



THE SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

From: Capt MA Elliott
Hon Secretary

TA Centre
Cavendish Drive
Carlton
Nottingham NG4 3DX

21st March 2012

Dear Member,

AGM and ANNUAL DINNER - Saturday 28th April 2012

This year's Annual Reunion Dinner will be held at 6.30 for 7.00pm on Saturday 28th April at the TA Centre, Carlton, by kind permission of the Squadron Leader, Major Rupert Marsh. As last year, we will have the excellent Royal Yeomanry Band to play for us.

The cost of the Dinner will be £16-00 per person and full details are enclosed on a separate sheet. I hope that as many members as possible will attend. Please apply to me (or to the SSM if you are a serving member) in good time. If you apply to me please use the correct form (attached). We will always try to accommodate latecomers but if a large number of people turn up at the last minute it makes life very difficult for the organisers.

Guests are welcome at the dinner but must be connected with the SRY or other regiments.

Free Tickets. Free tickets are available to those members over 65 who are in genuinely reduced circumstances and who would not otherwise be able to attend. If you are in this situation and cannot afford a ticket I still hope that you will come - please sign the declaration on the application form and I will send you a free one.

Serving members of S Sqn should, as usual, obtain their dinner tickets from the Squadron. However, if you put your name on the Squadron list, please don't order a ticket from me as well or you will have to pay twice.

At the Dinner, we shall again be holding a raffle and any donations of prizes will be gratefully received. Last year's raffle collected £130 and I am most grateful to all who contributed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held immediately before the dinner at 6.00pm. The Agenda and a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting are enclosed. The Accounts will be presented at the meeting.

OBITUARIES

I am sorry to have to report the deaths since my last circular of a number of members as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Mr H Butterworth | - Oldham | Mr WG Heather | - Gedling |
| Mr J Chorley | - Warrington | Capt MLA Hope | - Lincoln |
| Mr AD Douse | - Nottingham | Mr CF Macmillan | - Goderich, Ontario |
| Maj HR Hampson TD | - Lambley | | |

REPORTS FROM THE BRANCHES

I attach a report from the Midlands Branch. The Branch is keen to establish contact with members living in the area who served in more recent years (1980s/90s) and who may have lost touch in the meantime. Please contact one of the Committee members on the telephone numbers shown. The Branch ran a number of successful functions during the year and, from the profits, made generous donations to the Widows' Fund and to the Sqn welfare fund, both of which are much appreciated.

With its membership much reduced and only a small handful of ex-SRY members and widows living in the Bournemouth area it is no longer feasible to maintain a separate Southern Branch. The Midlands Branch has taken over responsibility for the WW2 veterans countrywide (which had already happened in practice) and the Branch is in the process of being wound up. Our thanks to Bill Barrett and the other members of the Ewing family for maintaining the Branch following Ken Ewing's death, to Capt David Render for his support as President and to all those who have assisted with the operation of the Branch over the years.

NEW REGIMENTAL HISTORY

The first volume of Col Jonathan Hunt's new history of the Regiment has now been published and copies are available for sale. It is the first of two volumes and covers the period from the foundation of the Regiment in 1794 to around 1900. It includes much new material about the founding of the Regiment and those involved in its early history. I enclose a leaflet giving more details and how to order from the publishers who are offering a reduced price for both volumes ordered together. Copies will be also available at the dinner at a specially reduced price for members (see below).

This is an important publication. It is the first complete history of the Regiment and the Hon Colonel has asked me to include the following message:

Most of you will know by now that Colonel Jonathan Hunt was tasked by the Regimental Trustees to write a book on the formation and history of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. He has done this and produced an excellent first volume entitled 'Unicorns' after a Keith Douglas poem. It is an absorbing account of the period and the social and economic history surrounding the raising of the Yeomanries. The foreword is by renowned historian and TV personality James Holland who says:

"Jonathan Hunt's research is impeccable, and extends far beyond the reaches of the Shire, for what makes this book so absorbing is the context that he brings to the narrative. There are many wonderful details, but also invaluable explanations, which makes this as much a general social history as an account of the birth and growth of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. Weaving the micro with the macro is always a difficult

balance to achieve, yet the story of the Regiment with the wider, national and international picture is skilfully handled and the book is infinitely the richer as a result”.

The book is available now from the TA Centre at Carlton and, as a one-off offer, is available to members of the Association and Squadron members at the heavily discounted price of £30 (I paid £35 for mine!). Col Hunt has said that he will personally sign every copy sold at the AGM and Dinner on 28 April!

Please now do your bit by buying a copy as the Trustees have financed this project and we are relying on sales to reimburse Regimental funds, without which we will be unable to finance other worthy causes.

I would urge you all to support your distinguished Regiment by buying this remarkable book and ensure that ‘Unicorns’ is the success it undoubtedly deserves to be.

Col Murray Colville

Brig Michael Browne

Lt Col CB Allen

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The new Regimental Museum at Thoresby was opened by Princess Alexandra last July and had a successful first season, attracting around 7,000 visitors in the first two months. It is open to the public from Wednesday to Sunday (including bank holidays) from 1st March to 30th November and is well worth a visit. It really seems to have been successful in bringing our story to the attention on the public at large.

More details and a report on the opening are attached to this letter.

Thanks to the participation of the QRL, the new museum will have a paid Curator. However there is also a need for volunteers to assist and to staff the museum. A number of members have volunteered to help and have been trained and we are most grateful to them for their assistance. As always more assistance is welcome. If you live in the area and would like to help in this way, please contact me or Chris Woodward.

You can also help in other ways including becoming a friend and Brig Michael Browne has asked me to include the following words about how you might support this valuable effort

I appreciate that you may well have already made a contribution towards the cost of setting up the Museum at Thoresby and may also have signed a standing order to become a Friend of the Museum. If you have, we are most grateful for your contribution and perhaps we could ask you to please pass the enclosed flyer on to anyone who you think might be able to assist, asking them to complete the appropriate form and return it to QRL Home Headquarters in Grantham, as shown on the flyer. If you have not yet contributed and would like to do so, please complete the flyer yourself and, if you are not already a Friend of the Museum, the simple form of covenant returned for a minimum payment of £15 per annum (more if you can afford it!) would be greatly appreciated. As a Friend, you are entitled to a 10% discount on any goods bought in the Museum shop, together with a half yearly newsletter and the Friends' Committee will be organising Friends' functions from time to time, the first of which, it is hoped, will be in the early summer of 2012. Any further support that you are able to give financially would be greatly appreciated.

Brig Michael Browne

S (SRY) Sqn THE ROYAL YEOMANRY

The TA is yet again under review and the full consequences for the reserve forces of the last Strategic Defence and Security review are still awaited. While superficially successful in terms of the immediate support given to the regular army, the earlier move to focus the TA on the training of individuals has made it difficult to maintain the organisational depth to maintain units and subunits in the long term and to provide interesting roles to challenge and develop officers and senior NCOs. Soldiers may be technically competent but they need to function in and lead teams and it is difficult to learn that if you don't have a realistic team of your own to lead.

The problem is coming to be recognised but it is by no means clear the proposed solution, which appears to be an even closer integration with the regular army, will necessarily be an improvement. Also, financially-driven decisions on everything from the provision of civilian support staff to the location of TA centres continue to make life difficult for those just trying to do their job.

Meanwhile, the role of the Royal Yeomanry is expected to change again. The CBRN role (NBC to the Secretary's generation) is to be transferred to the RAF and we wait to hear exactly what will replace it.

Despite all of this, the Regiment and S(SRY) Sqn are in great heart. A group has just returned from Afghanistan and another will shortly be mobilised. The RY continues to do more than its bit in this respect and our members serving with the regular army are held in the highest regard. For those on operations last year, the Association supported the provision of regular welfare parcels and we are grateful to all those who helped in this effort.

Maj Rupert Marsh is now in command of the Sqn. We welcome him back for his third tour and his report is attached.

CAVALRY MEMORIAL PARADE - Sunday 20th May 2012

Please note that this year the Cavalry Memorial Parade will be held on Sunday 20th May in Hyde Park. This is a week later than usual and a change from the date announced at last year's parade. Nevertheless, I hope that the Regiment will again be well represented. Detailed arrangements will be co-ordinated through the Branches so, if you would like to attend, please contact your local Branch Secretary. The RY will, as usual, be organising a lunch after the parade. If you would like to attend, please let me know as soon as possible.

Some photos of last year's parade:



The Secretary, Capt Turner, M/M Woodward, M/M Brown



Capt Turner



The Secretary with Lt Col & Mrs Astbury



The RY Band



The Hon Colonel



Martin Kerry making a point to the Secretary



The Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park

NORMANDY JUNE 2011 and 2012

Last year's Normandy tour was well supported and included a visit to the Tank Museum in Bovington, dinner with the southern Branch in Bournemouth and two full days in Normandy for the 7th June ceremonies and a short battlefield tour. A full report is attached to this letter.

This year's tour will depart from Poole on 6th June and return on 8th June with the usual ceremonies in Bayeux and St Pierre/Tilly on the 7th. If you would like to come, please contact me or Martin Kerry as soon as possible.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY 9th NOVEMBER 2011

Once again, the Regiment was represented at the Annual Field of Remembrance organised by the Royal British Legion at Westminster Abbey. My thanks to all who came, particularly to Capt David Render who was our representative at the head of the plot, Capt Nick Robinson who placed the memorial crosses and Bernard Andrews who arranged for us all to have lunch at the Union Jack Club after the ceremony.



Capt Robinson & Elliott, Christopher Pike,
Capt Render & Philippa D'Eath



Capt Render at the SRY Plot



Prince Philip & Capt Render



Personal memorial crosses

This year the ceremony will be held on Thursday 8th November. Security is heightened these days and, if you would like to come you will need a ticket. However, it is a nice ceremony and I hope that anyone who would like to come will not be deterred, but please give me at least six weeks notice so that I can make the necessary arrangements on your behalf.

ITEMS FOR SALE

I enclose a list of books, ties, buttons and other items for sale together with details of how to order by post. Please send your order to Chris Woodward as shown on the form and not to me. As usual, these items will also be available at the Dinner.

We have also had some large (5ft x 3ft) SRY flags made and have a few available for sale at a price of £80 each. More details are given on the attached Items for Sale list.

UNIFORMS

If you have any items of uniform such as Greens or Mess Kit which either belong to the Regiment or which you would be prepared to donate, they would be much appreciated - please contact Capt Steve Goodwin (PSAO) at Carlton (0115 961 8722).

WELFARE

I should like to remind you that I rely entirely on members to keep me informed about other members, particularly those in need, so, if you know of someone who needs help or a visit, please inform me or one of the Branch representatives and we will do what we can to assist them, either practically or financially. I am sure that I speak for all members in saying that we continue to be most grateful for all the work done by Don Brown and others in visiting and supporting our less fortunate comrades.

WIDOWS' FUND

Thanks to the generosity of members, the Widows' Fund had another successful year. We again raised well over £2,000 and were able to send out gift vouchers worth £40 to each of 57 widows at Christmas, a record number. I received numerous letters of sincere thanks and there is no doubt that this effort is appreciated. What is most important is that the recipients know that they are not forgotten.

As in previous years, I am extremely grateful to Capt David Render, who raised almost half the total through the proceeds of his popular lecture series, and to his friend Vic Benson (ex-RMP and Metropolitan Police) who helps on these occasions. I would also like to thank the members of the Midlands Branch who contributed the proceeds of a several of their functions and all those individuals who made personal donations, large or small.

TAX RELIEF ON DONATIONS

As a registered charity, the Association can claim tax relief on the amount of any donation, however small, provided the donor signs a declaration that tax has been paid on the amount given. This also applies to donations to the Widows' Fund (see above). Hence, if you are a taxpayer and have not already signed such a declaration, please complete and sign the declaration on the proforma which will allow us to reclaim tax on any donation that you may make now or in the future.

FINALLY

Please also let me know when you move so that I can keep my address list up-to-date. It is difficult to keep track of everybody. Last year the circulars addressed to the following were returned:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Mr M Chapman | - Beeston | SJ Norman Esq | - Great Chishill |
| J Dalton Esq | - Nottingham | Capt ACP Norton | - Normanton-on-Soar |

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mr NJ Davies | - Derby | Mr T Reeves | - Nottingham |
| Mr D Dewar | - Margate | Mr BJ Russell | - Alcester |
| Mr RJ Dickson | - Clifton | Mr G Steadman | - Doncaster |
| Mr Gartside | - Nottingham | Mr DA Till | - Ranskill |
| Mr RM Hill | - Clifton | Mr F Tinker | - Worksop |
| Mr Lock | - Nottingham | Mr RA Toms | - Ilkeston |
| SA Lucas Esq | - Edgeware | Mr MJ Whitehead | - Bakersfield |
| Mr Naylor | - Hucknall | Mr JJ Willdig | - Chesterfield |

If you have any news of them or of anyone who did not receive this circular, please let me know.

My thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter, particularly to Mrs Ann Barrow, Sgt Mick Sulman and all the S Sqn photographers who supplied me with photographs. Also to Capt David Render, Mike Freeman and the Midlands Branch Committee, Chris Woodward and his helpers in the Museum, Martin Kerry, Alan Brooks and Capt Steve Goodwin at Carlton for all their help throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing as many of possible of you at the Dinner and at other events during the year.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Elliott

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at Carlton at 6.00pm on Saturday 28th April 2012. The Agenda will be as follows:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
5. Officers and Trustees
6. Midlands Branch Report and Accounts
7. Southern Branch
8. Welfare Matters
9. Any Other Business

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT CARLTON ON 26th MARCH 2011

Present: Col Hunt (Chairman), Maj Cornish (Treasurer), Capt Elliott (Secretary) and 25 other members

1. Apologies for Absence - Received from 17 members
2. Minutes of last AGM - The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
3. Matters Arising - None

4. Treasurer's Report

Maj Cornish presented the accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2010 which had been approved by the Trustees in their meeting just finished. The main income during the year had been from the Tour to Holland in September and donations in response to the Thoresby appeal. The balance sheet value of investments had recovered somewhat due to the general improvement of financial markets.

The accounts were approved, proposed by Col Hunt and seconded by Mr Freeman.

5. Officers and Trustees

Capt Elliott said that, during the year, there had been no changes in the Trustees.

6. Midlands Branch Report and Accounts

Mr Freeman presented the report of the Midlands Branch which had had another successful year. Mr Woodward presented the Branch accounts and confirmed that they had been approved by the Branch.

7. Southern Branch

Capt Elliott reported that the Southern Branch had not been active since the death of Mr Ewing. The Branch President, Capt Render, was interested in keeping it going at a reduced level of activity but how to do this was still being worked out. Meanwhile, the Midlands Branch had adopted the southern veterans and was including them in its newsletters and activities.

Col Hunt paid tribute to Mr Ewing and all that he had done in setting up the Branch and running it for so many years.

8. Welfare

Mr DHF Brown reported that he continued to visit members and widows on a regular basis to show them that they were not forgotten. The widows were very appreciative of their Christmas gifts. He also paid tribute to all the work done by Mr Ewing and said how much he was missed.

Col Hunt thanked Mr Brown for all his efforts in this field.

9. Any Other Business

Brig Browne reported on the status of the Thoresby project which was on schedule for a soft opening on 30th May and an official opening by Princess Alexandra on 26th July. Capt Brooks asked about the expected running costs if the paid curator position were lost. Col Hunt said that we would have to rely more on volunteers and would probably have to charge for entry. There were currently around 88,000 visitors to the stable yard per annum and this was expected to increase to around 120,000 when the museum opened. Brig Browne added that we would also build up an income from Friends of the museum and that a local trust had indicated its intention to make annual grants for the next three years. Col Hunt said that further volunteers would be welcome and should give their names to him or one of the other officers of the Association.

Capt Elliott thanked Capt Brooks, the SSM, Mr Mayall, and members of the Midlands Branch and the Squadron for their assistance in organising the Dinner.

MAE
30th March 2011

The Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry Association (Midlands Branch)
Annual Report 2011

Once again I am pleased to report that the Branch has had a very good year. I am also pleased to report that the branch is in a strong financial position due to the concerted efforts by the branch committee and the continued support from the membership. Currently we have 110 members subscribing to the branch newsletter which is posted out twice a year. If you wish to subscribe to the branch newsletter contact any of the committee members listed. At £3.00 per annum we think it is well worth it. We currently issue news letters to our branch widows and the veterans of the old Southern Branch free of charge. If you believe that you are eligible to receive free newsletters please let us know.

New members are always welcome, open to all ranks, **and there is no joining fee**. All ex members of the SRY, serving members or ex members of the RY, or if you were, or are attached to either, you are automatically a member by right. We will always be pleased to see you at our monthly meetings, which are held on the third Friday each month at the TA Centre Carlton, by kind permission of the Squadron Leader Major R Marsh. From 25th April our regular meeting date will be changed from the third Friday to **the fourth Wednesday of each month**. In October we welcomed the new SSM to the TAC (Karl Stone) and we are looking forward to working with him, the senior members of the WOs and Sgts' Mess, and of course all other ranks.

Visits and events during the year

We have had a very busy year starting with, the Branch AGM in February, the Regimental Annual dinner in March and the OCA Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park in May. Again, we were able to take a full coach load to Hyde Park, which included the majority of branch members and a few guests. After the parade we stopped off en route to Nottingham at the Police Sports and Social Club in Bushey (Herts) where we were provided with a sumptuous buffet at a very reasonable price. The coach was paid for out of profits made on the December 2010 grand prize draw event, at which we managed to realise a profit of £1,500 which was shared between the Squadron, the Branch and the Widows fund.

On Saturday June the 4th, we took a coach party to the Tank Museum at Bovington and we joined the few remaining members of the Southern Branch for dinner in Bournemouth. On the Sunday we sailed from Portsmouth to Normandy where we made our usual pilgrimages to Bayeux and several other places of interest. We returned to the UK on June the 8th. In July we attended the grand opening of the new QRL and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum, at Thoresby, Nottinghamshire. Well worth a visit and you can apply to be a "Friend of the Museum" and support what is a fine exhibition of QRL, SRY and SNH memorabilia.

Proposed trips 2012

This year (2012) on the 4th of June we will once again be taking a coach party to the Tank Museum in Bovington; this will be followed by a "Banquet" at the Tower Hotel, in Bournemouth, when hopefully we will be joined by the few remaining members of the Southern branch. In the coming September we have planned a trip to the Somme. If you are interested in any of the trips, contact (in the first instance) Martin Kerry or one of the other committee members below.

The Midlands Branch Committee

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Mike Freeman | Chairman |
| Chris Woodward | Treasurer |

Martin Kerry Event's Organiser
Donald Brown Welfare Visitor

On the Welfare side, if you are aware of anyone who has passed away, is suffering, or in need, please call Donald Brown or any committee member. The Midlands Branch has a special interest in the welfare of the Association widows, and we actively support the widow's fund by way of a share from profits that we make from our Branch functions. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

For further information about the branch, the membership and future events please contact any branch committee member.

Mike Freeman (Branch Chairman)

NEW REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The new joint museum of the Nottinghamshire cavalry regiments (called the "Queen's Royal Lancers and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum") is now established in the courtyard at Thoresby Hall near Worksop and has had a successful first season. It tells the story of the three regiments as a timeline with the relevant regiments identified with the various events in which they participated.

The new museum also has a website - see <http://www.qrlnymuseum.co.uk/>

While some items have been transferred on loan to Thoresby, our museum at Carlton remains. In fact, as the new museum is a historical narrative rather than simply a display of artefacts, relatively few items are needed to tell then story and the bulk of our collection, including most of the medals, pictures and small items, remains at Carlton so the casual visitor would hardly notice that anything had gone.

The Stonebridge Trust, owners of Thoresby, have kindly provided the premises at a nominal rent in return for us allowing access to the public free of charge, although there is a drum inviting donations from visitors. We therefore need to find other sources of income which include sales of gift articles and the support of Friends. I enclose a leaflet giving more details of the Museum and the Friends scheme and I would urge all members to consider joining and supporting this effort to bring our story to the wider public.



Thoresby Courtyard on Opening Day



Inside the Museum

We are grateful to those who have already joined and for a number of generous donations. We are particularly thankful to Sir Nicholas White, descendant of Sir Thomas Wollaston White Bt who commanded the Regiment in its early years, for providing a superb collection of early uniforms for display. Sir Thomas also raised, at his own expense, a regiment of Militia whose colours and badge were later adopted by the SRY. When George III heard of this, he said that the undertaking was too

heavy a cost for a private gentleman to bear and offered to pay half from his privy purse. Mr White declined the King's offer, saying that he considered it the duty of every loyal gentleman to assist to the utmost of his means at such a crisis. In response, the King created him a baronet in 1802.

The Museum was officially opened By HRH Princess Alexandra, Royal Hon Col of both the QRL and the Royal Yeomanry on 26th July. The event was a great success. Kate Adie kept us amused with the inside story of just about everything and there was a moment when HRH, momentarily directed towards the wrong door, made a spirited attempt to open the adjacent gift shop. Otherwise, it all went off without a hitch.

MAE



Princess Alexandra with Col Sir Andrew Buchanan



RY and SRY top brass



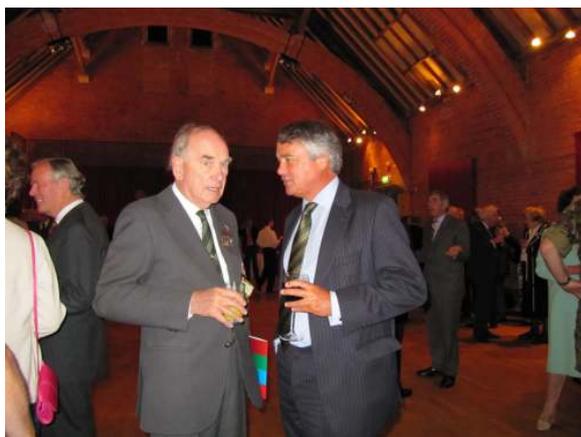
Guests in the Courtyard



HRH inspecting the Guard



The SRY Lance Guards



Capt Render & Maj Smith



Messrs Holland, Cox, Woodward & Hinett

SRV VISIT TO NORMANDY 4th/7th JUNE 2011

Last year's tour to Normandy started with a visit to the Tank Museum at Bovington. For those that have not been for a long time, the Museum is well worth another visit. Bovington is much changed, the huts of fond memory are long gone and the Museum itself has recently been enlarged and reorganised. The serried ranks of armoured vehicles are still there but there is a new, modern display hall showing the development of the tank over the years which also includes a DD Sherman as used by B and C Sqns SRY on D Day. It was a Saturday and the traffic to the South Coast was heavy so that the coach from Nottingham was delayed with the unfortunate result that the guided tour had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, everyone had a time to view the displays independently and watch a rather unconvincing mock battle in the outdoor display area. We even met our old friend Mr Stan Hill (SSM of B(SRV) Sqn in the early 1970s) and were able to sample the food at his stall in the car park.



Duplex Drive Sherman as used by B & C Sqns SRY on D Day (note the propellers)



Stan Cox and Graham Stevenson with a Sherman Firefly



Derek Cooper and the Secretary with last year's model

Once in Normandy, the battlefield tour was guided by the Secretary with a commentary by Capt David Render and other veterans. We visited Gold Beach where Bert Jenkins told us how he was wounded when his tank was knocked out shortly after landing and then followed the Regiment's advance inland to Tilly sur Seullles where Keith Douglas was killed. Another day was spent visiting Fontenay, Rauray, Bricquessard, Jurques, La Bigne, Ondefontaine and the sites of other important engagements in June, July and August 1944. We also visited the cemeteries at Tilly and St Charles de Percy, the latter for the first time in many years.



Bert Jenkins telling his story on Gold Beach



Gold Beach



The Cemetery at St Charles de Percy



Commemoration ceremonies were held on 7th June at Bayeux, with the Essex Regiment to mark the liberation of the town by the two regiments on that day in 1944 and later at St Pierre farm, where the Regiment lost its CO, Adjutant and IO, and at Tilly sur Seullles where we also laid a wreath at the civilian memorial in memory of the many French civilians who were killed or injured in the fighting.



Before the ceremony at Bayeux



Hon Col, Capt Render, Mr Cooper & Maj Marsh



The service at Bayeux



The Last Post



Capt Render laying a wreath at the SRY memorial



Lt Col Astbury



St Pierre farm



Tilly Cemetery



The Mayor and Jean-Pierre Benamou at St Pierre



The civilian memorial at Tilly

Our thanks go to all our friends in Bayeux and Tilly for their hospitality and warm welcome, their assistance with the organisation of our ceremonies and for their care of our memorials.

MAE

S (SRY) Sqn REVIEW 2012/12

What of the Sherwood Rangers in 2011? Returning to Carlton again after eight years away at RHQ and at ERE affords me a unique perspective on the changes that have taken place and to deliver the 'state of the squadron' address.

Over the past 20 years the squadron has transferred from the Royal Yeomanry to the Queen's Own Yeomanry and back again, our cap badge has changed from the horn and lanyard to the stalking fox and back and, most recently, to HRH Princess Alexandra's cipher, CVR(T) has been replaced with Land-Rovers and we have re-rolled from formation reconnaissance to Challenger 2 War Establishment Reserves to CBRN recce (which looks set to change again in the near future, though to what remains undecided). Yet despite all these changes and a considerable reduction in our establishment our identity endures and the squadron continues to hold its own, albeit it somewhat reduced circumstances.

Recruiting now demands more thought than driving a section of Scimitar emblazoned with our telephone number though Nottingham city centre on a Saturday, but the recruiting stand manned by WO2 Griffin, Sgt Smalley and Cpl Bradley, is busy at events around the county and produces an encouraging number through the front gate..

The training calendar remains full. Field training is co-ordinated regimentally nowadays and is almost wholly based on training areas - the far-ranging and sleepless squadron FTXs over public roads and private land which required half a dozen OS sheets and rolls of Fablon are a thing of the past – but the scenarios are imaginative and training is both relevant and, notwithstanding the constraints of drivers' hours, testing. Low-level training aside, the year has seen a CPX based at Thetford, a regimental FTX on Salisbury Plain and annual camp at Garelochhead, ending with adventure training in which the squadron undertook a team relay along Hadrian's Wall in aid of the Regimental Association.

Operationally, the squadron's utility has never been greater: Sherwood Rangers have deployed into every theatre over the past 15 years, many having been fortunate to serve with the Queen's Royal Lancers in the process, which is of course how regimental affiliations ought to work, though rarely do. As I write, 7 have recently demobilised, 2 have just deployed and pre-mobilisation training is

now underway for Op HERRICK 18, for which the Royal Yeomanry is the lead yeomanry regiment in November 2012.

Afghanistan preparation aside, the next six months include Freedom Parades in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, annual camp at Bovington in June, concentrating on trade training and career qualifications, and security duties at the Olympic Games. Training opportunities overseas include support to the Household Cavalry Regiment in Canada in June and the possibility of a second camp, in Denmark in September.

Perhaps the most important change has taken place behind the scenes: the loss of civilian staff. In the past 12 months we have lost our civilian fitter, Mr Peters, and our resident caretaker, Mr Mayall; neither post will be filled, creating yet more work for the already-stretched permanent staff who have coped admirably, as ever, and have ensured that the squadron continues to pass all its inspections with a 'green' rating. The loss of the caretaker has already caused unforeseen difficulties, restricting out-of-hours use of the drill hall which has affected Association monthly meetings in particular. Though not perhaps ideal, is hoped that use of the squadron club will prove to be an acceptable solution for the time being. The imminent retirement of Mrs Lacey, our long-serving and dedicated clerk, will be a particular blow to the smooth running of the squadron's admin.

As well as a 'new' squadron leader, we have welcomed a new SSM, WO2 Stone, most recently at RHQ but prior to that a 9/12 Lancer and a PSI with B(LDY)Squadron in Leicester, whose recee expertise and drive are very welcome. Finally, we welcome Capt Beattie as squadron 2IC, formerly Intelligence Officer at RHQ, whose enthusiasm for all things Sherwood Ranger knows no bounds. On the debit side, Capt Ross has moved to become LDY Training Captain and WO2 Foreman has become Intelligence Warrant Officer at RHQ.

On top of all this we have to RECRUIT. The continued support of Association will be a great asset to the serving squadron in this as in all areas of squadron life and it is hoped that members will take an active interest in our recruiting events as they occur over the coming months. The aim is to rebuild squadron strength to over 100 all ranks in the next year, as part of the national campaign to reinvent (and, somewhere along the line, re-brand) the TA for the 21st century. If we can achieve this we can hope to regain some of the momentum that carried us through the last three decades of the 20th century so successfully.

Maj Rupert Marsh
OC S(SRY) Sqn RY

Some photos from Annual Camp and other training during 2011:



A worried moment



Tpr Bond



First Aid Training



SSgt Pick



Capt Ross, Cpl Bradley, SSgt Squires, Sgt Sulman
Tpr Bond & Cpl Wright on Hadrian's Wall



Cpl Wright, Tpr Bond & SSgt Squires



Military Swimming Test



RY FREEDOM PARADE HAMMERSMITH 11th MARCH 2012

As mentioned in the Sqn Leader's report the RY exercised its freedom at two parades in London during March 2012. Here are some photos of the parade in Hammersmith & Fulham which included the presentation of campaign medals to those recently returned from service in Afghanistan:



Sgt Sulley & Maj Marsh



SSM Stone, Maj Marsh & Capt Beattie



The RY led by Lt Col Newton Astbury



RWY & SRY Guidon Parties leading the parade



The mounted troop



SSgt Pick receiving his Afghanistan medal