking and one French speaking;
2. The Black Watch Cadet Corps;
3. A battered women's shelter;
4. Meals-on-Wheels;
5. Missing Children's Network;
6. Old Brewery Mission;
7. A community restaurant;
8. Friends for Mental Health; and
9. The Victorian Order of Nursing.

I have applied to the government for a licence to sponsor a bingo night at a local bingo emporium; this will enable the Branch to channel more funds to worthwhile community projects with no financial exposure to our Branch.

Our most recent project was for Afghanistan Care Packages. We solicited donations of both goods and cash. We were able to assemble and ship about 2000 shoe-box sized packages. Each package contained toiletries and hand made cards from several children's schools, a nice touch I thought!

The Branch has also recently acquired 15 computer stations to be used to give our older Legion members, as well as members of the public, basic computer skills. The computer course will consist of six sessions of 1 1/2 hours each and is at no charge to participants. The basics will include emailing and banking functions.

**Ted Wansborough.
1 Glosters 1952 - 58**

The British Cyprus Memorial Trust

The British Cyprus Memorial Trust has been established to honour the memory of the 372 British servicemen who died on active service during the Cyprus Emergency 1955-1959. The 50th anniversary of the ending falls next year. Almost all the dead remain buried at the British military cemetery at Wayne's Keep now in the UN buffer-zone which lies between the Republic of Cyprus in the South and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the North. Because public accessibility to Wayne's Keep is in consequence exceedingly difficult - the UN reports that on average only one visitor a week manages to get there - the permanent memorial is to be sited in the old British Garrison Cemetery at Kyrenia. Nevertheless, to maintain a link between the memorial and those buried at Wayne's Keep, a Memorial Book will be placed in the British church nearby, which it is hoped will provide a focus for an annual remembrance service there in the years to come. You can find full details and also apply for membership on their website at:

<http://www.britishcyprusmemorial.org>

or you may contact Mr Bob Scott South West of England Area Membership Secretary (former Royal Berks - HQ 50 Ind Inf Brigade 1956 -59 Regiment) via email bob.w.scott@btopenworld.com or write to: The British Cyprus Memorial Trust, 26 York Street, London, W1U 6PZ Email: info@britishcyprusmemorial.org

Bob Scott

* * *



The 43rd Wessex Association Reunion

The 43rd Wessex Association will hold its 2009 Reunion and AGM in Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, together with a Service in Exeter Cathedral to rededicate the Divisional Roll of Honour on Saturday 30th May 2009. This Reunion is open to all those that have served under the Wyvern.

For further information about the event please contact the following who will endeavour to provide you with more information.

Chairman: Mr Bill Edwardes
141 Kingsway
Chandlers Ford
EASTLEIGH
Hants
SO53 5BX
Tel: 023-80253847
email: bill@43wessexassociation.com

**The Infantry Boys Battalion & Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion Association
Memorial Dedication Weekend 6th/7th June 2009**

The IBB & IJLB Association will be dedicating a memorial built from donations raised by the Infantry Regimental Associations and ex Junior Leaders over the weekend 6/7 June 2009 at Oswestry to commemorate the achievement of this unique Infantry Battalion which will tell future generations who we were, what we were and what we achieved. Secondly it will probably be the last time that the IBB & IJLB Association will march through what is considered its spiritual home, Oswestry exercising its right to do so having been granted the freedom of Oswestry in 1971.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Regimental Associations and ex Junior Leaders whose generosity has made this memorial possible. The format for the weekend is as follows:-

Saturday 6th June

Meet at the Rugby Club (the former Officers Mess) at Park Hall Camp at **1200 Noon** for an informal get together. Sandwiches, a bar and light refreshments will be available to purchase. There will be a display of photographs and memorabilia in the Clubhouse.

Dinner at the Old Assembly Rooms at the Camp (now an entertainment suite) will be served at 1930 for 2000 hrs. A full bar will be available.

Sunday 7th June

1000 hours - Assemble at Oswestry town centre for the Dedication parade and march through Oswestry. A memorial drumhead service will be held at Cae Glas Park, the location of the memorial. The Band of the King's Division will be in attendance.

1300 hours - Curry lunch in the Old Assembly Rooms at Park Hall Camp, a bar will be available in the Assembly Rooms.

1500 hours - The Band will beat Retreat on the Oswestry Showground which is the old Drill Square at Park Hall Camp.

For further information about booking dinner, lunch or parade only please contact the Secretary, of the IBB & IJLB Association, Mr Ken Nicol at :-

44 CEFN ROAD
WREXHAM
LL13 9 NH
email KnnthNic@aol.com

or visit the IJLB Association website at www.ijlb.co.uk for further information.

* * *

90th Anniversary of the end of WW1 - ARRAS

Arras in Northern France invited Regiments who fought there in 1917 to participate in the 90th Anniversary Commemorations of the end of the War. Battalions of 12 antecedent Regiments of the RIFLES are recorded on the Memorial Wall at the Museum of the Battle of Arras: a list that includes the Wiltshire's, the Royal Berkshires and the Glosters. I took Standards from the Wiltshire's (John Case) and Royal Berkshires (Peter Langford) along with an officer and Bugler from 4th Bn the RIFLES. This party was joined in situ by the Standards of SomLI and DCLI: the whole group providing around half the British representation!

Arras was occupied/defended by British and Commonwealth, particularly the Canadians, throughout the four years of WW1 Arras was a critical salient in the front line. As a result it was a constant target for German artillery which completely flattened the buildings, local inhabitants were moved out and allied soldiers moved underground. Some 24000 soldiers took refuge in the medieval quarries some 20m below the surface that the NZ miners turned into a labyrinth of caverns and passages. Over time these passages were pushed 12 miles towards the German lines with one sap running for 12 miles towards Bapaume.

On 4 April 1917, the Suffolk's debouched from this sap which should have been in the German 3rd trench line but the enemy had moved southeast into better fortifications and surprise was lost leading to four weeks of bloody battle where 4000 men were lost daily. The battle dribbled on for a further six months but with the French losing 250000 men in the Ardennes offensive at the same time decisive movement became impossible.

Following Armistice in 1918, the British Army stayed on in Arras to "clean" the town up and rebuild it. FM Haig finally returned Arras to France in 1922. For their commitment to the defence of France; for its commitment to the people of Arras, the town remains to this day fervent in its thanks to British and Commonwealth troops - the first Act of Remembrance every year takes place in the British Cemetery a poignant, elegant and moving site where visitors are met by the inscription that 35952 soldiers final resting place is unknown.

It was into this atmosphere that Peter Langford and John Case paraded with their Standards; they were applauded and welcomed warmly, so much so that when the time came to leave, it was with a little sadness. The Museum of the Battle of Arras, its tours of the Wellington Quarry and the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery are well worth the visit and anyone passing near by are encouraged to take the time to do so.

Lt Col ATD Lerwill OBE MA

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A Memory from the Past - The Home Guard

In late 1940 with the Home Guard having a proper establishment of army ranks the 2IC of H Coy, 3 Wilts, Home Guard (Capt AN Pickford MM) decided that it would be a good idea to start a club so that people going on patrol etc would have a focal point, other than the barn at Home Farm, where drills were held, for the Stourton and Kilmington elements of the Company. Maiden Bradley 3 miles away, made their own arrangements. An empty cottage was obtained from the Stourhead Estate and an account was opened with Mathews Brewery of Gillingham. All went well until the adjoining cottage caught fire and they had to start again which they did in 2 rooms of a lean to, to another cottage.

The nightly piquets were mounted outside and live ammunition was issued and when the order "charge magazines" was given one or two people tended to forget their training and when the "easesprings" order was given the roof of the bungalow opposite tended to suffer as did the ribbons on Capt Pickford's BD. The offender in the latter case (a WW1 veteran) had his rifle withdrawn and the first aid bag issued in its place. During the course of the War at various times the Home Guard held functions in the Village Hall and in February 1944 the 73 people in the two villages received 30 shillings which in my case as a new recruit was equal to ten days pay!! I had joined just in time!!

In December 1944 the Home Guard stood down, and on 14th December 1944, H Company Farewell Supper was held in the Barn at Home Farm, which gathering, being in the country, was not exactly law abiding as regards the menu of ham, cream trifle and cheese from the various farmer members.

The club continued to function and a new skittle alley and bar were installed and the club and its darts team continued to thrive for many years. In 2008 the Landlords, the National Trust, gave the Club after alot of arguments, a new lease. On Saturday 6th September 2008 a flag with the old Wiltshire Regiment numbers 62 and 99 in the top left and right corners, the coronet and cipher of the first Duke of Edinburgh in the centre, and across the bottom the wording **H Coy 3rd Bn Wilts Home Guard** was raised by two former members of the company L/Cpl C Curtis and Pte G Pickford during which a bugler from a local band sounded the Last Post.

The flag will be flown on appropriate occasions including of course Ferozeshah Day. The day was organised by Mr Eric Coombs a former Wilts Army Cadet Force member who was too young for the Home Guard but later served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

It is nice to see that the efforts of the Home Guard of 1940 – 44 are acknowledged by today's generation few of whom have served in the Forces and there cannot be too many clubs formed in 1940 for the duration of the war still keeping the name of "Dad's Army" alive today.

Maj GRA Pickford TD

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Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

It has been a busy summer and we go into the autumn and winter in good heart, anticipating a better future for the Museum and Gloucester than we could have hoped for a year ago. The Docks at the moment are in a transition phase before the opening of Gloucester Quays in the spring. Roads are chaotic and getting around by car is tiresome – but once this short term pain is over and once the new Quays development is settled, the benefit to our museum and to Gloucester overall should be huge. Meanwhile this summer has not lived up to expectations as far as the visitor numbers are concerned, but trading has been satisfactory and our efforts rewarded. The museum should achieve the visitor target set for the overall year but we have not had the large numbers of domestic visitors that we expected. Apparently, despite the 'credit crunch' the overseas holiday market has held up well, particularly with those fleeing the appalling weather that we had in the summer. Our schools outreach programme has become a major part of our work and we will be concentrating on this aspect this autumn. We are also starting to benefit from good business at half terms. These visits were independent of our schools outreach programme, when we give free return visit cards to pupils, so it is all the more encouraging. The shop has again done well and is now a mainstay of our income. Whilst there has been a quiet period on the internet over the Summer, this is now picking up.

The development situation in our end of the Docks is not so promising; the public realm project is at a standstill, due not unsurprisingly to the lack of Government funds and it is likely that this lack of funds will continue for the foreseeable future. The proposed move of Gloucestershire University to Blackfriars could change all this inactivity at a stroke, but otherwise there has been very little visible progress at our end of the Docks. The Merchants' Quay shopping centre is also empty and without any prospects of redevelopment in this economic climate. The Waterways Museum has also had a torrid summer. On a brighter note the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company has decided to take up their option on Southgate's Mooring site on which they will develop a new headquarters, thereby protecting jobs in Gloucester. The new Peel Bridge was due to open at the end of October. Sadly this deadline was missed, no doubt for some convincing reason. When it does finally open, we will all get some relief from the stifling traffic congestion that blights Gloucester and stunts trade.

The situation at Gloucester Quays is much better. To date half of the units are let and they expect to let the remainder in time for the opening. Included in the lettings there are five restaurants

and it is expected that overall activity will increase considerably. Sainsbury's new supermarket also should be finished by the spring. All this development is to our benefit, both short and long term.

Internally the museum has made good progress. Thanks to the MOD, we have a new CCTV system. This has revolutionized our security, particularly that of the medal collection as coverage is now extended and the images of all visitors to the Museum are now recorded. Our collections continue to grow and we are very lucky to have acquired on loan from the Gloucestershire Regiment Museum Trustees the "Barlow" miniature, which is now on display. Come and see it – The Barlow family is an old 61st family and indeed provided the first Commanding Officer. We continue to update the images on the database and expect to update the on line collection in the spring. This will put approximately 80% of our collection with better "internet friendly" descriptions and much higher quality images onto our website. This is thanks mostly to the efforts of David Read and our diligent photographer, Dicky Bessant, whom some of you will remember as a photographer with the Citizen for many years.

Our education outreach goes from strength to strength and Graham Gordon is getting a very good number of repeat bookings. This is solid business which has helped to encourage a greater number of inward school visits. During these opportunities, we give out free pupil return visit cards to encourage the children to bring back their parents but so far this has not been as successful as we had hoped. Perhaps wet winter weekends to come may see a better take up.

The internet has become a mainstay of the Museum, what with Archive enquiries and the sale of images from the collection providing steady income. Shop sales continue to provide a solid source of income and we are now trying out new lines and have commissioned two jigsaws for the Christmas market. These are the 'Loyal Toast' for the Glosters and the 'Blue Duke' for the RGH. They will be on the website soon

In summary we have had a good summer and go into the winter period with a busy education programme and buoyed by the exciting prospects of change in Gloucester for next spring. How we have achieved what we have, has been thanks to everyone's generosity and support without which we would struggle. We are most grateful and look forward to seeing you all in the Museum.

George C Streatfeild

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The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum - Website

The award winning Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum continues to impress national historians, researchers, veterans, relatives of veterans and members of the public who are interested in military matters.

The web site is at <http://www.glosters.org.uk/> it has a free searchable database of the names and details of over 40,000 soldiers who served in The Gloucestershire Regiment prior to 1920. It is possible to commission research into the archives for a small fee and to download high quality pictures from the museum collection. The web site is packed full of features including free on line exhibitions and items from our collection.

The on line shop has plenty of regimental memorabilia including music, badges, mugs and cuff links. Of particular interest to many will be the jigsaws of some of our Regimental paintings, which are only sold through our museum and nowhere else.

The museum also travels to schools with parts of the collection to teach aspects of the national curriculum. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this should contact the museum on 01452 522682.

The museum is a registered charity.

Opening times are as follows:

January - mid March:

10:00am - 5:00pm (open Tuesday to Sunday, closed Mondays)

mid March - September:

10:00am - 5:00pm (open every day, including public holidays)

October - December:

10:00am - 5:00pm (open Tuesday to Sunday, closed Mondays)

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Friends of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

This last financial year, April 2007/2008 has been the most successful in the history of the Friends of the Museum. A crowded Autumn Lecture, given by Miss Kate Adie OBE, provided a very good start and generous sponsorship of our Summer Reception at Ozzleworth Park, with grateful thanks to Mr & Mrs Michael Stone, provided an enjoyable Summer Reception as well as producing funds for our Museum support.

The Autumn Lecture is the main fund raising event of the Friends year and, as already stated, last year's event was very popular. This year's Autumn Lecture, equally popular, was given by Major Gordon Corrigan MBE who gave a thoroughly interesting and stimulating talk on the development of the British Army from Crécy to Basra. Many old Glosters will remember him when he served with the Gloucestershire Regiment. He became a Company Commander in the Glosters before transferring to the Gurkhas and serving with a Brigade of Gurkhas until 1998. He is now a successful author, military commentator and battlefield guide.

The summer rain held off long enough for us to hold a Summer Reception at Ozzleworth Park and we were entertained by the Corps of Drums of the Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force (The Rifles), trained by Drum Major Andy Casey, who is now the Senior Drum Major in the British ACF. The Gloucestershire Corps of Drums are gaining an international reputation, having performed widely in Britain and also in the Malta Tattoo. Interestingly their drums, donated by the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment when they were disbanded, are now the only public display of the Gloucestershire Regiment Battle Honours, the current amalgamation of regiments to Light Infantry, who do not carry colours, has meant the disappearance of these honours.

Members of the Friends continue to receive their twice-yearly newsletter; subjects covered this year have included the Centenary of the Territorial Army and a review of the history of the Gloucestershire Territorial Battalions to recent acquisitions by the Museum.

The programme for 2009 is taking shape. In May, the Friends join with the Friends of Gloucester Cathedral in a meeting in the Cloister Garth and view the military history contained within the Cathedral. The Corps of Drums of the ACF are being asked to perform again, this time in the Cathedral Close.

The Autumn Lecture will be given by Maj. Gen. Patrick Cordingley DSO who commanded the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Gulf War.

We are always welcoming new members to the Friends, from any regiment or corps of the British Army, not just the Gloucestershire affiliated regiments. For membership enquiries please approach either myself or the Treasurer, Lt Col Ron Coleman (coleman1@sky.com) either at the Museum or by email.

**Lt Col Ralph Stephenson. Chairman, The Friends of SOGM.
Ralph.Stephenson@virgin.net**

* * *

The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum

At the time of writing our visitor's figures are up on those for the whole of 2007, that is both in terms of paying and non paying visitors. We have also experienced an increase in the number of enquires attracting donations, and in the number of visitors to the museum's web site; so we are approaching the winter period, when we close down to re-arrange the temporary exhibitions, in good heart and voice.

The museum continues to receive support from the RGBW Trust, the Society of Friends and the Wardrobe 100 Club, for which we are most grateful. If I may just take a few lines to make a plug for new membership of the Wardrobe 100 Club. The object of the Club is to have members who all purchase shares at £1 per month, the annual cost for one share is therefore £12. Every quarter a draw is made and if all 100 shares had been taken up the winner collects £100. At the end of the year the Club zeros down its account by transferring the balance of its account to the Museum. The current membership of the Wardrobe 100 club is 67 which means that the quarterly draw is only £67. So please consider becoming members of the Wardrobe 100 club by contacting the Curator.

The winter period will be used to create two new temporary displays, one in the Gallery will be entitled "War and Peace" and the other in Room 2 will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire). We have been fortunate to receive some assistance from 4 Rifles in that they will be providing us with up to date Desert Uniform and webbing which will enable us to reflect that being worn by the Rifles on their operational tours. Additionally we will be receiving a ceremonial dress uniform.

Another way of bringing the education to the people is by going out to them and giving talks. David Chilton, my predecessor was excellent at this and had developed great contacts through his interest in Family History. The television series "Who do you think you are" has made people more interested in tracing their family history and David's presentations shows them how much can be gleaned from military records. I have undertaken two presentations now and it is great to be able to provide small pieces of information that may go some way to solving some family mystery, and it is also a good way to advertise the museum's services.

Another area in which we are hoping to expand into is the audio visual display. Courtesy of the Heritage Branch of the Adjutant General's Branch, military museums have received a 36" flat screen and we hope to have old film footage digitised by the new season for display to the visitors in the Medal room.

By the time you read this article the latest publication for the Museum will have hit the streets, it is entitled "Maiwand The Last Stand of the 66th (Berkshire Regiment in Afghanistan, 1880)". A flyer for the book is included with the newsletter. Buy one as a stocking filler.

It has been for me a challenging time getting to grips with the job, but I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the volunteers who have been patient, members of the museum fraternity who have coaxed me through my first 12 months the County Offices Rifles in both

Gloucester and Salisbury for the support and George Streatfeild for his excellent advise on various matters.

Whilst the immediate forthcoming months may not be the most enticing financially please continue to support your regimental museums.

Michael Cornwell

* * *

The Wardrobe Website – Salisbury

Update

Since last year the Museum website has been substantially added to with excellent results coming from the ever increasing exposure of our site on the World Wide Web. From January to October this year we have had 4,641 visitors to the Collection part of the site who recorded 9,820 visits. We had 825,204 hits which clearly indicate a lot of interest in all our Regiments. We have increased the number of items visible in the Collection by 30% from over 15K to over 20K with six updates made to the site during the year. The 20K records have some 35K images with them. All the items placed on the site are listed under their original Regimental designation. The figures up to this point are.....

49th of Foot 549 Items

62nd of Foot 523 Items

66th of Foot 521 Items

99th of Foot 569 Items

Berkshire Regiment/Royal Berkshire Regiment 7993 Items

DERR 4275 Items

RGBW (LI) 511 Items

The Rifles 55 Items

Other/No unit 2334 Items

Wessex Regiment 207 Items

Wiltshire Regiment 10333 Items

All the items listed have either been photographed or scanned by Museum Volunteers and transferred when 'Web Ready' by museum volunteer Richard Long-Fox. The items include medals, documents, equipment, weapons and lots more, but, in the main, photographs.

The route for these items to the website is via a well rehearsed accessioning system. When items are donated to the museum they are, in the first instance, accessioned (an accreditation requirement). This is followed by the items being subdivided and properly identified and recorded in the dedicated museum computer system called MODES. Once these entries have been thoroughly checked they are transferred to the Website. In addition to what you can currently view on the website there is still a considerable amount of archive material that has yet to be transferred, but this will only take place after each and every item has been examined. After that we will go 'public' and transfer it to the website.

The objective of this exercise is to raise the profile of our Regiments and in doing so to encourage people to purchase images of items from the museum. Although we had a slow start, this work is starting to show results in terms of sales to the public. This has had a further effect in as much as people can now see that the items they have donated are properly recorded and available for viewing at any time, this in turn has led to donations that otherwise would not have happened.

If you haven't done so yet, please visit the site at www.thewardrobe.org.uk then go into 'THE COLLECTION' and search by any of the search threads listed.

A health warning is required in as much as the information with the photographs is only as accurate as the information available to the inputting volunteer at the time. So if you view an image and it is either lacking information (in particular, names) or the information is wrong, please let us know and we will get it corrected.

By the time you read this the above figures will have grown.

MAC McIntyre

* * *



The Redcoats Society

The Society of Friends of The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum, Salisbury

The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum at the Wardrobe, Salisbury is responsible for exhibiting, publicizing, documenting, and safeguarding the illustrious story and historic heritage of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, as well as that of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, the Wiltshire Regiment and their former regiments of foot. The Redcoats Society has a vital role in supporting and assisting the museum with this task, thus ensuring that the deeds of all our regimental soldiers of yesterday continue to be recognized, understood and remembered today and into the future.

As well as being supported by its steadily growing and ever-enthusiastic membership, the Redcoats Society has been able to provide activities, benefits and events for the enjoyment of the members and their guests (with some events also opened to the general public) as well as contributing directly in financial and various other ways to the often significant achievements of the museum itself. Apart from its continuing sound financial and membership situation, the society's activities, accomplishments and innovations in recent years have included the re-branding of the society of friends as the 'Redcoats Society', the particularly successful Redcoats Raffles of 2005 and 2007, the introduction of *Redcoats Review* as a quality full-colour newsletter provided free to members, the introduction and implementation of the corporate membership category from 2004 and gaining Holts - Battlefields & History as a corporate member of the society and much-valued sponsor of the Redcoats Raffle, the introduction of a programme of two or three events for members at the Wardrobe each year, and the staging or sponsoring of a series of major historical re-enactment events at the Wardrobe.

For its first event in 2009, the society is hosting a presentation for members and their guests on 'The Story of the Victoria Cross' provided by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Martin at the museum on 24 April. Mike commanded B Company 1 DERR in Ballykinler 1973-4, while later during his military service he was 2IC 1 D and D and CO 1 R HAMPs; accordingly, he will be well-known to many readers of the association newsletter. As usual, the talk will be followed by a buffet supper in the DERR Regimental Room, with a thoroughly entertaining, convivial and informative evening in prospect. Also in 2009, the 'Redcoats Raffle 2009' will take place, with no fewer than two Europe-based holidays (each for two people, to be taken in 2010) being generously provided as two separate 1st Prizes by Holts Tours - Battlefields & History. A number of cash prizes will also be drawn. Redcoats Raffle 2009 tickets will be available from early 2009, with the draw taking place during the Redcoats Society AGM on 22 July 2009.

Although the Redcoats Society continues as a flourishing and very relevant organization, with links to the current regiment as well as to its predecessors, it is nevertheless always seeking new members in order to continue its important work in support of the regimental museum at Salisbury. While past or present involvement with the regiment or its predecessors is certainly not a prerequisite for membership, anyone who is a former member of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, the Royal Berkshire Regiment or the Wiltshire Regiment, or is a Berkshire or Wiltshire member of the former RGBW, would undoubtedly gain much personal satisfaction and find much to interest him by becoming a member of the Redcoats Society. By so doing he would also be renewing and reinforcing his links with the regimental heritage, history and activities to which he contributed during his own military service. Further details of the Redcoats Society, its aims, objectives and membership benefits, and membership application forms are available from the society's membership secretary, either via the Regimental County Office (Salisbury) or from the curator of The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum at Salisbury. Alternatively, application forms can be downloaded online from the museum website.

Lieutenant Colonel David Stone

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The Victory Services Club

The VSC is an all ranks, tri Service Military Club, which is open to retired and serving members of the Armed Forces located at Marble Arch, London. Rooms vary from single to family rooms, mostly all en-suite!

For further information:

telephone: 0207 723 4474
e-mail: info@vsc.co.uk
website: www.vsc.co.uk

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Army Welfare Service

Provides professional and confidential welfare support for service personnel and their families wherever they are located. They can assist with Personal Relationships, Family Programmes, Bereavement, Youth Clubs, Debt, Bullying, Play Activities, Childcare, Holiday Programmes, Medical Concerns, CSA.

A Confidential Personal and Community Support Service

Civil: 01722 436569
Email: awis@hqland.army.mod.uk

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www.modoracle.com

Email: enquiries@modoracle.com

Northern Ireland Veterans Association
www.nivets.org.uk

* * *

MOD Service Personnel and Veterans Agency
www.veterans-uk.info

Provides high quality support services to serving military personnel, ex-Servicemen and women and their respective dependants. Pensions/Compensation - Welfare - Medals and much more. Veterans helpline Tel: 0800 169 22 77.

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The Army Benevolent Fund
www.armybenfund.org

The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) is the Army's national charity. They provide financial and practical support to soldiers, former soldiers and their families in times of need. For general enquiries Tel: 0845 241 4820.

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The Royal British Legion
www.britishlegion.org.uk

The Royal British Legion provides financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces, and their dependants. For general enquiries Tel: 08457 725 725.

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SSAFA Forces Help
www.ssafa.org.uk

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help is the leading national charity committed to helping and supporting those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve, and the families of both. They provide a reliable, caring and trusted service to more than 50,000 people each year. For general enquiries Tel: 0845 1300 975. Email: info@ssafa.org.uk

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Soldier Magazine
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

The magazine of the Armed Forces.

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Forces Reunited
www.forcesreunited.org.uk

A leading UK Armed Forces Community on the web.

MOD Reunited
www.modreunited.com

A safe and secure way of contacting past friends and colleagues.

* * *

Aden Veterans Association
www.adenveterans.org.uk

For those who may have worked or served with the Armed Forces throughout the various campaigns in Aden.

* * *

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission
www.cwgc.org

A valuable resource for those seeking information of the graves of lost service personnel from WW1 to date. You can write to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at the following: 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DX. Tel 01628 507200 for casualty information and enquiries or 01628 634221 for any other enquiries.

* * *

The National Archives
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

WW1 soldiers' records, held by The National Archives, are now available online, or you can write to the following. The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU. Tel: 020 8876 3444.

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Annual General Meeting & Council Meeting 2009

The next AGM and Council Meeting will be held at 1400 hrs on Saturday 10th October 2009 at The Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, Gloucestershire GL7 5RD

The Agenda will be circulated to Branches after the next Executive Committee Meeting (19th Mar 09).

All members are invited to attend and those requiring the Agenda beforehand should contact either County Office Gloucester or Salisbury (01452 - 522682 or 01722 - 414536).

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Managing Trustees of the Regimental Association

The Regimental Trustees, who are the Managing Trustees for the Regimental Association, are:

Col MJ Boden TD MBA LLB (Hons)
Col DAJ Brown OBE MA
Col ED Brown MBE
Brig PE O'R-B Davidson-Houston CBE BSc (Eng) MCMI
Lt Col SD Gray MBE MA
Col MS Lee-Browne CBE TD DL MA
Col SJ Oxlade MBE BSc (Tech)
Capt IG Spence
Brig MS Vine OBE

In Pensioners of The Royal Hospital Chelsea

Members may wish to know that our In Pensioners at Chelsea are:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| In Pensioner RR Davis | (WO2, R Berks 1936 - 58) |
| In Pensioner J Goodenough | (WO2, Wilts 1931 - 53) |
| In Pensioner HB Hawken | (WO2, Wilts 1932 - 41) |
| In Pensioner WA Miles | (Bdsm, Wilts 1953 - 59) |
| In Pensioner DWJ Reiling | (Sgt, Glosters 1954 - 1965) |
| In Pensioner FW Welch MBE | (WO2, Glosters 1939 - 61) |

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E-mail

We have the technology, even within the Regimental Association.

To enable ease of communication and to help us keep you up to date with regimental affairs please let your County Office have your e-mail address (and of course any changes) via:

regimental-secretary@rgbw.army.mod.uk

or

aosalisbury@the-rifles.co.uk

* * *

Regimental Websites

There are various websites connected to the Regiment. These are:

Regimental - The Rifles

www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regts/the_rifles

Glosters & RGBW Regtl Association

www.glosters.org
www.rgbw-association.org.uk

Farmersboys

www.farmersboys.com

Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

www.glosters.org.uk

The Rifles (Berks & Wilts) Museum

www.thewardrobe.org.uk

The Heart of England Branch

www.maiwandboys.co.uk

Swindon Branch

www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/paulfennell/index.phtml

Business & Services Register

Former members of our antecedent Regiments who, in civilian life, are running their own business, trade or profession are able to submit an entry into the "Online Directory of Businesses and Services Provided by Members" hosted at www.glosters.org/trades.htm thus enabling those of us seeking such a service to give first consideration to one of our former colleagues before looking elsewhere. The Directory is also linked to the official association website: www.rgbw-association.org.uk

To view businesses already listed or to add your own details go to www.glosters.org/trades.htm you will find a form to complete that will provide sufficient information for the webmaster to get your business listed on line at no cost to yourself. Members without internet facilities may have their details added to the Register by contacting County Office Gloucester.

Phil Miller

* * *

Donations & Bequests

The Managing Trustees would like to thank all those who made donations to Regimental Funds during 2008.

They are most grateful for any help given to meet the aims of the Charity.

* * *

For those who wish to leave money to the Regimental Association

Form of bequest for inclusion in a will or codicil

I give the sum of £ _____ pounds (£ _____) free of tax.

to:
the ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & WILTSHIRE REGIMENTAL
CHARITABLE FUND (Charity Registration Number 1038526)

and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer for the time being shall be sufficient discharge for the legacy.

Fund's Address:
The Rifles Gloucester Office
Custom House, 31 Commercial Road, Gloucester, GL1 2HE

Letters

Somerset Legion House, Weston-super-Mare

Phil Little and I attended the above, which is a newly built Royal British Legion Poppy Break Centre, on Beach Road, Weston for a ten day break. The Hotel was only opened in November 2007.

We had two weeks of good food and entertainment and met up with other members of the ex forces. It was the kindness of the Royal British Legion which gave Phil and I his break. I went as Phil's carer due to his walking disability.

We had a wonderful time, and made many new friends. It was a most welcome holiday, at no cost to either of us, the Royal British Legion even included free travel warrants for the two of us.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all at the Somerset Legion House, and to make other Regimental Association members aware of this fabulous opportunity to enjoy the facilities that are provided by the Royal British Legion.

Mick Webb

1 Glosters National Service 1954 - 1956

I did my National Service with 1 Glosters 1954 - 1956 serving at Reservoir Camp, Gloucester and then in Kenya and Aden. Recently I went to see my pal Peter White from Tiverton from our National Service days. This was only the second time we have met in 53 years!

I learnt from this visit that Peter and his wife both carry the British Legion Standard on Ceremonial occasions in Tiverton, Devon. They also go dancing 3 nights a week, which they obviously enjoy, and helps keep them very fit. Long may this continue!

If anyone would like to make contact from 1954 - 1956 days, then please contact Lesley at the Rifles Office Gloucester who will forward my contact details to you.

Brian Flynn

The Duke of Edinburgh's Trophy

When I was in the 4/6th Royal Berkshire Regiment in the sixties there was a competition between TA units from around the world called The Duke of Edinburgh's Trophy.

Our unit from Brock Barracks in Reading, Berkshire won it on three occasions, the last time we had to go to Buckingham Palace to receive our medals from the Duke, quite an enjoyable occasion. I still have a photo of us taken on the garden steps at the rear of the palace. One of the guys also present in the photograph I have is of a very young Pte David Chilton, who went on to be commissioned into DERR, became a Lieutenant Colonel in the RAOC/RLC, worked for General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue before retiring to become the last curator of the Museum at Salisbury.

Is this competition still being run? or has it fallen by the wayside?

I believe there are still quite a few of us left, so if anyone would like to get in contact then please do.

Bob Bishop

The Great North Run - 5 October 2008

First of all thank you to everyone who kindly sponsored me for the Great North Run, a long day but well worth it, completed the 13.1 mile in a time of 2 hrs 2 minutes and 43 seconds. I took 14 minutes off last year's time which I am over the moon about.

As you are aware my target was £500 for Help for Heroes at present I have raised just under £550 so thanks one and all.

I had moral support from Tina my wife and my good friend Maj John Lambie who spent the whole day with me (except the run of course)!

Mike "Moggy" Morgan

Captain JAC Hoole

Rob and Jilly Dixon stayed with Tony Hoole in Atlanta Georgia on a recent visit to the USA. Tony sends his best wishes to any who might remember him and still takes a lively interest in all things Gloster and ongoing military matters. His email address is jachoole@earthlink.net and he would love to hear from any old comrades he served with. He is having a brave battle against the dreaded big C but is in remarkably good spirits.

Lt Col Robert Dixon OBE

TA100 Celebrations, Berkshire

As part of the TA100 celebrations in Berkshire over the weekend of 20/22 June some 80 former and currently serving members of 7 Rifles and 2 RGBW (V) (and its former and subsequent regiments) gathered in the newly refurbished Dragon Club, Brock Barracks to celebrate that auspicious event.

On Saturday 21st there was an open day in the Barracks with a big party in the evening and on Sunday 22nd, there was a Service on Commemoration in the Minster in Reading. All events were well supported and the reunion particularly, was felt to be a success.

Maj Tom Hutton-Stott

Biathlon Fundraising event - "Scooby Doo"

Ray Peart ex 1 Glosters 1966 - 75 who many will know was injured in N. Ireland whilst serving, raised a grand total of £1,565.00 this year by ways of a Biathlon for the charity "Scooby Doo." This is the Charity for the Gloucester Baby Unit at the Royal Hospital Gloucester. He took part in a 1,000 meter swim and a 4 mile walk, on the 5th November, raising £600 from two Raffles alone. The first prize was two tickets to see Gloucester v Bristol Rugby teams play in November.

Ray over the years has raised thousands of pounds for charity and last year he raised over £2,080 for a local charity for blind children.

If you feel that you would like to donate some money to this charity then please do contact Ray on 01452 - 533839.

Once again, he was supported by Barclays Bank PLC, who matched the first £750 of the funds raised. Ray would like to express his thanks to all that sponsored him.

montpellier marketing communications group



"For anybody in business or running organisations out there in 'civvy street', please be aware that ex-Gloster Guy Woodcock heads up one of the West country's leading PR, Design and marketing services businesses, Montpellier Marketing Communications Group www.montpelliergroup.com "

Guy

Guy EC Woodcock
Chief Executive

D: +44 1242 211180
M: +44 7774 211163

Help for Heroes West Highland Way Walk 2009

Dates have now been set for the West Highland Way walk in aid of Help for Heroes. The walk will take place on the 16th - 25th May 2009. Anyone who wishes to join me and Dave Kershaw for the whole walk or for just a few legs please contact me at mj.whiffin@ntlworld.com or via the Rifles Office Gloucester.

The walk will consist of mainly camping out and 2 nights in B&B. For those attending I will forward an itinerary with details of campsites and B&B's. You can also donate on line if you wish via <http://www.justgiving.com/westhighlandwayheroes>

Hope to hear from you. Regards

Mike Whiffin

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Where are they now?

Carlyle "Blacky" Laurent (ex 1 Glosters late 1970s) is living in Cambodia and provides tours around Cambodia and Laos, Vietnam.

Tours and activities include the use of motor bikes and 4 wheel drives to participate in activities such as walking trails, bird watching, fishing and camping adventure trips.

If you wish to contact Carlyle then please do so either via email optusmagnum@yahoo.com.au or through the Rifles Office Gloucester.

Can You Help

- Mr Russ Alway who did his National Service with 1 Glosters in 1956 – 1958 is seeking any photos taken of Strovolos sub-station which was one of the guards done whilst 1 Glosters served in Cyprus in 1957.

Russ is also after copies of photos taken of a boxing competition in Bahrain c. December 1956.

If you can help at all and would like to make contact with Russ then please contact him via the Rifles Office Gloucester.

- A Mrs Kelly Nixey is searching on behalf of her grandmother for a Mr Fearnley M Gordon who did National Service with 1 Glosters around 1955 aged between 18 – 22 years old.

Her grandmothers' name at the time was Sheila Beard and she lived in Chertsey, Surrey and they became pen friends when she answered an advert in the Speedway Star. They corresponded whilst he was serving in Kenya but when he flew back to the UK in 1956 they sadly lost contact. Sheila still has a photograph of Fearnley on Mombasa Beach.

Sadly we hold no information here with regards Fearnley Gordon but thought perhaps someone may be able to advise us of his whereabouts he would be in his mid 70s now.

If you are in contact please contact the Rifles Gloucester Office and we will be only too pleased to pass any information on to Kelly.

- Ex Sgt Des Bidgway (1 Glosters 1956 – 71) is seeking a copy of the video to mark the Tercentenary of the Regiment in 1994 entitled "The Glorious Glosters Tercentenary 1694 – 1994. If anyone can help Des then please contact him via email carole.des@virgin.net or through the Rifles Office Gloucester.

* * *

We hear that

We would like to congratulate Mrs June Lennard widow of the late Maj Dacre Lennard (Glosters) on her marriage to Maj (Retd) Peter Miller RA on the 22nd September 2007 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke Bishop.

Congratulations to Mr Bernard & Rene Dimmelow who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary, having tied the knot on the 8th May 1943. Bernard who served with the Glosters in Normandy, and was a POW in Korea also celebrated his 86th birthday on the 20th May.

You will be delighted to hear that Cpl Brian Diggle, Orderly to the Duke of Edinburgh 1 DERR, 1 RGBW & Rifles has been awarded a RVM, Royal Victorian Medal (Silver), in the Birthday Honours List June 2008.

Major Chris Carter ex 1 Glosters will be commanding a company of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers with The 4th (V) Battalion The Mercian Regiment (4 MERCIAN) and will be commanding 4 MERCIAN's composite rifle company that is deploying on OP HERRICK in April 2009.

Graham Gordon ex 2 RGBW (V) and now the long suffering Museum Attendant in Gloucester celebrated his 60th birthday in April.

Maj John Stevens, MBE, 1 DERR, RGBW & Rifles has just retired a day before his 50th birthday from the army, after 32 years service.

Congratulations to Tom and Caroline Hutton-Stott who celebrated the birth of their second daughter Tamsin Isobel in August. Tom is taking up a Civil Service post in Northumberland in November and will be sadly missed after serving 23 years in the TA in Berkshire.

Marcus Dix has been given command of A Coy, 7 Rifles in Oxford.

Ben Casey is offering his services as a bugler for special occasions please contact him on Tel: 01823 256520, Mobile: 07882559458 or Email: ben.casey2@btinternet.com

Capt Ian Anderson (ex 1 Glosters) is now working in Bagdad with Ivor Wood (1 Glosters & 1 RGBW). Ian is married to Sarah and they have three young children, Millie, Freddie and Daisy. Since returning from leading a successful ascent of Everest's North Ridge in 2000, he has been working in the Middle East in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and most recently as the Country Director of ArmorGroup in Iraq.

Ray Richardson ex 1 Glosters 1954 - 57 who served in Aden and Kenya has been knighted. He also has an OBE. He was founder of the very popular car boots that sees millions of families enjoying their weekends out together. Car boots have helped to stop rubbish land fills filling up by people selling items between themselves, and they have and still do help various UK Charities.

You will be sad to hear that Mitch Mortimer (Ex DERR) is suffering from cancer, we wish him well, and hopefully responds to treatment.

Lt Col John Venus has finally handed in his uniform, after completing his tour as Deputy Commandant of Wilts ACF. That is 46 years in uniform.

Maj Doug Mortimer & Margaret have moved to Germany, They moved in December 2008.

* * *

Benevolence Thank you Letters to Rifles Offices Gloucester & Salisbury

Mrs F ...

I am writing to thank you for the generous donation towards the stairlift for my husband. We have fond memories of our time with the "Glosters". Once again thank you so much, life will be easier now.

Mr M ...

This is a thank you for a donation of £500 towards my personal circumstances, many thanks to yourselves and the Royal British Legion for helping me out in my time of need. Thank you all.

Mr W ...

On behalf of my wife who is disabled I am writing to thank you for assisting the Royal British Legion to find the funding for my wife's electric scooter (EPV). It has made her life a lot easier and she can now get out and about more. My wife and myself thank you very much again.

Mrs B ...

I would like to say a real big thank you for the kindness you have done for me. I am 81 years old and have paid my way all my life. I never thought this kindness would be shown to me. I therefore want to say a big thank you for kindness I never thought existed. It is people like you that make me proud to be British.

Mr M ...

I am writing to express my sincere thanks for the electric scooter. The scooter has enabled me to go out, go to the shops, socialise and visit friends, without having to rely on family and friends.

Mr K ...

I would to thank those concerned, for the help given to me in reclaiming my belongings, without your help I don't think I would have been able to get them back.

Mr B ...

Just a line to thank you for your help with funding for my replacement central heating boiler system. Without your help and the Royal British Legion I don't know what we would have done.

Mr H ...

I would like to thank you very much for your kind donation towards the new toilet and wash basin in my bedroom. This will be such a help to me and my carer, and make life so much easier. It's so good to know there are kind people still willing to help an old man like me. Thank you all.

* * *

THE ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE, BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE REGIMENTAL CHARITIES

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Incoming resources: | | |
| Voluntary income: | | |
| Grants - inter charity adjustment (page 8) | 974 | - |
| Subscriptions - officers | - | 1,957 |
| Subscriptions - soldiers | - | 13,044 |
| Subscriptions - retired | 140 | 170 |
| Tax refunds - subs | - | 4,235 |
| Sundry credits | 1,456 | 3,157 |
| | <u>2,570</u> | <u>22,563</u> |
| Investment income: | | |
| Bank and deposit interest | 325 | 346 |
| Investment dividends and interest | 27,720 | 32,053 |
| | <u>28,045</u> | <u>32,399</u> |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities: | | |
| Army Benevolent Fund grants | 30,956 | 43,625 |
| Grant returned to Association | 1,706 | 1,978 |
| Reunion income | 7,929 | 8,145 |
| | <u>40,591</u> | <u>53,748</u> |
| Total incoming resources | <u>71,206</u> | <u>108,710</u> |
| Resources expended: | | |
| Cost of generating voluntary income: | | |
| Estate agents fees re Kirkwood bequest | - | 996 |
| Investment management costs: | | |
| Nominee and broker's fees | 4,227 | 3,073 |
| Charitable activities: | | |
| Grants - The Rifles Charity | 410,000 | 16,500 |
| Grants - Benevolent - individuals | 42,951 | 72,127 |
| Grants refunded to Army Benevolent Fund | 940 | 1,928 |
| Grants - Branches | 1,900 | 1,700 |
| Grants - Other | - | 1,061 |
| Grants - Reunions | 13,488 | 15,683 |
| Grants - All ranks party | - | 5,000 |
| Regimental Wreaths | 977 | 1,394 |
| Annual newsletter | 6,640 | 6,000 |
| Inter Charity adjustment (page 8) | - | 1,972 |
| Travel and committee expenses | 423 | 386 |
| Printing and stationery | - | 39 |
| Postage | 700 | 805 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 1,491 | 1,364 |
| Insurance premiums | 193 | 174 |
| Advertising | 88 | 74 |
| | <u>479,791</u> | <u>126,207</u> |
| Total resources expended | <u>484,018</u> | <u>130,276</u> |
| Net outgoing resources for the year | (412,812) | (21,566) |
| Profit on sale of investments | 7,318 | 7,261 |
| Net realised expenditure for the year | <u>(405,494)</u> | <u>(14,305)</u> |

IRA: The Bombs and the Bullets

A History of Deadly Ingenuity

A R Oppenheimer

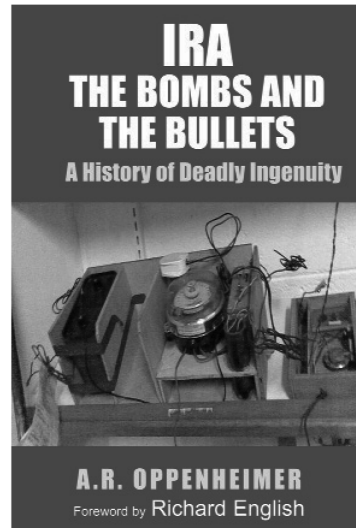
Foreword by Richard English

As a leading expert on non-conventional weapons and explosives, the author focuses on the bombs and explosives and shows how the IRA became the most adept and experienced insurgency group the world has ever seen through their bombing expertise and how – after generations of conflict – it all came to an end. The book is a comprehensive account of more than 150 years of Irish republican strategic, tactical, and operational details and analysis covering the IRA's mission, doctrine, targeting, and acquisition of weapons and explosives. Oppenheimer also colourfully presents the story behind the bombs; those who built and deployed them, those who had to deal with and dismantle them, and those who suffered or died from them. He analyses where, how, and why the IRA's bombs were built, targeted and deployed and explores what the IRA was hoping to accomplish in its unrivalled campaign of violence and insurgency through covert acquisition, training, intelligence and counter-intelligence.

The book focuses entirely on the IRA's bombing campaign – beginning with the Fenian 'Dynamiters' in the 19th century up to the decommissioning of an arsenal big enough to arm several battalions – which included an entire home-crafted missile system, an unsurpassed range of improvised explosive devices, and enough explosives to blow up several urban centres. The author scrutinises the level of improvisation in what became the hallmark of the Provisional IRA in its pioneering IED timing, delay and disguise technologies. He follows the arms race it carried on with the British Army and security services in a Long War of Mutual Assured Disruption. Oppenheimer fully describes and assesses the impact of the pre-1970s bombing campaigns in Northern Ireland and England to the evolution of strategies and tactics. He also provides an insight into the bombing equipment and guns from the IRA inventory held at Irish Police HQ in Dublin.

October 2008 288 pages illus

978 0 7165 2894 4 cloth £50.00 / 978 0 7165 2895 1 paper £19.95



To order a copy please contact Toby Harris:

T: 020 8952 9526 F: 020 8952 922 E: toby.harris@vmbooks.com

or visit our website www.iap.ie

Maiwand

The Last Stand of The 66th (Berkshire) Regiment in Afghanistan, 1880

On the 27th July the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment fought a terrible battle on the dusty plains of Afghanistan.

The battle went down in history as a disaster which effectively wiped out the regiment. 10 Officers and 275 men were lost. Their valiant fighting was an inspiration to many, from Kipling to Conan Doyle, who based Dr Watson on the 66th's Medical Officer Surgeon-Major Preston. Queen Victoria presented gallantry medals to the survivors at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. It was Maiwand and the battle of Isandhlwana fought against the Zulu's the previous year which resulted in the British Army no longer carrying Colours into Battle.

The cost of "Maiwand" by Richard Stacpoole-Ryding, in association with the Rifles (Berkshire & Wiltshire) Museum is £17.50 each (Retail at £19.99). This includes postage and packing. Offer valid until 31st January 2009 (Closing dates for Society of Friends is 30th June 2009)

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Wild Waters in The Roar

This is to advise you that Major Mike Noel-Smith (former Glosters) has published his book on rowing across the Indian Ocean - or not as the case maybe!

This is the story of two men who followed their dream of crossing an ocean and discovered the adventure of a lifetime.

Former army officer, mountaineer and film stuntman Mike Noel-Smith could not resist when his friend Rob Abernethy called him up one day and suggested the ultimate challenge - becoming the first Britons to row the Indian Ocean.

The pair took advice from expert seamen, studied weather charts, trained for months, and planned the trip down to the last detail.

However, like many before them, they discovered that the sea is a dangerous and ungovernable mistress, capable of turning from calm to lethal rage.

This is a pacey, often funny, and ultimately touching tale of courage, fear, love and bloody mindedness in the face of the unconquerable power of the ocean. Adventurous readers will wish they had been able to join Mike and Rob on their unforgettable trip, sharing every twist and turn, triumph and disaster.

A personalised signed copy (hardback) £18.99

A personalised signed copy (paperback) £9.99

Shipped within 7-10 days. All orders over £15 post and packing free.

It's called 'Wild Waters in The Roar' and is available through Amazon and Waterstones and his website www.mike-noelsmith.co.uk

**Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum
Books**

The following books about the Gloucestershire Regiment and the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, or written by members of those Regiments, are available from the Museum by mail order or in the shop, subject to availability. (HB = hardback. PB = paperback.)

The Gloucestershire Regiment

General History

| | Net Price | Prices <i>incl P&P (UK Only)</i> |
|---|----------------------|---|
| "Cap of Honour" | £21.95 | £24.95 |
| "The Gloucestershire Regiment in the War "2/5th Bn Gloucestershire Regiment 1914 - 1918 | £22.00 £14.50 | £24.50 £16.50 |

Korean War

"One Road to Imjin"

A National Service Experience by Col DE Whatmore.
PB 106 pages

£ 7.50 £ 8.25

"Imjin Roll"

3rd Edition 2001. (Limited to 500 copies)

£10.00 £11.50

"Remembered With Advantage"

A personal account of the Korean Campaign by Digby Grist.
PB 72 pages.

£ 8.00 £ 9.50

"Captured at the Imjin River 1950 - 1953"

By David Green. HB 180 pages.

£19.95 £22.50

"The War in Korea"

By Brig MG Harvey. HB 256 pages.

£17.50 £20.50

"The Edge of the Sword"

By Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley. HB 275 pages.

£15.99 £18.99

Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire & Wiltshire Regiment

"Our Laurels Are Green"

A brief history of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire & Wiltshire Regiment by Maj Gen Robin Grist. PB 72 pages.

£ 3.75 £ 4.50

The Rifles

"Regimental War Tales of The Rifles"

£ 5.95 £ 6.95

SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £5

"Imjin Roll"

"Remembered with Advantage"

"One Road to Imjin"

**Special Price for
All three books
£25.00
(UK postage paid)**

Regimental Goods

The following Regimental items are available from the Regimental Museum at Gloucester:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| RGBW Regimental Tie (silk) | £16.00 |
| RGBW Regimental Tie (non-crease silk) | £18.00 |
| RGBW Regimental Tie (polyester) | £10.00 |
| RGBW Officers/WOs Back Badge (gold wire) | £ 8.00 |
| RGBW Blazer Badge (gold wire, small) | £10.00 |
| RGBW Blazer badge (gold wire, large) | £14.00 |
| RGBW Blazer Buttons (large & small) | <i>each</i> £ 3.00 |
| RGBW Regimental Association Lapel Badge | £ 4.00 |
| RGBW Plaque (hand painted) | £28.00 |
| RGBW Beret Badge Officers/WOs | £10.00 |
| RGBW Front Badge | £ 5.95 |
| RGBW Back Badge | £ 4.25 |
| RGBW Blazer Buttons Cypher (large & small) | £ 3.00 |
| Burns Crystal Engraved with RGBW or Glosters Badge (Green Presentation Box): | |
| 2oz Square Dram Glass | £ 5.99 |
| 8oz Square Whisky Glass | £ 9.99 |
| Pair of 2oz Square Dram Glasses | £10.99 |
| Round Paperweight | £ 7.50 |
| Night-cap Decanter & Pair of 2oz Square Dram Glasses | £26.99 |
| 20oz Large Tankard | £21.00 |
| Glosters Regimental Tie (silk) | £16.00 |
| Glosters Regimental Tie (polyester) | £10.00 |
| Glosters Regimental Association Tie (polyester) | £10.00 |
| Glosters Officers' Club Tie (silk) | £16.00 |
| Glosters Officers' Club Tie (polyester) | £10.00 |
| Glosters 2nd Battalion Tie (polyester) | £10.00 |
| Glosters 5th (TA) Tie (polyester) | £10.00 |
| Glosters Blazer Badge (gold wire) | £14.00 |
| Glosters Plaque (hand painted) | £28.00 |
| Glosters Officers' Blazer Buttons (large & small) | <i>each</i> £ 3.00 |
| Glosters Blazer Buttons (large & small) | <i>each</i> £ 3.00 |
| Glosters Panama Hat Ribbon | <i>per metre</i> £ 4.00 |
| Glosters White Back Badge (metal) | £ 4.25 |

* * *

**Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum
Shop & Mail Order Price List**

Soldiers of Gloucestershire Souvenirs

| | |
|--|--------|
| Biros | £ 0.75 |
| Leather Bookmarks (red, blue, green and black) with Embossed Gold badges | £ 1.25 |
| "Glosters" Souvenirs | |
| Polo Shirts (Black) - Glosters Badge Med, Large, X Large & XX Large | £16.99 |
| Front Badge - (white metal, Glosters) | £ 5.95 |
| Back Badge - (white metal) | £ 4.25 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Back Badge - (brass) | £ 4.25 |
| Back Badge Lapel Pins | £ 4.25 |
| Gilt tie slides with cut out Back Badge | £ 7.99 |
| Gilt Cuff Links with Back Badge | £ 7.00 |
| Black Leather Key Fob with Back Badge | £ 3.99 |
| Teddy Bears with Sash (Soldiers of Glos) | £ 2.25 |
| "The Glorious Glosters" CD of the Regimental Band | £12.00 |
| "Glosters" Red and White Shoulder Titles | £ 0.60 |
| | |
| Bone China Thimbles - RGBW or Glosters | £3.50 |
| Coasters - RGBW/Glosters/Rifles | each £2.50 |
| Placemats - Glosters/Rifles | each £6.00 |
| Ice Bucket - RGBW or Glosters | £32.50 |
| Gilt Tie Slides with Back Badge | £5.99 |
| Gilt Tie Slides with Glos Front Badge (boxed) | £7.99 |
| "Loyal Toast" Jigsaw puzzle (1000 pieces) | £15.95 |
| Glosters/RGBW/Rifles photograph Frames (engraved with chosen badges) | £24.99 |
| Glosters limited edition China mug | £10.00 |
| Glosters engraved clock (quartz movement) | £38.99 |
| "A Rifles Bandstand" CD The Band & Bugles of The Rifles | £14.99 |

[Prices valid for 2009. Stock subject to availability.]

* * *

Riflemen in the Wardrobe Museum Latest Books

The following books are the latest to be added to our list, or written by members of those Regiments, are available from the Museum by mail order or in the shop, subject to availability. (HB = hardback. PB = paperback.)

| | <u>Net Prices</u> | <u>Prices</u> <i>incl P&P</i> <i>(UK only)</i> |
|---|-------------------|--|
| The 1 st Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment in the Great War by Edwin Astill. A commentary and analysis of the battalion War diary. | £ 5.00 | £ 6.95 |
| A short history of the Wessex Brigade by Colonel N.C.E. Kenrick DSO. Originally published in 1953 and issued to soldiers on enlistment. | £ 5.00 | £ 6.95 |
| The British Soldier of the First World War by Peter Doyle | £ 5.99 | £ 7.94 |
| The History (written by David West) and War Diary of the 10 th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment 1940-1944, with a comprehensive index. | £12.50 | £14.45 |
| A History of the 5th (Service) Battalion Wiltshire Regiment 1914 - 1919 by Paula Perry | £19.99 | £21.94 |

Riflemen in the Wardrobe Museum Shop & Mail Order Price List

| | |
|--|---------|
| Blazer Badges - R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW | £14.00 |
| Blazer Badges - RGBW (Small) | £10.00 |
| Cap Badges - Glosters, RGBW, R Berks, Wilts, DERR | £ 5.95 |
| Back Badges - Gloster, RGBW | £ 4.25 |
| Lapel Badge - R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW, RGBW Association, Rifles | £ 4.00 |
| RGBW Button, Large (Dragon) | £ 3.00 |
| RGBW Button, Small (Dragon) | £ 3.00 |
| RGBW Button, Large (PP Cypher) | £ 3.00 |
| RGBW Button, Small (PP Cypher) | £ 3.00 |
| Coaster - Soldier (various) | £ 1.25 |
| Coaster - R Berks, Wilts, DERR | £ 1.25 |
| Cuff Links - Gloster, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW | £ 8.00 |
| Emblazon, DERR | £22.00 |
| Key Fob - Wilts, DERR, RGBW | £ 2.00 |
| Plaques - R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW | £28.00 |
| Blazer Button, Wilts Regt (small) | £ 3.00 |
| Blazer Button, Wilts Regt (large) | £ 3.00 |
| Wardrobe Greetings Card | £ 1.00 |
| Post Card (16 different designs) | £ 0.15 |
| Framed Prints: Ferozeshah; Maiwand; Tofrek; Sgt Rogers | £21.00 |
| Unframed Prints: Ferozeshah; Maiwand; Tofrek; Sgt Rogers | £ 4.25 |
| Windscreen Sticker | £ 0.10 |
| Teaspoon DERR | £ 2.99 |
| Thimbles - Glosters, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW, 43 rd Wessex Div | £ 3.00 |
| Tie, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW (polyester) | £ 10.00 |
| Tie, Dragon Club (Polyester) | £ 10.00 |
| Tie, DERR Badge (polyester) | £ 10.00 |
| Tie, R Berks, RGBW (silk) | £16.00 |
| Tie, Wilts, RGBW (non crease silk) | £18.00 |
| Tie Slide - R Berks, Wilts, DERR | £ 5.00 |
| Medal Holder Large | £ 5.50 |
| Miniature Medal Holder | £ 5.00 |
| Cold War Warriors | £7.75 |
| Conscript at War - Les Pinner, WW2, Wilts | £10.00 |
| Last Twelve Years, R Berks Regt 1947-59 | £ 9.50 |
| Military Museum Guide | £ 12.00 |
| Our Laurels Are Green | £ 3.75 |
| Sgt Roger's Day | £ 1.00 |
| Shire - British Campaign Medals 1815 - 1914 | £ 4.50 |
| Shire - British Campaign Medals 1914 - 2000 | £ 4.99 |
| Shire - British Gallantry Awards 1855 - 2000 | £ 5.99 |
| Shire - Victoria's Wars | £ 5.99 |
| Shire - The Victorian Soldier | £ 3.50 |
| Shire - English County Regiments (NEW Nov 2003) | £ 9.99 |
| Music (CD): Classic Reserves | £ 6.00 |
| Music (CD): Air Mobile - 1 DERR Band | £ 7.50 |
| Music (Tape): Air Mobile - 1 DERR Band | £ 5.00 |
| Music (CD): Last Troop at Brock Barracks 1959 | £ 7.00 |
| Video: Mont Pincon (WW2) | £12.50 |
| China Dragons by John Hill | £16.99 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| History of the Royal Berkshire Regiment | |
| Volume 1743 – 1914 | £32.00 |
| Volume 1914 – 1920 | £32.00 |
| Private Young's War | £10.00 |
| Royal Berkshire Regiment in Pictures 1914 – 1959 | £12.99 |

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| | £150.00 | & | Over | = | Free |

THE RGBW REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION REUNION

SATURDAY 28TH & SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2009

The 2009 RGBW Regimental Association Reunion is being held at the Cheltenham Regency Hotel, Gloucester Road, Staverton, Cheltenham and Gloucester Cathedral and all members of the Regimental Association and the OCAs are cordially invited, with their guests.

The outline programme of events is:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Saturday 28th March | 1900 | Reception and Bar. |
| | 1900 | Dinner and Dance. (Cheltenham Regency Hotel) |
| Sunday 29th March | 1445 | Standard's Parade. |
| | 1500 | Cathedral Service. (Gloucester Cathedral) |
| | 1600 | March Past |
| | 1615 | Afternoon Tea (Gloucester Cathedral – Chapter House & Function Rooms) |

On Saturday evening the Reunion Dinner and Dance will be held at the Cheltenham Regency Hotel. The cost of a ticket is £20.00 per head and there will be music and dancing after the Dinner. Branches should liaise with each other regarding the arrangement and funding of coaches.

There will be a service in Gloucester Cathedral at 1500 hrs, with a March Past followed by afternoon tea (£6.00) and drinks at the Chapter House and Function Rooms, Gloucester Cathedral (All should be seated in the Cathedral by 1445 hrs).

There is limited accommodation at the Cheltenham Regency Hotel. Those wishing to take advantage of this should book early by telephoning Cheltenham Regency Hotel on 01452 – 713226. (Please state that you are attending the Reunion Function).

If you would like further information of other Hotels and local B&Bs then please contact the Gloucester Office.

Please complete the attached proforma (YELLOW) and return it with a SAE (27p) to the Rifles Office Gloucester by Monday 16th March 2009.

DEVIZES REUNION

SUNDAY 24th MAY 2009

The Devizes Reunion as agreed at the last Reunion will take place on one day only, it will consist of a Church Parade and Church Service followed by a Reunion Lunch for all ranks at the Town Hall.

All members of the Regimental Association are cordially invited, with their guests.

The outline programme is:-

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| SUNDAY 24 MAY | 1130 hrs | Church Parade |
| | 1215 hrs | Church Service at St John's |
| | 1330 hrs | Reunion Lunch at the Town Hall |

The cost of the Reunion Lunch on the Sunday is £10 per head.

We look forward to seeing you and your guest.

Please complete the proforma (GREEN) and return it with SAE (27p) to the Salisbury Office by 23rd APR 2009.

THE READING REUNION

SATURDAY 25th AND SUNDAY 26th JULY 2009

The Reading Reunion is again being held at Brock Barracks, Reading - all members of the Regimental Association, and the former Regiments' Old Comrades' Associations are cordially invited to attend. Guests are most welcome to attend the events on the Sunday.

The outline programme is:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Saturday 25th July | 1700 hrs. | Maiwand Memorial Service and Wreath laying - Forbury Gardens (<i>transport leaves Brock Barracks at 1630 hrs.</i>) |
| | 1800 hrs. | Meeting Brock Barracks. |
| | 1900 hrs. | Reunion and Supper |
| Sunday 26th July | 1100 hrs. | Cenotaph Service at Brock Barracks |
| | 1150 hrs. | March Past |
| | 1215 hrs. | Dragon Club opens Buffet and Raffle |

The cost of the Buffet Supper on the Saturday evening is £10 per head. A curry supper or salad supper will be laid on - please indicate your choice on the form. There is no overnight accommodation available.

The cost of the Buffet Lunch on Sunday is £10.00 per head. If you have anything to donate to the Raffle please bring it along.

Please complete the proforma (BUFF) and return it with SAE (27p) to the Salisbury Office by 18th June 2009.



**The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire & Wiltshire
Regimental Association**

County Offices

Gloucester Office, The Rifles
Custom House
31 Commercial Road
Gloucester GL1 2HE
(01452 - 522682)

Salisbury Office, The Rifles
The Wardrobe
58 The Close, Salisbury
Wiltshire SP1 2EX
(01722 - 414536)

Patrons

The Colonel in Chief: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
KG KT OM GBE AC QSO
HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

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Secretary: Lt Col J Denley

Salisbury Office

Lt Col ATD Lerwill OBE MA

**Branch President &
Branch Chairman**

**Branch Secretary & Standard Bearer
RGBW Regtl Association Web Page**

**Meeting Place
& Time**

BOURNEMOUTH

Col MR Vernon-Powell
Mr L Devine

Mr L Devine
Ground Floor Flat
39 Windsor Road
Boscombe
Bournemouth
BH5 1DT
(01202 - 397878)

Last Monday of every
other month (Jan, Mar,
May, July, Sept, Nov) at
the Poole Royal British
Legion, North Road,
Poole at 7.30pm.

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/bournemouth.htm

**CITY & COUNTY OF
BRISTOL**

Col FJJ Bartlett OBE
Mr DE Briggs

Mr DE Briggs
61 Shaldon Road
Horfield
Bristol
BS7 9NN
(0117 - 949 - 9732)

Third Wednesday each
month at 8 pm at the
RAFA Club,
Westbury-on-Trym.

Mr M Miller
(0117 - 958 - 3080)

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/bristol.htm

GREATER BRISTOL

Col FJJ Bartlett OBE
Lt Col JM Blundell

Lt Col RE Coleman JP
2 Heath Court
Downend
Bristol
BS16 6HG
(0117 - 956 - 5449)
colemanr1@sky.com

First Tuesday each
month at 7.30 pm. RBL
Club, Kendal Road,
Staple Hill, Bristol.

Mr VWC Dyke

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/gtbristol.htm

CHELTENHAM

Lt Col DR Dixon OBE
Mr R Mitchell

Mr TA Cull
5 Ceylon House
Princess Elizabeth Way
Cheltenham
Glos GL51 7PF
(01242 - 692416)
terryc3691@hotmail.co.uk

Last Sunday each month
at 12.30 pm. Albion
House, North Place,
Cheltenham

Mr G Hopkins
Mr S Moon

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/cheltenham.htm

CIRENCESTER

Mr R Marshallsay

Mr MG Dix
22 Eastleach
Cirencester
Glos GL7 3NQ
(01367 - 850217)
*mauricedix@btinternet.com*Last Friday of Feb, May,
Aug, Nov at 8 pm at
Cotswold Club,
Watermoor Road,
Cirencester, Glos*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/cirencester.htm***DEVIZES**Col MR Vernon-Powell
Mr CN ParfittCapt DMR Fielding
11 Kempsfield
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 5AX
(01380 - 727281)
*wiltshire.acf@virgin.net*First Thursday of Jan,
Apr, Jul, Oct at 8.15 pm
at the Conservative Club,
Devizes.**DEVON**Gen Sir John Waters
GCB CBE JP DL
Lt Col TG OngleyLt Col TG Ongley
Rowdens
Totnes Road
Ipplepen
Newton Abbot
Devon TQ12 5TN
(01803 - 813588)TBC by letter 4 times
per yearMr F Ford
Mr L Prior
*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/devon.htm***FOREST OF DEAN**Maj LA Ramsden MBE
Mr K KerleyMr AJ Mowatt
Arundel
Lansdown Walk
Bream
Gloucestershire
GL15 6LG
(01594 - 564899)
*aj.mowatt@btinternet.com*Last Tuesday each month
at 12.00 pm at The
Fountain Inn, Parkend.Mr WR Whiffin (Glosters)
Mr D Hardy (RGBW)
*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/forest.htm***GLOUCESTER**Lt Col HR Gilliver MBE
Mr RJ NealeMr RJ Neale
25 Sandalwood Drive
Hempstead
Gloucestershire
GL2 5XD
(01452 - 424504)
*r.neil052@btinternet.com*Third Monday each
month at 8 pm. Naval
Club, 18 Commercial
Road, Gloucester.*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/gloucester.htm***THE HEART OF ENGLAND**Mr J Terry
Brig G Coxon CBEMr N Hickman
20 Marmion Park
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 8BB
(01827 - 64528)
*nichickman@msn.com*First Saturday each
month venue TBC. &
Quarterly in Mar, Jun,
Sep & Dec. At the Royal
British Legion Club,
Aldergate, Tamworth,
Staffs.
*www.MaiwandBoys.co.uk*Mr N Nickman
*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/hofengland.htm***ISLE OF WIGHT**

Mr A Williams

Miss Karen Draper
2 Hope Mead
Langbridge
Newchurch
Isle of Wight PO36 0NP
(01983 - 865664)Fourth Wednesday Jan,
Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov
at 7.30 pm at Newport
RBL.*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/iofwight.htm***LONDON**Col DC Munn MA
Mr SA Mercer MBEMr DA Tomlinson
20 Baston Road
Hayes
Kent
BR2 7BE
(020 - 8462 - 8769)First Friday each month
at 7.30 pm at The Ives
Lounge, The Royal
Hospital, Chelsea.*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/london.htm***NEWBURY**Maj PT Dunn
Mr CC GreenMr JA North
Ferndown
19 Sanden Close
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0LA
(01488 - 683591)Last Thursday each
month at 8 pm at the
RBL Club, Newbury.*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/newbury.htm***READING (RGBW)**

Mr DE Smith

Mr DE Smith
1 Halpin House
Part Lane
Riseley
Nr Reading
Berkshire RG7 1RX
(01189 - 889888)First Tuesday each
month at 7.30 pm at the
Dragon Club, Brock
Barracks, Reading.*www.rgbw-association.org.uk/readingrgbw.htm*

READING (DERR)

Capt SP North

Maj CP Dobson
28 Long Mickle
Little Sandhurst
Berkshire GU47 8QW
(01344 - 779461)

First Thursday each
month at 7.30 pm at the
RBL Arborfield,
Berkshire

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/readingderr.htm

READING (R BERKS)

Lt Col RB Paddison
MBE DL
Mr RA Povey

Mr DJW Allen
32 Orkney Close
Popley 2 Estate
Basingstoke
Hants
RG24 9AR
(01256 - 466852)

First Tuesday each
month at 7.30 pm at the
Dragon Club, Brock
Barracks.

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/readingrberks.htm

SALISBURY

Lt Col VH Ridley MBE
QGM
Maj NJ Walker

Mr WR Dunscombe
36 Sling Road
Bulford Camp
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 9AR
(01980 - 556289)

Quarterly, at the end of
Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct at
different venues.

Mr JEB Burton (DERR)
Mr RW Giddings (Wilts)

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/salisbury.htm

SEVERN

Mr WH Bayliss

Mr AGS Knipe
39 The Hollygrove
Quedgeley
Gloucestershire
GL2 4UX
(01452 - 728823)
stanknipe@tiscali.co.uk

Quarterly at different
venues.

Mr K Attwood

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/severn.htm

SOMERSET

Lt Col MJR Motum
Mr J Bishop

Mr PA Miller
45 Coleridge Gardens
Burnham on Sea
Somerset TA8 2QA
(01278 781592)
somerset@rgbw-association.org.uk

Quarterly, Last Sunday
Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct at
12.00 pm RBL Club, 15
Castle Street, Bridgwater,
TA6 3DD

Mr D Bowman

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/somerset.htm

STROUD VALLEYS

Maj DL Hudson
Mr GFJ Wicks

Mr S McBryde
9 Beale Close
Bussage, Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 8DF
(01453 - 885513)

First Tuesday each
month except January at
8.00 pm at the
Conservative Club,
Stroud.

Mr S McBryde

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/stroud.htm

SWINDON

Mr CM Snee
Mr P Mallinson

Mr CM Snee
"Lahurne"
14 Wanborough Road
Stratton St Margaret
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN3 4HQ
(01793 - 829205)
Colinsnee@tiscali.co.uk

First Friday each month
at 8 pm at the Navy
Club.

Mr R Francis (RGBW)
Mr P Bracegirdle (DERR)
Mr A Keys (Wilts)

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/swindon.htm

TEWKESBURY

Mr AA Franklin

Capt GD Smart
Lilac Cottage
Corse Lawn
Gloucestershire GL19 4NB
(01452 - 780303)

Second Thursday, each
month (except August) at
8 pm. The Royal British
Legion Club,
Tewkesbury.

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/teWKesbury.htm

WARMINSTER

Maj GRA Pickford TD
Mr A McKechnie

Maj GRA Pickford TD
2 The Paddocks
Pettridge Lane
Mere
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 6DG
(01747 - 860198)

Last Thursday Jan, May
and Sep at 2 pm at
Warminster Town
Football Club.

Mr J Case

Mr AJ McKechnie

www.rgbw-association.org.uk/warminster.htm

WEST WILTSHIRE

Mr T Watton BEM
Capt WH Sherman

Mr S Shaw
5 Burnett Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 0QA
(01225 - 769927)

Mr C Gunning
www.rgbw-association.org.uk/westwilts.htm

WINDSOR

Col RC Manders MBE
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Mr P Langford
75 Greenfields
Maidenhead
Berkshire SL6 1BB
(01628 - 621516)

Mr P Langford
www.rgbw-association.org.uk/windsor.htm

Association Contacts**Birmingham**

Mr JE Shorter
43 Kintyre Close
Ruberry
Birmingham B45 0HZ

Marlborough

Mr A Gray
114 High Street
Marlborough
Wilts SN8 1LT
(01672 - 515530)

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5th BN WILTS REGT

Mr AJ Mowatt
Arundel
Lansdown Walk
Bream
Glos
GL15 6LG
(01594 - 564899)
aj.mowatt@btinternet.com

Bi-Monthly on the last
Saturday of the month at
the Wesley Road Club,
Trowbridge, Wilts.

Second Thursday each
month at the Grenadier
Guards Club, Windsor.

Major Jim J Loftus, MBE TD

Major Jim Loftus was born in Kinsale, Ireland on 5th May 1920. His father served in The Connaught Rangers but in 1922 the family moved to England, where Jim attended St. Brendan's School in Bristol.

At the start of World War Two, Jim was already a young Sergeant in The 2nd Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment. He was sent to France as part of The British Expeditionary Force. As the Nazis advanced, Jim and his unit was ordered to cover the evacuation of British Forces to Dunkirk at Cassel. As a result of his actions at Cassel he received a Mentioned in Dispatches award.

His unit destroyed two enemy tanks before he was taken prisoner. He spent the remaining years of the war in nine various Prison Camps. He did not allow himself to be persuaded to sit back, but continued his 'Bolshy' attitude towards being a prisoner, particularly by non cooperation with the Camp Guards. This fact resulted in him being kept confined to a cell in solitary confinement for a year due to his unbreakable spirit.

After the war he continued with his service with The Gloucestershire Regiment and became the Depot RSM at Reservoir Camp, Gloucester where I first met him in 1947.

In 1960 he was demobilised and within one day he had joined The Territorial Army. During his TA Service he rose to the rank of Major and in 1979 he received the award of the MBE for 'Service to the Armed Forces'.

Jim never let the grass grow under his feet; he was a keen gardener and kept one of the best allotments at Downend, Bristol not far from where he and his family lived.

He was a Patron of The Royal British Legion at Staple Hill, served as Chairman to the local branch of The Gloucestershire Regimental Association and was an enthusiastic member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. In addition, for many years he was involved with The Dunkirk Veterans.

Jim was married to Brenda in 1947; they had two sons, David and Michael and had four Grandchildren.

Jim sadly passed away on 22nd March 2008. At his funeral, there were many moving tributes. Canon Roy Harrison, who conducted the service, said: "I have known Jim for over 42 years and found him to be a man who cared about others, a man who used his life to the full", and Major General Robin Grist said: "Major Loftus was a very good regimental soldier".

Lt Col Ron Coleman

Derrick C Richards, BEM

In today's world, the description 'Hero' is used to such an extent as to demean the true meaning of the word. Many have been described as heroes but with the passing of Derrick Richards, we lose one of the few remaining real heroes who served this country in the Korean War. A war fought without the media coverage we have come to accept as the 'norm', with incidents and actions appearing on our television screens as they happen. Many, but not all, will remember the action fought by the Glosters at what has become known as the Battle of Imjin River.

Derrick Richards originated in Plymouth, Devon and first joined the army in 1945, just as the Second World War ended, enlisting into the Grenadier Guards. He served as a Grenadier

Guardsman for two years and was then volunteered to join the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders for operations in the then Palestine. Sadly, a number of British servicemen lost their lives in Palestine during 1946/47 as Jewish settlers fought a terror campaign to establish the Country of Israel. Soldiering in Palestine at this time was no picnic. Derrick completed his army engagement in 1948. However, the start of the Korean War in 1950 offered another opportunity for adventure for those seeking more than a humdrum life and the army introduced an engagement titled the K Force volunteers, offered to those who were seeking active service but had no wish to soldier in a peacetime army. Derrick immediately joined as a K Force volunteer and joined the Gloucestershire Regiment as it sailed for Korea.

At the famed Battle of Imjin River Derrick was a member of the defence platoon protecting the Battalion Headquarters, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Carne who was to receive the Victoria Cross (VC) for his leadership during the five-day battle.

Derrick Richards, along with over five hundred others became prisoners of war in the hands of the Chinese. The story of the prisoners march northwards to the border with China, marching twenty to twenty five miles each night so as not to attract the attention of UN aircraft is an epic in itself. Food was short, and when it came was only a handful of boiled rice. Water was that which was found in the roadside ditches and puddles.

Once the prison camps were established, the officers were segregated from the junior ranks, as were the sergeants and warrant officers. Prisoners then faced endless days as the Chinese attempted to indoctrinate them. A few considered escaping but the thought was quite daunting. There was over three hundred miles to cover before any escaper could expect contact with UN forces, three hundred miles of mountainous terrain, hostile civilians and Chinese and Korean forces. Facial features also meant that any European escaper stood out like a sore thumb. Derrick Richards did escape and avoided recapture for no less than twelve days, eventually being caught when coming across a group of Koreans he could not avoid. He then suffered an unimaginable sixty-three days imprisoned in a wooden cage, which he called his dog kennel. The dimensions of the cage were such that it was impossible to either stand up or lay down and had a width, which prevented one lying on one's side. No other escaper managed a greater length of time on the run and no other prisoner suffered such a length of time in the kennels.

On his release, he once again became involved in escape activities; other would be escapers drawing on his experiences whilst on the run.

In recognition of his exemplary conduct whilst a prisoner Derrick Richards was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM). Many of those who served with him and were witness to his courage and conduct in the prison camps are of the opinion that the award of a BEM failed to reflect Derrick Richards contribution to the morale of his fellow prisoners and that he deserved far greater recognition. When we talk of heroes let us think of Derrick Richards.

Derrick completed his K Force engagement at the conclusion of the Korean War and returned to civilian life. Still looking for adventure he emigrated to Canada, however after the death of a close friend in an industrial accident he returned to Gloucestershire where he became a successful businessman, founding his own haulage and crane hire Company in the Forest of Dean."

Derrick leaves a widow, Joyce, and two children, David and Sarah. Our sincere sympathies are extended to them. They, and we, have lost a great man.

Major Leslie A Ramsden MBE

Major Nigel Craig Richardson

Major Nigel Craig Richardson who died at the age of 64 on 4th July 2008 was born in Aberporth to a Father serving in the Royal Artillery. He was educated at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate and the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester.

Following his studentship at Cirencester his fascination for the Army resulted in Nigel being commissioned into The Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1964 and subsequently into The Gloucestershire Regiment a year later.

He saw service principally in Aden as Platoon Commander in 1965, Berlin as Intelligence Officer in 1967, and the Army Youth Team in 1970. He completed training at Lympstone for Operations Officer to 42 Commando on Ark Royal in 1975, then Belize, on secondment to the Sultan's Armed Forces in Oman in 1977, Company Commander in Munster in 1979 and five tours in Northern Ireland.

Following retirement in 1982 he married Christine and together they went into business forming an Export House acting as a representative for principals in The Middle East specializing in selling oilfield equipment. Joined by his brother Clive, formerly a Gloster, the following year, the Company expanded and is still in business. A couple of years after this business was formed they started a restaurant which was managed successfully for four years. On selling this business Nigel bought a house with some thirty-five acres near Cerne Abbas which included four fishing lakes.

More recently he left the business to devote his time to management of the farm and development of a pedigree sheep breeding flock.

His family was greatly impressed by the support shown by the regiment at his funeral and Nigel is survived by Christine.

Capt Clive Richardson

Eric Alexander Vicary

Eric discovered a lifelong relationship with the Royal Berkshire Regiment when he joined up with friends in Wokingham on the outbreak of war in August 1939. Initially inducted into the 4th/6th Battalion but as the Regiment grew, he was posted to the Motor Transport Platoon of the 6th Battalion with whom he remained throughout the War as it was deployed from Northern Ireland to the Orkneys and finally Dover Castle where he was demobbed in 1946.

Though now a "civvie" he remained in touch with Old Comrades through the Windsor Branch of the Regimental Association becoming firstly an energetic member and ultimately it's Secretary. He brought to the post an infectious enthusiasm, an eye for detail and a generous nature. To the end his thoughts were with and for the Branch: in the final days of his life, Eric was still planning the annual Tofrek Dinner! Nothing was too much trouble for Eric. Letters to be written, trips for the Branch members, dinners to arrange, all done without a hitch or fuss: but then, Eric was a self effacing man.

His wife, Joan, whom he had married in 1943 had pre-deceased him in January this year and it is believed that, Eric died eventually, in Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot on 14th April, of a broken heart. A small Memorial Service was held in the Windsor Branch by the Reverend Bryan Pugh who accurately summed Eric up: "you meet a man or a woman in the street who simply makes you feel better after you've met them, Eric Vicary was such a man".

John Baugh

Alf Willey was born in South London in December 1918 became a Cabinet Maker by trade and as a gifted young footballer had trials with QPR. He enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment at Brock Barracks in 1939; he was posted to the 1st Battalion and moved with it to France on 24th September. Six months later he was evacuated from Dunkirk in May 1940. The Battalion then sailed for India with 2nd Infantry Division, with whom it had been with since the start of the War, and settled at Stud Farm, Ahmednagar. In January 1943, the Battalion took part in the costly 1st Arakan campaign before the Battalion returned to Ahmednagar.

Retraining took Alf to Belgaum in Southern India from where, in April 1944, the Battalion moved forward again this time to the Assam/Burma border and into the Battle for Kohima. Alf Willey was, by now, the Assault Pioneer Sgt and found himself in intimate support with his home made 'pole charges' of Major Frankie Boshell's B Company's counter attack through the Field Supply Depot and up Lone Tree Hill to forestall the Japanese exploitation of a breakthrough.

Upon relief, the Battalion moved to Kuki where Alf, as Assault Pioneer Sgt, produced ablutions out of 50 gallon oil drums cut in half, sufficient to 'wash' the Battalion after 15 extraordinary days in perpetual combat. Before the Battalion left Kohima, Alf built a Memorial to those who fell in the battle

Alf Willey was a Battalion character. He was captain of the Battalion Football team, a comic who would entertain the Battalion at the rare concert parties with a variety act of jokes, limericks and songs. Following demob in 1946, this talent served him well in later life as an excellent after-dinner speaker able to keep the diners amused with his anecdotes. He never bothered with cars and was always seen out and about in Windsor on his push-bike. He founded the Windsor Branch of the Regimental Association and remained its Chairman for 40 years.

Alf Willey died in Windsor in May 2008.

John Baugh

Derek William Williams

Derek William Williams, a true Isle of Wight "Caulkhead", died suddenly at home on 6th October 2008. Following boys' service at IJLB Oswestry, Derek joined 1 DERR in Malta in 1961, spending his whole service in Recce Platoon. He left the Army in Germany in 1967 and moved back to the Island, becoming the RBL Standard Bearer for Ventnor Branch and later for the County, often representing it at the Royal Albert Hall Festivals of Remembrance. He established the Isle of Wight Branch of the Regimental Association and became its Secretary, having persuaded his older brother, Alan, to become Chairman. Derek leaves behind his wife Helen and sons James and Shaun.

Lt Col David Chilton

JMA Allen, 1 Glosters 1945 - 47
C Apperley, 1 Glosters & 1 RGBW 1980 - 02
FWH Avery, 5 & 7 Glosters 1936 - 47
DJE Bailey, 1 Wilts 1952 -
RJW Baldwin, 1 RGBW & 5 Rifles 2001 - 08
AL Beaumont, R Berks 1940 - 46
KD Blackmore, 1 Glosters 1966 -
RPR Blandford, 1 DERR 1951 - 77
LR Bolton, 1 Glosters 1956 - 59
E Brown, R Berks
Capt C Bulmer, R Berks 1944 - 48
MD Burgess, 1 Glosters & 1 RGBW 1987 - 95
MDC Clancey, 1 DERR 1964 - 73
DBG Clarke, 1 Glosters 1956 - 58
Lt Col RE Cole-Mackintosh OBE, Devons, Glosters & Int Corps 1947 - 79
JWC Collins, 1 Glosters 1950 - 54
DG Corner, R Berks 1955 - 57
TP Crawley, 1 Glosters 1955 - 57
JJ Crisp, 1 Glosters Korea
CA Crittle, Wilts Regt
G Crossman, Glosters & R Hamps 1944 - 52
B Davin, 1 Glosters 1960 - 69
Maj J Devaney, 1 DERR & RAPC
DF De Wilde, R Berks 1946 - 48
SE Dunn, R Berks, Wilts, 1 DERR & 1 Glosters 1948 - 1970
CR Edwards, 1 Glosters, 1 RGBW & Rifles 1986 - 08
VH Edwards, 7 & 2 Glosters 1943 - 47
C Edworthy, 1 DERR 1964 - 85
RD Emmons, 1 DERR 1968 - 72
FD Ewington, Wilts Regt
J Fishlock, 1 Glosters 1950 - 1952
GN Folley, 5 Glosters & 43 Recce 1940 - 46
A Fox, R Berks 1957 - 59
M French, 1 DERR 1987 - 89
JHS Gardner, 2 Glosters 1940 - 46
T Gardiner, R Berks 1952
CHR Garner MBE, 5 Wilts 1942 - 47
Capt AS Gaunt, 1 Glosters, Cheshire & 1 WFR 1952 - 78
CPF Griffiths, R Berks
R Grimes, 1 Glosters Korea
T Groves, Wilts Regt 1951- 53
DTJ Haines, R Berks
K Hammond, 1 Glosters 1955 - 58
SW Hampton, 2 Glosters 1940 - 46
WW Hanson, Wilts Regt
TM Harding, 1 Glosters 1954 - 56
SR Harvey, Wilts Regt 1943 - 47
Maj JLS Houghton TD, Glosters 1957 - 62
Maj JB Henderson, 1 Glosters 1953 -
Lt DVQ Henriques, 1 Glosters 1948 -
EG Higgins, R Berks 1955 - 57
MA Hinton, R Berks 1954 - 56
GH Hodges, 5 & 7 Glosters 1938 - 46
HA Hood, Wilts Regt
RFE Humphreys, R Berks
RW James TD, R Berks 1936 - 45
EP Jones, 5 Wilts
PW Jones, 1 Glosters 1978 - 90
B King, 2 R Berks 1936 - 46
TC Kirton, R Berks 1942 - 47
HE Lawrence, 2 & 1 Glosters 1938 - 55
LW Lewington, 1 R Berks 1948 - 53
Maj JJ Loftus MBE TD, Glosters 1938 - 60
AK Long, Glosters TA 1959 - 62
2Lt AJ Lucking, 1 Wilts 1945 - 47
RHS Mason, 2 Glosters 1940 - 46
MJ Morgan, 1 DERR & 1 RGBW 1986 - 94
GE Newhouse, 2 Glosters, 1 Wilts & 1 Glosters 1937 - 1953
PD O'Brien, R Berks 1954 - 59
CTN O'Driscoll, 1 DERR 1964 - 70
AG Palmer, 1 Glosters 1954 - 56
J Parker, Wilts 1933 - 45
AH Perkins, 1 Glosters 1946 - 54
Capt PWA Petty, R Berks
Maj HJ Pike MBE, 1 Glosters & RAOC 1944 - 75
L Pinner, Wilts Regt 1940 - 46
HG Ponsford, 1 Glosters 1947 - 59
IT Poulson, 1 Glosters 1956 - 58
R Price, 5, 7 & 2 Glosters 1939 - 46
DC Richards BEM, 1 Glosters 1950 - 54
Maj NC Richardson, 1 Glosters 1964 - 82
H Roberts, Glosters 1940 - 46
JT Robinson BEM, Glosters 1939 - 46
A Rogers, R Berks
GS Sherriff, Wilts Regt 1944 - 46
AJ Smith, 5 R Berks & 2 Glosters 1944 - 47
T Sysum, 1 Glosters 1971 - 76
JV Varney, Glosters 1940 - 53
MJ Venn, 1 Glosters & ACC 1961 - 70
EA Vicary, R Berks 1939 - 46
AF Webb, Wilts Regt 1924 - 32
AC White, Wilts Regt
Maj RH Wilkins, 1 Glosters 1942 - 45
AG Willey, R Berks 1939 - 46
D Williams, 2 Glosters 1945 - 48
DW Williams, 1 DERR 1961 - 67
RL Wintle, 5 & 1 Glosters 1946 - 58
BDP Witcher, Wilts Regt 1940 - 46
AW Wood, 1 Glosters 1955 - 57
P Worsley, 1 Glosters 1954 - 56

The Regimental Collect

Eternal Father, whose service is perfect freedom, grant that we, Thy servants of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, may ever stand back to back courageously against all evils that beset us, thus upholding the high traditions entrusted to us, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

* * *

The Rifles Regimental Collect

O Almighty God the sure stronghold of each succeeding age, guard us your servants of the Rifles. That we may uphold and be worthy of the great traditions bound up in our former Regiments, and as we were chosen to be swift and bold may we seek with courage your grace in every time of need and so be patient and persevering in running the race that is set before us. This we ask through Jesus Christ, your son our Lord. **Amen.**