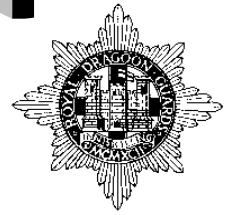


# "OUT & ABOUT"



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



**01904 642036**

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

**FEBRUARY 2009**

My predecessor has brought you up to speed on the Regiment's first-rate performance in Iraq in previous newsletters and thus I won't repeat that story, rather I will attempt to give you a feel for what's been going on since July 2008.

## **Arms Plot**

After 18 months of intense activity the Regiment is now settled in Catterick and enjoying a period of relative calm. Whilst regiments such as ours conduct arms plots relatively routinely, moving from Munster to Catterick immediately following an operational tour was always going to be a challenge, and is not an experience we would wish to repeat. Nevertheless, the move went exceptionally smoothly and we are now settled firmly in North Yorkshire, only an hour's drive north from one of our principal recruiting areas.

## **Recuperation**

Notwithstanding the small matter of an arms plot, the Regiment has enjoyed a period of recuperation which ended on 4 Jan 09. By recuperation I mean that, on the whole, the chain of command has left us alone to: catch-up on career courses; conduct low-level individual training; participate in numerous sporting competitions and adventure training expeditions; and take numerous long weekends/periods of leave – in order to ensure our collective batteries are recharged prior to the training year which commenced on 5 Jan 09 (more of which later).

**Sport.** Whilst a number of sporting 'gladiators' have participated at representative level (Corps, Army and Combined Services) the focus has been at squadron and regimental level. And the highlight was very definitely the Inter-Squadron sports week in early Nov 08 where the following prizes were awarded:

- Volleyball (Steinfair Cup) – B Sqn.
- Orienteering (Steward Cup) – D Sqn.
- Swimming (Walton Cup) – B Sqn.
- Water-Polo (Cambridge Cup) – PoW Sqn.
- X-Country (Scissors Cup) – D Sqn.
- Hockey (Clay Cup) – B Sqn.
- Football (Jack Warner Cup) – B Sqn.
- Rugby (Urnerboden Cup) – A Sqn.

Watching soldiers from across all 5 squadrons playing water-polo (for example) was a sight I will never forget. Of the 50 or so competitors, only about 10 had ever played water-polo before, but the remaining 40 got stuck-in and the competition was fierce. And this spirit was evident across the board. It was a wonderful week and one we hope to repeat

in 2009. Finally, on the sporting front, we held a regimental boxing night in Dec 08, where we were privileged to witness a truly outstanding evening's boxing as 18 members of the Regiment fought bravely and indeed skilfully. It was a thoroughly 'regimental' evening,

held on the last 'working' night of 2008 – the perfect end to what has been an outstanding year.

**Adventure Training.** Numerous soldiers from across the Regiment have participated in some form of adventure training. A number have travelled to California to complete a freefall parachute course, and others have competed at the Kiel regatta, to name but a couple of the regimental expeditions. And we sent 2 winter sports' teams to Austria: one to ski and the other

to snow-board. Finally, a team of 13 soldiers participated in the Official Mountain Marathon (OMM) in the Lake District in October 2008. The OMM (billed as the "premier UK event to test teamwork, self-reliance, endurance, outdoor and navigational skills") was a huge success and the RDG team raised significant money for a colleague of the Regiment's who was severely wounded in Iraq. A photo of two RDG soldiers also made page 3 of the Daily Telegraph as they recounted their experiences following the most ghastly weather conditions seen by the Lake District in decades.

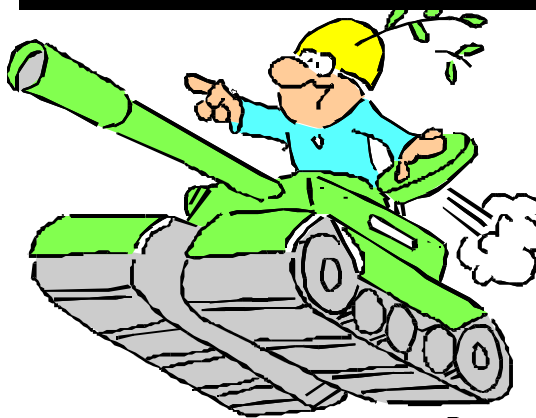
**Parades.** The Regiment has participated in 3 parades of note since July 2008

## **Clarence House Medal Parade**

The Colonel-in-Chief presented Op TELIC (Iraq) campaign medals to 100 members of the Regiment following their return from Iraq. The Regiment marched from Wellington Barracks, up the Mall and into Clarence House on a blisteringly hot afternoon. Huge crowds cheered as the Regiment made its way, dressed in desert combats, into the gardens of Clarence House, where a number of wives and children were waiting to watch as the Colonel-in-Chief spoke individually to each and every soldier on parade that day whilst presenting them with their medal. Following this, the Colonel-in-Chief hosted all on parade at a garden party where he circulated amongst the soldiers and their families whilst listening to tales from the tour.

**Freedom of the City of York.** The Regiment exercised its freedom by forming-up at York Minster and then marching through the streets of York with swords drawn, bayonets

## **COMMANDING OFFICERS NOTES**



**LT COL JSA CARR-SMITH**

fixed and the band playing. It was a truly memorable day and one those on Parade will never forget. Whilst we were in fact simply exercising our freedom of the city of York, it felt more like a *'the good citizens of York would like to show their appreciation to RDG soldiers who we know have just returned from Operations'* type parade, as the streets were literally packed with thousands of well-wishers, and one could really sense that all those marching behind me had grown an inch with pride. And then, in the afternoon, we returned to Catterick for an Open Day aimed principally at the Regimental Association, friends and families before ending the day with a Beating Retreat prior to each of the Messes hosting individual parties.

**Homecoming Parade in Belfast.** Belfast City organised a parade – for the first time since 1946 – for Irish soldiers in the British Army to march through the streets of Belfast. No doubt some of you will have seen coverage in the national press marking this historic occasion, but 30 Irish RDG soldiers participated in the parade. Whilst I was sadly not there to witness it, I'm told the reception given to all on parade was similar to that which we experienced in York but on a much grander scale; there were about 25,000 well-wishers lining the streets and our boys literally couldn't hear the band playing only a few yards in front of them due to the immense vocal cheering and general support of the crowd.

A number of soldiers have commented to me that they have never felt so valued by the general public, and parades such as those mentioned above are absolutely vital if we are to get out there and persuade young mothers that their sons should join an organisation such as ours.

### **LIVING IN CATTERICK**

Whilst inevitably there were some who were sad to leave Germany the majority are now delighted to be based in Catterick. There are many positive aspects to living here (closer to family and friends, increased job opportunities for spouses etc) but the one I wish to touch briefly on is the soldiers' single living accommodation. All RDG single soldiers now have their own rooms complete with en-suite shower-rooms. The facilities are quite literally first-class and very definitely viewed as retention positive. It is also worth mentioning we are now subject to Whole Fleet Management (WFM); that is to say (for example) A, B and D Sqns each hold 4 x Challenger 2 (rather than 14) and C Sqn holds 8 x Scimitar (rather than 14) on the tank park here in Catterick, and the plan is that we receive an increase to our holdings prior to critical training activity. There are pros and cons, of course, to such an arrangement, but WFM is here to stay and thus we are best to embrace it and make it work for us.

### **MANNING**

Whilst there has been the inevitable flurry of Notice to Terminates (NTT) following an operational tour and then an arms plot, the RDG manning situation is not unhealthy, particularly when viewed against other units in the Brigade and indeed across the RAC. We are currently -25 set against an establishment of 405 RDG soldiers. Rest assured though, we are far from complacent. The aim has to be full manning and nothing less is acceptable.

Now that we are based in Yorkshire we must make the most of exploiting the opportunity to recruit yet more soldiers from an area which has been very fruitful for us over the years, and is now but an hour's drive to our south. I have set in place a number of new initiatives – all which compliment my predecessor's manning plan – one of which is to affiliate each of the ACFs to our 5 squadrons, and another is to 'divide' Yorkshire into 3 and then affiliate each of these areas to a sabre squadron and affiliate Northern Ireland to the remaining sabre squadron. This will enable each of the squadrons to more actively engage – and contribute to – the critical activity of recruiting.

### **WHAT NEXT?**

And so enough of the past, what about the future? Well – like every other Regiment in the British Army – we remain an operationally focused organisation: the minute one returns from one operation, so preparation for the next commences, and already we are focused on deploying on operations in 2010. 4 Mechanized Brigade is just waiting to hear to where we will be deployed, but all the indicators point to Afghanistan; although I must stress this has yet to be confirmed and we will, undoubtedly, experience the inevitable 'on the bus/off the bus' shenanigans associated with being warned off for one theatre, and then all of a sudden something happens to change that decision. Anyway, fingers crossed for Afghanistan.

But regardless of theatre, the headlines for 2009 are as follows: annual firing at Castlemartin in March; field training in Canada in May-July; and then Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) will commence in the Autumn as we prepare for whatever 2010 throws at us.

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### **CAPTAIN OATES MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2009**

This year's Memorial Service will be held once again in the Royal Hospital Chapel, Chelsea. Members wishing to attend, and all are welcome, should plan to arrive at 1030 hrs. We are planning to parade with the Pensioners at 1040 hrs prior to the Church Service which will begin at 1100 hrs. Medals may be worn. There will be ample car parking in the Royal Hospital grounds. Following the service, there will be a cash bar in the 'In Pensioners Club', followed by lunch, at a cost of £7.00 per head. Please book in for lunch with HHQ.

### **COMBINED CAVALRY PARADE WEEKEND 9/10 MAY 2009**

This year's Combined Cavalry Parade in Hyde Park will take place on Sunday 10 May at 1100 hrs. Medals are required. We have limited Seating Enclosure tickets available, but preference must be given to those with mobility difficulties. The Standing Area has been extended within the secure compound, enabling families and guests to attend the service behind the Regimental detachments on the grass around the bandstand. Access to the area will be by three entry points, established at each end of the Serpentine Road, and from the Broadwalk. The Serpentine Road entrances close promptly at 1055 hrs, however the Broadwalk entrance will remain open at all times. Tickets for both Standing and Seating Enclosures are available from HHQ on a 'first come first served basis'. It is very much hoped that we will see you all once again, following the wonderful support shown in recent years. Members are advised to arrive early (by 1030 hrs) in order to clear the various security checks, which will doubtless be in operation. This particularly applies to those in the standing and seated enclosure areas. I

have been asked by the Chairman of the Combined Cavalry Committee to remind those marching that they should not carry cameras, bags or boxes.

### **COMBINED CAVALRY REUNION & LUNCH 10 MAY 2009**

The Combined Cavalry Reunion and Lunch will be held in the Carisbrooke suite of the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street. The Club is situated in the heart of Marble Arch. A buffet lunch will be available and will allow members to circulate and enjoy the company of friends and comrades more readily than the past 'sit-down by table' format. We also arrange for those attending to be met with a drink on arrival rather than forming a long and frustrating queue. Naturally, we need to plan for specific number so would those wishing to attend please complete the proforma at the end of the Newsletter. The cost of the Reunion/Lunch will be £5 per person.

### **ASSOCIATION AGM AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Annual General Meeting will take place in London, venue to be confirmed, at 1230 hrs on Saturday 9 May 2009. A Committee Meeting will follow this. Non-Committee members wishing to attend the AGM should notify HHQ who in turn will inform attendees of the venue once confirmed.

### **CAPTAIN OATES MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2009**

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#### **THE KEITH ZABELLI MEMORIAL GOLF TROPHY (ZAM'S TROPHY)**

1 April 09, is the closing date for this years Zam's Trophy, which is being held at Catterick Golf Club on Friday 26th June 2009, cost £40 for the day. If anyone would like to sponsor any part of the day i.e. Longest Drive or Nearest the Pin, please let me know, this will allow us to hand over more to Zam's Charity. I received a lovely email from Zam's wife Chris last week thanking us for the photograph of last years winner with the trophy taken at Dorset Golf and Country Club. The quality of the photo taken by Jock Campbell was first class showing the inscription clearly and Chris remarked on the touching words. I hope this years event will be well supported especially with the Regiment on the doorstep. In order to estimate numbers, please register your interest by contacting Mr A Kurlandzki, 4 School Croft, Westwoodside, North Lincs. DN9 2FD.  
Tel: 01427 754139. Email: a.kurlandzki@btinternet.com

#### **GRAND MILITARY RACE MEETING FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2009 AT SANDOWN PARK**

1st RACE 2.15 p.m. (Gates open 12 noon approx.)  
Concessions at £14.50 for a Member's Badge (Club Enclosure) and Car Pass are offered to serving and retired Military personnel and families, organised parties and regimental and club tents. Tents could be shared (apply in advance). Coach Park, Space For Tent/Marquee, Public Car Park, Creche for children aged 5 and under – are all free on the day.  
Please apply with payment and stamped addressed envelope as early as possible (and not later than Saturday 28 February) to: Christopher Marriott, 9 Market Place, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7HL Tel: 01367 242422. Although car passes are included in the concessionary price, they are separate items, so please specify the number required. Cheques payable to: Grand Military Race Committee.  
General enquiries to: Christopher Marriott Tel: 01367 242422, Fax: 01367 242317, Mobile 07970 749658

### **Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps Old Boys' Association**

Did you serve with the Junior Leaders at Bovington between 1952 – 1993? Many ex Boy Soldiers, ex Junior Leaders and ex Junior Bandsmen along with ex Permanent Staff of all ranks are joining the Junior Leaders' Regiment, RAC, Old Boys' Association. The object of the Old Boys' Association is – "To bring together in true comradeship and friendship, those who have served in the Boys' Squadron and Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps". Join the Association now to receive further information about next year's reunion event.

The Junior Leaders' Regiment, RAC, Old Boys' Association is to become an official organisation on 1 March 2009 with a Constitution and elected Council of Management. HQ DRAC and Armour Centre Staff have given their full support for the formation of the Association. Maj Gen David Rutherford-Jones, currently Commandant RMAS, is the President of the Old Boys' Association with Col (Retd) John Longman as Vice President. The Chairman of the Association is Lt Col (QM) Stewart Burman MBE. Vice Chairman – Mr John Fisher. Secretary – Mr Geoff Armstrong. Webmaster – Mr Paul Trow. Recruiting and Publicity Officer – Mr Andy Shaw. Memorabilia Sales Manager – Mr Matty Cairns. Regimental Secretaries Association Liaison Officer – Capt Chris Sayer MBE. Golf Officer – Mr Alex Kurlandzki. Committee Members – Mr Richard Pearce, Mr Chris Gryzelka and Mr John Welchman.

Hundreds of former Junior Leaders are sharing their memorable experiences and photos of their time at Bovington on our board of forums. There is a huge level of interest and enthusiasm amongst ex boys and ex permanent staff in using the medium of the internet to get back in touch with their old comrades. Our numbers are growing daily as news of the Association and forthcoming reunion spreads far and wide. Members can register with the forums via our website now to catch up and find out what it's all about. A Reunion Weekend 4 – 6 September 2009 will be held at Bovington Camp.

Thanks to our unique domain name and website, ex boys and ex PS form all around the World are able to find us easily and join our Old Boys' Association. Why not visit the website to check out the history of the Regiment and our Roll of Honour. The website is also our portal to the Association's Board of Forums. [www.jlrrac.co.uk](http://www.jlrrac.co.uk) – Email: [admin@jlrrac.co.uk](mailto:admin@jlrrac.co.uk) or write to: JLR RAC Old Boys' Association, Centurion House, Park Road West, Huddersfield, HD4 5RX.

#### **4/7DG NATIONAL SERVICE**

Clive Fenn-Smith (National Service and AER 1952/7) writes:- It has occurred to me that, before we all fade away, it might be rather fun to have some kind of occasion for officers commissioned into the 4<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> during their National Service. I was thinking in terms of lunch, probably in London in the spring of this year. The question is whether the idea appeals to anyone else. If, as I hope, it does, I should be very pleased if they would contact me to express interest in principle, either by email, Clivefennsmith@btinternet.com, or telephone, 01264 810715, as soon as possible so that I can assess its viability.

#### **THE MOD DEFENCE DISCOUNT SCHEME FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Apply for your free copy of the Defence Directory now! Send your name and address to: Veterans Department, Crest Publications Ltd, 20 Moulton Park Office Village, Scirocco Close, Northampton NN3 6AP. This is the only official and free discount scheme for veterans and their families. If you can access the internet you will find 1,000s more discounts on line at [www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk](http://www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk)

#### **OBITUARIES**

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

- Mr D BALCKWOOD, (Des) 4/7DG, 1960 – 69, 17 Milton Road, Orgill, Egremont, Cumbria,  
who died 25 December 2008
- Mr R CARR, (Archie), 5 INNIS DG, 1935 – 48, 22 Lucas Court, Northampton Lane North, Moulton, Northants,  
who died 8 August 2008
- Mrs E COLTHORPE, (Elizabeth), Fairwinds, 2a The Mount, Tollesbury Maldon, Essex,  
who died 5 January 2009
- Mr HAD DOWNTON, (Henry), 4/7DG, 1953 – 55, Windsor Lodge, Hall Lane, Knapton, Norfolk,  
who died 27 September 2008
- Mrs Z DUNBAR, (Zara), Well Farm Cottage, Well, Long Sutton, Hampshire,  
who died 27 September 2008
- Mrs S EDMENSON, (Sybil), 2 Badshot Park, Badshot Lea, Farnham, Surrey,  
who died 5 December 2008
- Mr M GARNEY, (Matthew), 4/7DG, 1961- 78, 20 Avnue, Parade, Accrington, Lancashire,  
who died 14 April 2008
- Mr F GOMERSALL, (Frank), 4/7DG, 1940 – 45, 39 Foundry Road, Yapton, Sussex,  
who died 14 May 2008
- Mr A GREGSON, (Alan) 4/7DG, 1944 – 48, 24 Statham Street, Derby, Derbyshire,  
who died 5 April 2008
- Capt J HERRIOTT, (John), 4/7DG, 1947 -68, 21 Deerdale Way, Binley, Coventry, Warks,  
who died 17 November 2008
- Mrs L LEAVEY, (Lesley), 30 Pembroke Gardens Close, London,  
who died 25 August 2008
- Mrs W SWAIN (Winnie), 'Rowincroft', 2 Waltham Road, Rayleigh, Essex  
who died 12 January 2009
- Col JMHR TOMKIN MC DL, (Mike), 5 INNIS DG, 1939 – 60, The Red House, Wissett, Halesworth, Suffolk,  
who died 30 July 2008
- Capt NS WIDE MC, (Nick), 4/7DG, 1942 – 47, 22 Davenport Road, Felpham, Bognor Regis, Sussex,  
who died 10 August 2008
- Mr C WALFORD, (Charles), 4/7DG, 1948—50, Originally of Leeds and latterly of Whitby and York,  
who died in April 2008
- Mr RG WRIGHT MM, (Ron), 5 INNIS DG, 1940 – 46, 23 Sewell Road, Norwich, Norfolk,  
who died 20 September 2008

#### **HELP FOR VETERANS**

If you have ever served in the Forces, for any length of time, you are entitled to a wide range of help and support from the MOD, other government departments and ex-Service organisations.

The Veterans-UK website ([www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)) is your one-stop shop to find out about the help available to you. It is run by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (which is an agency of the MOD), and includes information on: The War Pension and Armed Forces Pensions schemes , How to access your service records , Compensation , Who can apply for a veterans lapel badge , Medals , Welfare support.

There are also links to the ex-Service charities and organisations in your area. You can also find out about all these services by calling the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's free helpline on 0800 169 2277.

**ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA  
FOUNDERS DAY 4 JUNE 2009**

Tickets will again be in very short supply and we do not know as yet how many we will receive. Please bid to HHQ for a ticket and we will issue initially to those who have not been before and then on a 'first come first served basis'. Full dress rehearsals will be held and seating for the rehearsal may be arranged by telephone, in early March, to the Royal Hospital Events Department 020 7881 5303. Normally, there are no restrictions for seats at the rehearsal. Parking will not be available.

**HELP - B SQN 5 INNIS DG 1946**

Apparently, B Squadron of 5 INNIS DG produced two Newsletters in Itzehoe in 1946 and articles were included by Hal Jordan at that time. Sadly Hal no longer has copies of these but would dearly like them. Apparently, and to jog your memories, one of the articles was on the subject of Tiny Wootton. Anyone who may be able to help please contact Hal on Tel: 01922 475474

**CREULLY CLUB**

This years Remembrance Service at Fort Henry, Studland Bay will take place at 1100 hours on Saturday 4th April. There will be a Remembrance Service at the D Day Memorial at Lepe Country Park Hampshire at 1100 hours on Sunday 5th April. Lepe is near Stanswood Bay which was the embarkation location for 'B' and 'C' Squadrons of the Regiment for the D Day landings, this year being the 65th anniversary. There will be the annual Pilgrimage to Creully for the Memorial Service 5th-9th June. The Annual Reunion, AGM & Remembrance Parade will be 7/8 November at Marlborough, Wiltshire. Further information on Studland Bay, Lepe and the Annual Reunion and details of the Creully Club may be obtained from Cecil Newton, 1, Grasshills Lane, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 2EH Tel.: 01672 540356. Email jcnwton@freeuk.com. Further information can also be obtained from the Creully Club website www.creullyclub.freeuk.com. Information on the annual Pilgrimage to Creully to be obtained from The Regimental Secretary, Home Headquarters.

**LONDON AND SOUTH EAST BRANCH**

Greetings, the Branch has been very quiet since the last Out & About. Our meetings are thin on the ground with the average age of 70. We are like an old peoples' home and you can guess which one is (Victor Meldrew). The highlight of the year was our Christmas Lunch at the Union Jack Club. The quality and price was excellent. I can recommend to all, especially those who use the Cavalry & Guards Club. Entertainment was provided by Mr Lou Tickell who played his organ. We were represented by our Chairman at the opening of the New Museum in Enniskillen by the Duke of Westminster. A great day was had by all. To all members of the RDG Association, 'A Happy New Year'. Branch Meetings at British Railways Club, Selhurst will take place on 2 April, a summer lunch in August and the AGM on 1 October. Old and new members always welcome. Enquiries to PB England, 59 Guards Close, Towngate Wood Park, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3RT Tel: 01732 352138

**NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH**

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

**THE 5 INNIS DG OLD COMRADES REUNION**

A Reunion Weekend (our tenth) will be held in Blackpool from 24—27 April 2009. Further information and group details from Mary Liquorish, 95 Birch Tree Drive, Off Drapers Lane, Hedon, East Yorkshire. HU12 8FH. 01482 893255 or email [MLiquorish@aol.com](mailto:MLiquorish@aol.com).

**5 INNIS DG NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

**CUMBRIA BRANCH**

The Cumbria Branch Dettingen Social will be held on Saturday, 4 July 2009, in the Royal British Legion, Workington, commencing at 19:30 hours. Tickets are £12 each and will be available shortly from Marty Burdon (01900-602559) or Roger Bright (01900-604680).or [roger@bright188.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:roger@bright188.fsnet.co.uk). Would anyone requiring accommodation please arrange it through us, to enable us to co-ordinate with local hotels and make suitable arrangements for transport, where applicable.

**YORK BRANCH**

We are always pleased to see new faces so anyone interested in the Branch and it's functions please contact Barrie Grimshaw on 01909 726362, email [mandb1009@talktalk.net](mailto:mandb1009@talktalk.net), or by writing to 11a Calf Croft, Whitwell, Worksop, Notts. S80 4UE.

**OXFORD BRANCH**

Dates for our Branch Meetings at Oxford UOTC are, AGM Monday 9 March at 1930 hrs, Branch Socials on Monday 11 May and Monday 14 September 1930 hrs. The annual Blenheim Dinner will take place on Friday 27 November 2009. Any one in the area on any of these dates is welcome to join us. Just call me, Jack Bellinger, 01865 730303. Both Audrey Sell, Treasurer, and Jack Bellinger, Branch Chairman for the last 15 years, are retiring in March and the Association's sincere thanks are extended to them both for their loyal service throughout the period of their office.

**WEST YORKSHIRE BRANCH**

The next Social is the St Patrick's Day Reunion on Saturday 21 March at the Irish Centre, York Road, Leeds, LS9 9NT. Tickets are £10 in advance from Joe Monks or £12 on the night which includes entrance, entertainment, a free prize draw and buffet. Send your cheque made payable to 'WEST YORKS OCA' (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to: Joe Monks, Casa Anjo, 2 Jean Avenue, Temple Newsam, Leeds LS15 0HX. Tel: 0113 216 4384 email: [joe.monks@sky.com](mailto:joe.monks@sky.com). The Irish Centre is approximately 2 miles east of Leeds City centre on the A64 York Road. Accommodation requirements are varied according to individual budgets and available in the city to match every pocket. We look forward to seeing

you all on the night and can assure you of meeting a lot of WARM friends, gallons of COLD cheap beer and plenty of HOT air from those days when we were the Hero's. All new members wishing to join us should register their contact details with the Secretary who is John Speers (01274 652 345) or johnbev@speers4.fsnet.co.uk We welcome contact from ex members of both our illustrious regiments as well as ex and serving members of our successor The Royal Dragoon Guards when in the West Yorkshire area.

## **5 INNIS DG SOUTHERN BRANCH**

Steve Hunt and John Walker would like to thank all those who attended the weekend meeting. Next weekend gathering will be 20/21 November in Oxford. If interested please contact John Walker on 01865 863235 for further details.

### **ARMED FORCES DAY 27 JUNE 2009**

Armed Forces Day honours the outstanding contribution made by current members of the Armed Forces and by veterans of all ages. Held on the 27 June, the day will be an opportunity for us all to join together to pay tribute to our Armed Forces past, present and future. On the day itself, and in the weeks leading up to it, events will take place across the country, ranging from national and regional celebrations, to dozens of local events organised by councils, ex-Service organisations, community groups and schools.

John Hutton, Secretary of State for Defence, said: *Members of the Armed Forces and veterans are of all ages and backgrounds, reflecting the diverse nature of Britain today. Current members of the Armed Forces show professionalism and dedication both at home and abroad, often working in the most challenging of circumstances. Veterans have honoured their commitment to defend our country's interests in Service, and are now valuable members of their local communities. With the establishment of Armed Forces Day, the 27 June is a chance to honour the achievements of the Armed Forces yesterday and today.*

Chris Simpkins, Director General, Royal British Legion said: *The Royal British Legion applauds the introduction of Armed Forces Day and we will lend our fullest support to events celebrating the achievements and contribution of the Armed Forces people past, present and future.*

#### **Who are Veterans?**

A veteran is anyone who has served in HM Armed Forces at any time (including National Servicemen and Reservists), irrespective of length of service.

#### **What's the difference between Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Sunday?**

The focus of Armed Forces Day is on celebrating both the past and the continuing contributions of our Armed Forces and veterans. The intention is that Armed Forces Day will become as familiar and respected as Remembrance Sunday, which remembers and honours those who died serving their country.

#### **Armed Forces Day Chatham 2009**

The Historic Dockyard Chatham has won the competition to host the first national Armed Forces Day event on 27 June 2009, which will be complemented by hundreds of events in towns and cities across the UK. The Dockyard is set in the heart of an area rich in military and Defence history. Tens of thousands of Service men and women have served, passed though, or retired here, or as civilians have worked for the Royal Navy in the Royal Dockyard or for other naval establishments on the Medway.

Admiral Sir Ian Garnett KCB, Chairman of the Chatham Historic Dockland Trust, said: *It is both an honour and a privilege for The Historic Dockyard Chatham, in the heart of Medway, Kent, to be the venue for the UK's first National Armed Forces Day. With over 400 years of military history, we are looking forward to arranging a family event that will recognise the many achievements of today's Armed Forces and veterans.*

Plans for the event are still being finalised, and will include:

- Have-a-go displays and activities with the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force
- Free entry to Medway attractions for Veterans Badge holders and current members of the Armed Forces
- Celebratory peals of bells from the Churches of Medway
- Fly-pasts and aerial displays.

Armed Forces Day grants can be applied for by event organisers up to 31 March. Interested parties should contact the Armed Forces Day Project Team for help and guidance or view the Armed Forces Day website. Funding is not available to MOD units. Tel: 020 7807 8212 or [armedforcesday.org.uk](http://armedforcesday.org.uk)

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### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN REJOINING YOUR REGIMENT?**

Were you discharged in the last five years and are you missing the variety and challenge of Army life and the excellent sense of family that exists within your Regiment? Do you wish to do something worthwhile in the company of men that think on the same wavelength and to whom one can trust one's life? Do you wish to deploy on Operations in 2010? Does your employment offer the same sense of reward and friendship in civilian life? If you would like to consider rejoining the Regiment, please contact us with a view to returning; you will be welcomed back by old friends in the same way that many others have already been welcomed back. If you are interested in rejoining your Regiment, please contact the Regimental Careers and Management Officer (RCMO) on 01748 875252 or write to Capt K McConaghy, The Royal Dragoon Guards, Alma Barracks, Ava Road, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks. DL9 1AQ or email him at [rdg-rhq-rcmo@mod.uk](mailto:rdg-rhq-rcmo@mod.uk). Alternatively visit your Local AFCO.

### ARMY v NAVY RUGBY MATCH TWICKENHAM

This rugby match for the Babcock Trophy is the premier event in the Military Calendar and its popularity with the public grows annually. Last year, despite considerable global commitment the event attracted a crowd of over 50,000; and this year are hoping to increase attendance to 55,000. The Army v Navy day at Twickenham is proving particularly popular as an event around which people can arrange a reunion. The regiments and corps are prime examples, but we also get a high proportion of families, rugby club members and supporters, and groups of old school friends all choosing to gather at what we consider to be 'more than just a game'. We are proud that the day is very much a family event; special rates for children, families and groups are available. The event is also the finale of the National Emerging Schools Rugby Festival. Gates open at 1145 hrs. Combined Services U23 v England Students 1200 hrs. The HSBC Schools Rugby Festival 1330 hrs. Live entertainment including the Band of HM Royal Marines 1420 hrs. Army v Navy 1500 hrs. Booking Hotline 01252 334415.

### REGIMENTAL SECRETARY'S FINAL NOTE

As many of you will be aware, I am retiring in April of this year and feel that I owe an awful lot of people an awful lot of thanks! Having served since 1960 it is now time to hang up the reins. During that time and since becoming Regimental Secretary in 1987 I have been immensely and gratefully impressed by the comradeship, common decency and the genuine Regimental family spirit of our Regiment(s). The outstanding leadership of successive Colonels of the Regiment, the support of our Officers, SNCOs and Other Ranks have truly made the Regiment what it is today and my grateful thanks to them all. The support and dedication from our Association officials, many and various trustees and branch officials has been overwhelming and again deeply appreciated. I have been very fortunate during my tenure as Secretary to have enjoyed high quality staff at HHQ and in particular Alan Henshall who is tireless in his support of the Regiment and all things Regimental. This year will also see the retirement of Major Noel Santry as our Chairman and Captain Stuart Hopper as Treasurer. Noel joined the Army in 1957 and served until 1983. He became a trustee in 1985 and was appointed Chairman of the Association in 1998 following the sad and sudden death of Major Michael Dangerfield. Stuart, who is also Vice Chairman, was appointed Treasurer of the Association in 1992 and will be handing over his duties to Major Don Willson. Grateful thanks to them both for their unselfish and time-consuming dedication to the Association and the wider Regimental family. My successor as Regimental Secretary will be Major Peter May who will be well known to many of you. I know that you all will give him the support and encouragement that has been afforded me over the years. He is an excellent choice and I know that he will give you outstanding service in the years ahead. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to you all. Fare Thee Well, Quis Seperabit.

John Etherington

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Grand Military Race Meeting 6 Mar 09	Creully Pilgrimage 5/9 Jun 09
Oxford Branch AGM 9 Mar 09	Keith Zambelli Golf Competition 26 Jun 09
Captain Oates Service Chelsea 15 Mar 09	Armed Forces Day 27 Jun 09
West Yorkshire Social 21 March 2009	Cumbria Branch Dettingen Social 4 July 09
London & SE Branch Social 2 Apr 09	London & SE Branch Lunch TBC Aug 09
Studland Bay Remembrance Service 4 Apr 09	JLR Old Boy's Reunion 4/6 Sep 09
Lepe Country Park Remembrance Service 5 Apr 09	Oxford Branch 14 Sep 09
Blackpool Reunion 24/27 Apr 09	London & SE Branch 1 Oct 09
AGM & Committee Meetings Chelsea 9 May 09	Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey 5 Nov 09
Cavalry Memorial Parade 10 May 09	Creully Club Reunion Marlborough 7/8 Nov 09
Oxford Branch 11 May 09	Regimental Officers Dinner 26 Nov 09
RH Chelsea Founders Day 4 Jun 09	Oxford Branch Blenheim Dinner 27 Nov 09

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### COMBINED CAVALRY REUNION LUNCH 10 MAY 2009

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please book me in for the reunion/Lunch. I enclose cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to 'HHQ RDG' (£5 per person)