



Tel/Fax: 01223 302535
Email: maelliott@tcme.fsnet.co.uk

THE SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

From: Capt MA Elliott
Hon Secretary

20, Millington Road
Cambridge
CB3 9HP

4th March 2016

Dear Member,

AGM and ANNUAL DINNER - Saturday 16th April 2016

This year's Annual Reunion Dinner will be held at 6.30 for 7.00pm on Saturday 16th April at the TA Centre, Carlton, by kind permission of the Squadron Leader, Major Angus Jenkins.

The cost of the Dinner will be £20 per person to include wine and port 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.

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

Raffle. At the Dinner, we shall again be holding a raffle and any donations of prizes will be gratefully received. Last year's raffle collected £196 and I am most grateful to all who contributed.

This year, I am sending some of these newsletters by email, especially to members living abroad where the cost of postage is becoming prohibitive, but also to some in the UK for whom we only have email details. I apologise if, due to our incomplete records, some people get it twice. At least the electronic version has the photos in colour which is unfortunately too expensive for the printed copies.

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:

Maj JRP Allen	- Brant Broughton	Mr E Hodgkinson	- Mansfield
Maj JS Booton TD	- Chard	Mr DM Robson	- Newcastle
Mr M Brindley	-	Mr C Taylor	- Gainsborough
Mr R Brooks	- Carlton	Mr V Trainor	- Mansfield
Capt MEP Bryant TD	- Saxmundham	Mr JE Wells	- Newark
Mr DK Freeman	- Nottingham	Mr HH Wijcherson	- Zutphen, Netherlands
Mr HD Garland	Doncaster		

Major Richard Allen was the eldest and last surviving of four brothers all of whom served in the SRV following National service with the 17th/21st Lancers. He joined in 1956 and served mainly with B Sqn at Retford.

Mr Harry Wijcherson served as an interpreter with the regiment in the Netherlands and Germany in 1944/45. After the War he remained in touch with the Regiment and always welcomed our members when they visited Nijmegen.

Members who served in the early days of the Royal Yeomanry will be sorry to hear of the death last autumn of Major Boris Mollo TD who commanded C Sqn (Sharpshooters) from 1968-71 and later HQ (WDGN) Sqn

THE BRANCHES

I attach a copy of the Midlands Branch annual report detailing its activities in the past year. Mr Mike Freeman retired as Chairman and Secretary early last year and I am indebted to him for all that he has done for the Branch and the Association over many years. The new Chairman is John Maltby and the Secretary Tony Higton. The Branch has its own clubroom at Carlton where it meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Serving members are invited join the Branch members for a drink and buffet after the end of their parade so that both groups can have a chance to get to know each other. If you are interested in joining, please contact one of the committee members on the telephone numbers shown.

The Arnold Branch membership continues to increase and it has organised a number of events and trips during the year. The Branch meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Mapperley Golf Club. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Branch Secretary Alan Brooks via the link on this site

AWARD OF FRENCH LEGION d'HONNEUR TO NORMANDY VETERANS

As you may have seen in the press, the French government has announced that it is awarding the Légion d'Honneur medal to surviving WW2 veterans. I am grateful to Martin Kerry for assisting our veterans with their applications. Issue of the medals has been slow as the French authorities vastly underestimated the number of applicants. However, those for our members are now coming through and Capt David Render was honoured to receive his from the French Ambassador at a ceremony at the French Residence on 16th February:



Capt Render (far right, back row) at the French Residence

A (SRY) Sqn THE ROYAL YEOMANRY

After a number of difficult years, the squadron is now up to strength and, in particular, is now fully staffed with officers for the first time in many years. Recruiting is still a challenge but the new system is functioning better and the more successful units have worked out how to manage the system (and around it) to sign up and train the recruits that they need. This has been a great effort by the Sqn Leader, SSM, permanent staff and all concerned but it has achieved results and, for the first time for many years, the sqn has been able to go to Camp and on exercise with its full complement of vehicles and a trained crewman in every seat.

Overall, however, the target of expansion of the reserves is still some way off. Fortunately the powers that be have taken a pragmatic approach and have allowed those units that are able to recruit, such as the Sqn and the Royal Yeomanry as a whole, to continue to do so. As a result, the RY had grown and now has no fewer than six squadrons, making it the largest regiment in the RAC.

With earlier departure of the Wiltshire Yeomanry to join the Wessex Yeo, the SRY became A Sqn and the full line-up of the RY is now as follows:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| A (SRY) Sqn | - | Carlton |
| B (Staffordshire & Warwickshire Yeo) Sqn | - | Dudley |
| C (Kent & Sharpshooters Yeo) Sqn | - | Croydon |
| D (Shropshire Yeo) Sqn | - | Telford |
| E (LDY) Sqn | - | Leicester |
| Command & Support Sqn (i.e. HQ Sqn) | - | Westminster Dragoons |
| Band | - | Inns of Court & City Yeomanry |

During the year, we were sorry to lose SSM Stone who, having contributed much to the recent success of the Sqn, has now handed over after four years to the new SSM, SSgt Mudd. Also, Capt Grenville Turner who joined what was then B (SRY) Sqn as a trooper in 1972 will retire in 2016 after 44 years' service with the SRY, LDY and HQ Sqn. This must be a record in modern times and spans almost the entire history of the Royal Yeomanry.



The Sqn on exercise

CAVALRY MEMORIAL PARADE - Sunday 8th May 2016

This year the Cavalry Memorial Parade will be held on Sunday 8th May in Hyde Park and I hope that the Regiment will be well represented. Note that this is the day after the RY Guidon Parade (see below). Detailed arrangements will be co-ordinated through the Branches so, if you would like to attend, please contact your Branch Secretary.

The RY lunch will be held this year at the Athenaeum. I do not have any more details about that at the moment but, if you would like to attend, please let me know as soon as possible.

Finally, here are some photos of last year's parade:



Before the parade last year



Cavalry Memorial Parade 2015



The Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park

ROYAL YEOMANRY GUIDON PARADE – Saturday 7th May 2016

The new RY Guidon will be presented to the Regiment at a parade to be held at Windsor Castle at 11:30 on Saturday 7th May (the day before the Cavalry Memorial Parade).

I am still awaiting details of the parade and subsequent reception but it will be a major event and tickets will be required. I am not sure how many tickets we will be allotted or what the cost will be.

Further details will follow as soon as we receive them from RHQ and it is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend to support the Regiment. It is likely that the notice period for ticket applications will be short, requiring a quick response so that there will be no time to send out another circular to all members, the cost of which would in any case be prohibitive. I am therefore compiling a list of those who would like to go so that I can inform them by email once details of the event and the cost of tickets are available.

The Midlands and Arnold Branches are collecting names of their members on my behalf, so if you are a branch member, please contact your Branch secretary. Retired officers and any others not in touch with the Branches who would like to attend are asked to let me know as soon as possible by email at: maelliott@tcme.fsnet.co.uk

NORMANDY JUNE 2015

Following the celebration of the 70th anniversary in 2014, it was only a small group who visited Normandy in June last year. However, the ceremonies at Bayeux and Tilly were, as always, well attended by local people and, especially at Bayeux Museum, visitors. At Bayeux, our ceremony has become an important commemoration of the liberation of the town on 7th June 1944 and there was some concern expressed by the local officials that it should be continued in future years. We confirmed that we intended to carry on for as long as we could and it was agreed that, in future we should include some local participation in the ceremony which we shall do for the first time this year.

On 6th June we followed the regimental route south via Briquessard and Mont Pinçon to Berjou where we met our local contacts Jean-François Brisset and Romain Bon and visited their museum.



Col Hunt explaining which way they went at Point 102



Tilly cemetery



Capt Render telling the story of Briquessard



with Romain Bon at his museum at Berjou



Before the ceremony at Bayeux Museum



At the SRY memorial at Hélie Farm at St Pierre

Those that were killed at Berjou, including Lt Frank Galvin and his crew, whose tank was so badly burned-out that their bodies could not be separated, were finally buried at Banneville-la-Campagne near Caen and the Secretary and Mrs Secretary took the chance to visit their graves during the trip.



The cemetery at Banneville-la-Campagne where Lt Frank Galvin and his crew are buried together

NORMANDY OCTOBER 2015

In October, the Secretary and Capt Render returned to the area with Col Stuart Tootal, an ex-para and author, who is collaborating with the Capt Render in the writing the story of his service with the SRY in 1944/45. The object of the visit was to locate on the ground the places where the events to be recounted in the book actually happened. It was a most interesting exercise and we found a number of places which we had never been able to locate accurately before. In particular, our good friend Jean-François Brisset kindly agreed to guide us around the Berjou area, showing us not only the exact points where each squadron had crossed the river Noireau but also the track which Capt Render took with A Sqn through the wood leading up towards the heights of Berjou. I attach a note with more details of what we found about the crossing places.



Jean-François Brisset and Capt Render near le Rocray while Col Tootal consults his maps



Thank you and goodbye at Berjou

We continued to Vernon, where the maps provided by Benoit Cottereau led us to all the relevant places in the wood on the far side of the river where Capt Render was sent in search of the infantry company that had got lost. Our final call was Doullens where Capt Render captured a flying bomb site. Unfortunately we were less successful there as, while the general area is unchanged and we found the fort where the launching ramps had been, there has been new building nearby and the barn

where the German crews were captured, and the phone box that the Secretary remembers as the landmark to find the place, have both disappeared.



Capt Render at the gates of the fort
where he found the flying bombs at Doullens

Overall, the trip was a great success and the book, to be published in June, is excellent (see below).

NORMANDY JUNE 2016

This year the usual ceremonies will again be held at Bayeux and Tilly in Tuesday 7th June. There will be no organised tour but individuals are urged to come and support what have become important events for the local population. This year we are planning for an increased French participation in the ceremony at Bayeux which has become the main Liberation day ceremony attended by the Major and a large number of local citizens and officials. If you would like to come, please let me know.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY 5th NOVEMBER 2015

The Regiment was represented at the Annual Field of Remembrance organised by the Royal British Legion at Westminster Abbey. Prince Philip and Prince Harry officiated. My thanks to all who came and to Capt Nick Robinson for placing the crosses which this year, in addition to those representing our dead in WW2, included the names of those that died at Gallipoli on the centenary of that event.

This year the ceremony will be held on Thursday 10th November. For security reasons, tickets are required. So, if you would like to attend, please let me know by the beginning of September.



Before the ceremony



M/M Powell with John & Graham Stevenson



The SRY Plot



Gallipoli memorial crosses



Capt Render with Prince Philip

REMEMBRANCE DAY 8th NOVEMBER 2015

As usual, the Sqn paraded in Newark on Remembrance Day. Afterwards, all gathered for a curry lunch at Carlton which was also attended by members of the SNH Association.



The Sqn on parade at Newark



Brig Browne laying a wreath

The people of Newark always turn out in force to see “their” regiment. In recent years, however, the number of Old Comrades attending has dwindled and I hope that, in future, more retired members will join the parade to support the Sqn.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AT THORESBY

The Thoresby museum has had another good year with record attendance and several successful events both for Friends and the public. If you are near and have not seen it, you should definitely go.

See also the website at: www.qrlnymuseum.co.uk

It would be impossible to run such a museum without the assistance of our loyal and hard-working volunteers and we are grateful to all who have stepped forward to assist in this way.

If you would like to help as a volunteer, please let me know. I would also urge those who have not already done so to join as a Friend and support the Museum while taking advantage of the benefits and activities arranged for Friends. To join, please contact:

QRLNY Museum
Thoresby Courtyard
Thoresby Park
Nr Perlethorpe,
Nottinghamshire NG22 9EP

email: curator@qrlnymuseum.co.uk

HARD FIGHTING

The second volume of Col Jonathan Hunt’s Regimental history, entitled *Hard Fighting* and covering the period from 1900 to 1946, will be published in April and introduced at a launch event to be held in aid of SSAFA and the ABF at Welbeck on 13th April. It is well worth reading and the author has uncovered much new material about the part played by the SRY in the Boer War and the First World War, as well as the true story of what happened on Jig Green sector of Gold Beach on 6th June 1944.

I attach a flier with more details of the book and an order form. Please return this to the address on the form and not to me

I also attach an invitation to the launch event. Tickets cost £20 each and are available from the ABF using the attached form which should be returned to the ABF at the address shown and not to me.

The Sqn will be supporting the event with a uniformed SRY presence and we hope that as many members as possible will attend. Copies of the book will be on sale and the author will be on hand to sign them.

TANK ACTION

Col Stuart Tootal's book *Tank Action* about Capt David Render referred to above will be published by Orion in June and should be available via the usual commercial bookshops and online. I attach a sheet with more details. It is a gripping story and well worth reading.

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.

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 raised over £2,300 and were able to send out gift vouchers worth £40 to each of 48 widows at Christmas. 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 more than half the total through the proceeds of his popular lecture series, and to his friend Vic Benson (ex-RMP and City of London Police) who helps on these occasions. I would also like to thank the members of the Midlands Branch, the people of Hengelo and all those 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 Badcott	- Nottingham	Mr Haystead	- Grantham
Mr EW Bramwell	- Ilkeston	Maj JO Kirk	- Bedale
Maj CW Bridgeford MC	- New Zealand	Mr P Leversuch	- London
Mr ES Corthorn	- Nottingham	Mr FC Martin	- Crawley
Mr GW Croxton	- Launceston	Mr J Moore	- Australia
Mr D Falkner	- Nottingham	SA Nelson Lucas Esq	- Milton Keynes
Mr G Froggat	- Ilkeston	S Round Esq	- Bridgenorth
Mr AF Gibbons	- Mansfield	Mr P Torrington	- Nottingham
Mr Grice	- Nottingham	Mr A Watson	- Retford

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 Secretary, Vic Benson, Barry Carmody, Mrs Ann Barrow and others who have supplied me with photographs. Also to Capt David Render, John Maltby and the Midlands Branch Committee, Chris Woodward for his organisation of the Dinner last year, as well as to Maj Angus Jenkins, Capt Steve Goodwin and SSM Karl Stone 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 16th April 2016. The Agenda will be as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Apologies | 5. Officers and Trustees |
| 2. Minutes of last AGM | 6. Reports from the Branches |
| 3. Matters Arising | 7. Welfare Matters |
| 4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts | 8. Any Other Business |

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT CARLTON ON 25th APRIL 2015

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

1. Apologies for Absence - Received from 9 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 2014 which had been approved by the Trustees in their meeting just finished. These showed net incoming resources of £1,667.

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

5. Officers and Trustees

Capt Elliott reported that there had been no changes in the Officers and Trustees since the last AGM.

6. Midlands Branch Report and Accounts

Mr Woodward presented the Branch report and accounts which showed a deficit of £1,454 for the year and net assets of £15,508 and confirmed that they had been approved by the Branch.

Mr Freeman introduced Mr Tony Higton who had volunteered to take over as Branch Secretary. Capt Elliott thanked Mr Freeman for his work as Branch Chairman and most recently as Secretary as well.

Col Hunt said that he welcomed the fact that the Arnold Branch was now well established and asked its representatives to consider making a similar report at future Annual General Meetings. He was pleased to see a younger generation becoming more engaged in supporting the Association.

7. Welfare

Capt Elliott reported that a grant had been made towards the cost of the event held following the funeral of Sgt Vennant.

Mr DHF Brown reported on his work in visiting and supporting our less fortunate members.

Col Hunt thanked Mr Brown for all his efforts on behalf of the Association. It was agreed to ask the Trustees for authority to increase the grants made towards his expenses from £100 every two years to £100 annually with retrospective effect from 2013.

Col Hunt suggested that the Arnold Branch consider whether one or more of its members might be able to assist in this important work.

9. Any Other Business

Col Hunt asked Mr Mawer whether some members of the Arnold Branch might be able to assist as volunteers in the Museum and also to encourage all his members to support that Museum by joining as Friends. Mr Freeman said that he had minimised the financial impact of his membership by paying monthly at a rate of £2 per month and suggested that others might do the same.

Mr Stevenson proposed that, as it was the Gallipoli centenary, we observe a silence at the Dinner in memory of our casualties there and this was agreed.

Capt Elliott thanked all those from the Squadron and the Association that had helped in organising the Dinner.

MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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 good financial position due to the concerted efforts by Chris Woodward the Branch Treasurer, and latterly John Maltby our Chairman, along with the continued support from the Branch Committee, and Membership.

New members are always welcome. All ex-members of the SRY, serving members or ex- members of the RY, or if you were, or are, attached to either or are affiliated to the SRY, you are automatically a member of the Midlands Branch by right. We will always be pleased to see you at our monthly meetings, which are held on the fourth Wednesday each month at the Army Reserve Centre (ARC) at Carlton, by kind permission of the Squadron Leader Major AD Jenkins.

Please remember to let us know your full address and telephone number, so that we can keep you informed of our Branch activities.

Visits and events during 2015

The Branch had a very busy 2015 starting with the Regimental OCA Annual dinner in April, and in May, the Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park.

The Branch attended the Armed Forces day event at Wollaton Park Nottingham, where we had a stall, and members of the Midland Branch took part in the Drumhead Service

In October our Branch had its now annual trip to Bournemouth, which was marred by the health problems of some of our members which reduced the numbers accordingly. However, after a subdued start, the weekend proved to be a great success.

Our Remembrance parade took place as usual in Newark on Sunday the 8th of November. The only negative point was that the number of ex-SRY comrades attending, seems to diminish every year and I would ask for those who are able, to make a concerted effort to boost the numbers. If you have a problem with transport please would you make any of the Branch committee aware and we will always try to assist whenever possible.

Moving into 2016 on the 9th January, the Branch had a late Christmas Dinner at the Vale Social Club, Colwick, which, with more people attending was another great success. Our AGM was held on the 24th February at Carlton ARC, which was followed by our normal Branch meeting.

The Current Midlands Branch Committee is as follows (as at 24th February 2016):

Chairman	Mr John Maltby
Secretary	Mr Tony Higton
Treasurer	Mr Chris Woodward
Welfare Visitor	Mr Don Brown
Vice-Chairman/Ass Treasurer	Mr Mike Freeman
Assistant secretary	Mrs Ann Barrow
Newsletter Editor	Vacant

On the Welfare side, if you are aware of anyone who has passed away, is suffering, or in need, please contact Donald Brown or any committee member. The Midlands Branch has always had special interest in the welfare of the Association members and widows, and we actively support the Widows' Fund.

Tony Higton (Midlands Branch Secretary)

THE NOIREAU CROSSINGS

For the SRY, the battle of Normandy ended with the crossing of the river Noireau and the capture of Berjou on the heights beyond the river. On our visits, we have always approached the area from Condé, taking the main road along the south side of the river to Cambercourt and then up the steep road through the woods to the calvary where C Sqn suffered heavy losses as described by Capt Stuart Hills in his book *By Tank into Normandy*. That is where Lt Stan Perry was wounded and Lt Frank Galvin, his crew, Sgt Guy Sanders and others were killed. However, this route, which is the only one passable in a coach, does not pass the actual places where the Regiment crossed the Noireau which are further east. On our recent visit with Col Stuart Tootal, Capt Render and the Secretary were able to explore more thoroughly and visit the actual crossing places, guided by Jean-François Brisset.

At the time of the battle, Condé was still occupied by the Germans, so the 43rd (Wessex) Div, supported by the 8th Armd Bde crossed the Noireau further east, moving parallel to the river behind the ridges on the north bank which shielded them from the view of the Germans on the heights of Berjou. There were no bridges left standing on that stretch and, while it is not very wide, the banks are steep and the tanks could not cross until fords had been made. B and C Sqn crossed near the railway station at Cambercourt, about 1 Km east of the start of the road up to Berjou, which they then climbed as described by Stuart Hills.



The river Noireau near where C & B Sqns crossed

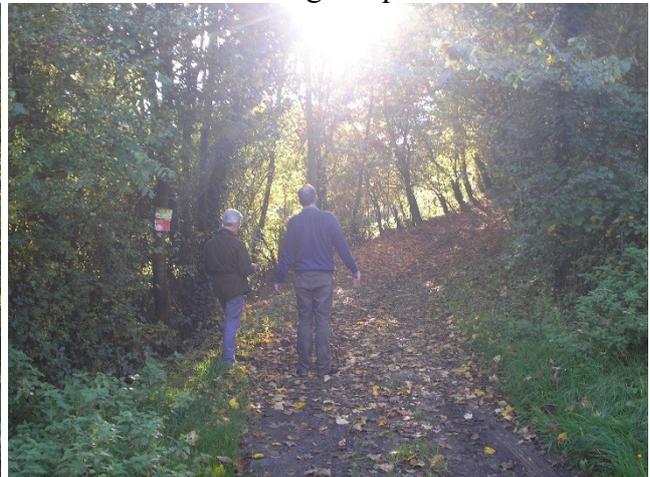


The bridge at the station at Cambercourt (rebuilt after the War with a span from the Mulberry harbour)

A Sqn crossed about 1 Km further east, near the factory at le Rocray. They then took a small track through the wood towards le Hamel. We were able to find this track which is extremely narrow for tanks and it is perhaps no surprise that their advance faltered as the tanks got separated in the trees.



A Sqn crossing point



The track taken by A Sqn towards le Hamel

Berjou was finally taken at the end of a long day by B Sqn and 1 Worcesters, who had followed C Sqn up the hill and, shortly after, 11th Armd Div advancing on the right took the key town of Flers and enemy resistance on the area collapsed.

Tank Action

by David Render and Stuart Tootal



In 1944 the life expectancy of a newly commissioned tank troop officer in Normandy was estimated as being two weeks. David Render was a nineteen year-old second lieutenant fresh from Sandhurst, when he was sent to France as a battle casualty replacement to a veteran armoured unit that had already spent years fighting in the deserts of North Africa. Joining the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry five days after the D-Day landings, the combat hardened men he was sent to command did not expect him to last long. In the following weeks of ferocious fighting in Normandy, in which over ninety per cent of his fellow tank commanders became casualties, David survived countless combat engagements and won his spurs in the battle to gain the confidence and respect of his men.

David Render remained in the thick of the action throughout the last year of the war. He went on to survive the culmination of the vicious close quarters tank battles in the bocage country around Caen and to take part in the Allied breakout from Normandy. He led his troop of Sherman tanks in the fast moving armoured dash into Belgium and the failed attempt to reach the beleaguered British paratroopers at Arnhem, as part of Operation Market Garden. He participated in the bitter winter fighting in the mud and flooded waterways of Holland and his regiment's bloody assault on the Siegfried Line. Despite having two tanks shot out from under him, he then took part in the crossing of the Rhine and numerous actions to clear out pockets of fanatical German resistance during the final advance into the heart of the Third Reich.

Tank Action is a fascinating account of David Render's story written in association with Stuart Tootal, a former colonel who commanded 3 PARA in Afghanistan in 2006 and the best-selling author of *Danger Close - Leading 3 PARA in Afghanistan*. *Tank Action* highlights the psychological and physical impact of the stresses and strains of being in near continuous action. It does not shy away from the controversial, such as the leadership challenges of difficult relationships, the horrors of war and the ethics of fighting a savage and bloody war of survival. The book exposes the good, bad and the ugly realities of combat, in a manner that takes the reader into the heart of battle, with pace, excitement and danger.

There are few surviving veterans of David's lucidity and his exceptional character, which also led him to become a Formula 1 racing champion in his sixties and a highly successful businessman. His story of war is an extraordinary one that deserves to be told.

Tank Action will be published by Orion in June 2016.