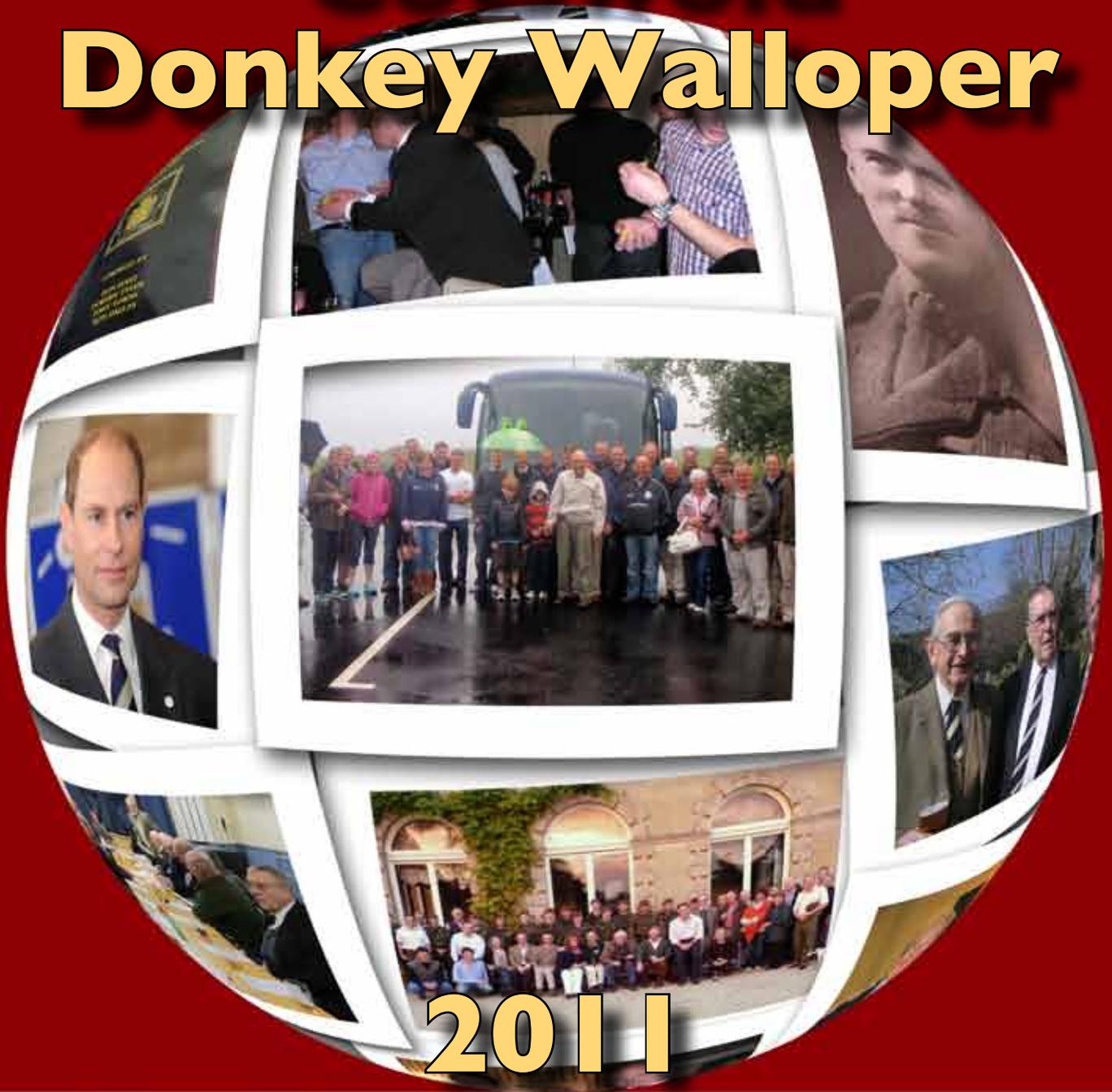




Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association
Cotswold Branch

Cotswold Donkey Walloper



2011

www.rghya.org.uk

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Cotswold Donkey Walloper March 2012

the Journal of



Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association Cotswold Branch

President: Colonel The Duke of Beaufort MFH

Vice-President: Lt Col The Lord de Mauley TD

Chairman: Lt Col Lance Ranson TD

Vice-Chairman: Major The Hon Alexander E. S. Bathurst

☎ 07778 945 643 ✉ alexander@achievership.co.uk

Sqn Liaison: Captain Philip Mitchell

☎ 01242 510196 ✉ mitchpj@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Geoffrey Stephenson

✉ stevestephenon@tiscali.co.uk

Committee: Members:

Wayne Edney; Ian Stockwell; Jason Ford

Secretary: John Tyror

☎ 01453 752326 ✉ johntyror@hotmail.com

Website: www.rghya.org.uk

Facebook Group: Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association (Cotswold Branch)

Regimental Royal Honorary Colonel: HRH The Earl of Wessex KG KCVO ADC

Regimental Honorary Colonel: Lieutenant General Sir Richard Shirreff KCB CBE (Late KRH)

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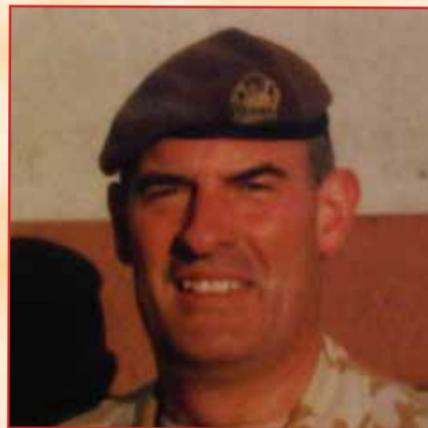
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Introduction

The current deployment of fourteen members of C (RGH) Squadron to Afghanistan highlights the dedication and professionalism of our Yeomen and I know that their attachment to our affiliated Regiment the King's Royal Hussars will be challenging and demanding. Our thoughts are with them and they all have the fullest support of the Association. As ever the Association greatly values our close relationship with the Squadron and we know that they will adapt to their evolving role as the TA moves even closer to directly supporting the Regular Army.

I am pleased to confirm that there have been a number of very positive developments in the RGHYA and I am very grateful for the hard work of the Cotswold Branch committee members and the support of Association members. The evolution of the Association to incorporate the former area branches is progressing well and I believe that this will improve communication and help to ensure that our various events and reunions are fully supported. I am particularly grateful for the energetic support of Alexander Bathurst and the very effective work of John Tyror on this newsletter and on our superb new website. Philip Mitchell has also been invaluable as a point of contact with the Squadron and he has also done a fantastic job managing the RGHYA PRI shop. As ever we should all be grateful for the



role that Geoffrey Stephenson has performed and these developments would not have been possible without his many years of support for the RGHYA.

I would also like to thank the advertisers who have so generously agreed to help sponsor our journal.

One of the key events in the RGHYA calendar is the El Gubi Service each November at Badminton Church. Our Padre Reverend Christopher Mulholland has conducted this

Service for many years and it is excellent to see this being supported by over 150 people including several of our WW2 El Gubi Veterans from 2nd RGH. The Service also highlights our close relationship with our Association President Colonel The Duke of Beaufort MFH and the Duchess of Beaufort and we are very grateful for their support and hospitality.

This newsletter includes an article on Pate's Grammar School CCF who are cap badged RGH and wear our unique brown beret. We are very proud of this affiliation and I hope that all Pate's Cadets will feel welcome to attend RGHYA events in the future. Several Pate's Cadets recently met our Regimental Royal Honorary Colonel who was briefed on their involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Thank you all for your support of the RGHYA and I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.

Lance Ranson - RGHYA Chairman

Museum Views

Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, is a joint venture between the then Gloucestershire Regt. and the RGH was opened in the old Custom House, in Gloucester Docks in 1990. It has been awarded commendation as a 'small' museum' and has had some excellent special exhibitions, commemorating such things as National Service and Northern

Ireland. Recently the new Korean gallery was opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester. However we are conscious that the overall museum needs a revamp. To this end, over the last year, a team of our trustees and members, led by Col. Stephen Oxlade have been putting together a Heritage Lottery Grant application for a considerable sum to introduce more technology into the displays. We will find out if this application is to go to the next stage of an incredibly protracted process in March. We hope it will and if it does we will need to find £70k ourselves to show our resolve in support. If all goes to plan, this will increase the viability of the museum for the next few years.

However we do not want to rest on our laurels in these uncertain economic times and the Trustees have decided to carry out a feasibility study into how best to secure our long-term financial security. There are both threats and opportunities around at the moment but we are exploring a vision to dramatically increase the scope of our museum to make it more attractive and interesting to a much wider audience beyond our own two regiments. It is important to bring it up to date with recent and ongoing military operations. We are looking at bringing in the whole military heritage of Gloucestershire from Iron Age forts, The Romans, the 100 Years War, The Civil War, The Glorious Revolution, all the wars and areas of the world our regiments have fought in and include the



contribution the RFC and RAF have made to the County. GCHQ and the defence contractors who have been central to The Gloucestershire economy will also be approached. The Koreans have expressed an interest in our plans as they are looking for an opportunity for further expansion in the UK and the word Gloucesters means something to them.

In short we are going to carry out a feasibility study to see if it is possible to expand our museum into a major tourist attraction for the County. We are conscious that many of our supporters have associations with regiments other than our own and we are keen to be more inclusive of them, without diluting the core SOGM contribution.

If you are not yet a member of the Friends I encourage you to become one. This will keep you notified of developments and other exciting events we will be planning throughout the year in support. A Newsletter is published twice a year and we have a well-established series of Autumn Lectures attracting well-known speakers, such as Martin Bell, Kate Adie, Nicholas Soames as well as distinguished generals. We have, in February, had an 'Evening with Sir Max Hastings' when the plans for the Museum were announced.

Annual membership is £10 and Life membership is £100; this is about to double in the next financial year; but if you mention 'Donkey Walloper' in your application you will get membership at the lower price. E-mail me, at ralph.stephenson@virgin.net for application.

Ralph Stephenson - Museum Trustee and Chairman, The Friends of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum.

www.sogm.org.uk

The Association Year 2011

7 March, Meeting held at The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

Approximately 35 members and guests turned up for this meeting, which began at 7pm with a half hour reception where lots of old friends were greeted.

It was good to see, among others, Harry Jones and Ian Hollister and also Colin Durham and his wife. Apologies to anyone who I have missed mentioning.

Several members of the serving Squadron attended and we hope that they feel they were made welcome and that it was worthwhile them making the effort.

Jan Evans was able to recruit four potential new Association members who were in attendance, these were: Ursula Ali, Tony Hall, Clayton Bond and Matthew Gardiner.

We must admit, that we were all very pleasantly surprised by the large number of members and guests who came along, although this gave rise to a certain amount of concern that the refreshments laid on would prove inadequate. As it turned out, there was enough to go around.

Col Rollo Clifford then took us all on a quite fascinating tour round the RGH parts of the museum. Because of his knowledge and involvement with the museum, as well as showing us the larger items on display, he was also able to point out the interesting little pieces that one could so easily miss.

The tour lasted about 45 minutes and then it was back up to the Boardroom, where thanks were given to the Curator for opening up especially for us and to Col Clifford for his talk and tour.

Then, Steve Rice's Raffle was drawn. There were £25 of prizes. After the raffle, a few notices were read out, the remainder of the drinks were polished off and the assembly then dispersed at about 9.30pm. Raffle Ticket sales raised £61 so; after prizes were paid for we were left with £36. Whilst our Chairman, very generously donated the food and drink.

Since that meeting, the committee has voted to donate the sum of £50 to the Museum as a token of thanks from the Association.



25 March, RGH Lunch. Held at The Eliot Arms, South Cerney.

On a glorious Spring day, we met at the Eliot Arms for our Lunch. when our party consisted of: Andy Beard, Geoff Stocks, Mrs Eileen Stocks, John Tyror, Mrs Lynn Tyror, George Evans, Mrs Anne Evans, Geoffrey Stephenson, Eric Debenham, Harry Jones, Mrs Daff Jones, Adrian Pearce, Mrs Marg Pearce, Martin 'Fritz' Freeman, Bill Ponting, Gordon Jones and his daughter, Kate, The Hon William Russell, Marc 'Smudge' Smith and his good lady, Rupert De M and John Lewis.

It was a real get together of the old and bold. The venue that Andy Beard and Eric Debenham had chosen was, everybody agreed, just about ideal. We had our opening drinks in the riverside garden, on what was a warm Spring afternoon. The half hour preamble soon turned into one hour, as old friends chatted with even older friends and the ladies in the party didn't seem to get too bored by hoary old war stories.

We sat down to lunch at 1.30. Andy had organised so that whilst everybody ordered what he or she wanted from the menu as they arrived it was all served at the same time. What can one say, the food was varied and well cooked and the service was very good. The atmosphere around the table was very congenial; I think I even heard some laughter! After the meal, we all retired once more to the garden,

where more drinks were supped and more memories shared.

Harry Jones suggested that the next Lunch be held in Majorca. Perhaps a little too far to drive for lunch, but worth thinking about.



14 June, Meeting at the Conservative Club in Stroud

We held this at the Conservative Club in Stroud, where we are always made to feel welcome.

Advertising for the event must have worked well because we had a superb turnout of about 35 members and guests for the evening in attendance and it was good to see so many old faces, and even better to see some new ones there.

The meeting proper began at about 7.40 pm with the reading of relevant notices about trips to 40th Anniversary, Normandy Battlefield tour, etc, before L/Cpl Rachel Clayton, a serving member of C Sqn, gave us a talk about her experiences on Operation CORTEZ in Afghanistan in 2010.

We all found it a fascinating and well-presented slide show and talk, and, judging by the number of questions that people asked at the end of her presentation, it had obviously been followed very closely and with great interest.

As several members commented to me, 'it wasn't like that when I was in'. I think they were referring to the fact that today's TA doesn't 'play soldiers'. But then, thinking back quite a while, the old TA sometimes didn't 'play soldiers', either.

After the talk, the evening continued with drinks and conversation, and the Buffet and Raffle. Unfortunately, our stalwart 'Raffle-Organiser-In-Chief', Steve Rice has had to resign from our Committee due to work commitments. His place was taken, for the evening, by Ian Stockwell, who I must say, did a wonderful job of it. He sold £75 worth of tickets, which more than covered the cost of the buffet and prizes.

The meeting concluded at about 9.30pm.



17 June, Ladies Midnight Walk at Cirencester in Aid of Cotswold Care Hospice

After publishing an appeal from the Sqn for help with marshalling this event. I felt it only right to put my name forward.

I duly turned up at Deer Park School for 8pm on Friday 17 June. Where following a briefing and being allocated a place from which to marshal, I was in position (in my case, outside the TA Centre gates) by 21.30 hrs. The ladies started their 5-mile circuit at 22.00 hrs (they walked round it twice to achieve their 10-miles).

The marshals job was to ensure the security of the participants at all times. Each marshal was in sight of the ones on either side and we were a mixture of Army, professional marshals and volunteers.

We were on the course until about 0100 hrs in the morning when the last walkers and their official back marker went through. It was then a case of hand in any kit and get off home. The walkers had a disco and entertainment laid on at the finish but I have no idea how long this went on for.

Had there been more volunteers, I suppose that the charity would not have had to pay out for professional marshals from the money they raised from the walkers' sponsorship.

2 September, Ladies Midnight Walk in Gloucester

Once again, an appeal was sent out to Branch members for volunteer marshals, this time in Gloucester, to help with the Cotswold Care Hospice Midnight Walk and gratifyingly, there was a 300 per cent increase in the response from the Association. Volunteers included Brian Griffiths, his wife and myself to help out. Capt Mitchell and eight or so members of the Sqn.

It was a really pleasant evening spent just directing several hundred young (and not so young) ladies round a 10-mile route. All for a good cause of course.

I read in the local press that this event raised approx £17,000 - Well done ladies!

14 September, Meeting at Cirencester TAC

This meeting was arranged specifically so that members in the Cirencester area would find it easy to get to. The arrangement seemed to work quite well, and it was good to see again, Charlie Walker and Ron Pearce who brought along Pebbles Powell,

whilst after an absence of many years, Bob Griffin put in an appearance. I am not going to embarrass other members who turned up by naming them, but it was really good to see you (and your wives) there.

Two corporals from C Sqn gave us a splendid demonstration and explanation of the new weapon systems being used by the army, namely the A2 rifle and LSW, and the equipment that goes with it. This was immediately followed by Sgt Dennis Walker running a weapon skills test with Capt Jake Meyer as the 'student'. It was interesting because most of the membership had not come across this weapon, they being more used to the SLR or in a couple of instances, the Lee Enfield, so it was an education to see it.

This took the evening through to about 21.15 hrs at which point Old Comrades and C Sqn adjourned to the Sqn bar where the fish and chip supper was served (in paper of course) and the Sqn Leader bought a round of drinks for the Old Comrades (thank you for that, Sir). It was then a case of drifting around and getting acquainted with and talking to various people there.

We then came smoothly to another big event for us, 'the raffle', where there was, as usual, a huge selection of prizes, all to be had for the purchase of a ticket.

The overall attendance was a bit low in numbers, but I had received several apologies from members who were away or had other engagements. In all we numbered about 15 on the night. The raffle raised £75, which after subtracting the cost of prizes (£28.78), netted £46.22 to offset the cost of the fish and chip supper for which the Association paid.

Thanks you again, C Sqn for your hospitality, let us hope we can do it again in the future. Thank you Sqn Leader and thanks to Capt Mitchell for putting the whole show together for us.

30 September, RGHYA September Lunch

We held this lunch at a venue closer to Gloucester, in the hope that perhaps more former A Sqn members might join us, but it turned out, Fritz Freeman and Col Lance Ranson were the only representatives there.

There were 15 of us in total and we enjoyed meeting up again on a gloriously warm and sunny September afternoon.

The venue was The Royal George at Birdlip where I am sure that in the normal course of events it is good, and where certainly when I tried it out earlier in the year it was fine. Unfortunately it was suffering

through a shortage of staff and the fact that they had two weddings on as well as our group. This made the service a little fraught at times.

Still, without dwelling on this, the afternoon proved a successful one again. It was agreed by all there, that we should hold another one in six months time (the last Friday in March) and it will be at the Elliott Arms, South Cerney, just as it was last March.

Those attending were: Geoff and Eileen Stocks, Andy and Jude Beard, Harry and Daphne Jones, Graham and Karen Wood, Adrian "Ade" and Marg Pearce, Eric Debenham, Martin "Fritz" Freeman, Col Lance Ranson and finally, John and Lynn Tyror.

Our next lunch will be held on Friday 30 March 2012 at the Elliot Arms, South Cerney. We meet at Middy. Come and join us, you will be most welcome.



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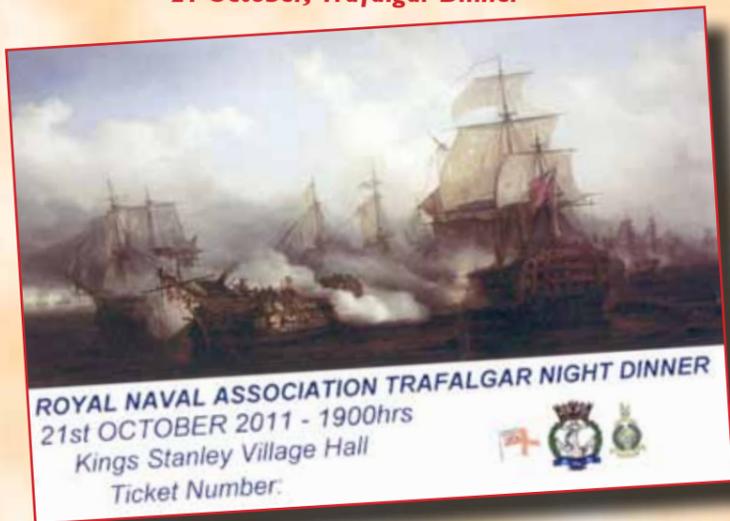
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It was a great few hours out, meeting the members who attended, although it would have been good to see more. The service was slow but the food was good and Margaret (Marg) and myself enjoyed it. Thanks for the invitation and look forward to the next. Ade and Marg Pearce



21 October, Trafalgar Dinner



The usual suspects (plus some surprise guests) turned up at Kings Stanley Village Hall to attend the Trafalgar Dinner hosted by the Stroud Branch of the Royal Naval Association.

It was, as usual, a very pleasant dinner, consisting of three courses, plus a tot of rum, port, cheese and biscuits and coffee.

The caterers were outstanding in putting on a splendid meal of roast beef which was beautifully cooked and efficiently served.

The guest of honour, Commander John Payne RN – who in 2009 was Captain of HMS Sutherland which six branch members visited (see 2010 Newsletter) – gave us all a very entertaining speech on the rigours of life in the Navy today, compared with that of Nelson's time, 200 or so years ago.

After he had given his speech, he presented two long-standing members of the RNA with plaques (hand made by John Nash) in their honour. One of them was ex-Royal Marine Jack Galliers who enlisted in 1940 and the other was Charles Wright (Shiner) who enlisted as a boy seaman in 1935. He had served on three ships during WWII which were sunk, one of which was HMS Prince of Wales.

The Royal Naval Association also presented cheques of £200 each to Stroud Sea Cadet Corps and Stroud Marine Cadets Corps.

At the dinner were guests from Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Bishops Cleeve RNA, Royal Air Force, Sea Cadets and of course RGH.

Our party consisted of: Jenny and Scott, Wayne and Linda, Ian 'Stockie', Jason Palmer, Liz and Gary, Jason and Melanie, Don and Beryl and Lynn and John.

As well as thanking the RNA for their hospitality, I feel we must thank especially, their President Charles Wright (Shiner), Chairman Jim Burrows and the wonderfully enthusiastic Dorothy Benn (Secretary of the RNA) for organising such a brilliant event - yet again!



13 December, Cotswold Branch AGM, Stroud Conservative Club

Our Chairman, Major The Hon Alexander Bathurst welcomed 22 members and two guests to this meeting. We had deliberately not invited our usual guests (RNA, etc), because of the importance of the ensuing debate on the proposed amalgamation of all the RGH Association Branches (Cotswold, Stroud and Tetbury, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Bristol). The Chairman, in his opening remarks, gave us all an update on the activities of the RVxY in general and C Sqn in particular.

The Regiment, next year, will be sending 36 soldiers to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK and 15 of these will be C Sqn (RGH) soldiers.

At present, there is one member of the RGH serving in Afghanistan and Cotswold Branch has sent him a Christmas Box with all our best wishes for a safe return.

He also mentioned the support given to Tpr Savage for his Adventurous Training manning a sailing ship. Also listed was the donation paid to the Sqn for the Remembrance Day Lunch and also the Normandy Battlefield Tour.

Next came the Treasurer's Report, Geoffrey Stephenson gave a rousing talk on the income and

expenditure. Although the accounts mirrored those of 2009 in showing a loss of £348 over the year he stressed that contributing largely to this was the fact that over the years the Branch had been alone in supporting the Serving Squadron with financial aid ranging from the provision of food parcels to help for individuals and the Squadron in general with Adventure Training, and he detailed such expenditure of £420 in the past financial year. He also mentioned that meeting the costs of producing the annual Newsletter were underpinned by the availability of known income in the form of annual subscriptions, with the magnificent efforts of John Tyror in raising a large amount of Advertising revenue reducing outgoings to an acceptable cost level per member. Ron Pearce wondered whether the time had come to increase the annual subscription from its present level of £5 which had remained unchanged since the branch was formed, but the Treasurer suggested that it remained at the current level for the immediate future, especially if the return from advertising charges could be maintained.

Importantly, came the debate and vote on amalgamation and several people put their arguments for and against, during the course of which the Branch was reminded of the background to the situation that brought about its conception.

The possibility of admitting "associated members" was raised, but it was agreed that this was a matter to be considered after the proposed merger, if it took place. Until then it was felt that the existing Branch Constitution adequately catered for such.

The general consensus was in favour of a merger provided that all funds from the existing branches be transferred to a central bank account, and that all members of the new branch paid an annual subscription (preferably by Standing Order) similar to that now made by the Cotswold branch.

Captain Phil Mitchell proposed and Tommy Tucker seconded the motion which was carried by 21 for and 1 against. The motion was, therefore, carried.

This will now be taken forward and presented to the RGHYA AGM in April.

Bob Bastin observed how useful the Association web site was to those like him who did not live locally, and the members present heartily endorsed his thanks to Ms Dawn Tyror and Phil Mitchell for their hard work in setting up such an impressive tool.

At this point in the proceedings, the £100 draw was held and who was the lucky (Huh!!) winner; none other than Charlie Walker. Well done you!

The formal meeting wound up and we broke for our buffet and drinks and to do what we do best... share a laugh and joke amongst friends..



C Squadron Review of 2011

This year the main aim of the Squadron has been mobilisation to support the Regular Army on operations. The beginning of the year saw Squadron members return safely from the Cortez tour safely. L/Cpl Clayton one of the Squadron members who deployed on Cortez gave a presentation to the Association at the June meeting on the role and her exploits. We also saw the return to the Squadron of Lt Vere Nichol from his secondment with the RDG, which included a Herrick Tour.

For those who did not attend L/Cpl Clayton's presentation, the Cortez role in very basic terms involved Yeoman erecting and operating surveillance equipment (camera's and sensors) in forward operational bases. The Royal Wessex Yeomanry Cortez tour was the last Yeomanry tour in the role. The Cortez role has grown so large, with the equipment being such a vital asset in theatre that a regular Artillery regiment has taken on the role. The Artillery have always been responsible for the surveillance and target acquisition role, although the Yeomanry played a key role in the establishment of Cortez and has continued to do so in the handover and training of the Artillery.

Although soldiers returned from tour, the main focus of the Squadron and the Regiment for 2011 has been the preparation of soldiers for deployment with the King's Royal Hussars (KRH) in March 2012. With the loss of the Cortez role, the Yeomanry reverted to its previous role of supporting regular armour regiments. Fifteen members of the Squadron make up the 43 members of the Regiment who were mobilised in November to start their pre deployment training with the KRH. The majority of the Squadron will be deployed with the warthog squadron, although some of the older bolder members are detached to train the Afghan Army.

In addition to the 15 soldiers mobilised in November, L/Cpl O'Neil volunteered for mobilisation at the beginning of the year for deployment with the Queen's Own Hussars and should hopefully be returned to us safely in April.

As you can see supporting the Regular Army on operations is a major part of Squadron and Regimental life. At any time in the year, there will be a minimum of at least one member of the Squadron in theatre.

The first weekend of the New Year was a cold return to Caerwent training area for some basic infantry training. However, everyone was kept warm by PSI Hamilton continually harassing and attacking the Squadron. This exercise formed part of the Squadron's build up training for the Regimental mobility exercises on Salisbury Plain. The Squadron had a bit of advantage playing enemy on the first mobility weekend watching B & D squadrons shake out. This was one of Sgt Hamilton's last weekends with the Squadron, as he retired from the Army in March. Shortly after our Kiwi immigrant PSI from the KRH also returned to his regiment in prep for his Regiment's forthcoming tour. Having thought he had escaped the TA and C Squadron, he had the shock of a large number turning up to support his Regiment on tour. With cut backs in the Regular Army it appears that the Squadron will now only have one PSI, as in the old days. S/Sgt Fleetwood 9/12th Lancers was posted in over the summer, a Midlander getting used to the West Country ways.

In March the Squadron hosted a dinner at the four star Four Pillars Hotel. The dinner was attended by serving squadron and some members of the RGHYA, including Mr Don Hart. A great night was had by all and even the SSM was seen on the dance floor!

Spring saw the Squadron deploy to Badminton Horse Trials over the Easter Holiday weekend. A tough challenge when people are on holiday, however the Squadron were successfully able to cover all tasks, including the hospitality tent for four days.

The summer saw the Regiment pick up on pre-mobilisation training with some live firing packages including a weekend at Lydd ranges in Kent. In August those going on tour took part in Afghan Tiger, a pre-deployment two-week training package that all part time soldiers going on tour have to complete. The training was organised by 6th Rifles and involves a lot of fitness and shooting. L/Cpl O'Neil's Afghan Tiger package was organised by 7th Rifles where he bumped in to a former RGH soldier (the writer's brother) now a PSI with 7th Rifles.

This year was a two-week training camp period. For those not being deployed this consisted of a one-week rural training phase in Sennybridge (in October) and the second week urban phase at Longmoor near Aldershot. The most memorable moment for the Squadron was L/Cpl Parole setting off the illumination for an assault one hour early! He was suitably commended for his actions (see picture).

In July the Regiment held its fortieth birthday at Bovington with a Church Service, followed by a day of family events. A coach party from Gloucestershire consisting of Squadron and Association members joined in the celebrations.

The year did not consist of all work; part of the Squadron joined D Squadron in Devon for adventure training in August. Some of the Squadron went on

the Normandy battlefield tour covered elsewhere in this publication, although we were not sure that L/Cpl Price was alive for the majority of the trip due to the amount of alcohol consumed. Tpr Savage also got a trip of a lifetime, forming part of a team that sailed a yacht from the USA to the UK. So not all work and no play.

The Squadron continued to support the Cotswold Care Hospice with their charity walks and had a presence at The Cotswold and Frampton Shows. These are tasks that the Squadron enjoy, but with mobilisation commitments it is difficult to man with a large impressive stand.

The report on the review of the Reserves was released in September to tie in with the announcements made earlier in the year regarding the reduction in the Regular Army. The main point from the review is that the TA is to be expanded to fill the gap being made by the reduction in the Regular Army. With this in mind the Squadron is looking to expand its recruiting footprint with a Cheltenham presence in Arle Road centre from the end of March.

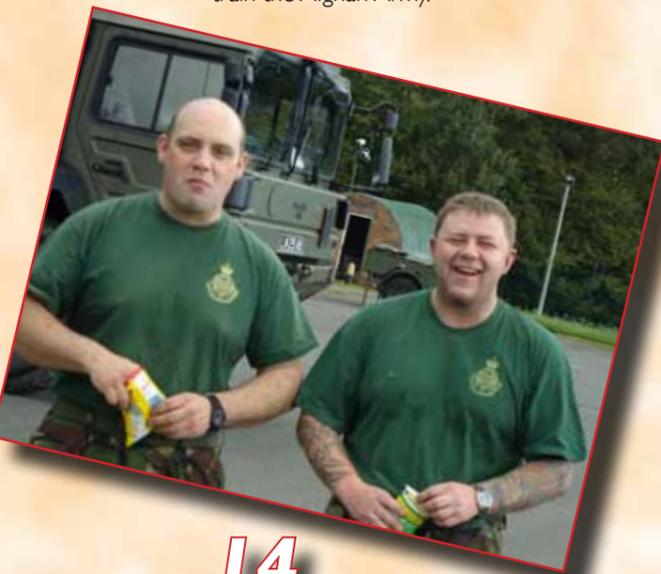
If you know of anybody, family or friends who would be interested in joining the Squadron, please ask them to pop along on a Wednesday night.

Capt Phil Mitchell

A page from our history



SGTS MESS - Sidi Bishr Dec 1942.



Cambrian Patrol 1986

This article has been submitted by Dave Warner, an ex-C (RGH) Sqn member and he tells us:

I served with C Sqn from 1983 until 1987 and was then commissioned into the Sappers in 1992. My wife and I emigrated to NZ in 2003 where I spent four years with Territorial Force, as OC of the High Readiness Reserve Company and worked on the Soldier Modernisation Project, before hanging up my boots. I now work as a Development Manager with Meridian Energy and we have a small holding in North Canterbury. I still try and get up into the mountains as much as possible.

Back in 1985 a group of pioneering masochists within C Sqn were given the support of the OC, Maj (now Lt Col) Clifford, to enter 'Exercise Cambrian Patrol'. This was the start of what became a run of successful C Sqn entries over the following years, but which in the beginning was very much an improvised affair. The exercise itself (officially not a competition, but try telling that to the teams) is an internationally recognized long range patrolling event that sees teams of 10 men carrying around 60 lbs each across

around 50 km (depending on navigational ability!) of the Cambrian Mountains in mid-Wales. The aim of the exercise is to raise the standard of patrolling and test a range of skills such as patrol techniques, first aid and casevac, helicopter drills, vehicle and aircraft recognition and river crossing. Our team had successfully put its toe in the water in 1985 and applied this experience in the following year, aided by WO2 'Boobs' Allan on loan from the Australian SAS. In those days it was a predominately infantry event, which became apparent during the 1986 introductory brief, when 160 Bde's Training Major opened the 'O' Group with "I see the Donkey Wallopers from Gloucestershire are back again". But, joking aside, it soon became apparent that as Gen. Sir Peter de la Billiere, then GOC Wales, had personally planned and recced the route, we were in for a character building experience. The mission of the patrol was to deploy deep behind enemy lines in order to conduct a reconnaissance of an enemy position, which in this case was a hydro-electric dam. The team was required to move covertly into a lying up position,

which would allow observation of the target and then provide information to higher headquarters. To assist the enemy in protection of their position, they employed a company of Gurkhas as a hunter force as well as reconnaissance aircraft and tracker dogs. This enhanced the exercise significantly and made it much more difficult than the previous year. Once in position and under the cover of darkness, the team conducted a close target reconnaissance of the enemy position utilising night vision equipment, which in those days was pretty hopeless so we relied on lots of crawling and the Mk I eyeball. Information gained from this reconnaissance was required to be presented in a patrol report which included maps and sketches. Due to the large nature of this report and the short time frame, assistance from the entire team was required in order to finish the report at about 4am in the morning. The report provided by the team was commended by senior officers as the best they had seen in years. Following the submission of the report the team was re-tasked with another mission to re-deploy behind enemy lines in order to liaise with informants to gain further intelligence. This phase, the second day, required the team to move covertly over 35km conducting various tasks such as; a river crossing, vehicle recognition, use of foreign weapons and providing medical assistance to personnel who had been involved in a helicopter crash. Our casualty victim was a particularly fat Welsh Fusilier who, once out of sight of the DS, quickly agreed not to be carried the whole three km to the helicopter landing site in return for not being filled in! Intelligence was then received, via contact with an 'agent', that enemy activity had been identified and we were re-tasked to make a section quick attack on the enemy location. Operational realism was achieved with the use of live firing and pyrotechnics. The team then moved back by Land Rover, only to be ambushed ourselves, before making it back to Bde HQ in order to conduct a debrief of the entire exercise. At this point the team had been awake for 50 hours and were extremely fatigued. However, the Intelligence Officer demanded as much information as

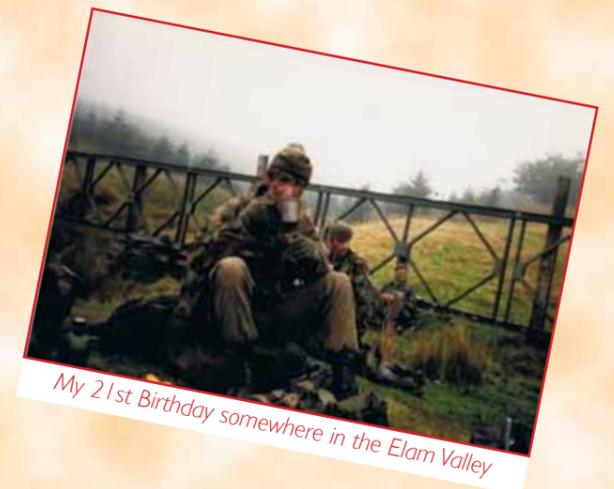
possible from the team over an hour long interrogation. This debrief symbolised the end of the exercise and the team was released. The whole event was then wrapped up with a short parade and the ubiquitous chicken curry at Crickhowell Camp. And a chance for our PSI, Curly Hewitt, to catch up with Sir Peter, as they had served together in Malaya and the Jebel Akhdar campaign. Looking back after 25 years, the Cambrian patrol was the high point of my time with C Sqn; the exercise was a real test of leadership, teamwork, self discipline, courage and stamina. But fortunately C Sqn was not short of personalities with these qualities, and for me the team came to represent the unique, some would say eccentric, character of C Sqn at that time. Although shortly afterwards I left the Sqn to do other things, teams continued to be entered throughout the remainder of the eighties. I finally got the chance to lead a patrol with 131 Ind Cdo Sqn RE (V) in 1994, then mentor a Bristol UOTC team, and finally provide some advice on the event to the RNZIR after emigrating to New Zealand. A glutton for punishment perhaps, but I don't think that I ever really recaptured the camaraderie of those early days in C Sqn. A great bunch of blokes who took on an awesome challenge with nothing much more than quiet determination, a sense of humour and a desire not to let our mates down.

Dave Warner

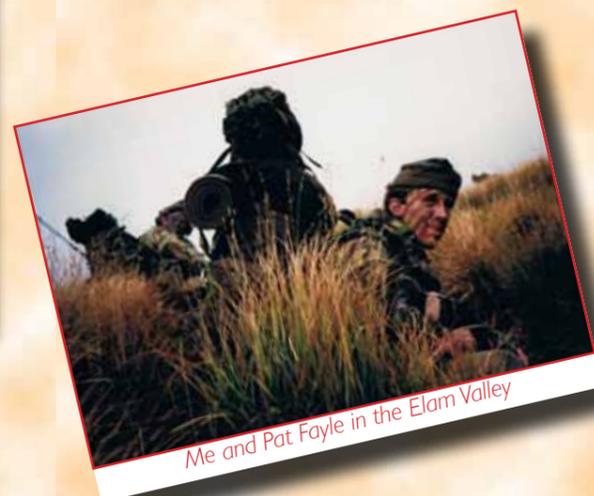


C Sqn Cambrian Patrol Team 1986

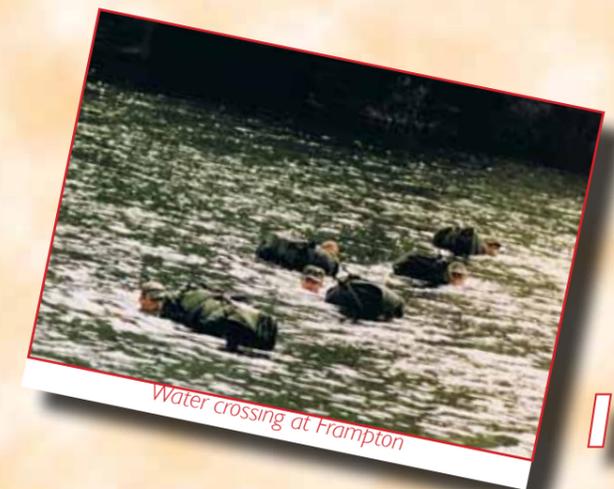
*(Back L-R) Pat Smart, Al 'Lippy Ferret' Wheeler, Tommo Thompson, Gripper Griffiths.
(Front) Phil Marsden, Simon Hart, Patrick Fayle, Alby Moore, Boobs Allan, Dave Warner, Polly Pollard.*



My 21st Birthday somewhere in the Elam Valley



Me and Pat Fayle in the Elam Valley



Water crossing at Frampton

Romani Ride

The 3rd and 4th August 2011, marked the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Romani, one of the most successful actions in the history of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. The Regiment, which had enthusiastically rejoined its horses having fought as infantry at Gallipoli, regrouped for the battle into a composite regiment of two squadrons of RGH and one of Worcestershire Yeomanry, which operated in support of the 1st and 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigades, and, separately, D Squadron RGH, under command 42nd Division. Five hundred prisoners, four camel guns and two machine guns were taken after the RGH charged Royston Hill at the gallop. The Battle of Romani proved to be the beginning of the end of the part in the Great War played by the Ottoman Empire.

The year 2011 was also the 70th anniversary of the Battle of el Gubi, in which the RGH fought in 1941 and was so heavily outgunned by the enemy, taking a large toll in casualties whom we remember in a service in November each year in Badminton church. It was felt important that these anniversaries should be marked in some way. Accordingly it was decided by a number of past and serving members and friends of the Regiment to make a memorial pilgrimage across the Cotswolds from Guiting Grange, the former home of Captain Powell Snell who formed the first troop of Gloucestershire Yeomanry in 1795, to Badminton, the spiritual home of the RGH.

The party, the core of which was Rollo (former squadron leader of both A and C (RGH) Squadrons and commanding officer, RWxY) and Janie Clifford, Charles Mann (former second in command, C (RGH) Squadron), Ewen Cameron (former commanding officer, RWxY), Hugh Vere-Nicoll (serving officer, C (RGH) Squadron) and Rupert de Mauley (former squadron leader, C (RGH) Squadron and commanding officer, RWxY), accordingly met on Tuesday 23rd August. The weather forecast was inauspicious — storms and torrential rain. After mounting up we moved to the gates of Guiting Grange.

Off we set, arriving across country above Tally Ho House, where we heard that the de Winton family had lived, one of whom had fought with the RGH in the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa and subsequently been a remount officer in the 14/18 War. We then went up through the forestry and crossed the Stow to Cheltenham A436 road. From here we went down into Salperton, avoiding the road by following headlands. After that, we pushed on by

the beautiful Salperton Manor, and across some rolling countryside to Hazleton. Here we tied our horses to trees next to a water trough, and had our lunch sitting on the ground.

Former Yeoman Desmond Godman (who so sadly died a few months later) had tried to join us for lunch but he could not find the place. So as we went onwards we decided, crossing the A40, to make a diversion to Compton Abdale, where we found him and had a chat on the village green. We then rode down into Hampnett where we were given a cup of tea by a friend in the village.

Down the hill and up the other side we crossed a road and were onto the Stowell estate. We rode across this, with views all the way to the Marlborough Downs, and several miles on came to Stowell Park, where the majority of us were staying, and were so wonderfully looked after by our hosts Lord and Lady Vestey.

Next morning, Wednesday 24th, we rose to admire a wonderful view over the Cotswolds with mist in the valley but the hills beyond clear as a bell. On we went, through the park and down along the River Coln. At one point we had to cross a small stream, and one of our number rashly followed someone on a much lighter horse across a bridge built for a quadbike. Disaster! As we got to the far side the larger horse's back end went through and we left the bridge looking very much the worse for wear.

We emerged onto the track near to the Roman Villa at Chedworth, turned hard left and set off uphill into Chedworth Woods. As we emerged, we took the bridleway onto Jean Clarke's farm. We paused at the young plantation which had been established in memory of poor Tim Clarke, a former Gloster and RGH squadron leader, to show our respects, then went on to the Whiteway and down the drive towards Pinswell. Opposite that farm we turned left through a pasture, emerging at the end onto the Marsden estate and across an extraordinary field in permanent lay, which had probably not changed much since pre-historic times, containing scottish thistles and holm oaks growing wild.

We then came down the hill, across a stream and up again to Shawswell where we were generously watered, it being about 11.30, as were our horses, by Philip St Pier who farms there. We then pressed on to Rendcomb, riding down to the bottom of the valley and turning left, along and through the park in front of the school. Across the Cirencester to Cheltenham road we slipped into June Stevens's Old Park Wood; rode through it uphill and came out onto pastureland

at the top. We rode across a couple of fields until we met the road at the southern end of Woodmancote.

We entered the drive to Moor Wood House and followed the Macmillan Way until we met Chipps Mann with our lunch in the lee of Moor Wood. Towards the end of lunch the heavens, which had been looking threatening, opened, but we managed to find cover under the trees in the wood and remained almost completely dry. Then on we went along the Macmillan Way, past Stancombe and so to the Cirencester to Gloucester road. We crossed underneath it and eventually emerged into Daglingworth, where we learned that in the church just up the road at Duntisbourne Abbots there is a memorial to Douglas Reinhold, who had been Geoffrey Gordon Creed's squadron leader at el Gubi.

Onwards then, and we entered Bathurst land, coming up to the polo fields to find a match in full swing. Then we were into Cirencester Park and followed our noses to the Old Kennels which was to be the bedplace of our horses that night. After washing them off, feeding them and seeing to our tack, we repaired to the Mansion where we were generously hosted by the Apsleys.

Later on the clans began to gather as we were to hold a barbeque in front of the house for the serving RGH squadron and old comrades, about 50 people in all. Staff Sgt Read and the cooks did a sterling job and we had overhead cover from the few raindrops that greeted us. John Penley (former squadron leader of A (RGH) Squadron and commanding officer, RWxY) gave us an excellent talk about the battle of Romani.

On the morning of Thursday 25th, Sara Apsley gave us a huge breakfast, after which we moved off up to the Old Kennels to retrieve our horses. This morning we were joined by Simon Biddulph (former squadron leader of C (RGH) Squadron). We rode through the beautiful Cirencester Park along Broad Ride and crossed the Cirencester to Stroud road. We deviated from our intended route to visit the Tunnel House pub for some early but essential refreshment, then on across Biddulph farms to Rodmarton Manor for lunch, laid out lavishly by Alex Bathurst (former squadron leader of C (RGH) Squadron and second in command, RWxY).

From lunchtime onwards we followed a route mainly across Duchy of Cornwall land. We met Fi Mitchell (the mother of a serving RGH officer, Jake Meyer) en route as we crossed her husband Mike's farm; then rode past the Trouble House Inn. Eventually we wound our way to Chavenage, where we were met by almost the entire Lowsley Williams clan, and shown to ample stabling.

This evening we held a dinner for between 30 and 40 former and serving officers of the RGH. Once again there was a good turnout and we had a wonderful evening. After dinner David Lowsley Williams (former RGH officer and commanding officer, RWxY) spoke to us about the Australian Light Horse pilots who were trained nearby during the Great War, several of whom were billeted there.

On Friday 26th, we saddled up and set off southwards. After an initial cross country phase we were forced onto the side road for a couple of miles. We had a good canter on the most lovely old turf



The BBQ at Cirencester Park kindly hosted by the Earl and Countess Bathurst

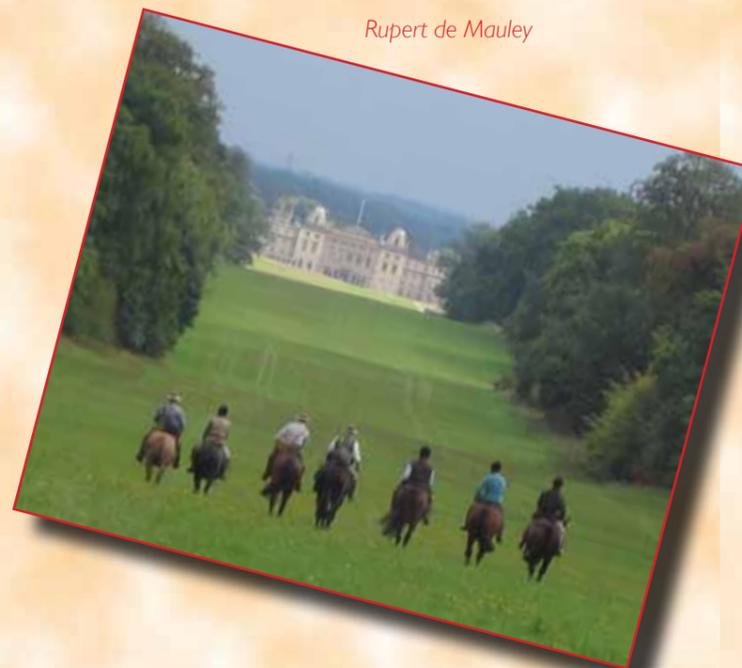
round three sides of Bowdown Wood. However we were nearly flummoxed when we arrived at the gate onto the Leighterton road, where the gate was locked.

By an uncharacteristic miracle of efficiency one of us had the landowner's mobile telephone number in a file, we rang him and he gave us the padlock combination. We then diverted a bit further to visit the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Leighterton, where the bodies of a number of Australian light horsemen were buried, who had served as aircrew in World War I and had died in training. The RGH has a close affinity with the reservist cavalymen from Australia and New Zealand (having fought alongside them). We paid our respects.

Then on we went, coming into our lunch place on the edge of Silk Wood along a track from the west. Alex Bathurst had already got the barbeque going. We tied our horses to bushes once again and got stuck in. Lunch over, we rode into Silk Wood, then through the Arboretum (to the surprise of the day trippers) which was just coming into its autumn best. We emerged, crossed a field or two and then the A433 between Westonbirt and Didmarton. From there we had bridleways most of the way to the edge of the Beaufort estate, which we entered at Bull Park Wood.

We made our way through the field adjacent to Worcester Lodge to the bottom of the Three

Mile Ride, up which we then rode, all the way to the house. We arrived there within five minutes of our due time of 16.30 hrs, to be greeted by the Duke and Duchess and Christopher Mulholland, the vicar and Regimental padre, who led us in prayers for those who fought at Romani and el Gubi. That marked the end of the Romani Ride, during which we remembered the brave men who fought there and at el Gubi, and hoped that they would not have thought our way of remembering them too frivolous.



Rupert de Mauley

67 Club

I am attaching a photograph of me commanding the 67 Club Float in the procession of vehicles past and present used by the RGH at the 150 year celebrations at Badminton in 1984 carrying a map board and listening to a 19 set radio. Between 1967 and the formation of the Wessex Yeomanry the 67 Club provided support for what remained of the Regiment. This included provision of an enemy during exercises and communications at the Badminton Horse Trials. I can remember sitting on a jump with a borrowed 19 set in the boot of my car, supplied with drinks by the fence judge.

The other members of the 67 Club Float were Richard Matthews on the left, Paul Ayshford-Sanford front right with Ian Smee behind him.



The Hon William Russell

Where are they now ... Chic Webb

One of our members sent us this old newspaper cutting and so we we sent out our roving reporter to follow it up and find out what he is doing: now ...

Chic was born in Marden, nr Maidstone, Kent in 1927. He learned to play the violin at the age of six. In 1940 he joined his school ACF (badged West Kents), where because he could read music, was taught the cavalry trumpet and bugle.

In August 1943 he joined the Fleet Air Arm as an apprentice Aircraft Artificer for four years training, and in September 1944 he moved to the FAA training establishment at Newcastle under Lyme, where he was the Duty Watch Bugler — 'blowing' whilst on a 'sit up and beg' pushbike. It was there that he bought his first trumpet and where he played in the FAA band.

In 1957 he left the Navy and took a job at Smiths, the watch, clock and aircraft instrument factory at Bishops Cleeve near Cheltenham. He then joined Cheltenham Spa Silver Band and in 1965 he also joined the RGH Band where he played for 25 years.

Currently, he plays at Remembrance Parades, funerals and, until recently, the Cheltenham Area 'black tie' Dinner, etc. He is a keen member of the 'Jazz Band' and the 'JC Big Band' based at the Cheltenham Victory Club (home of the RGHYA Cheltenham Branch) and also the 'JJ Swingband' based in Cirencester.

Chic and his wife, Doris, presently live at Warden Hill, Cheltenham. Between them they have five

children and 16 grandchildren. Chic is a keen gardener and DIY man. He and Doris like to visit her family's farm in Co Wicklow, Rep of Ireland regularly as well as their daughter and grandchildren in Portugal. Their other 'grown up' children live in various parts of England.



'The finest husband/father who ever drew breath' says his loving wife, Mrs Doris Webb,

Gordon Jones

In the summer of 1940 ...

While G Sqn were stationed at Babraham Park, Nr Cambridge, a cesspit was being dug near the cookhouse. During the work, a number of skeletons were excavated. They appeared to have been buried upright and were many years old. The story is fully told in the book 'When We Were Young'.

No explanation has ever been given, in spite of my investigations. These have included contact with the Cambridge Archaeological Department, the County Coroners Office and the press. They all say they have no record of such an excavation having taken place.

One person that I contacted, did eventually find a very brief paragraph in the local paper reporting that such an event had actually occurred. It was dated July 1940.

Eventually we accepted that we would never solve the mystery but, fortuitously, I got in touch with a local scholar who, although having great difficulty in finding any explanation, suggested the following possibilities:

1. The skeletons were part of a ritualistic Bronze Age burial, possibly entailing being buried alive and upright as some form of punishment, or:
2. The skeletons were warriors captured after a great battle at nearby Gog Magog and buried alive by the victors. (Gog and Magog incidentally were two prehistoric folklore giants whose name has been remembered in the locality just outside Cambridge.)

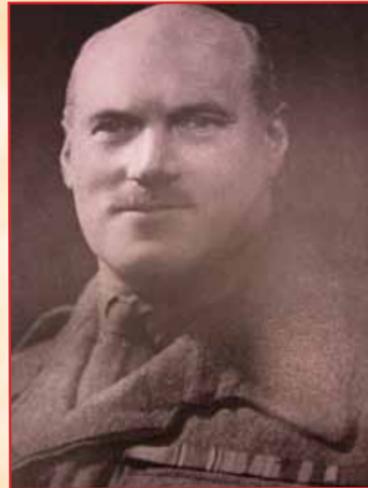
"Frap"

Charles Lovell, MBE — humanitarian, soldier and military historian

Charles Lovell MBE, was born at Elmore of a farming family in December 1893. He was a pupil of King's School. On 11 November 1911, before he was 18, he joined 'A' Squadron, the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars as a Trooper. As part of the 1st RGH he landed in Egypt on 24 April 1915. In a postcard to his Auntie dated 11 August 1915 he writes he has to prepare to go to the Dardanelles as Infantry and he had 'tons of work transferring the cavalry into infantry, what with handing in kit and drawing fresh kit.' He landed in Gallipoli on 18 August 1915 to take part in the 'final push' — the attack on Chocolate Hill on 21 August 1915, during this battle he was listed as wounded.

The Regiment (less a Machine Gun Section) left Gallipoli by 31 October 1915 and by 1916 he was a Troop Sergeant fulfilling the Squadron Sergeant Major's role. During 1916

from Cairo the Regiment crossed the Suez Canal and went into the Sinai desert, where they performed the invaluable task of screening and protecting the Royal Engineers as they built the vast railway right across the desert to Beersheba. Charles Lovell noted 'as the Royal Engineers built further into the desert more troops were needed, but it was the Gloucestershire Hussars who guarded them through the early stages of the building'. During these duties at Qatia on Easter Sunday, 1916, 'A' Sqn, consisting of five officers and 101 men, held off a Turkish Force of some 5000, until they were over-run for lack of ammunition, thus preventing the enemy from reaching the vital railway across the desert. Four officers and 16 yeoman were killed, with 25 wounded and two officers and 61 yeoman taken prisoner. Five Military Medals were awarded for gallantry. Only nine managed to get away, including the severely wounded Sergeant Charles Lovell. Four days' after the battle the Australian Light Horse² (1 Brigade) went to Qatia and brought back two of the wounded who were miraculously still alive. Their bodies were extricated from the dead. These were Sgt Lovell who had suffered two bullet wounds



Maj Charles Lovell 5th Glosters HG

and a bayonet wound and Scorgie who was Lord Elcho's servant. Charles recounted to a friend he was out cold and when he woke up they had both been stripped of all clothes except breeches and left lying in the sun. The Arab women, still scavenging for clothes twice tried to throttle Charles with a telephone wire but it broke, to his amusement, when he later recounted that he couldn't stop laughing, when he saw the women pulling on the wire, it snapping and watching them fall upside down with their legs popping out of their burkha dresses. The Australians found a great many dead Turks (200) and many dead camels which 'A' Sqn had shot. As a result of his wounds Charles had his right leg amputated above the knee.

Although Charles was discharged from the Hussars at the age of 24 on 18 Oct 1918, his interest in the Regiment remained as strong as ever.

In 1919 Maj Charles Turner formed the RGH Old Comrades Association and Charles became avidly involved in the early days and was eventually recognised as the Secretary. His untiring efforts brought together and fostered an Old Comrades Association second to none, and the splendid comradeship that existed inspired many young men to become Yeoman.

Thereafter, any Old Comrade who found himself in difficulties, although perhaps himself not appealing for help, found that Charlie would appear with a helping hand.



Charles Lovell with other Comrades at Qatia remembrance at College Green

The address book that Charles held in 1964 had well over 5000 names in it, and the circulars which he sent out numbered 2000+ and these would all be addressed by himself, he never asked for help in this task, although volunteers were accepted when they could find out from him that he needed help, although this was usually after he had done the job himself.

He liaised closely with the RGH and Cavalrymen's benevolent funds in order to enquire into circumstances of any local cavalryman who needed help from the society. He put much time and devotion into this work.

During the RGH Freedom of the City Parade Charles Lovell was asked by the Citizen Newspaper why only 33 Comrades Paraded, Charles Lovell replied: 'the explanation was simple, the Association was asked that its representation should be that number. If a place could have been found for all Comrades eager to take part, the number would have been more like 300.' His Grandson LCpl John Lovell also as a serving member of the RGH took part in that same parade.

In 1961 Charles Lovell was presented by the Duke of Beaufort, on behalf of the Regiment, a Silver tray and a statuette of a Hussar, as a token of their gratitude for his 50 years of loyal service to the Regiment. This service was further rewarded by the award of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) gazetted in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours List of 13 June 1964.

During World War Two Charles was one of the first to volunteer when Mr Anthony Eden broadcast his appeal for Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) at a time of the fall of France in 1940. He refused to be rejected because he only had one leg. He was commissioned into the LDV, subsequently becoming a Major commanding his Home Guard Unit, the Tuffley detachment of the 5th Glosters Regiment.

Charles Lovell became interested in medals prior to the Second World War and formed an extensive collection which included a large collection related to the Second Boer War (1899-1902, including a Victoria Cross approximately 60 Distinguished Conduct Medals and 30 Distinguished Service Orders for the campaign. His collection was sold at Sotheby's auction house over a period of two days in October 1977, the sale made an astonishing total of £83,253.

Charles' wife Louise died in 1969, and their only daughter died in 1943. A retired Fruiterer, Charles was one of the last survivors of the battle of Qatia. He passed away at his home 122 Tuffley Avenue on 6 May 1977, aged 83. His funeral service

was held at St Mary de Lode Church on Friday 13 May. The service was conducted by the Rt Rev W S Llewellyn former Bishop of Lynn and padre to the 2nd RGH in the Second World War.

As a military historian he was infallible and his important medal collection was based on his vivid knowledge of the careers of the officers and men and men of the British Army who served their country. Charles embodied the true old Yeomanry spirit of England and with him goes not merely a small part of English history but something of England herself. This empty saddle could not be filled again.

Charles Lovell was entitled to the following awards: Member of the British Empire (1964), 1915 Star, British War, Victory Medal and Silver War Badge for Service in the Great War and the Defence Medal for Service in WW2. His medals including a Serbian Silver Medal for Bravery are currently on display at the Regimental Museum at the Docks Gloucester until August 2012.

Footnotes

1 Some accounts say three days, but due to the Australian Light Horse movements it is likely to be four days.

2 Other source accounts have Charles Lovell picked up by friendly Arabs and carried on camels to an Australian Field Hospital, also another account said an aircraft picked him up. In view of evidence the 'true' account is the ALH found him when they were advancing to Romani. He was also likely to have been transported to a hospital in an ALH Motor Truck.

Capt Matt Pittaway RLC



Charles Lovell's medal group which recently sold at Stroud Auctions for £3100. The Serbian Order is last ribbon shown

Pate's Grammar School CCF

2011 was another successful year for the Cadets of Pate's Grammar School CCF. It was packed with a huge variety of exciting and challenging activities, ranging from military skills to adventure training.

The year began in fine style with trips to Brecon, canoe courses aplenty and many Cadets getting involved with adventure training. In March valuable military skills were put into practice with a successful exercise in Caerwent, Wales. The Senior Cadets were able to pass valuable experience onto the lower years, particularly the advantages of thorough waterproofing of kit when on exercise in Wales!

The CCF calendar culminated in Annual Inspection in early May. The contingent once again rose to the challenge. The parade itself, ably commanded by RSM Jen Cockett, demonstrated the high standards that the contingent strives to maintain.

It was certainly a proud day for all, notably the Senior Cadets, for whom the parade signified them leaving the CCF and indeed the school itself as they embarked on their future lives.

Under a new team of Senior Cadets, the contingent embarked in preparation for two key events. Firstly over 70 Cadets were to embark on their bronze Duke of Edinburgh's expedition. At least two training weekends had to be completed by the young Cadets, who learned the basics of navigation, teamwork and outdoor skills. For them their training culminated in a two-day expedition before the contingent's annual camp, this year carried out at Nesscliffe in Shropshire. Despite navigational errors, a few injuries and multiple blisters, all the cadets completed their routes and arrived at camp in high spirits.

In December, four Cadets met HRH The Earl of Wessex and HM Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire Dame Janet Trotter, DBE and explained how they were benefiting from their involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The seven-day Annual Camp proved an exciting and challenging experience for the Cadets, many of whom had never been away with the CCF before! Every day brought new activities, new skills and new excitement. The activities included climbing and abseiling, a military skills day, obstacle courses,

ranges and orienteering. At all times the cheerfulness managed to overcome tiredness and the Cadets impressed constantly.

The final days of Camp were taken up by an exercise. Newly learned field craft skills were tested to the limit as the Cadets carried out various patrols, vehicle check points and harbour drills. The following day was marked by an early morning wakeup call by the enemy, a force of 'Welsh separatists' made up by Senior Cadets for whom this was their last Camp with Pate's.

Despite the ensuing panic the Cadets effected an escape and after a quick breakfast, managed, with great gusto, to ambush and defeat the enemy.

Far from only learning military skills, the Camp was a great opportunity to build friendships and team-working skills that would be critical in years to come. Huge thanks goes to the Staff for putting together such a hugely valuable experience for all the Cadets involved.

However, in true Pate's CCF style the activity never really stopped! Eighteen Cadets and five adults embarked on an exciting wilderness canoeing opportunity in the Algonquin Provincial Park, Canada.

The initial start to the Algonquin phase was met with some inclement weather, but nothing as bad as

previous years. Despite the late arrival of spring in Ontario we had some stunning weather and after two days of rain at Desert Lake the waterproofs did not come out again until we got back to the UK.

The next canoeing phase was the Madawaska River from Palmer's Rapid to Griffiths over three days. The river level was even lower than the previous year, exposing areas of the river which were normally under water but now fully exposed. This made sections of the river playful ... and some lining was needed to navigate some very shallow areas. During the expedition cultural visits were made to Kingston, Peterborough (National Canoe Museum), Niagara and Toronto. Having run a similar expedition in 2007, 2009 and 2010 this one was our most successful. The young people were a pleasure to work with and there seemed to be few stresses (other than with the French Canadian Christian group who were singing loudly at 0600hrs in Algonquin Park, when we had got up at 0430 to get to the area where they were, to see wildlife).

The Cadets involved will carry the benefits into the future with the recommencement of school in September.

Lt Col Nigel Woodall, - OC Pate's CCF



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All members and their guests are invited to the

RGHYA LUNCH

to be held at the
Eliot Arms, South Cerney on
Friday 30 March 2012
at 12 noon

Come along and enjoy a meal
and a drink with your old
comrades

RSVP the secretary with names
and numbers for catering, please

HELP OUR HEROES

There are a very few of us who, during our time in the RGH, did very much more than train and prepare for the onslaught of the military might of the Soviet Union. And comforting as it is to misquote "They also serve who only stand and wait." I fear that I for one may have had it easy! The role of the TA has changed dramatically since my time, 1984-2000, and now we see the RGH Squadron of the RWxY committing more manpower to Afghanistan in one Op HERRICK phase than for the entire Balkans War.

Not since WW2 has the RGH been "up the blue" in such numbers. One of our most esteemed "old comrades" of 2RGH is the driving force behind the raising of funds to support today's RGH soldiers.

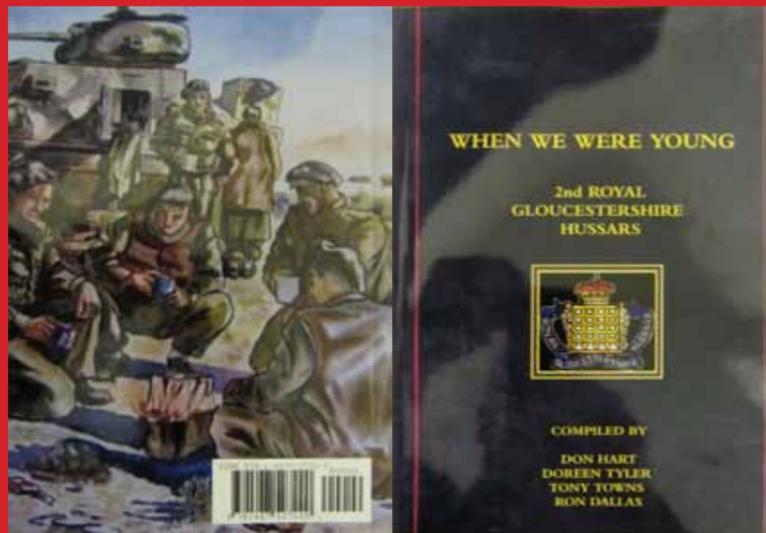
Don Hart (assisted by Ian Mountain) has produced the book "When we were young" and I have managed to transfer his original recordings to CD. All you have to do is buy a copy ... the money goes into the RGHYA fund to support the serving squadron.

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG — Libya 1941-42

Is the story of the 2nd Royal Gloucestershire Hussars told in their own words, the early days of enlistment and training, the stark realities of Desert Warfare and of life "up the blue". This 10 CD set is edited from the original cassette tapes narrated by Don Hart and digitally reproduced on nine disks, with a bonus 30 minute DVD, "Proud to be a Yeoman". Each set comes in a wallet with RGH cap badge logo. Only a limited number of sets (perhaps 70) to commemorate this anniversary year will be made, due to the time involved in their production.

The first run of 20 sets is now complete and a few are still available at a cost of £25 including UK post and packing. Please make your cheque payable to RGHYA PRI.

You can order direct from me via email: lj.birkin@hotmail.co.uk



'When We Were Young'

This book is now available direct from me (Don Hart, 11 Port Elizabeth House, Greystoke Avenue, Bristol BS10 6AN. Tel: 0117 959 4095) at a cost of £15 including p&p. Cheques to be made payable to RGHYA PRI.

All profits are going into an RGH Charity account for the benefit of our members in need.

The British 74th (Yeomanry) Division was a First

History of the RWxY Tactical Recognition Flash



World War Infantry Division formed in Egypt from brigades of Dismounted Yeomanry (Territorial Army Cavalry).

On 14 January 1917, the GOC Egyptian Expeditionary Force, Sir Edmund Allenby, gave orders for the re-organisation of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Dismounted brigades of Yeomanry - at the time all were serving on Suez Canal defences - and for their re-designation as the 229th, 230th and 231st Infantry brigades.

The brigades were organised as a Division, which began to assemble on 4 Mar 1917 near El Arish.

The divisional Artillery did not join until July, by which time the Division had already taken part in its first action, the second Battle of Gaza.

The Division's insignia was a broken spur to signify that it was once a mounted division and now served as Infantry.

During the Battle of Beersheba on 31 October 1917, the Division, as part of Chetwodes XX Corps,

captured the Turkish fortifications west of Beersheba.

After further service in Palestine, the Division was ordered to the Western Front, landing in Marseilles in May 1918. It then concentrated near Abbeville by 18 May 1918.

The Division was in Ath (Belgium) at the armistice. Demobilisation happened steadily throughout early 1919. The final departure of Divisional Headquarters was on 19 July 1919, when this unusual Division finally ended service.

Whereas the broken spur and shape of the TRF are taken from the 74th (Yeomanry) Division the colours on the left and right are not. The two colours used scarlet and buff are in fact the facing colours (ie the colours of the collars and cuffs on full dress uniform).

Scarlet for the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, Royal Devon Yeomanry and Queens Own Dorset Yeomanry and Buff for the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

The RGH get everywhere

Whilst visiting the Vatican in June of 2011 we took this picture in St Peter's Square. In the centre of the photo (on the first floor) can be seen the Pope's Balcony.

When this was printed, I happened by chance, to see that the lettering directly over his balcony included the letters RGH.

I find this extremely interesting, as no doubt, will others among you.

(Perhaps Capt Phil Mitchell can organise a weekend tour, so that we can examine the origins of this?) Ed.

I would like to mention to anyone interested in the latest publication of our World War II book 'When We Were Young', that it is now available direct from me at a cost of £15 including p&p. Cheques to be made payable to RGHYA PRI.

All profits are going into an RGH Charity account for the benefit of our members in need.

Don Hart,
11 Port Elizabeth House, Greystoke Avenue,
Bristol BS10 6AN. Tel: 0117 959 4095



Normandy Battlefield Tour

On the evening of Friday 15 July 2011, thirty members of the Association, the Squadron and guests set off from the TAC bound for Portsmouth to board the overnight ferry to Ouistreham in Normandy for a weekend tour which had been organised by Captain Phil Mitchell.

The initial focus of the trip was armour. As soon as we disembarked from the ferry on Saturday morning we headed to Sword beach. It was not our intention to study the beach landing in detail, but to set the scene for the rest of the day and to look at the armour that was used as part of the beach landings.

On leaving Sword beach we headed to Villers-Bocage, which is the site of the Wittman engagement. We stopped off to look at a military cemetery on the way there.

Capt M excelled in his narrative of this engagement, taking us through it step by step and showing us the ground on which it took place.

After this phase, we stopped for lunch for an hour or so.

After lunch, we then headed for Hill 112.

This was an area which was subject to intense fighting for two months, but we were only looking at one part. This was, Operation Jupiter, which was undertaken by 43 Wessex Division on 10 July 1944, where they suffered 2000 casualties in a couple of days.

The weather for our trip had now turned to heavy rain showers and we were all getting rather wet, so it was agreed that we should cut short, what was a rather interesting talk from Capt M and head for Caen and the hotel to dry-out and change for the evening.

The party split up into smaller groups for the evening. The more sensible stayed in the hotel and had dinner there. I was in a party of six and we just went out for a meal and a couple of quiet drinks, followed by several noisy ones. Other members of the party took it upon themselves to examine the local wildlife. All in all, everybody had a very pleasant evening in Caen.



Sunday morning after breakfast, saw most of us having a walk around the centre of Caen, which had been transformed into one large market place.

We boarded the coach at 11.30 am and made the short drive to Pegasus Bridge and Museum.

On arrival, we made a small presentation to Capt Mitchell, for being a great tour guide. As is consistent with all these people, they have to have a noticeable umbrella, so he got a lovely green one as a thank you from us all.

On entering the museum, we were greeted by one of the museum guides who gave us a really interesting

tour of the exhibits and an explanation of exactly what happened at midnight on 6 June 1944 on the bridge itself.

We left here at about 4pm and headed for the ferry home. After a 5-hour ferry trip and a couple of hours on the coach, we arrived in Cirencester at around midnight on Sunday.

Our thanks must go to Captain Mitchell for his excellent organisation of the trip.

Currently, he is planning another trip for late Summer 2012

John Tyror

Four men went up a hill

Four Hussars huddled together in the bottom of their hole, watching the rain running down the hill filling it faster than they could bale it out. With the wind howling and driving the rain under the ponchos tied to the chicken wire roof of their little OP, Four Two struggled to survive against the elements. Only the 2.5 whip antennae stopped the chicken wire from being blown away and, truth be told, it probably helped boost the signal to Zero some 1500 metres to the rear.

Looking round, I made a snap decision, 'Deke, you and JP cut a few six foot branches. Garfield, you and me'll stagg on and extend the OP. Let's go!' Despite the appalling conditions, we could just about see the building the men in black occupied some 150 metres to our front. At least they were warm and dry. B*****s!

Time dragged slowly as it so often does when you're in an OP doing 4 on, 4 off. We were too cold and wet to sleep off stagg, so we swapped war stories. Only the demands for a Sitrep every hour broke the monotony as Saturday morning came and went. At least the wind had dropped but the rain never stopped and suddenly the men in black were leaving the building. . .

Deke got out a quick 'Zero, this is Four Two. Contact! Wait out!' as Garfield grabbed the gun and covered the threat, whilst JP poured over the map while I scribbled a full contact report. A few minutes later Wilbur responded, 'Zero, send over'. 'Zero, this is Four Two. Contact at 1245 hrs; Gr 375924; Six persons moving southwest to northeast. Dressed in civvies and armed. Am observing, over'. Again a delay then 'Zero, Roger, Out!'

We 'stood too' watching our arcs. JP was shivering. Deke and Garfield were looking pale and wrinkly and I guessed I did too. The word exposure flashed through my mind and I requested a live letter box! Nothing! I sent the request again. Cursing Deke returned the 320 and sent the request. Almost immediately Tim asked me to confirm the request for hot water then ended with a curt, 'Zero, Roger, Wait Out!' Minutes passed before Andy came on the net, only to deny our request. He was pulling us out in an hour. (Point to note. It's difficult to eat dry Pot Noodle. Hence the request for hot water)

An hour passed and we were still there. JP was going down with hypothermia. I sent him back to SHQ with Deke. That night Garfield and I were eventually pulled out. We reported to the SHQ 12x12 and found a river was running through it. Andy congratulated us on a job well done and allowed us to sit in the front of his Lannie to get warm. He woke us up an hour later only to ask us to turn off the motor because the exhaust fumes were filling the tent!

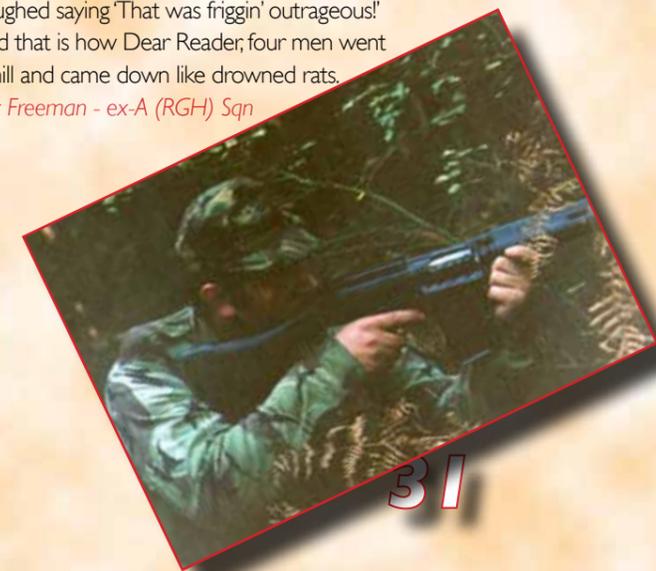
The following morning amid bright sunshine, he sent us back the hill to lie in ambush positions with water running off the hill and pouring all over us. Even Babby-Joe laughed saying 'That was friggin' outrageous!'

And that is how Dear Reader, four men went up a hill and came down like drowned rats.

Fritz Freeman - ex-A (RGH) Sqn

For the next hour Deke and JP came back and forth bringing the odd branch to the OP while Garfield and I set about improving our position. Soon we had dug shelves for our kit; seats to keep us out of the water and a ledge for the radio together with a cooking area.

Despite the Head Shed dictating that only hexblocks could be used because 'in a war Calor gas would run out', both Garfield and I had gas burners with us. Soon we all had a hot drink. Never had compo choccy drink tasted so good!



RGH Kith and Kin

Another story about fathers and sons etc who have served in the Regiment. In this one we look at Lord de Clifford and his son the Hon William Russell.

Lord de Clifford

Lord de Clifford served with the RGH from 1926 to 1940.

He had trained as an engineer and devoted his skills to motorcars. He competed at Brooklands, did time trials and endurance tests for Lagonda and competed several times in the Monte Carlo Rally, winning an award in a diesel engined Bentley. He built a number of cars to his own design on a Lagonda chassis, two of which are known to still exist, in Texas and East Anglia.

Living in Uley after his marriage, it was inevitable Ted would join the RGH Armoured Car Company, which he did in November 1926 and he continued to serve until World War II.

He then joined the 8th Armoured Division in 1940 as a staff officer and, went out to North Africa where for a time he was ADC to a General, the latter getting very annoyed when he was bombed by the Americans outside Casino.

Ted would tell the story that he hitched a lift in the desert from a Lysander reconnaissance plane. En route, an ME 109 attacked them. Ted asked the pilot if he should man the machine gun in the back. 'No', said the pilot, 'you might annoy him'. The pilot flew down to a few feet off the floor of a Wadi, taking advantage of the Lysander's maneuverability and low stalling speed. After one attempt to attack when it nearly hit the rim of the Wadi, the ME 109 flew off.

When the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were formed, Ted was transferred to them in 1942 so the newly formed Corps could take advantage of his vehicle engineering skills.

After the war Ted was granted a Regular Army Commission. He took command of 23rd Heavy Workshop in Bielefeld before taking up command of the REME training depot in Arborfield.

Once a Yeoman, always a Yeoman, so Ted decided to take the passing out parade mounted, together with a reluctant Adjutant. As they rode onto the parade ground, the RSM called the parade to attention. 500 boots hit the tarmac with a crash, Ted controlled his horse with no difficulty but the Adjutant's horse turned tail was last seen heading for Aldershot at the gallop and took no further part in the parade.

He was posted to 40 Base Workshop in the Far East and retired in 1958.

The Hon William Russell

Ted's son William Russell was not prepared to follow in his father's footsteps in REME so he did his National Service by joining the Royal Engineers. Despite requesting an overseas posting on commissioning he became RTO London District, his first introduction to his life long love of trains.

His first year's service in the reserves was spent training "Z" reservists at Longmoor in case they were needed in Korea. This was very tedious, they did not want to be trained and William did not want to train them. Instead he learnt how to drive a steam engine.

To complete his reserve service William applied to join his father's old regiment, the RGH, in which his uncles Tom Elder-Jones and Jeremy Taylor also served. After interviews in Gloucester he was accepted. But a RE training of loading boat trains, laying minefields and blowing up or building bridges was of little use to a Reconnaissance Regiment, so he passed his first year doing a course at Bovington to learn how to operate a 19 Set and acting wireless operator to David Money-Coutts on exercises to learn what a Reconnaissance Regiment did.

In 1956 William joined G (Stroud) Squadron as a troop leader alongside Piers Birchall and David Lowesley-Williams. In 1961 he was promoted to second captain in A (Gloucester) Squadron.

William was made to leave the RGH in 1967 and for two years served with the Essex yeomanry where he now lived. They were TAVR3 and it was not a success. The Essex Yeomanry were gunners who had lost their guns so their morale was at rock bottom.

When William retired to the Cotswolds he immediately received a phone call thanking him for volunteering to become chairman of the Benevolent Fund. 'I have not volunteered' William replied. 'Well you had better volunteer now' said the voice and rang off. William served as Chairman of the Benevolent Fund for 15 years. In a similar fashion he was appointed Archivist of the Regiment's records. But, he was so ineffective that when Dominic Barrington-Brown arranged for the archives to be moved to Gloucester, William was very relieved.

Now in his eighties he still keeps in touch with the Regiment by sitting on Rollo Clifford's Historical Research Committee.

The Hon William Russell

Empty Saddles

Mr Derek "Jacko" Jackson

ex A (RGH) Squadron RWxY



The Rev Sidney Riggs

More than 250 worshippers gathered at Rodborough Parish Church, Gloucestershire for the funeral of the Rev Sidney Riggs who died on 27 March 2011.

The 72-year-old had been the Rector of Rodborough for 12 years until his retirement in 2004 and prior to that he was at St Mary de Lode in Gloucester, where, in 1976, he had been expected to close the church, but instead the congregation grew so much that the churchgoers had to install a new nave floor.

Jean, his wife of 47-years said: 'He was a man not afraid of a challenge.'

He was probably best known to us though because, for about 30 years he served as the Honorary Padre of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association.



Major James 'Slip' Mitchell TD

The Times reported the death on 4 August 2011, of Maj James 'Slip' Mitchell who was a Squadron Leader with the RGH in the 1950s and 1960s. He previously served with the 11th Hussars in WW2 and successfully fought from Normandy to Berlin. His father Col Frank Mitchell fought at the Battle of Romani in 1916 and the family lived at Highgrove. 'Slip' settled in Australia and in addition to raising a large family maintained a keen interest in Racing. He recently made a generous donation to the RGHYA..



Mr William Edward Frank Tombs - 1920 - 2011



Mr Owen Bathe - 1923 - 2011



Earl Bathurst

It was with great sadness that the Regiment heard of the death on 16 October of the Earl Bathurst, who served in the RGH, including a period as Squadron Second in Command. He died in hospital after a long illness borne with great dignity and forbearance. Lord Bathurst was a loyal friend to the Regiment, attending as many events as he could. His passing is a huge loss to his family and to all of us, and the end of an historical era. He will be sadly missed by so many.

the RGH Trustees.



Mr Benjamin Kenneth Hack (Ken)

'H' Sqn (Despatch Rider) in N Africa and Army Air Corps (Cartographer) Italy 1943/45.



Mr Paul Tucker

ex C (RGH) Squadron, RWxY



Mr Frank Deighton

ex RGH Bandsman



Mr Paul Winstone

ex-G Sqn

The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association

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 Home
 Calendar
 Annual Newsletter

This website is managed by the Regimental Association with the approval of the Regimental Trustees. The views, comments and opinions expressed therein do not necessarily represent the views comments and opinions official or otherwise of the HQ, or The Royal Wessex Yeomanry Regiment.

The Association

The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association offers membership to all who have served in the Regiment or in the RGH squadrons of The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, including individuals who have been attached to the regiment and the widows and dependants of past members of the regiment.

The Aims of the Association

The aims of the Association are to promote Regimental traditions and support serving members of the RGH squadron of The Royal Wessex Yeomanry. The Association will safeguard the name of The Regiment and the interest and welfare of those who have served in or with it, or other members.



This web-site is dedicated to all who have served with the RGH

In 2009 the Committee looked at various ways to improve communication to branch members and the world in general.

They started a "Facebook" group to enable members to receive information quickly and also enable them to talk to other "old comrades". This has proved very popular and if you care to join it and look at it, you will find a wealth of information and also some very interesting pictures.

You can find this on: **Facebook Group: Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association (Cotswold Branch)**

The Committee also looked into the feasibility and costs of building a website. They found the best and most cost effective way was to enlist the

services of a brilliant young website designer by the name of Ms Dawn Tyror, who did the project for nil cost. She worked in conjunction with Captain Phil Mitchell and between them, they produced a working prototype. After a few tweaks and kicks, it was ready to be launched and so, at the March 2010 branch meeting in the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in Gloucester it was duly floated, and very successful it has been since then.

If you look at the sample page above, you will see that you can, for instance, look at our history; read our constitution; read the "Donkey Walloper" and buy all the reasonably priced gifts from our PRI shop that you could ever want.

Opposite you will find your PRI shop list of items.

See your website, go to: www.rghya.org.uk



Cloth Beret Badge - £9.00 plus p&p



RGH Design Coaster - £1.75 plus p&p



Regimental Silk Bowtie - £22.00 plus p&p



Regimental Cards - £1.20 each



Regimental Cravat - £17.00 plus p&p



100% Polyester Fleece - £18.00 plus p&p



RGH Design Magnet - £1.50 plus p&p



RGH Plaque - £20.00 plus p&p



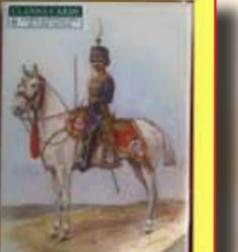
RGH Design Placemat - £3.50 plus p&p



SNCO Metal Badge - £14.00 plus p&p



RGH Design Mousemat - £4.00 plus p&p



Regimental Cards pack of 6 - £2.50 plus p&p



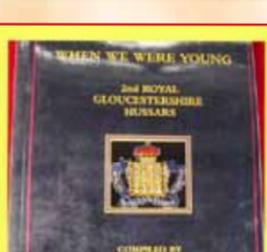
Regimental Stable Belt - £17.00 plus p&p



Silk Regimental Tie - £20.00 plus p&p



100% Wool Regimental Ski Jumper - £65 plus p&p



RGH Book "When We Were Young"
A collection of individual memories and experiences of those who served with Second Royal Gloucestershire Hussars - £10.00 plus P&P



Pewter tankard with engraved RGH siphon - £90.00

RGHYA 2012 Calendar

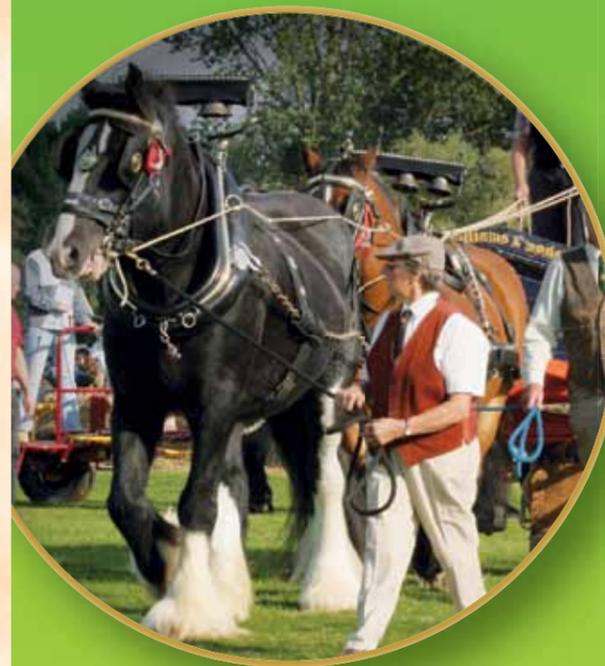
Date	Time	Event	Location
18 January	20.00	Cheltenham Area Meeting	Victory Club
March		HQ ARRC return from Kabullmjijn Barracks	
13 March	19.00	Cotswold Branch Meeting	Regtl Museum, Gloucester
13-16 March		National Hunt Festival	Cheltenham Racecourse
21 March	20.00	Cheltenham Area Meeting	Victory Club
30 March	1200	RGHYA Lunch	Eliot Arms, South Cerney
08 April		Easter Sunday	
15 April	10.30	RGHYA AGM	Highfield House
20 April	19.30	RGH Katia Dinner	Badminton House
22 April	15.00	Katia Day Wreath Laying	RGH War Memorial
23 April	19.30	Royal Society of St George Service	Gloucester Cathedral
04-07 May		Badminton Horse Trials	Badminton Estate
20 May	10.30	Cavalry Memorial Parade	Hyde Park
16 May	20.00	Cheltenham Area Meeting	Victory Club
09 June	11.00	Queen's Birthday Parade	Horse Guards
12 June (TBC)	19.30	Cotswold Branch Meeting	Stroud
30 June-01 July		The Cotswold Show	Cirencester Park
18 July	20.00	Cheltenham Area Meeting	Victory Club
21 July – 04 August		Gloucestershire ACF Annual Camp	Napier Barracks, Kent
03 September (TBC)	19.30	Cotswold Branch Meeting	Cirencester TAC
09 September		Frampton Country Fair	Frampton Court
19 September	20.00	Cheltenham Area Meeting	Victory Club
28 September	1200	RGHYA Lunch	TBC
20 October	12.00	RGH Raceday	Cheltenham Racecourse
26 October	19.30	Sldrs of Glos Museum Autumn Lecture	Chavenage House
11 November	11.00	Remembrance Sunday	Cirencester
	14.45	RGH Wreath Laying	RGH War Memorial
21 November	20.00	Cheltenham Area Meeting	Victory Club
25 November	11.15	El Gubi Service	Badminton Church
	12.30	King's Royal Hussars Assn. Luncheon	Victory Club
01 December (TBC)	10.30	RWxY Regimental Ride	Badminton Estate
11 December (TBC)	19.30	Cotswold Branch Meeting	Stroud Conservative Club

FRAMPTON COUNTRY FAIR

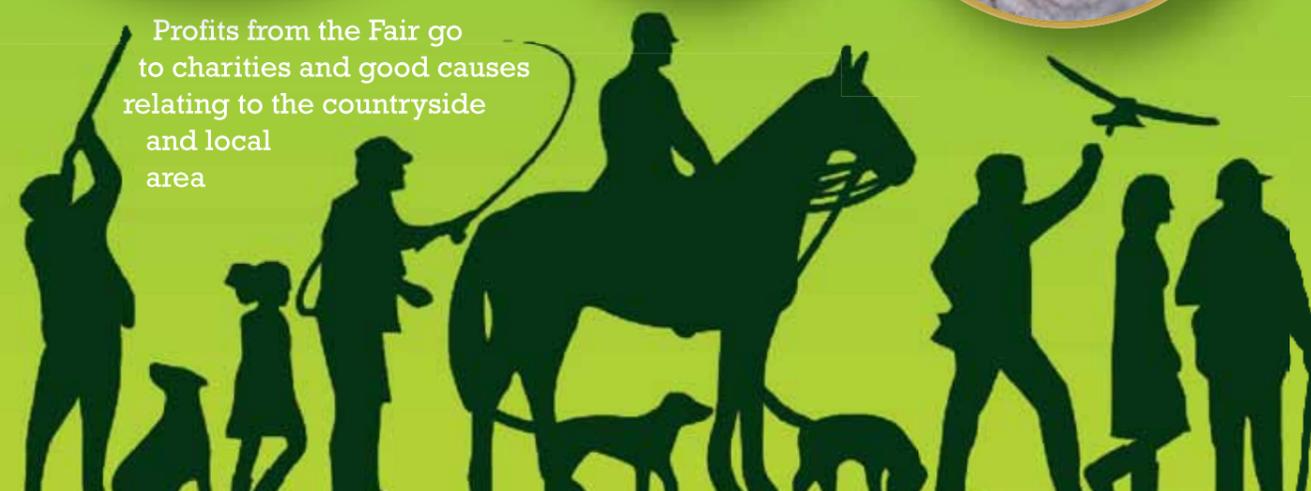
SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2012

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