The KRH Appeal

Looking after soldiers and their families now and in the future.

A great opportunity for you to make a real difference and enhance the lives of our injured soldiers, old comrades and their families. Please support your Regimental family

Why have we launched The KRH Appeal?
As a modern, versatile armoured regiment, The King’s Royal Hussars has provided a large number of mounted and dismounted troops for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq over recent years. Thankfully we have not incurred the scale of casualties experienced by other regiments, however with our largest deployment to Afghanistan planned for 2012, now is the time to act to ensure we are prepared properly. As a family regiment, we aim to look after our own, and as such, the existing Regimental Welfare Trust Fund has provided welfare grants for our soldiers and their families, serving and retired, for many years. This Appeal will increase the funds the Trust has available, so show your support for our serving soldiers and become involved with the Appeal by donating money, organising your own events or just participating in the events.

Support the KRH Appeal and allow our Regiment to make a difference to the lives of soldiers and their families who have been affected by their active service.

How will my money be used?
The KRH Appeal is part of the King’s Royal Hussars Regimental Trust Fund and designed to support soldiers and their families both past and present. Your donation will help to:

• Support the families of those killed in action by promptly responding to problems of bereavement and hardship.

• Support those wounded or injured on operations, particularly those who have had to leave the Army and to assist them in finding new employment.

• Support the families of those seriously wounded or injured in prolonged recovery situations.

Don’t others do this? There are many charities who currently provide excellent support to HM Forces and in some cases we will be working closely with these in joint fundraising events. However, having funds immediately available, at very short notice, will ensure we can provide the personal support we believe our soldiers and their families deserve. In addition, many areas we would like to support such as helping extended families would not normally be covered by the major charities.

Visit www.krh.org.uk or www.bmycharity.com/krh to make a donation and find out how you can help with fundraising.

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The KRH Regimental Trust is a registered charity— Charities Commission No 1021455
Affiliation
The Royal Gurkha Rifles

Bond of Friendship
HMS Dauntless

Territorial Army Affiliations
A (RWY) Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry
B (RWY) Squadron, The Royal Wessex Yeomanry
C (RGH) Squadron, The Royal Wessex Yeomanry
D (DLOY) Squadron, The Royal Mercian & Lancastrian Yeomanry

Alliances
1st Hussars – Canada
10th Light Horse – Australia
2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) – Australia
Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles – New Zealand
The Guides Cavalry (Frontier Force) – Pakistan
The Zambian Armoured Car Regiment
IX (Bomber) Squadron – The Royal Air Force
The King’s Royal Hussars Journal

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2010

Tidworth

CONTENTS

Foreword By The Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal .............................................3
Foreword By The Commanding Officer ..............................................................................4
Diary of Major Events 2010 .................................................................................................5
Regimental Notes ..................................................................................................................6
Honours and Awards ..............................................................................................................9
Regimental Medals .............................................................................................................10
C Squadron ..........................................................................................................................13
A Squadron ..........................................................................................................................20
B Squadron ..........................................................................................................................26
D Squadron ..........................................................................................................................31
HQ Squadron ......................................................................................................................36
QM’s Department ................................................................................................................37
QM(T)/’s Department .........................................................................................................38
Recce Troop ........................................................................................................................39
Command Troop ................................................................................................................42
Mechanical Transport Troop ..............................................................................................44
Training Wing .....................................................................................................................45
Provost Troop .....................................................................................................................47
Welfare Office ....................................................................................................................47
Light Aid Detachment .......................................................................................................50
SPS Detachment ................................................................................................................51
Regimental Aid Post ..........................................................................................................53
Catering Troop ....................................................................................................................53
Gymnasium ........................................................................................................................55
Regimental Chaplain .........................................................................................................55
Battlegroup Headquarters .................................................................................................56
The Officers’ Mess ...............................................................................................................59
The Officers’ Mess Party – 24 Jul 10 .....................................................................................62
The Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess ........................................................................65
The Corps’ Mess ..................................................................................................................67
The Wives’ Club ..................................................................................................................68
Op HERRICK 11 with 1 COLDSTREAM GUARDS Battlegroup ........................................70
Help for Heroes – Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2010 ...............................................................72
Officer Professional Development and the Flashman Lectures .........................................75
Exercise CRIMSON COCONUTS ....................................................................................75
Regimental Sport ...............................................................................................................78
Alpine Skiing 2010/11.........................................................................................................78
Nordic Skiing – Ex CRIMSON HIKE ................................................................................80

Polo ......................................................................................................................................81
Brocklehurst Trophy ................................................................................................ ..........82
Football ...............................................................................................................................84
Rugby ...............................................................................................................................85
Cricket ...............................................................................................................................86
Gilding ...................................................................................................................................86
Parachuting .......................................................................................................................87
Cross Country ...................................................................................................................88
Indoor Rowing ................................................................................................................88
Ex WYKE HAWK – Regimental Adventure Training .........................................................89
ERE Officers ......................................................................................................................91
The Esoteric Part of the Plans World ................................................................................91
Capability Hawk – Equipment and Beyond .......................................................................91
Land Warfare Centre Collective Training Group .............................................................92
Hawks in BATUS ............................................................................................................93
UORs in Joint Capability .................................................................................................93
Training the Old and the Bald – the Late Entry Officers’ Course .........................................94
Headquarters Lunchen District ..........................................................................................94
A Cherrypicker with the Gurkhas .....................................................................................95
PSYOPS on Op HERRICK 12 ..........................................................................................97
ADC to Commander Allied Rapid Reaction Corps ..........................................................99
Army Training Regiment, Basingbourn .............................................................................101
Affiliations and Alliances .................................................................................................102
The Royal Gurkha Rifles ...................................................................................................102
HMS Dauntless ................................................................................................................103
The Royal Wessex Yeomanry ........................................................................................105
D (DLOY) Squadron RMLY ............................................................................................107
1st Hussars .......................................................................................................................108
A Squadron 10th Light Horse .........................................................................................109
Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles ..................................................................................110
IX (B) Squadron RAF .....................................................................................................112
The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Army Cadet Force .......................................................114
The Regimental Association ..............................................................................................115
Chairman’s Notes ............................................................................................................115
The King’s Royal Hussars Regimental Trust (Welfare Fund) ..............................................119
Farewell ..........................................................................................................................120
Valetes ................................................................................................................................120
Obituaries .........................................................................................................................125
Let Us Forget ....................................................................................................................136
The King’s Royal Hussars 2010 – Regimental Gazette .......................................................137

The Editor welcomes contributions and comments from readers – matthew.wilkinson923@mod.uk

Cover Photo: Lt Cowell with The Guidon at Frampton Court. Reproduced with kind permission of Mikal Ludlow, The Gloucester Citizen

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Foreword
By The Colonel-in-Chief
HRH The Princess Royal

As your Colonel-in-Chief, I am very proud of all that the Regiment has achieved in 2010. It was a year that began with 35 soldiers deployed in Afghanistan and I know that it will have been a great relief to see their safe return in April. I was extremely impressed when I saw you all on parade in September at the Freedom of Gloucestershire Ceremony and was delighted to hear of all that you had achieved during the Regiment's deployments to South Africa and the Falkland Islands. I was equally impressed by the tremendous support provided by the families whose presence on that sunny day at Frampton Court underlined the significant contribution they make to Regimental life.

I know that this support will be more important than ever during the next two years and I wish you all well during the year ahead with your exercises in Canada and your operational preparations.
The articles in this Journal describe what has been another very good year for The King’s Royal Hussars. Much has been achieved whether in support of operations or in barracks, on the sports field or out on a range of training areas. What is most notable is the variety of tasks undertaken and our soldiers have continued to demonstrate that they have the agility and professional standards to adapt to a range of roles; from crewing Mastiff vehicles in Afghanistan, Scimitar light tanks in support of Royal Marine Commandos in the UK, to training as infantrymen in South Africa; and deploying an infantry company group to the Falkland Islands. The adjustment between Mounted and Dismounted roles is not straightforward and requires training and good low level leadership; KRH soldiers have not disappointed.

2010 has also been a year that has allowed the Regiment to play sport properly and continue to improve our fitness levels. The Brocklehurst Trophy was competed for by the largest field of boxers in recent history and our football squad has enjoyed more than their fair share of success. Similarly our rugby and cricket teams have responded to regular training for their fixtures and their enjoyment of the sport has encouraged many young soldiers into the teams. Equestrian activities and skiing continues and we were pleased to be able to enter a Nordic team (in addition to an Alpine team) for the first time in a decade; they both did very well and managed to win the British Army’s combined championship.

The Regiment’s focus continues to be providing support to the campaign in Afghanistan and in the past year over 45 members of the Regiment have conducted tours of duty. Our training season in 2011 will prepare the whole Regiment for a likely deployment in 2012 and starts with a Regimental Firing Camp in Castlemartin during March and April, followed by a number of exercises on the Prairie of Alberta, Canada throughout the Spring and early Summer. We will then return to complete training specific to our future role in Afghanistan. The operational tour planned for 2012 is likely to be a Regimental commitment and will provide us with an opportunity to demonstrate how well armoured troops can adapt to counterinsurgency operations. It is the type of challenge that all professional soldiers look for whilst serving with their Regiment.

However, the human cost of current operations in Afghanistan is apparent to all of us. The Regiment has recently launched ‘The KRH Appeal’ in preparation for our tour, to enable us to respond to the potential impact of operations on our soldiers, and their families, both during the tour; immediately afterwards; and for the long term. The Appeal will raise funds for our existing Welfare Trust through a variety of activities; it is meant to be a Regimental Family effort and all fundraising activities could involve members from across the Association. The Appeal will act as a means to enable greater interaction between our Old Comrades and Serving Soldiers, this is a vital dynamic because when the cold reality of fighting in Afghanistan becomes apparent to our young soldiers and their families, the support of their forefathers will provide them with the strength to succeed. I urge you to become involved with the Appeal and in doing so strengthen your links with the Serving Regiment. Please look at the Association’s website and participate in the events being organised in support of the Appeal. The money raised will allow the Regiment to make a difference.
# Diary of Major Events 2010

## Pre-2010
- Dec 09 – C Squadron provided the Medium Armoured element of the Small Scale Contingency Battle Group and the European Union Battle Group as part of the 42 Cdo RM BG

## January
- 11 – 17 Jan: Ex SOUTHWEST SWORD – C Squadron Amphibious Exercise with 42 Cdo RM BG
- 26: 12 Mech Bde Afghan Study Day
- 27 – 6 Mar: Ex AFRICAN THORN – RHQ, A and D Squadrons

## March
- 8: RAC MCM Visit Dinner
- 12: The Grand Military – Sandown
- 16: Dinner for Brigadier Maciejewski – Commander 12 Mech Bde
- 17: Sir John Scarlett Flashman Lecture
- 24: Chris Donnelly Flashman Lecture

## April
- 6 – 6 June: Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company Deployment – B Squadron
- 17: Corporals’ Mess Medica Ball
- 19 – 23: Combined Inspection Week
- 29: Visit to HMS Dauntless

## May
- 9: Cavalry Memorial Parade
- 17 – 21: Divisional Skill At Arms Meeting (Div SAAM)
- 17 – 28: Annual Firing at Castlemartin Ranges for C and A Squadrons

## June
- 1: Lt Col Harrison hands over to Lt Col Potts
- 8 – 9: HMS Dauntless Commissioned
- 14 – 18: 12 Mech Bde SAAM Meeting
- 14 – 25: Summer Adventure Training Camp – Wyke Regis
- 15: 132 (Ariete) Bde Visit
- 18 – 20: CALFEST – WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess Summer Party
- 22: 12 Mech Bde Dismounted Close Combat Study Day
- 28 – 2 Jul: Ex TRASIMENO ACE – WW2 Battlefield Study to Italy

## July
- 1: Birthday Party For HRH The Princess Royal, Colonel-In-Chief, at Buckingham Palace
- 5 – 8: Ampleforth CCF Visit
- 10: The Rundle Cup
- 19 – 23: D’Arcy Hall Sports Week
- 20: 12 Mech Bde SRR Study Day
- 24: Officers’ Mess Summer Ball – ‘Around the World in 80 Days’
- 26 – 30: Troop Tests
- 29: Visit of CGS’s Briefing Team

## August
- 2 – 22: Summer Block Leave
- 26: Peninsula Day
- 27: Commander 12 Mech Bde Visit

## September
- 2: 12 Mech Bde ISTAR and G2 Study Day
- 7: Visit of the Bishops of the Sending Churches
- 8: GOC 3 (UK) Div and DRAC Dinner Night in Officers’ Mess
- 14: Iraq Inquiry Visit
- 18: Freedom Of Gloucestershire Parade
- 27 (until 10 Dec): Conversion of the Regiment to BOWMAN BCIP 5.4.2
- 30: 12 Mech Bde Staff Visit

## October
- 3: Southern Reunion in WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess
- 6–8: Visit to HMS Dauntless
- 25: KRH BG Study Day and Balaklava Dinner Night
- 28: The Brocklehurst Trophy

## November
- 4: Poppy Appeal on behalf of The Royal British Legion
- 9: Officers’ Dinner at The Cavalry and Guards Club
- 11: Field of Remembrance and support to ‘Warhorse’ production in aid of Families Of The Fallen
- 13–14: Northern Reunion at Preston
- 20: WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess Ramnuggur Ball
- 25: Dougie Covill’s 90th Birthday Lunch in Officers’ Mess
- 29: 12 Mech Bde Obstacle Crossing Demonstration
- 29 (until 5 Feb 11): Alpine and Nordic Ski Teams deployed

## December
- 5: Families Lunch and Children’s Christmas Party
- 9: Wives’ Christmas Party
- 10: Regimental Carol Service
- 15: WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess Drinks in the Officers’ Mess
- 17: Break for Christmas Leave
Regimental Notes

2010 began with 35 soldiers and officers midway through their tour of Afghanistan with the Coldstream Guards Battlegroup. The remainder of the Regiment were very much focused on dismounted training for impending deployments to South Africa (RHQ, Recce Troop and A & D Squadrons); the Falkland Infantry Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) task – B Squadron Group; and C Squadron’s contribution to the UK’s high readiness Small Scale Contingent Battle Group with 42 Commando Royal Marines.

Ex AFRICAN THORN was the first key event of the year. This comprised a 7 week deployment to the Lohatla training area, near the South Africa / Botswana border. A & D Squadrons progressed through a series of training events up to Squadron level dismounted live firing and Regimental level dry firing. One of the highlights was our survival exercise, which consisted of a night spent in PT kit in the Bush with nothing but a raw egg and a pair of matches. For emergencies we were issued with mini flares, which were supposed to indicate a safety issue to the DS, drawn from the South African Special Forces. Tpr Campbell ended up using these mini flares in the direct fire role to ward off a pack of buying hyenas who appeared intent on an evening’s dining at his expense. The training itself was excellent, given the challenging climate and environment. Thunder storms tended to erupt on a Biblical scale at short notice; soon giving way to searing heat. Despite our best efforts, there were a number of heat casualties as we gradually adapted to the South African working hours which involved early starts with little exertion during the midday heat. For good reason, we planned a degree of Adventure Training from the outset, which included a safari for the more adventurous, with a few taking advantage of the opportunity for game hunting. Capt Wythe – despite being a self confessed ‘first class shot’ – took to some extended bracketing his target of a baby Springbok.

Whilst much of the Regiment was out in the South African Bush, C Squadron found themselves in the slightly more cramped confines of HMS Albion conducting Ex SOUTHWEST SWORD with 42 Commando RM out in the English Channel. It was something of a different experience to be landing at Arish Mell Gap, Lulworth, from the sea rather than firing out over it from the land!

On return from South Africa in March, D Squadron disbanded to backfill B Squadron Group for their impending FIRIC tour. I shall not dwell on this as it will no doubt be covered later, suffice to say B Squadron Group were the first non-Infantry FIRIC deployment and covered themselves in glory, not just in their G3 skills but also in their approach to all matters G4 and G6, with some dramatic improvements and innovations. In March, the Regiment also
focused on the Combined Inspections Week (CIW) for a short – if jolly painful – period. This invariably involved a good deal of effort from across the Regiment to ensure that we are completely swept up. The results tend to resonate up the chain of command if they are particularly good...or particularly bad. I am relieved to report the former and some well deserved CO’s Commendations were awarded to a number of normally ‘unsung heroes’.

The MASTIFF Group returned safe and sound from Afghanistan in April to a Regimental Medal Parade, taken by General Sir Richard Shirreff. This included the awarding of two Regimental Medals to SSgt Blacklock and Sgt Silvey for their outstanding operational service. In May, A and C Squadrons, deployed to Castlemartin for the Annual Firing period. For A Squadron this was the first time they had fired in over 2 years (having had their range period cancelled in 2009) so the learning curve was steep. C Squadron achieved a 100% first time pass at each live fire exercise and received the accolade as ‘the best Medium Armour Squadron at Gunnery in the Army’.

In June, the Regiment bade farewell to Lt Col Giles Harrison and his wife Tina, with a thoroughly deserved Regimental Medal and Mini Emperor respectively. We welcomed in Lt Col Alex Potts and Anna. In amongst some good low level training and RAAT tasks, A Squadron once again hosted a fantastic summer Adventure Training Camp in Wyke Regis, Weymouth. All 3 Messes managed to host a summer party, including a Glastonbury-style festival of extreme partying endurance by the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess. Regimental cricket was revived for a second year running under the stewardship of Tom Perrott, with the D’Arcy Hall glory again going to B Squadron. The new Commanding Officer scared the life out of everyone by winning the 3000m steeplechase event.

On return from Summer Leave in late August, the Regiment’s focus switched firmly onto the Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade on 18th September. Endless drill sessions ensued for the Squadrons, with Regimental Headquarters providing a seven strong mounted contingent – the CO, 2IC, Adjutant, RSM and Guidon Party. In order to get up to speed, a week-long remedial riding course was hastily convened at The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, for which we were very grateful. After all the preparation, the day itself was a huge success. The Colonel-in-Chief took the parade and we were all delighted by the large num-
bers who attended from the wider Regimental family. Our special thanks go to Colonel Rollo and Janie Clifford for providing the spectacular setting of Frampton Court. For his Herculean effort in organising such a resoundingly successful day, Ian Simpson was awarded his Regimental Medal.

As Summer turned to Autumn, we sent a second excursion to our affiliated ship – HMS Dauntless (one of the new Type 45 Destroyers) – to take in the delights(!) of Great Yarmouth. Over the course of several visits now, we have created a firm bond of friendship, aided and abetted by some fairly arduous socializing.

In October there were a number of notable successes. The Hawks Dream Team won The Army Indoor Rowing Championship (with a Regimental Headquarters Team in a close 3rd place); A Squadron scooped the Brocklehurst Trophy with some impressive boxing skills, and Recce Troop secured a Gold Medal on Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL with 3 further Bronzes from the Sabre Squadrons, putting a considerable number of Infantry units to shame. The football squad had another successful year, although Captain Dave Ford needs to stop jinxing the team with his confident predictions. A rugby squad has been established under Capt James Hood and WO2 Robinson for the first time in a number of years – blessed with copious talent and enthusiasm, we are alas, short of the large numbers of Fijians who appear to make up every other team in the Army!

At the end of November, the KRH Battlegroup hosted an Obstacle Crossing Demonstration on behalf of our Brigade. A good deal of preparation and practice at the lowest level paid off. Given the time of year, we were also blessed by the weather with a cold, crisp and sunny winters’ day. Over 60 vehicles and 250 exercising troops took part. The Model made by Command Troop was the size of a tennis court – complete with freshly laid turf – and set a fairly high standard which we look forward to them continuing in BATUS in 2011!

After the usual round of Christmas Parties, Carol Services and festive fun, the Regiment finished the year looking forward to a much needed winter break, cognisant that 2011 is promising to be a much busier year.

JNJK
SSgt Lowe has been awarded a Commander-in-Chief’s Commendation for his outstanding efforts as B Squadron Tank Park Manager and subsequently as Regimental Vehicle and Equipment Manager. As the first incumbent of this post, he has further examined, questioned and reworked procedures, thereby significantly enhancing Regimental Equipment Care. His sound advice and direction has been invaluable, reflected in the improved equipment availability since he assumed the role. He has single-handedly, and on his own initiative, revised the Regimental System of Whole Fleet Management and the JAMES Management Information System. His experience was reflected by his employment as an expert user consultant for the JAMES Project and the adoption of his best practice across the Army. His knowledge and experience is so well respected, that he regularly receives phone calls from the JAMES LAND Project Team based in Florida, seeking accurate and reliable information to assist them in the planning of future editions of JAMES LAND.

Commander-in-Chief Land Forces Commendation
Corporal Pearson

Corporal Pearson has been awarded a Commander-in-Chief’s Commendation for his dedicated service to the Regiment and the wider military and civilian community. In particular his devotion and personal commitment to Regimental equitation has been outstanding. He joined The Royal Signals in 1985, transferring later to The 14th/20th King’s Hussars and, on amalgamation, the King’s Royal Hussars. Throughout, he has been a consummate professional, balancing operational service with a passionate commitment to horsemanship. His earlier years were spent caring for ponies in both Germany and the UK as IC Regimental Stables. During this time he helped the Regiment win many high profile awards. His expertise as a horseman has often been called upon by the wider Army, including a stint with the Bovington Saddle Club for the Director Royal Armoured Corps. Cpl Pearson has always been ready to deploy on operations, reverting to his primary role as an armoured soldier whenever required. He deployed on active service to the Gulf in 1991 and Northern Ireland in 1994. He was promoted to Corporal while serving in Canada in 1996 and later served in Kosovo in 1999. His friendly, cheerful manner and gracious character are invaluable in his role in the stables. He has contributed much to the good name of the Regiment and the Army across both the military and civilian communities.

Commander-in-Chief Land Forces Commendation
Corporal Ashton

Corporal Ashton has been awarded a Commander-in-Chief’s Commendation for her role as a Combat Medical Technician for the King’s Royal Hussars over the past two years. Her role is one that would normally be supported by both an experienced Army Medical Officer and a Senior Non Commissioned Officer, in the form of a Staff Nurse. Due to operational commitments, Corporal Ashton has been required to manage this extremely busy post, for the most part, single handed. With only a small team of three medics to cover the varied commitments and deployments of an Armoured Regiment, including the day to day running of a large Medical Centre, she has gone far beyond what would be expected of a Junior Rank in her position. Corporal Ashton has not only maintained high standards but exceeded them in many respects. She has taken a personal interest in every aspect of soldier health; she has provided the Regiment with a service second to none through the Regimental Health Committee and innovative Health Fairs. Her selfless commitment to duty and steadfast support of the wider health of the Regiment has gone beyond what is expected of someone in her position. Corporal Ashton is a credit to her Corps and an example to subordinates and Commanders alike.
General Officer Commanding 4th Division's
Commendation
Staff Sergeant Durrant

Ssgt Durrant was appointed as Visiting Officer to a Regimental family following the untimely death of one of our soldiers. He conducted his duties as Visiting Officer while simultaneously acting as A Squadron SSM and taking over the position of Officers’ Mess Sergeant Major during an uncommonly busy period in the Regimental calendar.

The sad circumstances of the soldier’s death necessitated the involvement of a large number of external agencies. This could have overburdened a grieving family. However, SSgt Durrant took it upon himself to deal with the various agencies, thereby alleviating emotional and administrative pressure upon the family.

SSgt Durrant’s dedication and patience were instrumental in ensuring that his family were able to mourn in a dignified fashion. He was sensitive and compassionate in assisting with the organisation of the funeral, in addition to resolving the soldier’s personal affairs. SSgt Durrant conducted his duties as Visiting Officer without a discernible downturn in his performance for A Squadron or the Officers’ Mess. This entailed working exceptionally long hours, often at the expense of his personal life.

Regimental Medals

Regimental Medal Number 216
Captain Robert Forrest

Captain Forrest was selected to become the Rear Party Second in Command on an FTRS contract in early 2009. With the close down of Op TELIC Captain Forrest asked to remain with The King’s Royal Hussars as Squadron Second in Command of Headquarters Squadron. Captain Forrest arrived in early May and was immediately tasked to cover as the Operations Officer due to the deployment of RHQ to Kuwait. He has represented a large number of soldiers in Court and has used his knowledge of the law to reduce sentences. Captain Forrest’s abilities have enabled him to take on a plethora of extra tasks. Of these, the most important has been his audit of the Regimental accounts. This has seen him review the accounts of the Officers’ Mess, and the Main PRI fund. His hard work and detailed accounting has meant that he is leaving the accounts in a strong position for the future. Whilst carrying these tasks, he has been exemplary in all aspects of his work. He has fully embraced his time with the Regiment both socially and professionally, and has been an outstanding ambassador throughout the year.

For his outstanding contribution to the military honour and efficiency of the King’s Royal Hussars, Captain Forrest is awarded the Regimental Medal.

Regimental Medal Number 217
Lieutenant Colonel Giles Harrison

Lieutenant Colonel GRMcD Harrison has been awarded the Regimental Medal for his outstanding contribution to the military honour and efficiency of the King’s Royal Hussars during his tenure of command from 2008 to 2010.

Lieutenant Colonel Harrison took command of the Regiment in February 2008 and immediately set about preparing the Regiment for its deployment to BATUS in its primary role on Challenger 2. His boundless energy and attention to detail ensured that four of the five squadrons deployed to Canada; in addition to this, those that were attached to the King’s Royal Hussars Battle Group were involved in one of the most successful exercises in a number of years, in no small part due to his leadership.

The stand-down of the Regiment from Iraq meant that it was important to refocus the troops for the 2009 and 2010 training years; consequently a resolute move was made to improve and build on the Regiment’s dismounted infantry skills. This successful shift has seen the Regiment deploy to Kuwait and South Africa, not to mention the current role of B Squadron as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company; the first time that a non-Infantry Regiment has completed the role.

So successful has this transition been, that it is now being seen as the secondary role for the Armoured Regiments, and has the approval of the Brigade and Divisional Commanders.

Lieutenant Colonel Harrison has shown his capacity for detail, not just in the operational aspect of command, but in all areas of his control. He has scrutinised and modernised, whether it be the
inception of the Regimental Health Committee, or the transformation of the Aliwal Arms, he has endeavoured to improve for all.

His consideration for the welfare of his soldiers and their families has been unbounded. This has seen numerous events including Regimental weekends, Association days and wives exercises being successfully organised, all of which have enhanced the feeling of the Regimental family. His long term thinking, combined with his strength of character, will ensure that his legacy will live long after his tenure of command.

For his outstanding leadership and exceptional contribution to the military honour and efficiency of the King’s Royal Hussars, Lieutenant Colonel GRMcD Harrison is awarded the Regimental Medal.

Regimental Medal Number 218
Sergeant Silvey

Sgt Silvey was employed as the Non-Kinetic Effects Officer for a Rifle Company Group within the Babaji Battle Group on Op HERRICK 11 in Afghanistan. The role saw him as one of a two man team responsible for the delivery of Military Support and Stabilisation Team work, as well as organising payments to the local population via the Commander’s Stabilisation Fund. This was a demanding job – requiring patience, understanding and a firm but friendly hand of help to the Afghan people. Sgt Silvey proved to be a key representative of both the Company Group, and ISAF, to the local people of Babaji, building up good relationships with the elders of the communities and becoming a key interlocutor for ISAF in the area.

Sgt Silvey also took on a number of other duties within the operation – he was, on occasion, the Coy TAC multiple Second in Command – responsible when on patrol for tactical control of the multiple when the Company Commander was engaged in commanding the company battle. He was a key assistant to the Company Commander during shuras as a recorder of the meetings – not an easy task when trying to capture all the information from a shura via an interpreter; however he performed the task admirably, and the Company Commander was able to delegate many tasks to him. He was also often the lead on stabilisation issues during these shuras. He showed integrity and grip when required both to ISAF and Afghan National Army subordinates and in all respects set the standards required and proved an excellent role model to his infantry contemporaries.

For his outstanding contribution to the military honour and efficiency of the King’s Royal Hussars whilst detached to the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards Battle Group, Sgt Silvey is awarded the Regimental Medal.

Regimental Medal Number 219
Sergeant Blacklock

Throughout Op HERRICK 11, Sgt Blacklock’s primary role was as Assistant Operations Officer with Number 1 Company 1st Bn Coldstream Guards Battle Group, with further responsibilities including the control and coordination of all fixed ISTAR assets, and part time Liaison Officer to the Afghan National Directorate of Security. Over the last month of the operational tour he also took on the role of Mentor and Liaison Officer to the Afghan National Police.

In the Operations Room he proved to have a thorough understanding of Battle Group procedures and coordinated numerous challenging and very different situations, from CASEVAC to sup-
porting troops in contact with the enemy. He used his previous surveillance knowledge to good effect to ensure that the Patrol Base introduced assets such as the REVIVOR balloon in an efficient manner. He was responsible for the training and supervision of the REVIVOR detachment despite receiving very little training himself. Throughout this tasking he displayed patience and quick thinking to solve the many problems with this fragile system. Patrol Base 4 was augmented with 100 Afghan National Police and the Company had no dedicated Liaison Officer to coordinate their taskings. Despite his already busy portfolio, Sgt Blacklock leapt at the chance to mentor and develop a new Afghan National Police Company. He displayed considerable tact and diplomacy coupled with a thorough understanding of G4. This ensured the seamless introduction of Afghan National Police into the Area of Operations. Through his dedication to the mission, he made a significant contribution to the success of Number 1 Company during their arduous tour. His professionalism and application were an example for all at that Patrol Base.

For his outstanding contribution to the military honour and efficiency of the King’s Royal Hussars whilst deployed with The Coldstream Guards Battle Group, Sgt Blacklock is awarded the Regimental Medal.

Regimental Medal Number 220  
Major Ian Simpson MBE

Major Simpson has been an exceptional and most loyal servant of the Regiment since he first joined the 14th/20th King’s Hussars in 1982. There have been a number of occasions throughout his career when his contributions to the military efficiency and the good name of the Regiment have been remarkable. It is in part a reflection on his modesty that these contributions have gone without Regimental recognition until now.

As Headquarters Squadron Leader he has provided the leadership and example that has helped establish the Regiment’s reputation for excellence in administration. It is largely through his own dedication, advice and managerial skills that the administrative foundations of the Regiment are now solid. His approach has been modern and innovative without losing sight of our enduring core values. For these reasons he has been a highly effective Recruiting Officer and remains a true role model for all ranks in the Regiment.

However, his most notable achievement as Headquarters Squadron Leader has been his planning and execution of the Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade in September 2010. From the earliest planning stages, through to the thorough recovery plan, his attention to detail and leadership have been instrumental to the success of the Parade. It was a day that showed the Regiment in the best possible light to our Old Comrades Association, Gloucestershire County Officials, affiliated Yeomanry Regiments, Regimental family and friends and the wider public. The day’s success could only have been achieved by a man with a deep sense of love and understanding for the Regiment.

For his outstanding contribution to the military honour and efficiency of the King’s Royal Hussars, Major Simpson is awarded the Regimental Medal.
The Senior Squadron found itself at the beginning of 2010 as part of the UK’s lead high readiness force – the Small Scale Contingent Battlegroup (SSC BG). This was formed on the nucleus of the 42 Commando RM BG along with all its bootnecks, mateoles, and all those of a green-bereted persuasion. To add a little colour, HQ Land Forces had deemed that the SSC BG should be double-hatted with the European Union BG task (EU BG) so we packed our bergans and awaited the call to join the European Maritime Force in the Gulf of Aden for some anti-piracy operations. In our initial enthusiasm for all things amphibious, we also found ourselves on Ex SOUTHWEST SWORD – an amphibious landing exercise along the South Coast – and embarking our wagons on HMS Albion.

We loaded our tanks and CVR(T) Scimitars onto landing craft at Marchwood Military Port and sailed off down Southampton Water to RV with Albion out in the Solent. Albion is the third biggest ship in the Royal Navy’s fleet and is known as a LPD (Landing Point Dock). It was something of a surreal experience to be sailing into the back of a half submerged warship in the early hours of the morning, lit only by a phosphorescent green light – all very James Bond. We were welcomed on board like old friends and the Royal Navy could not have been more hospitable. We spent the next week cruising up and down the Channel, periodically crashing our vehicles up sandy and shaley beaches. It was the first time in five years that Albion had had AFVs embarked and they caused quite a stir with the crew who would appear day and night on the Tank Deck asking to have a clamber over our vehicles – so much so that the Captain re-named the deck ‘The Stables’ in honour of the cavalry connection. We were also able to view at close hand off Portland the final sea trial of HMS Dauntless, our affiliated warship, and even to signal a message of good wishes from the Regiment as we cruised past. We had a hugely entertaining time with our salty brothers-in-arms but were very glad to get our feet back on dry land at the end. Ironically, our last landing was at Arish Mell Gap at Lulworth and we found ourselves, heading inland towards the camp from the sea rather than the other way around.

Currently each heavy Armoured Regiment has a Medium Armour Squadron, equipped with CVR(T) Scimitar. Although something of an old lady now and in her last few years of service, she is still a capable vehicle and one that is currently deployed in Afghanistan. Smaller, lighter – and ultimately cheaper – C Squadron has not suffered from the usage restrictions that the tank Squadrions have and, because of the SSC BG task, we have been able to hold a full Squadron fleet of vehicles (perhaps the only Squadron to do so in the RAC). This has meant that the boys have had proper ownership of their vehicles and it was a return to proper, old school, tank park soldiering. It paid dividends and the Scimitars that we received in September 2009, many in a rather sorry state, were brought up to the very highest standard in preparation for our SSC BG task.

Holding our own fleet has also meant that we have had the opportunity to conduct more mounted low level training than the other Squadrions. We rolled out onto the Plain in February and then again in March on Ex EGYPT HAWK – our own Squadron-level training. It was a case of cam nets up, cam nets down; basic troo...
movement; quick attacks; obstacle crossings; delay battles; advance to contacts; and all the skills that are the lifeblood of the Armoured Corps. These week-long sessions were immensely useful and gave us the opportunity to ‘blood’ some of the new JNCOs commanding their vehicles for the first time. We were lucky to have our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier Justin Maciejewski come and visit us out on the Plain to see what we were up to first hand. As ever, the opportunity to hear ‘from the horse’s mouth’ how he wanted to fight his Brigade and to ask him questions about possible future tasks was warmly received.

In February, we paid our first visit of the year to our affiliated Army Cadet Force Unit, the Lymington Platoon of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight ACF. The Cadets wear our KRH brown berets and spend time each month learning our Regimental history – so very much regard themselves as King’s Royal Hussars. Each year, we have to conduct a formal inspection of the Platoon to ensure that everything is being run as it should. During the last 12 months, soldiers from C Squadron have been paying regular visits down to the South Coast to see them and have been helping them out by running lessons for them, and introducing them to some of our more interesting kit. For the annual inspection, Capt Perrott, Sgt Yeo and LCpl Daniels went down to see the Cadets and they were on great form.

C Squadron was also asked to provide the manpower to help out with the Wives’ Club Spring Fête in April. The Wives had done a truly incredible job in organising a huge range of stalls and activities for the families and we were delighted to help by putting the tents up and organising the parking and security. The boys also enjoyed the opportunity to throw wet sponges at the CO and Squadron Leader when they were helpless in the stocks too!

Commander Field Army, Lieutenant General Barney White-Spunner, visited the Regiment in early May and came to see C Squadron as we were completing our final pre-ranges gunnery preparations before heading down to Castlemartin. He met a number of the boys in the Squadron and spoke to them about the future of Medium Armour and when we might expect to have our Scimitars replaced by the new FRES Vehicle. As a former Scimitar Commander himself, he empathised fully with our efforts to nurse these old ladies through the last few years of their service life.

May saw us heading down to Castlemartin in Pembrokeshire for our annual firing period. Because of our commitment to the SSC BG and the need to keep ‘in date’, we were lucky to be firing for a second time in six months. After our very strong performance the previous November, we were hopeful of a similar high standard. Back in Tidworth, we practised hard on our gunnery skills and drills with long hours spent on the 30mm gun mount and the 7.62mm GPMG. Down in Pembrokeshire, early in the first week we lost nearly two days when the mist rolled in from the Irish Sea and we were unable to fire, but when the sun finally broke through, it was glorious and we were firing late into the evenings with targets dropping with methodical precision. Brigadier Maciejewski came down to see us again and proved that he hadn’t lost his touch with some highly creditable 30mm engagements – sadly we couldn’t afford to sign him up for the Squadron!

The hard work paid off. The Squadron shot beautifully and every crew passed every live fire exercise first time – a total of 75 shoots. This was the first time that a Medium Armour Squadron in the RAC had achieved this and our firing report recorded us as ‘The Best Medium Armour Squadron at Gunnery in the British Army’. The young crew commanders, gunners and drivers can be justifi-
Brigadier Maciejewski speaking to the Squadron on the Plain

Capt Perrott presenting the 'Best Cadet' award

It was found that using a Scimitar to control the crowds was very effective

Tpr Illingworth digging out the tracks at the washdown

All Ashore on Ex SOUTHWEST SWORD
significant movement of soldiers out of the Sabre Squadrons to ensure that HQ Squadron was fully manned. Ten of our C Squadron soldiers left the fold to spread the talent around the Regiment! We always present our leavers with a Certificate of Service based on one of the old 11th Hussars (Prince Albert’s Own) certificates – and we stick by our mantra that ‘Once in C Squadron, always in C Squadron’.

The D’Arcy Hall Summer Sports competition took place in June and we entered strong teams in all sports. Our Cricket Team definitely benefited from one or two stars including Regimental Skipper, Capt Tom Perrott; Sgt Durrans from the LAD; and our resident quick bowler, Cpl McLean all the way from St Vincent. Despite a short run up and bowling at about 50% of his usual pace, Cpl McLean cut through the batsmen of the other Squadrons like a machete through a pineapple and we ran out with a white wash to be crowned the champions again.

Each year in May, The Cherrypickers – the 11th Hussars (PAO) Old Comrades Association – have a reunion dinner in Shropshire. We were kindly invited to send along a few souls to fly the flag and give a short update on what the successor Regiment had been up to. Maj Wilkinson, Sgt Warren and Cpl Taylor set off in a minibus from Castlemartin a little unsure what to expect. What we certainly did not expect was to be greeted by around 250 crimson trouser-wearing 11th Hussars complete with wives, sons and daughters. It was a wonderful evening and we were hosted royally by the old boys. Plans are afoot for a return visit to Tidworth in February 2011.

The return from Ranges saw a few changes around the Regiment. Lt Col Harrison handed over to Lt Col Potts and there was a significantly proud of their achievement. It was a wonderful couple of weeks.

The SSM and Team about to handle ammunition with care and confidence

The Best Medium Armour Squadron
at Gunnery in the British Army

LCpl Wood – Time for a re-stow

H-Hour minus 5 on the CO’s Tank Inspection!
It was great to have some summer leave in August – the second consecutive summer in the UK for almost the first time in living memory! On return, our attentions turned to buling our boots, polishing our buttons and some marching up and down the square in preparation for the Regiment being awarded the Freedom of Gloucestershire on 18th September. Like any good cavalry regiment, the King’s Royal Hussars are not natural ‘drill pigs’ but with several weeks of ‘encouragement’ from Sgt Maj Dunn and the RSM, we actually started to look pretty good. By the time of the parade itself, we were as smart as any Guardsman and, following the tradition of the 11th Hussars, C Squadron took up its position on The Right Of The Line with great pride. The parade went off without a hitch and the day gave us a wonderful opportunity to show our family and friends the Regiment in its very best form in the beautiful surroundings of Frampton Court.

In October a small team from the Squadron entered the Cambrian Patrol competition held in the Brecon Beacons. The competition is a gruelling physical and mental test involving a 72 hour patrol across arduous and mountainous terrain. After finishing with a Bronze Medal and being the best team in the Regiment in 2009, we were aiming to repeat our success. The team was led by Lt David Welford and he and the boys undertook some pretty strenuous training in the run up to the competition, including more than one ascent of Pen-y-Fan – the highest mountain in the Brecons. This training proved highly appropriate as Pen-y-Fan turned out to be one of the hills that the teams had to climb in the competition itself. The C Squadron team performed very well indeed, coming away with a Bronze Medal again, and only narrowly missing out on Silver.

The other Sabre Squadrons have had the opportunity during the last year to focus on their dismounted infantry skills, with exercises in South Africa and the Falklands. Because C Squadron has been attached to the Royal Marines and the SSC BG, we have done less dismounted work and concentrated on our vehicle skills. We took the opportunity in October to rectify this with a dismounted skills week. We put ourselves through our paces with a series of dismounted navigation exercises (by day and night); fire team and section attacks; medical and tactical training; and culminated in a platoon level dawn attack. It was a great shake out and a fantastic opportunity to remind ourselves of the basics of our soldiering craft. We will do lots more of it during the build up to Canada next Spring but it was good to get our feet back on the ground!

Each year on the 25th October, the Regiment celebrates the anniversary of the Battle of Balaklava, of course famous for the Charge of the Light Brigade. C Squadron’s affiliation to the 11th Hussars obviously makes this extra special and for over 150 years the Officers and Senior NCOs of the Regiment have woken up the soldiers in their accommodation with Regimental Marches and Gunfire – a rather odd concoction of tea laced with a healthy measure of rum. Each year it seems to catch one or two of the young soldiers by surprise and this year was no exception!

The Brocklehurst Trophy took place at the end of October and, after getting narrowly pipped into second place last year, C Squadron went all out to win this time around. In many ways, amateur boxing is the purest of sports and it was wonderful to see the boxers giving everything when fighting each other, and then the genuine respect and warmth between them at the end of each bout. We entered 7 boxers and 5 of them won their...
bouts in an evening of compelling boxing. Unfortunately because
the only two middleweight boxers in the Regiment were both from
C Squadron, their results cancelled each other out meaning that we
were beaten to the Trophy by the narrowest of margins by A
Squadron. Next year, it will be ours!

November saw us deployed back on the Plain as part of Ex ACE
FOUNDATION – the 12 Mech Bde Obstacle Crossing Demonstra-
tion. In the margins of the demo, we conducted more of our own
low level training but it was great to see a full armoured battlegroup
out and being put through its paces, Gunners, Engineers et al.

The end of the year marked a number of changes in the Squadron
Headquarters and we bade farewell to the 2IC, Capt Tom Perrott
off to Afghanistan; WO2 (SSM) Dunn off to be RQMS(T); and
SSgt (SQMS) Ormond off to be WO2 (SSM) in B Squadron. They
have all been instrumental in shaping the Squadron into what it is
today and they are all due our grateful thanks. We wish them and
their (considerably) better halves the very best of luck for the
future. In their place, we welcome Capt George Tyson; WO2 (SSM) Lowe; and SSgt (SQMS) Green.

Christmas came all too quickly and we were into the silly season before we knew it. 2010 had been a great year – and one where we achieved all that we wanted to. We completed our SSC BG task with 42 Commando Royal Marines without a hitch; we were crowned the best Medium Armour Squadron at gunnery; and we took the time to get well ahead with our career and instructors’ courses to ensure that, as we hit 2011, we are well placed to wring every last possible benefit from the training year. The securing of the Regiment’s inaugural Teevan Award for outstanding equipment care and G4 management rounded off a really fantastic year. There is, as ever, much to look forward to – BATUS; retaining our crown on Ranges in March; our ‘Kabul or Bust’ fundraising event for the KRH Appeal in the summer; and the beginning of our build up to a potential deployment to Afghanistan. Whatever it is, the Senior Squadron is up for it!

MNW
After the uncertainties brought about by the previous year’s cancelled tour, 2010 offered the prospect of a fun-packed and busy time and, looking back, the men of A Squadron, the 20th Hussars, have not been disappointed.

At the start of the year, while preparations for Ex AFRICAN THORN were being finalised, the men of 1st Tp, under 2Lt Bird, took part in Ex SOUTHWEST SWORD. They loaded their Challengers onto Landing Craft (LCU), with Scimitars from C Squadron, and approached the stern of HMS Albion in The Solent which opened its enormous doors to swallow up the two LCUs. The ship was vast, able to accommodate a crew of 300 and its vehicle deck able to hold a Squadron of Challengers, with room for a further 500 troops. After a few days of discussions, planning and rehearsals, the week culminated in an assault onto Brown-down Beach. The first wave ashore were Royal Marines from 42 Cdo RM, who secured the beach, getting very wet in the process. The second wave, an airborne assault, delivered the formidable Airborne Cavalry’s Sgt Sercombe, LCpl Newsham with Tprs Field and Morris to the head of the beach. The third wave consisting of two LCUs with a tank apiece, simultaneously hit the shore to release their charges and the tanks roared up the beach ‘giving it bags of smoke and loads of revs’ (Tpr Mason), making even the hardest Marine tremble in his green beret and wet boots. As the tanks adopted an overwatch position, a third LCU arrived with the nippy Scimitars which stormed up and over the beach.

The rest of the Squadron were perfecting their dismounted infantry skills, prior to deploying with D Squadron on Ex AFRICAN THORN for six weeks in South Africa. Once complete, the Squadron embarked on the ordeal of getting there by plane
with the RAF. As ever they managed to turn an eleven hour flight into a 48 hour ordeal, with stops in the middle of the night at Las Palmas in Gran Canaria and Ascension Island before landing in Upington. It was after a lengthy bus journey that the Squadron finally arrived in the heat of the Combat Training Centre, Lohatla. It is an excellent training facility which offered many new opportunities and challenges. The terrain, vegetation and varied selection of exotic and somewhat daunting `beasties' bring their own problems, not to mention the unpredictable and extreme weather conditions. After an initial introduction to `survival', (snake charming and eating bugs) the Squadron spent a night in the field, individually, with no shelter and nothing to eat under the watchful eye of the South African `Special' Forces. The only thing `special' about them being that when Tpr Unsworth decided that he was being hunted by wolves and fired his distress flares in some sort of mistaken case of `I'm a celebrity, get me out of here', no one came to his rescue.

The acclimatisation phase transitioned into the live firing phase. This was a step up from the dismounted training previously conducted in Castlemartin. It started with `close quarter battle' ranges and culminated in Squadron-level attacks. A first for all members of the Squadron, it was both demanding and arduous, but gave everyone a brief glimpse of the intensity of fighting for real.

Once the live firing phase was completed, the Squadron was able to concentrate on perfecting its low-level skills using blank rounds. The Squadron split into separate Platoons, offering the opportunity for commanders at all levels to instruct and exercise the skills that would be of vital importance in the `force on force' stage later in the exercise. This phase gave the opportunity to initially pitch the two Platoons against each other, resulting in Sgt Pople chasing Cpl Gainford and his section away, after their failed attempt at infiltrating the other platoon's harbour area. The phase culminated at dawn one morning when an initially silent attack on the `enemy' Recce Section, went noisy, once their sentries had been despatched, as the Squadron began their attack up a steep, boulder strewn hill. When the gallant stand by Recce was decisively put down, the Squadron, once at the top of the hill, was able to bask in the spectacular view of the sun rising over the Kalahari plains. Having rehearsed for every eventuality, the 20th Hussars were
ready to progress to the most anticipated stage of the exercise when they would take on ‘Dirty D’ Squadron.

Moving into a ‘Forward Operating Base’ (FOB), aka a ruined farm-house, the first day was spent fortifying positions with sandbags, wriggly tin and aptly named ‘bastard bushes’. The next couple of days saw a few small scale skirmishes with D Squadron and, as we went into night routine on the third night, anticipated a dawn attack. At precisely 0300 hrs the clunk of a grenade landing somewhere in the house was followed by the explosion throwing everyone out of their sleeping bags and marking the start of a desperate repulsion of D Squadron in their entirety, as they tried to infiltrate the defences and seize the house under the cover of darkness. In the bloody battle that followed for the next hour, the Squadron and the defences held off the marauders, while Tpr Tiffin had time to make everyone an excellent cup of tea.

The following day it was time to assault D Squadron’s FOB and through a dramatic turn in events, an executive decision was taken to capitalise on a situation and take the fight to them early. Driving three trucks laden with the A Squadron straight up to the front ‘gate’, Tprs Wilkinson and Bradford (senior) became human bridges falling gallantly across the ‘bastard bushes’ to be trampled over by the rest of the Squadron, instantly breaching their defences. The fact that D Squadron were enjoying supper and cleaning weapons prior to the evening ‘stand-to’ may have helped. A heavy weight of fire and a speedy ‘break-in’ ensured the first building being taken in 21 seconds from the first round being fired, (according to the play-back from Tpr Lennon’s head-camera). The position subsequently fell building by building, though when taking stock, we were very impressed with the three day’s worth of defences that D Squadron had put together and the commendable fight they put up, despite the attack being rather ‘un-scheduled’. 
After the force on force phase, a Regimental attack saw both A and D Squadrons working well together in defeating the enemy headquarters location. A section competition was then held, where each section was pitted against each other in a ‘march and shoot’ competition. This included various stands such as First Aid, signals and ‘grenade throwing’ as well as the shoot and a stretcher race to the finish. The Squadron once again performed superbly with Cpl Gainford’s section (with Capt Tyson) winning the competition by beating the runners up – Recce Tp, by a good 10 minutes. The rest of the Squadron put in some great times with some crack shooting, with three sections ‘slotting’ the watermelon at 600m! A resounding success, the competition proved an exciting and challenging end to a hugely satisfying and well organised exercise. It allowed the Squadron to bond beyond all expectations and prove itself as a well drilled, capable and confident Squadron, able to achieve a high level of infantry tactics.

The final part of the exercise was a spot of R&R which was either conducted on safari or at a pursuits camp within the Orange River delta. The pursuits camp offered a perfect opportunity for some white water rafting, quad biking, paint-balling or simply wine tasting followed by lazing by the river.

On returning from South Africa in a chartered aircraft in 11 hrs, (flown by the Belgian AF), the emphasis was placed on getting the Squadron stores, Armstore and Admin (as well as the tanks) ready for the forthcoming Combined Inspection Week. After some long days the Regiment secured its highly sought after and well earned ‘Green’ tick in the box. The Squadron worked further on the tanks to get them ready for the CO’s inspection, being greatly assisted by a first rate LAD under the very capable command of SSgt (Tiffy) Jones. The LAD have become fully integrated within the Squadron, taking great pride in calling themselves the 20th and have proved their worth at every turn. Concurrent to the tanks being worked on, the crews spent the next few weeks refreshing their qualifications in the gunnery simulators, in order to be fully fit for their annual firing package in Castlemartin.

Due to the Government’s austerity measures, the ammunition allocation available was fairly limited allowing for firing up to (but not including) Annual Crew Tests. However what it did mean was the Squadron had time to reaffirm some of the small-arms skills learnt whilst in South Africa, and conduct some MATTs training. An unseasonably hot 2 weeks, it was a joy to be back on Challenger tanks, live firing against the back drop of the beautiful Welsh coastline as well as enjoying the delights of Tenby and Pembroke. Extra-curricular activities included lobster impressions by some of the more sunburnt Tprs, and a two day walk back from Cardigan Bay by Tpr ‘Marathon Man’ Tiffin, after accepting a lift, thinking it was near camp. The Squadron also extended a warm ‘welcome home’ to it’s Afghanistan contingent. Joining us in Castlemartin, fresh from the
desert, they quickly adapted to life in Wales before being released for a well deserved break. Of particular note was Sgt Lloyd’s top score during Live Fire Ex 6; the highly professional small arms range package run by Sgt Baines and Sgt Lloyd (aided by Sgt Briscoe from HQ Squadron); and Tpr Field’s surfing prowess on Angle beach!

The Squadron ran the Regimental Adventure Training Camp in Weymouth, was deployed on 5 concurrent RAAT tasks, helped the OC set up the Inter-Regimental polo at Sandhurst and assisted him in setting up the Officers’ Mess summer party. After an excellent and well attended Squadron BBQ, it was able to stand down for three weeks well earned summer leave. On returning to the fray, three weeks of preparation insured that the Squadron was extremely well turned out for the Freedom of Gloucestershire parade before returning to Wales the following week on a Squadron low-level leadership exercise in Penally. The aim was to build up ‘fire-team’ cohesion and improve the basic skills from the bottom up. A day on the ranges was enhanced by the arrival of a team from 22 SAS who, keen to spread the good word, had come to brief the Squadron (and Recce Tp) on what they did. It certainly helped that they turned up in two very fast cars with their boots full of a variety of weapons.

It was with sadness that the Squadron saw the departure, in October, of its highly regarded WO2 (SSM) Portwood as he promotes to become RQMS. He is ably replaced by WO2 (SSM) Shearman, who is warmly welcomed and will no doubt be quick to earn his
place as the backbone of the 20th Hussars. Thanks go to SSgt (SQMS) "Taff" Allen and his team for working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the Squadron is always well victualled with burgers and beer. Always there and never late, he has been a fantastic asset to the Squadron.

The boxing team were spending their time training daily for the inter-Squadron boxing competition, the Brocklehurst trophy, which sees the best boxers in each Squadron battle it out over 3 rounds in the ring in front of the Regiment. It is traditionally a very hard fought contest, and arguably the most important sporting competition in the calendar as it brings the entire Regiment together to cheer the boxers on. It was through an outstanding level of dedication and commitment that the 6 Squadron boxers managed not only to win almost all of their bouts, but also win the entire competition overall. Coached by Sgt 'Christmas' Nowell and Tpr Metcalf, the boxers: LCpl Harvey (LAD), LCpl Molloy and Tprs Stoddart, Padee, Unsworth and Stancombe are a credit to the Squadron, particularly in defeating the reigning champions C Squadron. Tpr Padee was singled out as the best fighter, an impressive accolade to bestow on such a young Trooper.

The Squadron has gone from strength to strength this year and looks forward to the challenges on offer in 2011 in preparation for Op HERRICK 16.

V-S
**Flexibility Personified**

For B Squadron, 2010 was ‘A Year of the Foot’, whether it be training and deploying to be the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC), the D’Arcy Hall sports competition, The Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade or The Cambrian Patrol. B Squadron embraced, competed and achieved all with a certain amount of 14th Hussar panache.

After being warned off for deployment the previous year, the first third of 2010 was spent learning, training and employing the dismounted skills that would be utilised during the FIRIC tour. Within weeks of returning to work; the OC and a small team conducted a Command Group reconnaissance trip to the Falklands, which not only covered the operational requirements of the deployment but took in some of the sights and even managed a quick visit to HMS Clyde.

On return from the recce, the Squadron deployed for its one and only tank exercise of the year. Deploying on to the Plain, B Squadron once again showed its versatility flicking between mounted and dismounted tasks with ease. In February, with the tanks handed over and put to bed, we concentrated in earnest on our upcoming deployment.

After Easter leave, the deployment to the Falklands started in earnest with the Squadron fully in place by 30 April. Concurrently SSgt Baird, Cpls Tovey, and Holden, LCpls Cocker and Bamber, and Tpr McKay, the B Squadron components to the Coldstream Guards MASTIFF Group deployment, returned to the UK and went on much deserved Post Operational Tour Leave. Their tour was challenging and they all performed to the highest standard leaving the Coldstream Guards with the impression that the KRH soldiers are first-class.

There were many challenges that B Squadron faced if they were to be successful during FIRIC. First and most critically was fitness. Although not unfit, the soldiers of B Squadron did not naturally possess the tabbing stamina that comes from years of being an infanteer. So in the months before the deployment, the Squadron began a tough regime to build up their strength and get the soldiers used to carrying large amount of weight over lengthy, unsupported patrols. The Squadron was very keen to smash the stereotype of cavalry, this was done from the beginning by the Officers and to the disappointment of the RAF, women, who were expecting dashing tall cavalrymen with long flowing hair, closely followed by their Polo ponies. Instead they were met by Captain ‘Andrew Lloyd-Webber’ Beattie and Lt ‘Kevin Spacey’ Clarke, without a cravat or a case of champagne in sight.

Having settled in Mount Pleasant Complex (MPC), the main military base that doubles the population on the Falklands, the Squadron began their rotation. The patrols phase presented an excellent opportunity to give extra responsibility to the junior com-
manders as most were section level patrols, led by a Cpl. The aim of the patrols varied, some were given a stretch of coastline to patrol, checking for any signs of any unscheduled landings. They would be inserted by helicopter and picked up 5 days later, meaning the commander would be have to plan on being self-sufficient for this time. Other patrols were given Civilian Military Interface or CIMIC tasks, which involved a variety of jobs from cutting peat, replenishing winter stores, to clearing old farm machinery; all with the aim of increasing the local population’s support of the military. Probably our greatest accomplishment during the FIRIC tour and largely down to the charm and manners of the KRH soldiers, was the number of farms who finally allowed a military presence on their land after years of being sceptical about the reliability of the FIRIC. After one such patrol, the Company 2IC received an email from a lady who had hosted a patrol, praising them for their impeccable behaviour and professionalism, noting that it would be a privilege to have them to stay again. Another victory for the KRH.

The QRF phase of the rotation was a great chance to improve the soldiers’ education, whilst also encouraging some healthy inter-platoon rivalry. Capt Neil Weller of the ETS accompanied us as our educator; his enthusiasm and willingness to interview each soldier individually meant that by the end of the tour all reached their required levels in English or Maths, and had an clear idea of the further education opportunities available to them. In between lessons, the Squadron ran an endurance competition, consisting of an 11 mile run, a swim race and a speed march. The competition was close, with some gutsy performances in each event, however 1st Platoon just pipped the others to be crowned Squadron Champions.

The final phase of the rotation was live firing at the notorious Onion Range Complex. Onion Range Camp is a tiny container village which can house a company at a squeeze. It is only accessible by helicopter, or an arduous 7 hour tab. However the remoteness of the range meant that under the guidance of C Sgt Tors of the Royal Anglians, the possibilities to conduct live fire ranges with the various weapon systems was fantastic. The ranges began with the basic pairs fire and manoeuvre and progressed to full platoon attacks. Unfortunately for the exercising troops and much to the enjoyment of the range staff, Onion Range also presented an opportunity to conduct a bayonet range. For those who have not experienced this joyous event, it this involves running around, getting exceptionally tired before crawling, usually along a stream bed, and attacking which ever-deadly sandbag you find. A grim prospect in the UK in summer, let alone in the Falklands in winter.

In between the two cycles of the rotation, the Squadron was given the opportunity to conduct Ex CAPE PETREL. This was a five day exercise consisting of company level live fire attacks and a final dry assault on one of the radar complexes defending the airfield at MPC. The highlight of being in the Falklands, and the memory that I am sure most of the KRH will keep with them, was the opportunity to work with a combination of arms throughout the tour. With Sgt ‘Goose’ Oldfield, having recently returned from Afghanistan as a Forward Air Controller (FAC), we were able to co-ordinate with the RAF Typhoons, simulating bombing runs and signs of force. For the final assault on the radar complex, ‘Curly’ one of the BRINTEL pilots, gave 3rd Platoon a map of the earth insertion, which had even the seasoned Squadron Leader scrambling for the door, whilst 2 platoon simultaneously conducted a TALO insertion from the back of the C130. During the second stage of CAPE PETREL, the crew of HMS Clyde gave us the opportunity to live as a marine, spending twenty four hours at sea before conducting a beach assault. The experience was great, but having watched a number of soldiers, Squadron Leader included, clinging to the railings wishing the rocking to stop, it confirmed that the KRH are mostly land animals.

Towards the end of the tour, the Platoons were given the opportunity to attend various battlefield tours to Goose Green, Tumbledown and Mt Harriet. Having spent a number of days on patrol or exercise, and having walked the ground of these famous battles where the shell scrapes are still clearly visible, all within the Squadron developed a much deeper respect for the soldiers who had fought on that ground for real in 1982. In all B Squadron’s deployment on their FIRIC tasking was a great success with many valuable experiences and learning points brought back to the Regiment. On their return, the Squadron received high praise from all and have hopefully shown that the cavalry are highly flexible and employable in many different roles.

After summer leave the Squadron said goodbye and thank you to Maj Jules Buczacki and welcomed a Bone Head in the form of Maj Chris Badcock to assume command of B Squadron. The new term started well with B Squadron taking the honours at the D’Arcy Hall Sports competition where a strong performance across the
board resulted in an overall victory. Congratulations should go to the athletics team for bringing home the silverware. The remaining weeks of August and all of September were punctuated with LCpl Trotman calling the time as we prepared for the Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade. We were drilled, drilled and drilled again. We marched on the Regimental Parade Square, we marched on the Polo pitches, we marched pretty much everywhere and had every type of rehearsal available from Squadron Sergeant Major up to Colonel of The Regiment, prior to the big day. The day of the Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade itself was immaculate, everything clicked and all of a sudden the hard work and pain put in prior to the parade faded in comparison to the pride we all felt. Special congratulations must go to Cpl Lock who generally managed to keep in step with the rest of the Squadron and to Lt Paul Cowell who kept his steed and the Guidon under some form of control. Thanks should go to LCpl Trotman without whom our drill would have been a lot shabbier.

On return from the parade, life settled down to the usual routine in as much as we had people on the tank park, however concurrently we had; a team training for the rigorous Cambrian Patrol competition, training for the Army Indoor Rowing competition and three Troopers training for the Brocklehurst Boxing Competition. The Cambrian Patrol Competition is a rather gruelling 3...
day dismounted exercise around the delightful hills of Sennybridge in Wales. The team led by 2Lt Mark Lambert and Cpl Mossop consisted of LCpls Constant, Gidzinski, and Tprs Williams, Wright, McCormick, Kingston. The support team consisted of Cpl Rymer and Tpr ‘Fingers’ Polius. The course which was 50 kilometres, conducted under tactical conditions took nearly 48hrs. The B Squadron team trained hard for the event fitting the preparation around the day to day work on the tank park, they thoroughly deserved the bronze medal which they brought home.

The Army Indoor Rowing Competition for 2010 was held in Aliwal Barracks. With slight pressure from SSgt Sweatman, and under the careful tutorage of Sgt Budd, B Squadron formed a highly dedicated rowing team that would even outshine the rowing greats of Redgrave and Pinsent. However due to courses and other short notice events a different team had to be found and trained. The competition consisted of a four man team rowing 4000m as fast as possible. The team consisted of Lt Paul Cowell, 2Lt Luke Sherbrooke, Cpl Lyons and Tpr Park. In addition to the squadron team, Sgt Budd was part of the Regimental Team and Cpl Jones entered in the individual event. The results of the team event were a testament to what hard work and enthusiasm can achieve, B Squadron were placed 6th out of a field of 17 and Cpl Jones was placed 4th in her category. Sgt Budd did exceptionally well, being placed 2nd in his individual event and a key member of the overall winning team.

The next event in the year’s calendar was the Brocklehurst boxing competition. With tireless dedication from our pugilists Tprs Cree, Rider and Davies and our coach SSgt Challender, we thought we were on for three wins. All three showed the bravery and robustness one would expect from members of B Squadron. However luck did not smile on all three. Tprs Rider and Cree both had their bouts stopped and were narrowly defeated, however Tpr Davies was victorious defeating his opponent on points after a gruelling 3 round bout.

As November drew on, B Squadron maintained the high tempo; donating a troop to support the KRH BG Obstacle Crossing Demonstration, conducting Bowman uplift training, sending the OC backpacking around Afghanistan and supporting the Regimental Winter Sports Teams. Lt Felix Clarke captained the Alpine Team, which Tprs Lawrence and Park were members; and 2Lt Mark Lambert, now recognised as the regimental long distance and endurance officer, captained the Nordic Team. We wait with anticipation to hear how they all did and hope to see them sometime before Easter. With the year drawing to a close the usual end
of year silly season was interrupted by WO2 Farmer’s Ex ONION TAB. The 4 troops each entered a JNCO-led team to tab 13 miles carrying 20kg – all at best effort pace. LCpl Stewart’s 1st Troop Team won with a time of 3 hours and 3 minutes.

With the Squadron MATT Camp held in Weymouth, a busy year was completed. This report would not be completed before saying thank you to some B Squadron stalwarts who have moved on. SSgt Bushell after an eternity in the Regiment has retired and we wish him all the best for the future. WO2 Farmer moved on promotion to RSMI Ranges at Lulworth, Sgt Preston moved on promotion to become SQMS HQ Squadron, Sgt Budd has moved to C Squadron to take up a Tp Leader Post and Cpl Sumner also moved on promotion to The Royal Wessex Yeomanry.

With a busy year completed, where the Squadron excelled at dismounted skills that ranged from deploying to the Falklands to foot drill at the Freedom of Gloucestershire, we are now looking forward with anticipation to completing a CR2 range package, CAST, CATT, mounted CT1 training and BATUS, followed by the plethora pre-deployment training. Here’s to another busy year.

CB
D Squadron's year was characterised by two distinct and completely different halves. The first half of the year, under the Command of Major Justin Kingsford and SSgt Shearman, saw the Squadron focus on Dismounted Close Combat skills with a deployment on Ex AFRICA THORN (Ex AT) in South Africa. Following this exercise the Squadron was temporarily disbanded to support B Squadron's deployment to the Falklands Islands. The second half of the year saw a Regimental manning change which reformed “Mighty D” with Major Julian Smith and WO2 ‘Wheelie’ Barrow at the helm. The focus switched to Hybrid Foundation Training with the Squadron more naturally focused back on Mounted Close Combat skills on Challenger 2.

The Squadron deployment on Ex AT in January for a six week infantry exercise was a rare privilege for an Armoured Regiment. Early reports from the advance party indicated that the South African Army camp we were destined for was rudimentary to say the least: suffering from intermittent power, prone to eight hour rain storms and with a haphazard support set up. After a 48 hour flight we landed into 40°C heat and began the unenviable month and a half of relentless sweating. Acclimatisation was a struggle with persistent heat combined with the high altitude was a challenge for all. The initial ‘survival skills camp’ designed to teach survival techniques, involving building a shelter in the open and surviving equipped with two eggs and a few matches sounded like a good idea. However, having learned that three species of deadly snakes lived in the area and with limited communications to the outside world the package proved fairly emotional.

Tpr Campbell’s eggs proved to be a particularly tasty entree for the dozen jackals that chanced their luck in the bundu. Ex AT was split down into four phases: a live firing package, Troop and Squadron-level training, a force on force element followed by a chance to experience life in South Africa on R&R. The range package started well (nobody was shot – despite some individuals’ best efforts to the contrary). In preparation for the Section and Troop attacks Major Kingsford briefed everyone, “on the importance of maximum speed and aggression through the enemy positions”. This advice was taken onboard with LCpl Buckle’s Section managing to complete a section attack in the time it took for one shermoulie to be fired (just over a minute) – good even by infantry standards! Tpr Lane courageously raised the morale on the Squadron attack inadvertently ‘mooning” the CO and the visiting General not more than 15 metres away. Towards the end of the live fire phase the unbearable heat began to take its toll, though it was the safety staff, out in the sun for up to 10 hours a day who succumbed first. Sgt “mini-me” Collier’s bout of heat exhaustion was the most spectacular with him last seen thrashing around uncontrollably as the medics tried to attach him to a drip. During the Troop and Squadron training the tempo was ramped up a gear with some very long days.
Dawn attacks and night patrols were the norm and we were thankful for the Israeli cam net which provided shade and a safe place to strip down to boxers during the day. The final field phase, force on force, was without doubt the most fun with D Squadron pitting its wits against A Squadron. The fortification of the D Squadron Patrol Base was a serious affair, with razor wire, ‘bastard bushes’ and cacti all encompassed into the outer perimeter. Unfortunately dastardly A Squadron, having shaken off their Directing Staff, managed to gain the upper hand (despite a considerable weight of small arms fire at short range). The final element of the exercise was a Regimental attack which was a fitting end to a fantastic experience. In true Army style the Squadron celebrated with a ‘smoker’ and a number of awards. Prizes of note included ‘the Clumsy Fool’ won by Tiffy Challander for falling down every sizeable hole on the area; The ‘Jester’ prize, won by Cfn Primhak for his juggling antics; The ‘Wet Fish’ prize for Cpl Hinton; and ‘Best Effort’ to LCpl Cummings, for never giving up especially within an all male set up. The R&R package was a huge success with one group completing an activity pursuit camp and the others a safari. The stories of naked rafting from the former group contrasted with latter group’s nature observations which include seeing cheetahs teaching their young to hunt.

Although the Squadron did not deploy en masse to the Falkland Islands, we contributed 30 men to form 3 Platoon. Although the terrain and weather tried its hardest to dampen their spirits, 3 Platoon fought on and enhanced its skills with training from section level through Platoon and Company up to two combined arms attacks with Army, Air Force and the Navy all doing their bit to support. We will not forget Onion Range and the march back to the aptly named Mount Pleasant (19 miles over the most hideous of ground). During the latter stages of the deployment there was a chance to do a number of battlefield tours. It is fair to say that there is a new found respect for the combat troops who spent 2 months fighting through the terrain and weather in 1982. B Squadron made all of as feel at home and despite being given an extra weeks patrols (apparently because we were the best!) many friendships were cemented over drinks in the Gull and Penguin that stood the Squadron in good stead when we reformed.

The Squadron reformed again on 28 June following a substantial Regimental manning reorganisation. As well as those who had deployed to both the Falklands and South Africa we welcomed back to the fold those who had thankfully returned safely from Operational service in Afghanistan with the Coldstream Guards.
Battlegroup: Lt Moger, WO2 Barrow, Sgt Silvey, LCpl Freemont. Their contribution to the success of the tour and the personal sacrifices made remain understated though it was with justified recognition that Sgt Silvey was awarded the Regimental Medal No. 218 for his unique contribution to the Tour and for promoting the good name of the Regiment. In the month prior to Summer Leave, the Squadron regained its armoured virility taking back on strength six Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks under the watchful eye of Sgt Whitehill, the Tank Park Manager. The majority of the Squadron enjoyed a three day adventure training package in Dorset dabbling at sailing, kayaking, surfing and rock climbing. Cpl Kennedy led a team to the Fairford Air Show keeping the Army in the public eye. In late July the Squadron participated in the D’Arcy Hall Inter Squadron sports competition. The cricket team under Lt Bush performed remarkably well, finishing second behind C. Squadron. Strong performances include Cpl Lee, LCpl Buckle, LCpl Lannon and Tpr Hume who between them scored the majority of the runs and most of the wickets. The athletics competition was a further success with LCpl Freitag’s 1st in the 100m and Tpr Mitchell’s muscles winning the 400m. The most impressive show was from Tpr Vernon who won the 3000m steeplechase with ease... However, it was at the swimming competition that success unravelled; no one is worthy of positive mention. WO2 Barrow was unable to participate due to a ‘hurty’ shoulder and Tpr Harris’s breast stroke technique was example of the Squadron’s comical swimming prowess. In the final week before Summer leave the Squadron competed in Regimental Troop Tests – an 8 mile march interspersed with a number of military stands.

Impressively 1st Troop beat the ‘elite’ Recce Troop time by six minutes. However, after an average showing on the vehicle recognition stand and Cpl Harrison inadvertently killing ‘Resus-Annie’ the on the first aid stand the team finished a creditable 2nd overall. The Troop Tests provided a suitable culmination to the first half of the year and all departed on three weeks leave with a well deserved sense of achievement.

On return from Summer Leave, the Squadron immersed itself in preparations for the Regiment’s Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade. The Squadron made up No.1 Guard for the parade though Tpr Edgar’s uniform appeared to have been previously fitted to an 11 year old girl. Fortunately the Colonel-in-Chief did not notice. At the Equality & Diversity Day, Sgt O’Donnell provided a hearty Scottish stand complete with piper and haggis though the popu-
The Regimental Journal of The King's Royal Hussars

The photo of the Squadron party held at the Aliwal Arms, complete with tequila girls dressed in ceremonial uniform, was a memorable occasion if only for the random fancy dress outfits (LCpl Mountain and Sgt O’Donnell) and an impromptu re-enactment of “The Last Samurai” by Tpr Davies.

Ex CRIMSON COCONUTS, the Regiment’s annual Wives’ and Girlfriends’ (WAGs) exercise, was this year organised by D Squadron in late September and saw 44 zealous better halves enjoy a fun weekend of military activities. The exercise is reported on separately in this Journal and will not be covered in detail here however a few key personnel require awards. Sgt Silvey’s impression of Ray Mears combined with a dead-pan undertaker on the survival stand galvanised a horrified audience as he calmly explained, with a live squawking chicken under his arm, various methods to kill a chicken and prepare it for the pot. The relief on the WAGs faces was evident when he produced “one he had prepared earlier” unveiling a wrapped frozen Tesco chicken. Tpr Mitchel gave an exciting early glimpse of his Hunky Hussar potential. The night time BBQ and bonfire at Beaches Barn (where SSgt Maclean and his team guaranteed luxurious accommodation – less heating) provided for a memorable night of dancing round the fire (Mrs Stringer). WO2 Barrow’s early morning ‘gentle’ wakeup call of the sleeping beauties was not hugely appreciated. The paintballing stand saw some particularly vindictive wife on husband action with Sgt Collier taking a thorough pasting. A bravery award however undoubtedly goes to 2Lt George Matthews who survived the weekend with the most boisterous syndicate of ladies all dead set on inhaling barrels of Blue WKD and dancing around the log fire.

October proved to be a month dedicated to the individual efforts of soldiers within the Squadron. High standards were set with a successful Squadron team in the Cambrian Patrol competition. The eight man team led by Lt Bush patrolled on foot over 40 miles in 36 hours carrying in excess of 35 kg each. The preparation and pre-training paid off with the team earning an impressive bronze medal, a first for D Squadron. Lucky Tpr Lesley returned from

larity of his stand was most likely tied to the free whisky on offer. Tpr Twanje on his Malawi stand gallantly flew his national flag dressed in traditional attire and suspect snake skin boots that looked to originate not from the African bush but a market stall somewhere in Manchester.

WO2 Barrow ‘short’ and to the point

Tp Ldr’s burning the evidence
this endurance event to more of the same with the PNCO Cadre organised by 2Lt Matthews and Sgt Collier the week after. On 25th October the entire regiment celebrated the Battle of Balaklava with the traditional if not enviable ‘gun-fire’ (tea and rum) at dawn. The day marked the 156th anniversary of the Charge of the Light Brigade. The cold crisp morning played havoc with Sgt Silvey’s ability to tunefully trumpet the ‘Charge’. For those who tried to hide in their locked rooms Sgt Collier’s foresight with the block master key ensured no-one missed out on the delights of gun-fire even from the safety of their beds. A particular social highlight was the Brocklehurst Trophy with incredibly brave performances from the Squadron boxing team. All deserve mention for their courage and determination to enter the ring and slug it out in the name of sport. Tprs Calvert, Davies, Edmonson, Winstanley, Mitchell and Queen did the Squadron proud and all put in valiant and very gutsy performances.

Lt Tom Moger, Sgt Whitehill and six members of the Squadron targeted Waterloo Train Station in London in early November for the British Legion Poppy Day Appeal. Departing Tidworth at 0415 hrs to catch the morning commuter traffic in Waterloo Station. They raised a whopping £17,000 for charity! A tremendous effort for only 5 hours work. The Squadron took part in a fun day out to HMS Raleigh to participate in the Damage Repair Instructional Unit – a sinking ship experience. This involved trying to shore up the leaks in a damaged ship to prevent the sea swallowing it up.

In and around the fun serious Hybrid Foundation Training started with a Squadron-level Combined Arms Tactical Trainer week spent in Warminster blowing the cobwebs away from Armoured skills, voice procedure and combined Arms skills. This exercise marked the return to Regimental Duty of Capt Reid; also safely returned from an 18 month attachment to the Gurkhas including a Tour of Afghanistan. We all benefited from time back on simulated tanks even if a few went round in circles whilst the majority navigated the synthetic environment and caused considerable damage to the enemy. Newly arrived 2Lt Garbutt’s blood lust was high as he accurately and comprehensively destroyed the Squadron’s SQMS packet. Cpl Bohana launched an attack North whilst the remainder of the Squadron assaulted East and 2Lt Matthews continued to operate in Cloud 9 with little regard for boundaries. Cpl Morley’s fire missions were superb even if his northern dialect caused much amusement on the net.

The following week saw the Squadron on Troop Level Training on Salisbury Plain in sub-zero temperatures. The week was spent re-learning low level skills and included practicing troop movement, wrestling with camouflage nets in the dark and the basics of armoured living on a vehicle. The week culminated with a successful Obstacle Crossing Demonstration watched by the General Officer Commanding 3 (UK) Div, the Brigade Commander and all the Commanding Officers in 12 Mech Bde.

The final run up to Christmas, complete with wall-to-wall parties, was a physical battle and almost the last straw on the camel’s back; stoically we pushed on. We wished the skiers good luck on their travels to colder climes with Lt Bush and Tpr Lawrence joining the Regimental Alpine Team and Lt Matthews and Tpr Vernon testing their coordination and aerobic capacity at Nordic skiing. As the Christmas leave period started, the Squadron waved goodbye to SSgt MacLean as SQMS and wishes him the best of luck in Bovington; he is replaced by Sgt Silvey. Looking back on a full and varied year it was fascinating to reflect on the range of work and achievements gained by the Squadron. The Army, even in these austere times, continues to offer challenges, superb experiences, unique opportunities and travel beyond that available in most walks of life. If only we had more time to appreciate it all!

JRLS
HQ Squadron

Well there goes another year for HQ Squadron and as usual we wonder where the time has gone. In terms of personality changes there have been quite a few within SHQ but we are still led by Major Ian Simpson. He is to be congratulated on the award of the Regimental Medal for being the oldest serving member at Regimental Duty (yes Captain Kennedy, he is older than you) and, more importantly, for the exemplary service he has given the Regiment (old comrades: please feel free to correct this when Ian is dined out of the Mess).

We have had a change of SSM with WO2 Mick Wood moving to take up the reins as RQMS(T) and being replaced with WO2 (SSM) Rob Sinclair, whose enthusiasm for telling anyone who will listen a story, any story, is truly of Olympic standard. The Troop Sergeants can now bear his conferences since they have been curtailed to only last half a day. The Squadron 2IC position has rolled over this year as we sadly said goodbye to Captain Rob Forrest who returned to civilian life and said an enthusiastic hello to Captain Wayne Price who returns to HQ Squadron after two years with the UN in Cyprus and a short (no pun intended) spell as RSM of the AFV Gunnery School at Lulworth. Captain Price was previously HQ SSM and the current SSM really appreciates the conversations that start, “When I was HQ SSM…” We have also seen the SQMS change over with SSGt Brererton opting for a rest in the badlands of Afghanistan for six months and being replaced by SSGt (SQMS) ‘Precious’ Preston who has not been too vocal in pointing out that his beloved ‘Tangerine Army’ (Blackpool) have taken six points from Liverpool this season, much to the Squadron Ldrs disgust!

The beginning of year saw the Squadron preparing for and supporting the sabre Squadrons on a number of deployments. Exercise AFRICAN THORN in South Africa saw A and D Squadrons deployed in a very remote area on a light role infantry dismounted exercise. HQ Squadron provided the usual support in the form of MT Drivers, QM Support (both Main and Technical), admin support, LAD and Chefs. The same support was given to B Squadron for their Falkland Islands Roulemont Infantry Company (FIRIC) tour to the South Atlantic for three months from late March through to June.

On the social side of the calendar year, HQ Squadron were once more responsible for the setting up and running of the annual Rundle Cup polo competition which is the highlight of Tidworth Polo Club calendar. This year we set up an Officers’ Mess tent in a prime location at one end of the Fisher Polo Ground filled with a lavish amount of Mess silver, Chesterfield sofas, tables and carpets. Outside it was trimmed with white picket fencing, flower arrangements and garden furniture. With the Regimental flag fluttering above, it was clear to all that the KRH were here and here in some style: the look would not have been out of place in a photo of the Indian Raj. The Mess hosted a drinks party for the great and good of Tidworth and those lucky enough to attend had a great day relaxing in the glorious surroundings, bathed in sunshine and sipping Pimm’s No 6 (the last cases left in the country, courtesy of Maj Wilkinson).

Later in the year the Squadron had the task of setting up and administering the Freedom of Gloucestershire parade. When we arrived at Frampton Park on Monday morning it looked like the task of converting what had been a Country Show the previous day into a military parade ground in one week was nothing short of impossible. However, with all hands to the pump, lots of hard work and Cpl Kalewski from the LAD (son of Rick Kalewski) putting in hours of driving on one of the estate’s vintage 1938 tractors, the task was achieved and the result was magnificent. The parade was an enormously successful day and one that the Squadron can justifiably proud of. It should be mentioned that not only did the Squadron provide the technical, logistical and administrative support to the Freedom Parade; we also provided a large number of soldiers to augment the marching Squadrons.

On the sporting front, the Squadron has, as ever, provided teams for all the Inter Squadron Competitions. Special mention should be made to the swimming team so ably captured by Sgt Grief, who relies on his buoyancy rather than his swimming prowess: the team managed to win every single discipline that it entered. The football and cricket teams had mixed fortunes and sadly we had to relinquish our grip on the D’Arcy Hall Trophy this year. As for the winter Old Comrades’ Competition, the competition was to be held in December but was unfortunately cancelled due to the freezing conditions.

As 2010 draws to a close we look forward to 2011 and supporting the Regiment as we deploy to BATUS on the PRAIRIE THUNDER Exercises, (‘Exercise MEDICINE MAN’ in old money). The Squadron will be supporting all three exercises in BATUS and so, just like Arkwright, HQ Squadron will remain ‘open all hours’. After that it will be heads down and into the Mission Specific Training for whatever Operation is thrown at us in our upcoming deployment.

WJP
QM’s Department

Busy, busy, busy: that is the nature of business in the QM’s. It is hard to believe what has been accomplished this year. It has been manic, mad, rewarding, challenging and we have seen a lot of change and variety, including a vast amount of time operating away from Tidworth in locations such as South Africa, the Falkland Islands, Battlegroup demonstrations on Salisbury Plain and enduring the austere setting of Castlemartin ranges. When we were not deployed our focus was very firmly on ensuring all our managerial processes were correct and current. The success of the Combined Inspection Week (CIW) was testament to all the preparation and hard work (I can still hear the whining in my ear) the department put in. Additionally, welcome improvements were made to the Alivaw Barracks infrastructure which has made working on the Tank Park slightly more bearable. All of this introduced us to a whole bunch of acronyms such as SHE, FAD, FoG, MTP, ISO, MAV, CIW, SLA, FFE, PT, PLO, PIHP, WTF and DILLIGAF. Passing for reflection, supporting the Regiment in a vast array of activities has logistically pushed us to the limit: no change there then!

Exercise African Thorn began the year. The QM, Captain Gary “Look at me in my tight fitting DPM shorts” Wills, along with his best buddy LCpl “Hey you guys” Bennett, left a very gloomy and cold UK for the summer sun of South Africa. Whilst all the hard work was obviously completed by the QM, LCpl Bennett has his uses, like opening and closing ISO containers, collecting the QM’s washing, opening beer bottles for the QM (those tusks were useful), stacking the QM’s empties, and just generally driving the QM mad. The rest of the department remained behind in the cold Wiltshire weather with the focus switching to supporting the deployment of B Squadron to the Falkland Islands. LCpl “Oops I keep miscounting my ammunition” Wilkinson deployed with them and kept a close eye, or something else, on the ammunition. It is just a shame he never checked his empty boxes!

The highlight of the year has to be the deployment of the G4 team to Castlemartin ranges. This event has gone from strength to strength (much the same as the RQMS’s drinking habits) and the annual pilgrimage to Pembroke is eagerly awaited by all. We can only assume that the same can be said for the local population of South Wales, or perhaps not.

The Freedom of Gloucestershire (FoG) parade was a ceremonial clothing nightmare. Over 250 soldiers and officers were paraded in No1 dress, the majority of which was given to us (reluctantly) by the loan pool in Bicester. Cpl “Barry Sheen” Marshall was given the glorious job title of PLO (Poo Liaison Officer) by the Sqn Ldr. He was in his element, with a continual smile on his face throughout the entire event. It is great to see and witness such job hard work was obviously completed by the QM, LCpl Bennett has his uses, like opening and closing ISO containers, collecting the QM’s washing, opening beer bottles for the QM (those tusks were useful), stacking the QM’s empties, and just generally driving the QM mad. The rest of the department remained behind in the cold Wiltshire weather with the focus switching to supporting the deployment of B Squadron to the Falkland Islands. LCpl “Oops I keep miscounting my ammunition” Wilkinson deployed with them and kept a close eye, or something else, on the ammunition. It is just a shame he never checked his empty boxes!

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New (-ish) to this department was the amount of PT that was being conducted. It is now quite a common sight for the entire department to be sweating together on the gym floor but the subsequent showers after provide some special sights which will remain secret for an eternity. On the subject of breaking new boundaries, in September 2010 the QM decided (very much on his own) that it would be a great idea for the department to take part in the Tidworth 10k run. At first the department laughed out loud thinking he was joking for the QM was always playing practical jokes. Reality soon hit the department as they were limbering up in preparation for this big event. They all performed well and very soon they were crossing the finish line triumphantly and with respectable times but it must be said that to this day Cpl Thompson has horrific nightmares of being beaten by a nose by Peppa Pig!

The introduction of Future Army Dress (FAD) caused a few choice words to be heard from Cpl “Why have I still not been promoted?” Jolliffe. It became a Herculean effort to get the entire Regiment of all shapes and sizes into FAD. Cpl (by now “I’ll do anything to get promoted”) Jolliffe spent many a cosy day locked away in the depths of the clothing store with the Garrison tailor, taking the age old discussion about “does size really matter?” to a whole new level.

However, recalled above are only a few of the highlights of the year. Within this, noteworthy is the huge amount of internal movement that has occurred. Major Collins departed for ICSC(L) and was replaced by Captain Wills. WO2 (RQMS) Taylor, who left in November to take up the position of RSM, was replaced by WO2 (RQMS) Portwood. Sgt Arrow-Smith left for civilian street and was replaced by Sgt Grief, who then left the department to replace Ssgt Weatherby in the QM(T), with Sgt Gillam joining us in his place. Cpl Simcock and Cpl Longton also left for civilian street, being replaced by Tpr Hodgson and LCpl Wilkinson respectively. Cpl Hodkinson went to A Squadron and was replaced by Cpl Marshall. Towards the end of the year, Cpl Jolliffe left for the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess Manager position, being replaced by Cpl Thompson, Cpl Ashmore was posted to Bovington and LCpl Stocks joined us, taking over as the ration storeman. Finally, LCpl Howarth joined us and is assisting Cpl Thompson in the clothing store.

The only remaining original member of the QM’s department is LCpl Bennett. Incidentally, at the time of writing the QM is just about to hand over to his successor Captain Dave Ford. To all those that have left the department, we wish you all the very best and good luck either in civilian street, ERE or in another department.

The department would like to congratulate Tpr Hodgson and Nikki on the birth of their baby boy Tyler Thomas Hodgson, born on 17 December 2010 at the healthy weight of 8lb 11oz.

In conclusion, the department has risen to the challenges of all Regimental projects and events over this period and still managed to remain enthusiastic! Testing times lay ahead and we relish the thought of getting stuck into what 2011 brings us both at home and abroad.

GDW
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

**QM(T)’s Department**

The year began for the QM(T) Dept with elements of the Regiment, including our own Cpl Buckley, deploying on Exercise AFRICAN THORN. The Department’s main responsibility for the exercise was to source the additional equipment, not normally held by an armoured Regiment, required to support the deployment. This included weapons, vehicle spares and a whole host of sun creams and insect repellents with a similar aroma of the Squadron leader’s favourite aftershave! Cpl Buckley returned with tales of wrestling lions, eating snakes and winning a bucking bronco competition perched on top of a rhinoceros! Unfortunately, they were exactly that: tales. Cpl Buckley did however support the troops exceptionally well and drew praise from the deployed hierarchy for his significant efforts.

In early January we welcomed the new RQMS(T), WO2 Wood, fresh from a highly successful period as HQ SSM. An added bonus of his selection for RQMS(T) was that he had slightly less hair than the QM(T)! Another change in January was Cpl Miller who left us on promotion to Sgt to join 16 Air Assault Bde, leaving Cpl Larkin to manage the complex and demanding BOWMAN Account.

The Department’s focus switched firmly on to the Combined Inspections Week (CIW) in April where our accounting, processes and procedures were examined in detail. This is a particularly nervous time for Quartermasters whose hair follicles are tested to the absolute limit. However, after all the effort put in, not only by the departments involved, but by the Regiment as a whole, we were awarded the coveted grade of ‘green’ across all areas and deemed best practise for other units to follow. Special mention must go to SSgt Lowe who worked tirelessly in the preparation for the inspection and also Cpl Smiles who was awarded a Commanding Officer’s Commendation for his efforts.

Early Summer saw the emergence of the department’s sporting heroes. Sgts Kalewski and Bensley deployed their fishing equipment on a number of occasions and at one point almost caught a fish! Cpl Buckley completed a half-marathon during Exercise African Thorn and Cpl Hocking completed his mountain bike instructor course. Cpl Kendall continues to improve his golf handicap although his golfing attire is nothing short of revolting. And I, the QM(T), just keep running like Forrest Gump (except I’m twice as boring).

May saw elements of the Regt deploy to Castlemartin Ranges in Wales to complete annual firing. The department sent Sgt Bensley to run the support team with Cpl Kendall and LCpl Parr. The chaps did an excellent job and, along with our superb Light Aid Detachment (LAD), helped the firing Squadrons conduct a hugely successful firing period. Sgt Kalewski and LCpl Lockyer deployed for a short stint to Belize and the Falkland Islands respectively, again providing excellent support for those deployed. It was also around this time that the department welcomed Cpl Hocking who had recently returned from a two year posting with the Army Training Regiment (ATR) Winchester.

Following the Regiment’s well earned summer leave, the department’s main effort switched to supporting the Freedom of Gloucestershire (FoG) Parade held in September in the glorious setting of Frampton Court estate. Most of the department was involved in one way or another including the RQMS(T) assisting with the drill, Sgt Bensley forming part of the marching party and Sgt Kalewski becoming tractor driver helping clear what was to be the parade ground following a country fair held the week before.
Cpls Smiles and Kendall helped set up and decorate marquees for the post-parade receptions and LCpl Parr did a great job as a general fatigue man. SSgt Weatherby did a last minute sprint to the florists to collect a fantastic floral arrangement fit to welcome our Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess Royal. The day was a huge success and was enjoyed by all those who were lucky enough to be there.

The latter part of the year has seen the department being heavily involved in the upgrade of the Regiment’s communications equipment. This has meant drawing in all the items fitted to our numerous vehicles, sending them away for upgrade, and then refitting all the upgraded equipment back onto the vehicles. Cpl Larkin’s efforts in ensuring the process went according to plan is worthy of note and drew praise from a number of individuals within the external upgrade teams. Cpls Maher and Buckley also worked extremely hard to ensure that deadlines were met and voluntarily gave up their own time to meet them.

Unfortunately the department had no boxing representation this year but Cpl Larkin was selected from a cast of one to wave the flag and lead the HQ Squadron boxers in to the ring wearing his frequently worn ceremonial uniform.

A number of the department have moved on to pastures new including LCpl Lockett who has spent considerable time with us, Cpl Larkin who has posted to RMA Sandhurst and SSgt Lowe who moves on promotion to WO2 and becomes SSM of C Squadron. Newcomers to the team include Sgts Nowell and Grief who have already settled in nicely. A special mention however must go to SSgt ‘Bren’ Weatherby who leaves the Army very shortly. ‘Our Bren’ has been a Regimental character since his arrival many moons ago, and he has displayed unequalled loyalty and dedication to the Regt ever since, resulting in the award of a much deserved Regimental Medal. I’m sure we’ll see Bren at reunions in the future but it is safe to say that he will be missed by the whole Regimental family.

MAC

Recce Troop

Recce Troop started the year deploying to South Africa with the KRH Battlegroup to provide a dismounted close reconnaissance capability for Exercise AFRICAN THORN. The Troop was split into two sections under Captain Wythe and Sgt Preston and subsequently detached to the two Sabre Squadrons. The Troop undertook some excellent low level training, the first for many since their Phase 1 basic training, achieving some excellent results. Of particular note was an excellent Troop level live firing lane, where Tpr Beecher managed to spot some of the targets earlier than the safety expected, resulting in some very accurate GPMG rounds and some very scared safety staff. During the dry phase of the exercise both sections tried their hardest to outmanoeuvre each other and gain the battle winning information for their respective sabre Squadron. Sgt Preston’s attack on the Recce Forward Operating Base (FOB) will long be remembered for his heroic, if somewhat foolish, charge into concertina wire and a rather dubious fire position located in the latrine area that the other section had been using for a number of days – a new set of combats was required by most of his team! The exercise culminated with the Troop reforming complete and setting the conditions for a BG dawn attack. The
Troop deployed the night before in biblical rain to establish ‘eyes on’ the enemy position. Captain Wythe tabbed back to HQ to relay the patrol report to the CO only to return to find his Troop floating away from the OP. Nonetheless the Troop managed to set the conditions effectively, ready for the BG to take up position and successfully assault through the position in the morning sun.

The Troop returned from Africa in good order and high spirits, with a sound grasp of dismounted close recce skills. The result was that the Troop was used to backfill the Op FIRIC task, heading out to the Falklands under SSgt Ashton and Sgt “I’m a FAC” Oldfield. They acquitted themselves excellently, providing robust support to B Squadron and relishing the challenge to undertake some more dismounted training in a challenging environment. Cpl Buglass and SSgt Ashton ensured that they returned to the UK in plenty of time for future tasks but it is a pity it was not their idea to do so: enough said on that matter!

By July the Troop was once again complete and back in the UK, allowing us to take over a fleet of CVR(T) in preparation for a
period of mounted recce training. Sgt Oldfield and Cpl Buglass soon had the tank park up and running while the Troop re-familiarised themselves with the joys of armour, having not had CVR(T) for nearly two years. They deployed on a week of mounted CT1 in early September on Exercise Recce Hawk, where the commanders had the joys of new drivers working out that they were no longer in Challenger and so did not have the luxury of any form of suspension or an automatic gearbox. Needless to say there were a number of bruised ribs! Good training was conducted and we managed to tackle the complexities of vehicle navigation after Sgt Oldfield decided that the best place to conduct a mounted recce was on a forward slope in full view of the enemy! Despite this, the exercise was a success and all were glad to have had the opportunity to get back in armour and refresh their mounted recce skills, with lots of hasty attacks, obstacle crossings and withdrawals completed. The Troop returned to put the vehicles to bed and also entered a team in the Regimental Troop Tests which they then managed to win (good news as otherwise they would never have heard the end of it).

The Troop, keen to continue its dismounted training, deployed to Brecon for a physically demanding dismounted exercise, Exercise CRIMSON STEALTH. The purpose of this was two fold: to develop field craft and close recce skills and to select a final team for the Cambrian Patrol competition looming on the horizon. The exercise was physically demanding and included some tough “combat orienteering” over a distance of 24km in full CEFO and a challenging night navigation where visibility was no more than 5m. During this, LCpl Leach was seen to run straight past the final check point (a Land Rover) and down a hill, only to return
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

The Troop went on to practice contact drills, Close Target Recce (CTRs), casualty evacuation and subsurface OPs. The exercise culminated with a CTR of an enemy position that was then overwatched by a subsurface OP before being assaulted in a dawn attack. The move from the FOB to the OP proved emotional as the Troop were tasked to carry all the OP kit with them resulting in some rather heavy loads, not made any easier by Sgt Oldfield’s decision to put in just “one more” valley only metres from the final leg! The Troop returned feeling challenged yet satisfied with what had been a demanding and testing Exercise and a final team had been selected for Cambrian Patrol.

Only two weeks later the Troop found themselves on Cambrian Patrol with a strong team led by Capt Wythe, with LCpl Pilling as his 2IC. Ex CRIMSON STEALTH had honed the team drills and advanced training over the build up two weeks saw them conducting some long marches across Salisbury Plain with some very heavy loads. The patrol went well for the team and they were blessed with good weather throughout. The patrol remained a taxing event, however, that tested the physical and mental stamina of all members. All have fond memories of finding just one more hill to go over on the route! The preparation helped and the team managed an excellent river crossing and some swift contact drills, while conducting a swift CTR that produced a detailed report to pass on to our “agent”. The result was an unprecedented Gold Medal for the team, a significant achievement that resulted in smiles across the board.

The Troop is now focusing on its armoured skills and Cpl Buglass has trained up a cohort of new 30mm Gunners ready to fire on ranges in the new year. Recce Troop is in good shape as we look forward to the upcoming BATUS where we will be able to immerse ourselves in armoured doctrine once more.

Command Troop

Whilst being a year without a deployment to Canada or on operations, Comd Tp have nonetheless remained busy supporting a wide spectrum of training activities. These have tested every ability in the troop from the prosaic business of communications provision to the creative arts and crafts skills of a Blue Peter veteran.

The year began however with the troop primarily in its core role of enabling the delivery of command and control on exercises in South Africa, the Falklands and at Castlemartin tank ranges. Elements of the troop deployed on all of these and ensured they went as smoothly as possible. In the Falklands, the team rewired HF communications on the island under the command of the incoming BOWMAN Systems Manage (BSM) Sgt Underwood, providing communications to areas previously uncovered. In South Africa, several members of the troop also joined the Squadrons in their exercises allowing a return to infantry skills training in a very challenging environment.

With the return of the errant Regimental Signals Officer (RSO) from HERRICK 11 in April, the troop entered a period of regeneration with eyes sharply switching focus towards a BOWMAN uplift in Autumn 2010 and the deployment to BATUS in Summer 2011. This began with a re-orbat that changed most of the junior personnel in the troop, allowing some a return to sabre squadrons and introducing others to the delights of Comd Tp for the first time.

The influx of new personnel meant many required new courses and training, leading to a frenetic period on the tank park. Sgt Briscoe, Comd Tp Sgt, marshalled this activity in precise fashion and ensured the considerable fleet of vehicles and endless stores were maintained.

In addition, the RSO and RSWO prepared for the BOWMAN ‘5.4 uplift’ which would see every radio in the Regiment upgraded and require every trained soldier to attend a variety of courses. Whilst the associated spread-
Ahoy there! Comd Tp in Portsmouth

Tips Grey and Campbell prod the CO’s tank

The RSO uplifting the BGHQ staff

These dancing girls kept getting in the way of the American Football

RSWO and BSM in the field
sheets nearly sent them cross-eyed, the end result is an Army communications system that will deliver on many of the promises of digitization and hopefully pay time and effort dividends for years to come.

It is never all work of course and the new troop enjoyed morale boosting days to Portsmouth and to the NFL American Football match at Wembley. The former saw us clamber aboard the ships of the historic dockyard before letting our hair down in the city. The NFL, on the other hand, was cleverly disguised as a working day with members of the troop tasked with carrying on giant banners as part of the spectacle’s opening ceremonies. Once completed, however, we soon took our prime seats for a fun if bewildering evening.

The close of the year saw the troop take the lead with the enabling of the 12 Mech Brigade Obstacle Crossing. At the centre of this was a model of such proportion and precision that a Guards Colour Sergeant was heard to gasp. Needless to say the RSWO and his team took attention to detail to new heights and the event as whole was a really satisfying and successful conclusion to the year. Next year will be dominated by BATUS but this will be conducted without Sgt Briscoe who moves onwards and upwards to the position of Mess Sergeant Major: his preparatory efforts along with the continued dedication of all in the troop will hopefully deliver a rousing victory!

**TJG**

After a well deserved three week Christmas break, the Troop returned ready to face the challenges of 2010 and whatever the Regiment was going to throw our way – often at ‘last minute.com’!

With the Regiment not involved in operations or BATUS, Regimental Headquarters found new and interesting ways of filling the diary with training opportunities for the early part of the year. This saw the Troop tasked to support Exercise AFRICAN THORN with a small team of drivers whilst also training drivers for B Squadron’s Falklands Islands deployment. The Troop managed the deployments and movement of people and equipment to and from various airports whilst also dealing with the complexities of preparing for a Combined Inspection Week. No mean task given the Troop at that stage was still some way short of the manning it actually required.

The Inspection team arrived and set about trying to find fault or good practices within the Troop’s accounts and management procedures. Thankfully the processes put in place were found to be, on the whole in good order. The teams left the Troop with a good impression of the way we do business. The Divisional Master Driver was particularly impressed with Cpl McGlone’s ability to recall vehicle registrations from memory, stating where it has been and the amount of fuel it had used. We achieved the overall green we strived for and are seen as the best MT in the Division. Results such as this are not achieved by a single person but by the whole team. I would also like to thank the families of the Troop, who accepted that their partners’ long working hours during the run in were a necessity.

With the inspection behind us and the Troop trained to drive the fleet, the focus changed from dismounted to mounted training. Our numbers started to swell as we started to set ourselves up for BATUS in 2011. Along with new faces comes the new training bill, the Troop has continued to place soldiers on as many courses as we can to further their careers and utility within the Regiment. When
training we all have accidents and this year was no exception with Tpr Begg decided to go for the best crash award when he returning from a detail without the Regimental minibus he left in! Upon further investigation it became apparent that Beggy had used the rear of an articulated lorry to aid him in stopping the vehicle. On the plus side we now have a lovely new white 2010 model minibus.

As the manning plot has unravelled, some key and long serving members of the Troop have been replaced. Sgt Fenby left us to pursue a less important role at the D&M School, Bovington. This left the position open for the one and only Sgt ‘Tabs’ Clayton. Unfortunate for the new guys, however, nobody could bluff Tabs because he knew the job inside out. Tabs had a short but impressive reign as MT Troop Sgt before accepting a posting to Leconfield to instruct on Mastiff vehicles: good luck up North, Tabs; you can always watch Swindon FC on the TV. This once again left the Troop Sgt position open and the Regiment saw fit to promote ‘Bugsy’ Malone into the post. Cpl Campbell went off to do his Signals Instructor course (managing to break his wrist and knee in the process?), Cpl McGlone went off to Belize for 6 months to run their white fleet, whilst Cpl Warren managed to talk the MTO into letting him go and teach driving and maintenance in Saudi Arabia. One day we may stop hearing of his adventures.

Our fleet of Land Rovers were sent away for yet more ‘lets keep these going’ modifications and later loaned them to the BOWMAN uplift team. Despite all this the Troop still managed to keep the Regiment movements flowing with ease. The Troop’s biggest commitment during the summer months was the Freedom of Gloucestershire parade. The task was to move the Regiment, their families and their guests to Gloucester at zero cost. With every favour called in, we gathered together the largest collection of white fleet the department has ever seen. The bravery and courage of the guys on the details desk ensured the transport plan held together and the whole event went without a hitch.

As we approached Christmas the Regimental Health and Safety Audit became the main effort, leading to another spike in the sales of laminating sheets as the MTWO went on a laminating frenzy. The health and safety inspectors turned a blind eye to the high levels of laminating and the department did its bit in helping the Regiment’s overall high level pass.

We ended the year with a small pre-Christmas function. But it was not just for Christmas as it was also a chance for the Troop to say goodbye to our father: the legendary, iconic and irreplaceable Cpl Andy Bourne. He has handed over the servicing bay and hung up his greens after an ‘interesting’ 22 years service. We wish him all the very best for the future and thank him for his loyal support over the past 10 years in MT.

DVGF

Training Wing

2010 has been a year that has flown past with a flurry of changes to personnel, an unprecedented Exercise in South Africa and numerous courses all of which have been done in the Wing’s normal understated way.

In the early part of the year the Wing was instrumental in assisting the Sabre Squadrons with their training requirement prior to the impending deployment to South Africa on Ex AFRICAN THORN (Ex AT). The Regimental Gunnery SSgt (RGSS), SSgt Clough, mothballed the PGTE building and read up on all that was pertinent to a dismounted Infantry Company in order to assist the Squadrons with their training. It was during these early stages of planning and training for Ex AT that it was decided that the Training Wing would form the backbone of the Permanent Range Team
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

(PRT). The PRT and a G4 component deployed 2 weeks ahead of the Main Body to set up the Camp and a range complex that would allow the Squadrons to live fire up to Squadron-level. The PRT was ably assisted by Sgts Collier and Marshall to name but a few: without these two the varied and complex ranges would not have been the success they proved to be. Ex AT proved to be an undoubted success not just for the Squadrons taking part but it proved ideal training for an improvised Range team whom, during the dry training phase, had to regularly change the plan due to the Squadrons constantly wanting to do that little bit better than the other.

Post Ex AT, the Training Officer took a sabbatical (or so everyone thought) to Saudi Arabia to head up a Short Term Training Team (STTT). Although this was a Bde task, 50% of the team was made up of KRH personnel. The aim of the team was to train the King’s personal bodyguard (the Saudi Arabian National Guard) in the use of a new vehicle (the BAe systems TACTICA) and the revision of, and new Public Order (PO) drills incorporating the vehicle. The team had a week to learn about the vehicle whilst in Riyadh and then went through a two week course teaching the vehicle and PO drills to 1 Crowd Control Battalion (1 CCB). This proved to be an excellent opportunity for all the soldiers involved not only teaching to foreign students but also the excellent adventure training that was available. Two days after the final exercise with 1 CCB the team was jetted off to Jeddah for a further three weeks of instruction this time involving 2 CCB. Due to 2 CCB being heavily involved in the security of the Hadj, the yearly pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina, they proved to be a more competent and well led Battalion. This assisted the team’s instruction as they proved willing to adapt their drills to the vehicles and take the basic level training to a higher degree. The STTT was a resounding success for all involved but arduous at times with +50 degree temperatures and enjoyable in others, especially when scuba diving in the Red Sea or quad biking in the Arabian Desert.

During the deployment to South Africa we had to say farewell to Ssgt’s Tony Whittaker and Sgt Ian (Haggis) Hargreaves who both departed after 22 years service. In November we also said goodbye to Cpl Chapman after 22 years Colour Service: we wish them all the very best for the future. Their replacements came in the form of Ssgt Shepherd-Garner, Cpl’s Nugent and Saunders all of whom have been heavily involved in training the Regiment in C-IED, D&M on our latest PANTHER vehicles and CIS since their arrival. During the latter half of the year Cpl Saunders was successful in securing a much coveted place on an armoured crew commanders course and we wait for his return, hopefully with good results. The Training Wing has had an extremely busy but successful year, with us managing to squeeze in seven Gunnery, fourteen Loader, eleven CIS, twentyone L7 GPMG, nine Panther Comd, nine Panther Driver, twenty CVR(T), four Bulldog Driver and four Bulldog Comd courses, all around a two month deployment to South Africa, the Freedom Parade and the BOWMAN communication system uplift! A big thank you must go to all the Instructors who have assisted in this training.

One of the other successes of the year was the Wing’s involvement in the Freedom of Gloucestershire (FOG) parade. The Training Wing was tasked to run a static line display which was controlled under the watchful eye of Ssgt Clough. Getting the vehicles into Framp-ton Court without causing too much damage proved a challenge, moving a 70 ton CR2 over grass can prove problematic if a heavy handed driver is in the cab. All the vehicles were quickly put into place and post parade removed with minimal damage to the grass. At the end of the parade the Princess Royal was shown around the display and some of the soldiers present had their first opportunity to meet HRH. WO2 Taylor assisted the display with the RAC recruiting team, complete with the mobile PTT suite which proved a massive success, especially to the soldiers’ families. Cpl Nugent had the honour of explaining the intricacies of the Panther CLV to HRH as it was her first look at the vehicle. He could, unfortunately, persuade her to swap it for her very smart Range Rover.
**Provost Troop**

At the start of December 2009 saw the handover of the Regimental Provost Sgts, with the mild mannered Sgt Debaughle leaving Tidworth for the sunnier climates of Blackpool. He is there to entice the young and impressionable to join the Royal Armoured Corps which we are sure he will do in his own special way working as a recruiter at Blackpool ACIO. This left Sgt Godwin to fill Sgt Debaughle's huge shoes…

During the year, the Troop has had its fair share of fast balls to deal with, whether it has been assisting the GSM/PSM with Garrison issues or collecting members of the Regiment that were AWOL and then escorting them to Colchester (at all hours of the day and night, as has been witnessed on several occasions and the M25 is not an entertaining place to be on a Friday night!!).

At the start of February, Cpl Shores deployed to the Falkland Islands with B Squadron, as part of Op FIRIC, for what can only be described for Cpl Shores as a free holiday. However during his holiday he was rudely interrupted on a few occasions to monitor the behaviour of our young (and not so young) soldiers enjoying the cheap beer!

The Freedom of Gloucester Parade in September put a small strain on the department due to manpower commitments elsewhere; LCpl Ford was on his custody course in Colchester, Cpl Shores was on leave (again!), LCpl Pickering was doing his bit at the Bulford Detention Facility, leaving Sgt Godwin to man the fort alone. This meant that we had to draft in Cpl Hocking from the QM(T) Dept, to assist the Provost Sgt with all the tasks given to the Troop during this busy period and even had to ask the RSM for more!!!

Towards the end of the year, Cpl Shores left the crimson mafia to move on to pastures new within the SQMS, where he has a few months experience. He will definitely have to work for a living for a change. At this point we welcomed back in to the department LCpl “Merv” Day who came across from A Squadron.

We have had a busy end to the year and enjoyed our deployments to the ‘Glasshouse’ for the fortnightly drop off and pick ups, and also being tasked with the Bde AWOL collection team. This is followed by a small contingent deploying to CMR in the capacity of our normal role of Regimental Provost, and finally a look forward to our trip to BATUS which will take us well into 2011.

2010 started in much the same vein as 2009, with a change of Welfare Officer. Captain Rob ‘Geordie’ Kennedy took up the reins from Captain Kevin Sloan prior to the Christmas stand down.

We had a fairly quiet start to the year as most of the Regiment was off on Exercise African Thorn but quiz night continued to receive good support despite the number of people absent. It was during this quiet period that we were approached by the Garrison about providing acts for the upcoming ‘Garrison’s Got Talent’. The request went out and our potential stars were found, Sgt Smith (RLC) displayed his guitar playing and vocal talents complete with Lycra outfit and wig, for his efforts his was awarded third place in the finals. Honourable mentions also go to LCpl Thomas (REME) for his stand up routine and to Tpr Hodges for his singing.

Food and drink then became our focus as we held our extremely popular ‘Cheese and wine evening’ where we challenged those in attendance to identify between old and new world wines and to choose a favourite. We were also treated to a selection of cheeses kindly provided by Sarah Wilkinson’s friend from the Highland Fine Cheeses – including the delicious ‘Strathdon Blue’. Secondly, WO2 Millard volunteered the services of LCpl Addison to give a cooking demonstration; he undertook this task with great enthusiasm not only displaying his skills in preparing a Jamaican Bar-
becue but also furnishing all those who attended with a self-produced recipe book. The food theme did not end there as our next event saw the wives club pull out the stops and bake a vast amount of cakes in order to bring ‘Tea to the Tank Park.’ This, as always, was a great success and well supported by the Regiment.

As we moved into April, our obsession with food continued as we supported the Army Benevolent Fund’s (ABF) ‘Worlds Biggest Curry Lunch’. This was to raise money for the ABF and as usual the soldiers of the Regiment proved to be very generous, donating over £400. Fund raising then took over from food as we set about staging a Spring Fair. It was all hands to the pumps as the event took on a life of its own. With the St Michael’s Church Hall as the venue, C Squadron provided the man power and static vehicle displays. The Wives Club set up a variety of stalls including designer clothing, tombola and, of course, cakes. Tpr Stansfield set up a very popular air rifle shooting range and, not to be out-done, the remaining Squadrons provided stalls of their own. Even Boris, our KRH-sponsored eagle from the Hawk Conservancy Trust, put in an appearance; Boris has now retired from public duties and has been succeeded by Hades, a Gyr falcon, as the Regiment’s bird of prey.

The event was opened by Brigadier Maciejewski who not only had the honour of cutting the ribbon but was the first of many to throw a soaking wet sponge at the CO, Lt Col Harrison, when he volunteered for a stint in the stocks. However, it was nothing compared to the line that formed when the Adjutant, Captain Perowne, took his turn in the stocks, a queue I might add that was started and continually rejoined by Mrs Cathy Perowne. The day was an immense success from the burger tent provided by Cpl Beckett and team to the individual car boot stalls, enabling us to make a fantastic donation of £700 to the British Forces Foundation.

Shortly afterwards we bade a fond farewell to Cpl ‘H’ Edmunds, who had been assigned to us on a temporary reservist contract to help with the daily running of the department during the previous operational year. She had proved to be a great asset and very popular with all who got to know her: she will be missed.

The next person to leave us was Mrs Tina Harrison. Without Tina’s drive and enthusiasm many of our projects would not have survived first contact. She was a firm believer in the ‘Regimental family’ and we knew that we could rely on her support in all our endeavours. We said goodbye to Tina by way of an Elvis night at the Blue Garlic restaurant and had a fantastic evening. The Welfare Officer even dusted off his weekend wig for the night.

As one person leaves another arrives and we were pleased to welcome Mrs Anna Potts back into the fold. Anna along with Phoebe has thrown herself straight into Regimental life and can always be relied upon to provide a selection of baked treats at our weekly wives ‘Meet and Greet’ as well as always volunteering to roll up her sleeves and assist with the preparation that goes along with welfare events.

That wasn’t the end of our farewells and welcomes though, as we said goodbye to the long serving Cpl ‘Mac’ MacDougall and hello to his replacement LCpl Ashley Kirkbride. Mac has been a familiar face within the Welfare Department for four years. Initially he was brought in to run the PRI Shop but soon found himself involved in more and more welfare activities. He was instrumental in the overhaul of the Aliwal Arms and has been the resident Quizmaster since we started running the monthly quiz nights. Kirky has now taken up the responsibili-
ties within the Regimental Shop and can often be found terrorising suppliers into reducing their prices in order to provide a better service for us all. In addition he has proven himself willing to help out with welfare functions bringing his own personality and zeal to the team and dressing up with a total disregard for his personal pride.

Following summer leave, while the Regiment was planning for the Equal Opportunities and Diversity Day and the Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade, we had to dig out our long forgotten exercise kit (hoping that it still fitted) and prepare ourselves for possibly the most traumatic exercise of our careers. Yes, it was time for the annual Wives Exercise! This year the task had fallen to Major Smith and D Squadron. So on a bright September morning our intrepid gang arrived, prepared to brave the elements and experience what their husbands and boyfriends were always going on about. The weekend programme was packed with as much as possible from vehicle displays to air rifles and paintballing. Even Sgt Davis-Bawn put camouflage cream on, although it was removed shortly after.

October always brings around two key events each year. The first is the SSAFA Big Brew Up. Our objective was made clear: we had to beat the amount raised by 12 Mech Brigade HQ and Garrison HQ. With that in mind we arranged ‘Tea on the Tank Park’ and the wives club sprang into action. The amount of cake baked was amazing, including a particularly impressive cake made by Mrs Donna Thompson in the shape of the SSAFA logo. The turn out was equally impressive as one and all dug deep into their pockets to support this worthy cause. Once the last cake had been eaten and the last penny counted we were able to confirm that our targets had been reached and £600 was presented to SSAFA.

The second event is Halloween. While this is only a minor event nationally, it has become highly anticipated by the families of The King’s Royal Hussars with each Welfare Officer feeling the urge to outdo the previous year. So we again rallied the Wives Committee for assistance and transformed the Aliwal Arms into a dark, creepy venue suitable to host the Halloween spectacular. The turn out was fantastic and so were the fancy dress costumes as everyone got into the spirit (pardon the pun).

Before we knew it Christmas was upon us and the Welfare Officer took this opportunity to go on his MTO’s course (after all Christmas is a quiet time of year with not much going on!) It fell to Sgt D-B to organise the festivities. The first of these was the Families Christmas Lunch. This again saw us transform the Aliwal Arms, this time into a Grotto suitable for Santa. On the day the chefs provided us with a full Christmas dinner which everyone was enjoying when a very special visitor arrived. It was Santa, of course, and the delight and anticipation was evident on faces young and old. Having made his way round the tables and taking the opportunity to speak with all, Santa retired into his Grotto to fulfil his duties. Once there he was assisted by his Chief Elf (Kirky) and together they made short work of distributing the massive pile of presents in the Grotto. By the end of the day everyone went home with the feeling that Christmas was now well and truly here.

Thanks to the fund raising efforts of the Wives Committee we had plenty of money to put towards the WAG’s Christmas party. With the kind permission of the RSM, we were given the use of the War-ring Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess and, to ensure that the girls enjoyed the best service, a selection of Officers and SNCOs volunteered to act as waiters. The food was, as usual, fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by all, as were the copious amounts of wine. After the meal it was time for the party to begin. Thanks must firstly go to the four volunteers from A Squadron who wish to remain nameless, they gave up their own time to choreograph and perform a brilliant ‘Hunky Hussar’ routine. Secondly, thanks also to WO2 Calvert and SSgt Weatherby for their comparing tag team antics. By the end of the routine, the night was well under way and the evening continued with a live band and a disco until the early hours.

A Welfare Officer’s time in the job is short as it will put years on you: years which a Late Entry Officer cannot afford (Sgt D-B is actually only 23) and the first act of 2011 will see Captain Kennedy leave us for the ‘promised land’ that is MT. The next person to step into the firing line is Captain Wayne Price who together with the rest of the team is looking forward to any challenges that may arise and he can’t wait to get his first coffee morning under his belt!

RJK
The LAD continues to demonstrate versatility and professional success across numerous arenas. Versatility in tradesmen deploying as infantrymen on both dismounted exercises, Exercise African Thorn and the Falkland Islands commitment. Professionalism is proven in measured results; The King's Royal Hussars have consistently maintained the highest equipment availability in the Brigade and the LAD processes that underpin that availability have been recognised as best practice by the REME.

The annual audit of LAD engineering processes during the TECHEVAL awarded the LAD one of the strongest ‘Green’ grades possible by only dropping to a ‘Yellow’ in one of six sub categories. Emphasis in production continues to be on quality sustained through the meticulous inspection of work before it is deemed complete and released back to the vehicle crews. This task is made all the easier by keeping a tight grip on technical competence by reviewing individual and collective competencies on a monthly basis. From these reviews technical training opportunities are identified for those that need them and, if necessary, Fitter Sections are rebalanced to ensure the right expertise is in the right place.

During the TECHEVAL, Comd ES 3 (UK) Div highlighted the LAD performance indicators as Divisional best practice. These indicators measure LAD performance in a wide range of areas from manning levels to equipment availability achieved. The LAD Information Management, which makes innovative use of a Microsoft Access application was also highlighted as good practice and DEME(A) have already expressed an interest in implementing the system Corps wide.

Equipment availability in The King's Royal Hussars has rarely dropped below 85% and is frequently above 90%. This is comfortably the best availability in 12 Mech Bde and a credit to the diligent equipment care exercised by vehicle crews and the expedient equipment support given from the LAD. Concentrated rehabilitations and the forward loading of spares during critical training periods are at the centre of the equipment support strategy. The forward loading of spares during the 2010 Castlemartin range period proved particularly valuable by enabling a well used spares buffer to ensure availability never prevented a firing point from going to waste.

With three Squadrons committed to brushing up on their dismounted skills during the first half of 2010, demand for the LAD was minimal. Nonetheless, the opportunity was leapt at to deploy...
REME tradesmen as infantry and safety staff on Exercise AFRICAN THORN in South Africa and as part of the Falkland Islands Roulement Company (FIRIC). The REME proved invaluable in making up numbers in stretched sub-units and were welcomed with open arms in Squadrons that they had not necessarily served with before. Although tested in the searing heat of South Africa and the chilling climate of the Falkland Islands, each tradesman thrived in the dismounted role. Invaluable training was achieved that gets practiced infrequently in the REME and budding JNCOs shone through at the chance to practice the steely grip and command required in a dismounted section.

St Eligius Day was celebrated with particular style in 2010. In the interests of fostering design innovation a competition was held between the Fitter Sections to design and assemble a Go-Kart that was capable of firing a projectile (tennis ball) at a Figure 11 target from a mounted weapon system. Solutions to the Go-Kart were wide ranging and varied from a tandem bicycle from A Squadron to a tractor lawn-mower from D Squadron. Unfortunately the latter had a maximum speed of 4 mph and the former had some stability issues. The cannons were engineered with such success that they had to be confiscated at the end of the event for safe decommissioning. The winners by a convincing margin were C Squadron Fitter Section who were first in the Go-Kart race and had an unstoppable hit ratio on the cannon challenge.

The LAD continues to have high representation in Corps teams. In particular football, where Cpl Lannon and LCpl Roberts have helped to thrust the REME football team into the Semi-Finals. In women’s rugby, LCpl Davies (now OCdt Davies of RMA Sandhurst) regularly represented the Corps team in between her commissioning process and Sgt Hier continues to captain the Army Full Bore team.

2011 promises to be put the LAD in high demand once again. With the year being christened by multiple CT1 exercises before running into an annual firing camp and BATUS, there promises to be plenty of scope for further innovation to sustain the Regiment’s high reputation in equipment care and support.

Arte et Marte

2010 was the year when...

Maj Julia Doig and the long serving Mrs Gudrun Riley (Gudders) both retired. Lt Bernie Peake finished digging her escape tunnel, Sgt Ian Brown returned to the Black Country and Sgt Damian Hern left on commissioning. Additionally six junior Combat HR Specialists left to be replaced by four leaving everyone just that little bit busier. Those that were waved off with tears in their eyes were Cpl Martin Heath on promotion to Sergeant, Cpl Tom Howat, LCpl ‘Rounders’ Rowntree, LCpl Sadie Cummings, LCpl Elton Shumba and Pte Kayleigh Remmer. We wish them all well and hope they are enjoying their respective new assignments.

In return, we welcomed back Captain Andy Harvey who said that he had unfinished business with the Regiment having previously served here as the RAWO in 2003. Everybody else said he had come to turn off the Sky TV! Also arriving were Captain Rob McLauchlan, SSGt Sorsha Harney, Sgt Geoff Fleming, Cpl Atelini Savu, Cpl Gemma Jones, Cpl Joel Downham and Pte Layiwola Kannike.

Despite all the comings and goings it has been an exceptionally successful year: a green pass in the Combined Inspection Week for all things G1, the beginning of Information Management and the first steps towards JPA optimisation have been the notable successes on the technical front.

SSgt Louis Cowdroy and Cpls Downham, Heath and McLean all competed in the annual AGC Triple Crown March and Shoot Competition in May at Worthy Down, the spiritual home of the Corps. All members of the Detachment revisited Winchester the
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

following month for a visit to Horse Power, the Regimental Museum of the King’s Royal Hussars as part of a team building and educational trip.

During the summer Sgt Damian Hern, Cpl Reagan McLean and LCpl Elton Shumba represented the AGC cricket team and enjoyed many notable successes (including victory against the RAC). LCpl Howarth and two non-SPS colleagues cycled the equivalent distance on cycling machines of Afghanistan to Tidworth in support of Help for Heroes, an event which other members of the Detachment contributed to by cycling for an hour or more throughout the week.

SSgt Louis Cowdroy and LCpl Sadie Cummings supported the Regiment on Exercise AFRICAN THORN in South Africa. One came back with a pat on the back, whilst the other could only remember a strange clapping and drinking game!

Cpl Gemma Jones and LCpl Laura Howarth went to the Falklands in support of B Squadron. During an exceptionally busy tour they did manage to find time for a little go-karting in order to have some fun and to let off a little steam! I am sure that both will eventually recall their time in the South Atlantic with fond memories, once the mental scars have healed.

During the latter half of the year the Detachment supported the Freedom of Gloucestershire parade at Frampton and seven members enjoyed a cold week of adventure training in Scotland in November. The SPS Detachment also hosted a visit from Brigadier N P Moffatt AGC (SPS), Director Staff and Personnel Support (Army) in October. The final event before the Christmas festivities began was a battlefield study to Germany, encompassing the Mohne Dam, Wewelsberg Castle and the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp over a long weekend. This was undoubtedly a thoroughly worthwhile exercise and very illuminating for all members of the Detachment.

Other notable events for the Detachment were competing in the 12 Mechanized Brigade SPS Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition, a leaving function where the Detachment went paint-balling in Andover and the annual highlight of the Detachment Christmas Party which took place in the Comedy Club in Portsmouth. Let’s hope the social calendar is equally full next year!

And so on to 2011. There will of course be all the usual comings and goings of SPS personnel, hopefully bringing the Detachment up to, or close to, full strength for the first time in a long time. BATUS, CIW and MST for Operation HERRICK will ensure that life continues at a relentless pace for the Regiment as a whole, but will be particularly challenging for the SPS Detachment from an administrative perspective. Bring it on...

ANTH
Regimental Aid Post

It has been a very busy year for the Regimental Aid Post (RAP). As well as the usual high volume of UK based medical cover, the highlight of the training year was undoubtedly Exercise AFRICAN THORN in South Africa.

Whilst it involved a lot of preparation it was an excellent learning curve for all. Experience was especially gained in the area of heat illnesses, with all of the RAP team gaining a much better understanding of the condition. This will certainly stand them in good stead for the likely 2012 summer Afghanistan tour.

Three Troopers won a free two-hour ride in the casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) helicopter after a truck accident but they were all thankfully fine after a few days. The medical stand on the march-and-shoot competition provided a great opportunity for LCpl Bennett to practise his fine amateur dramatics playing 'casualty.' The teams, however, did not seem to enjoy the stretcher race that comprised the long final leg quite as much, possibly due to the burden of 60kgs of water (as opposed to people for fear of them getting dropped on their heads).

Shortly after AFRICAN THORN, Cpl Davidson and LCpl Smith deployed on Op FIRIC in the Falkland Islands, and did an excellent job whilst being exposed to a whole different array of medical problems, with cold exposure being the main problem.

The RAP achieved a clear green during the Combined Inspection Week (CIW), with feedback that processes were “Gold standard” in the RAP. Cpl Ashton has been a busy lady. Her hard work for the CIW resulted in her being awarded the Commander in Chief’s Commendation and Colonel’s Commendation. She was also asked to be “The face of the RAMC,” although she has kept that one quiet until now! Cpl Rudge gained his CMT 1 qualification as well as a Regimental Award for his outstanding contribution to the CIW week. Trooper Bull has now joined the RAP and gained his CMT 2 qualification with ease, and is working hard towards his CMT 1. LCpl Kennedy is now the resident “Hard Man” of the RAP, having had a very successful year in his sport of mixed martial arts.

Major Hicks, the RMO, deployed on a three month Afghanistan tour, having the delights of looking after the detainees in the detention facility in Kandahar. Cpl Davidson also deployed to Afghanistan, gaining valuable experience in the Joint Operations Centre in a role involved in the coordination of the CASEVAC air assets.

In addition, Cpl Miles became Cpl Ashton, with Major Hicks also managing to get married in quick succession. It appears its contagious so the rest of the RAP had better watch out!

2011 will bring some new faces to the RAP, including the first Regimental nurse we have had for many years. This should prove an excellent addition to the team prior to the likely Op HERRICK 16 task in 2012.

AJH

Catering Troop

Another manic year for the KRH Catering Department with functions, exercises, detachments, competitions and courses continuing to fill the calendar. Some big changes have occurred over this period due to the reduction in manning and resources throughout the Army but the department is still strong and just about keeping its head above water.

The opportunity to deploy to the Falklands with B Squadron on their Falklands Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) task saw three chefs required to cater for the Squadron’s needs. The work was difficult with weather conditions and the inconvenience of irregular ration drops increasing the chefs work load. This minor detail did not however affect the performance and professional attitude of LCpl Thapa as he proved to be a bit of a celebrity whilst carrying out his duties at ‘Onion Range,’ gaining himself the prestigious award of the Commander British Forces Commendation.

Exercise AFRICAN THORN was another highlight for the department and Sgt Tosh deployed on the Advance ‘cricket watching’ Party to set up the location prior to the arrival of the main body. On their arrival, another three chefs hit the ground running and jumped straight into work. This was a great opportunity to cook and serve the more exotic types of meat such as zebra, kudu and springbok. The chefs managed to get a bit of down time amongst the mêlée, spending the odd occasion in...
the local Brigade Commander’s swimming pool. He knew very little about this until he returned from the range early one day to find four greasy chefs lounging around!

A request was sent from the Royal Yeomanry for two chefs to cater for Exercise LION STAR taking place in Cyprus. Volunteers Sgt Smith and LCpl Addison stepped up to the mark and put their names forward. The aim of the exercise was to prepare the Yeomanry for their forthcoming deployment to Afghanistan and the obvious aim of the chefs was to ensure the soldiers were well fed throughout the exercise. On arrival Sgt Smith had to set up a catering facility to feed 120 personnel in very poor conditions and take control of the ration account, whilst LCpl Addison mentored the TA chefs, passing on his valuable experience. It was a demanding exercise, working long hours in extreme temperatures but it was well rewarded with the occasional visit to the beach, resulting in Sgt Smith coming back thinking he was the bronzed Adonis. More like a slightly off-coloured Jock!

KRH chefs also had the privilege to work alongside 22 SAS when conducting an exercise somewhere in sunny Wales. The chefs gave catering support for two weeks but that is all that can be said on that matter: TOP SECRET.

Gibraltar is one of those rare posts for chefs, part of a diminishing list of “sunshine tours” that not many people get to do these days. Fortunately, a trawl from Division landed at our feet and two lucky chefs managed to join the Gibraltar Regiment for eight weeks. LCpl Addison and Pte Asimba joined a team of chefs catering for over 250 exercising troops including Navy and RAF. LCpl Addison made a lasting impression when he introduced his world famous “Jamaican Theme Night” and encouraged everyone to get into the spirit. Although the work was extremely hard, when they got some time off, it was certainly worth it.

The Freedom of Gloucester Parade was a massive event involving the feeding of over 1500, including 200 VIP guests. This was not for the faint hearted as all of the chefs quickly realised on arrival. A BBQ for 1300 people is a task more suited to thirty chefs and with only a twelve man team the detail looked quite daunting. With heads down and everyone working furiously (at times like headless chickens) the queues started to arrive twenty minutes before expected. Flashbacks to Ramsey’s Kitchen Nightmares sprung to mind although the chaos was kept behind the hotplates and everyone walked away from the BBQ area with a full belly and a big smile. The other side of the marquee saw equally full bellies and big smile with a Royal Reception that featured an amazing hot and cold buffet laid out amongst the finest silver and furniture from the Officers’ Mess.

The Officers’ Mess Summer Ball was as spectacular as ever with the theme being ‘Around the World in 80 Days’. The menu consisted of various themed bars including ‘The Great British Menu’, ‘Oriental Live Cook’, ‘African Game Carvery’, ‘Wild West BBQ’...
and the ‘Cold Fish and Meat Display’. Trade skills from the chefs were pushed to the limits and new cuisine was tasted by the guests resulting in an all round superb night.

The ‘Garrison’s Got Talent’ charity event was held in order to raise money for Help for Heroes. Previous to this, the Chefs had held a social gathering and while under the influence of alcohol Sgt (Smudge) Smith displayed his amazing talent for singing and playing the guitar. A star was born and our budding rock star was encouraged (bullied) into competing in the event. During the build up to the big night a decision had to be made on which song should be performed. After hours of painful torture (very loud music) it was decided that Phil Lynott’s (Thin Lizzy) version of ‘Whisky in The Jar’ would be the perfect song. Having rehearsed the song a few times Smudge felt he was more than ready but little did he know a full make-up session was also required. Smudge’s wife had great pleasure in painting his nails and putting on his eye liner. She added the final touches with skin tight leggings and an Afro wig making him definitely the best dressed act. Although extremely nervous on the night, especially when he found out the other acts had talent, he was not deterred and our budding rock star produced a fantastic performance gaining third place overall. He will have no problem making a bit of spare cash when he gets out as a top class busker!

The 3 and 4 Divisions Field Catering Competition was another notable event in the calendar. The competition consisted of an improvised cooking phase, a ten man ORP cooking phase, a navigational exercise and a march and shoot. The team led by Cpl Beckett were put through their paces and performed extremely well gaining sixth place overall out of 36 teams.

In total, 2010 has been yet another eventful year for the department. The team has worked extremely hard throughout the year and, even with the loss of a few key characters in the Department, morale is still high. The Department can now start to look forward to another major exercise in BATUS next year.

On return from Christmas leave, the Regiment was back on its feet, keen and ready to start work. From the beginning of the year all Squadrons were very enthusiastic and eager to get into the gymnasium. This led to the a problem as every SSM wanted the gym floor and wanted it in the early hours of the morning in order to carry on with their normal duties. During this busy year, the main PTI staff in the gym were SSgt Sweatman, LCpl Hughes, LCpl McGlynn and Tpr Vernon. SSgt Sweatman was in urgent need of man power in the gym to release the time pressures and to enhance our ability to produce excellent PT lessons.

And so we recruited the best scorers from the Personal Fitness Assessments list in the Regiment and put the potentials through the toughest and hardest testing they have ever endured. Some fell and others were selected, possessing the qualities of strength, agility and understanding to become a ‘PTI GOD.’ They would also become role models and an inspiration to their students when on PT. The selected were LCpl Green, LCpl Brailsford, Cfn Bird, Tpr Ollerhead and Tpr Hughes, passing with flying colours. This leaves us with a large and efficient team of PTIs ready around the clock to take anyone, anywhere for some sweating!

Unfortunately we saw our beloved SSgt Sweatman (commando / para) leave and join his new Regiment, 1 Royal Gurkha Rifles. His replacement is the mighty Royal Army Physical Training Corps Sgt Kevin Bell who joins following a period at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He has a vast wealth of experience in physical training and is an expert in his field. Sgt Bell has already had effect on the KRH and his new training regime is in full action, with training geared towards the potential tour in Afghanistan in the near future. Sgt Bell also led training with the nordic skiing team as the main instructor, really enjoying his time with the lads out there.

I, Padre Nathan King, joined the KRH in 2010 as my first posting as a regular chaplain to the Army. This followed a course of training at Ampthorpe House chaplains training centre. As I write this article I am soon to attend the PQO course at Sandhurst where I will have the opportunity to get my hands dirty learning something more about military life. Before becoming a regular chaplain, I gained some military experience as a TA chaplain in Liverpool with 208 Field Hospital. I became a chaplain through the process of the Westbury selection, intending only to become a TA chaplain. Well, clearly God has other plans. In fact, vocation and calling to any area of ministry.

“Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)
and service is often a process of discernment which began for me some eleven years ago.

I was ordained into the Church in Wales in 1994, and over the years I have served in parishes and as a hospital chaplain before entering regular service. Some eleven years ago I had a strong sense that God was calling me to military chaplaincy. I wrestled with this over several years and finally took up the calling. I believe God has a purpose for each of us and it is about discerning that. Often this discernment is not just about the future direction of our lives, but also in the everyday decisions of life. I believe that if we can walk with God, then God walks with us.

As a regiment we are, of course, busy. We have a whole range of commitments, exercises and deployments. It is in these situations that it is important to discern God’s presence. I firmly believe that he is with us and will support us through the challenges of life. He is there as our guide. My role as the padre is to reveal something of God’s love for us. I would call this spiritual welfare.

And so I look forward to the challenges. Following Sandhurst comes exercise in Canada. Then we look ahead to the likely deployment in 2012. I suspect that as we become more challenged by life we are more likely to raise questions about life and what it all means. In certain situations we may even raise questions such as if there is a God and how can he allow suffering?

There are many questions but answers are more difficult to articulate. We can all feel that God does not exist or that he is a mean God to allow those terrible things to happen in the world. I do not presume to have the answers. This is not to opt for an easy way out for the Padre! What this shows is that we each continue to grapple with issues and to try to make sense of the world around us, as well as the fears that we may face within. I operate from a position of faith and believe there is the God who offers us comfort, support and protection.

NK

**Battlegroup Headquarters**

Amidst the snow and ice that greeted us all in the new year, a small team from Battlegroup HQ (BGHQ) deployed to South Africa in early January as the advance party for Exercise AFRICAN THORN. The team, comprising the Second in Command, Operations Officer, Quartermaster, Training Officer and a number of training and support staff, arrived in Johannesburg in time for England’s final Test match at the Wanderers Stadium. The tone was set for an excellent exercise.

Having tipped our hat to the DA in Pretoria our small convoy set out for Lohatlha in the Northern Cape. After an epic eight hour drive we arrived at a large South African Army base on the edge of the Kalahari, our home for the next two months. The following three weeks were spent in fervent preparation for the arrival of the exercising squadrons. The QM, Captain Wills, worked tirelessly with the South Africans to establish a tented camp, manage our various contracts and badger the logistics company to deliver our sea freight.

With camp being established, the G3/7 team planned the exercises and ranges in detail, whilst the 2IC maintained the rear link and our relations with the South Africans. With one week to go before the first main body flight was due to depart the RAF grounded all its Tri-Star aircraft and the plan was thrown into turmoil. After a day or two
of excitement, the planes were flying again, the ISOs arrived, vehicles and stores arrived and the range preparations were completed.

With the arrival of A and D Squadrons, Recce Tp and elements of Command Tp, BGHQ took on a more operational role overseeing the delivery of a three day RSOI package prior to the two week Live Firing exercise. The arrival of the Commanding Officer towards the end of the Live Fire phase saw renewed planning in BGHQ for the 3 day visit of the Brigade Commander. With the end of Live Firing and the start of low level troop training, the Commanding Officer, 2IC, Ops and IO took the opportunity to take three days hunting on the Botswana border.

We had an extremely successful hunt with the CO shooting a kudu and the 2IC an oryx. The Ops Officer shot a springbok late on the first day and, as we recovered back to the hunting lodge to see the animals skinned and hung, thoughts turned to the IO, Captain Crofton. He had decided to hunt a zebra, instantly recognisable the world over as a symbol of Africa's great game. Early the following morning, whilst looking for pigs, we came across a small herd of zebra. Crofton set off on his stalk and a short time latter a shot rang out and a zebra dutifully fell to the ground. Convinced that his hunting prowess would show dividends with the ladies, Crofty was stunned to discover he had hunted and shot a baby horse! The remainder of the exercise went extremely well and the R&R package organised by the IO was a 'great' success.

During the summer, BGHQ supported Exercise TALON STRIKE for three weeks in Warminster. This was a 12 Brigade combined arms staff trainer and interoperability exercise with the United States Army. Although not enormously exciting, it enabled some exposure to the C2 systems currently used in Afghanistan and a look ahead to see what the future might bring. In the final week before summer leave BGHQ also ran a very successful series of troop tests. It was also at this time that we said farewell to the IO, who moved to Germany to take up his post as ADC to GOC 1(UK) Armd Div.

Following the return from summer leave, the Regiment and majority of BGHQ were busy in preparation for the Freedom of Gloucestershire parade. The Commanding Officer, Second in Command, Adjurant and Guidon party underwent numerous assessments and drills with the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in preparation for the big day. In the midst of this the Regiment was tasked to host the Iraq Inquiry Team for a tri-service outreach day. Held in the training wing, this involved an opening address from Commander Field Army (CFA) followed by a series of seminar sessions with Sir John Chilcot and his team. It was another excellent day, and all those attending the event were treated to an excellent KRH lunch in the Officers’ Mess.

With our conversion to BCIP 5.4.2 in early November, BGHQ began some more formal training. Under the watchful eye of the Second in Command, the HQ conducted a series of estimates and planning rounds. The Battlegroup officers came together for the first time at a study day in the training wing. With an eye on BATUS, this was the start of our hybrid foundation training (HFT) which would take us from conceptual presentations to CT3 by the end of Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 in May 2011. The day proved to be a great opportunity to meet the new members of the Battlegroup and it was followed by an excellent dinner night.

By the end of November the KRH BG was out on Salisbury Plain conducting an obstacle crossing demonstration for 12th Mechanized Brigade. We used the opportunity for the sub units to perform some low level training, as well as achieve a good understanding of combined arms operations. For much of the week we had the majority of C and D Squadrons, Recce Tp, Corruna Coy, 30 Armoured Engr Coy, FSIB from 19 Regt RA, Air Defenders and elements of A1 and Command Troop all deployed. The day of the demonstration started with a mission rehearsal model exercise in Copehill Down and an excellent field breakfast before a demonstration of the Battlegroup crossing the Berril valley. The weather was fantastic, and the day ran as smoothly as any of us would have dared hope, providing an excellent opportunity for both the exercising troops and audience.

As we get nearer to our deployment to Canada, BGHQ will continue with its own training. We have been joined by a number of new additions. Captain Philip Kaye returns from our friends in the Royal Gurkha Rifles to become the ISTAR Officer, and 2Lt Joe Williamson has joined the IO’s team. Our training will be tested in CAST(S) and CATT(UK) at the end of February and 2011 will doubtless be an exciting and busy year.
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The Officers’ Mess

The Officers’ Mess has enjoyed something of a bumper year with the majority of Mess Members being in the UK for much of 2010. With potential deployments looming on the horizon for 2011/12, the Mess took the opportunity with both hands to enjoy itself.

Early in the New Year we invited our new Brigade Commander, Justin Maciejewski for his first dinner night after taking command of 12 Mech Bde. A few old friends in the form of the Colonel of the Regiment, Charlie Williams and Nick Perry also joined us for what proved to be a fine evening of fun and games. LCpl Johnstone surpassed himself in the kitchen and served up a wonderful dinner augmented with cheese especially flown in from the Highlands courtesy of the newly-appointed Regimental Cheesemaker – Ruaraidh Stone. LCpl Johnstone has enjoyed himself so much during his tour as a chef with us that he has now transferred to the Regiment and re-trained as a RAC soldier. Whilst we are very sorry to lose him from the Officers’ Mess Kitchen, we are delighted that he has now joined the fold.

Ex AFRICAN THORN meant that many of the Mess were in South Africa during February doing their best to bring back various trophy heads to decorate their rooms. Capt Crofton’s shooting of a baby zebra is, perhaps, the lowest that was stooped. A few pieces of Mess silver were sent out, at Maj Berchem’s insistence, to augment the Mess Dinner Table. It is certainly the first time in many years that the elephant’s toenail ashtrays have found themselves back on African soil.

March saw the eagerly anticipated delivery of the Regimental Single Malt – Cask Number 5608 from the BenRiach Distillery. For the uninitiated, this took the form of 330 bottles of 14 year old single cask malt whisky, unpeated and finished in a Pedro Ximinéz sherry butt. It is quite a whisky and all 330 bottles were sold very quickly indeed. It has also caused quite a stir with guests when they have come for dinner. Some of our retired Officers have been snapping it up in significant quantities and, indeed, inquiring frequently of when the next consignment might be available!

1st June saw Lt Col Harrison’s last night as Commanding Officer. Having dragged him out of camp onboard a CR2 during the afternoon, it was a similarly difficult task dragging him out of the Mess in the early hours of the following morning! The chefs had once again pulled out all the stops and produced a menu of Colonel Giles’s favourite dishes during his time in command. Included within this Bacchanalian feast, there were Seared Scallops with Chorizo and Paella Risotto; and a Fillet of Yorkshire Beef with Foie Gras and Truffle Smartries. All this accompanied by a veritable mountain of Strathdon Blue cheese and the BenRiach. The prodigious quantities of left-bank claret also did nothing to help the focus of the Officers during Lt Col Potts’s first day in command the following day.

July was something of a tour de force for the Mess with three events in quick succession, the first two on the boards of the polo ground. First, we deployed ourselves down to RMAS for the Inter-Regimental Semi-Finals versus the Household Cavalry Regiment. Whilst the Blue-Red-Blue may have had the edge on us in terms of horsepower on the pitch, they were no match for the style displayed in the KRH Mess Tent, complete with silver, champagne and gallons of Pimm’s. We were determined also to put on a real show for the Rundle Cup in Tidworth. The acquisition of a proper white marquee was put in train and the Mess Sergeant Major was tasked to move the Mess, lock, stock and whisky barrel to the Fisher Ground and, under the watchful eye of the PMC and Maj Ian Simpson, set about his task with enthusiasm. The PMC, Maj Matt Wilkinson, somehow laid his hands on the last 10 cases of Pimm’s No 6 Cup in the UK (No 6 Cup is vodka-based rather than the gin-based No 1 Cup – and only made in tiny quantities). This, combined with enough champagne to float HMS Dauntless, was enough to keep even the thirstiest officers content. The tent itself looked like something from the Indian Raj with numerous Kadir Cups on display, along with some of our more substantial centre-pieces. Our Mess Staff were bedecked in crimson and had brought some creature comforts from the Mess including carpets, picnic tables, parasols and some comfortable armchairs to collapse into after a hard day watching polo! We welcomed a number of guests and old friends in for drinks before the polo began – and it subsequently proved very difficult to dislodge them at the end of the day, such was the hospitality on offer. It was without doubt the ‘must have’ ticket of the day, and something that the subbies found most useful in inveigling the attentions of some of the young ladies in attendance! Our friends from the RTR in a rather grotty 18’x24’ Army tent at the back of the car park were somewhat green eyed...

The Summer Party at the end of July was such an event this year that it is worthy of a separate piece in its own right but, suffice to say, it was another spectacular. Who would have thought it would take 250 MFO cardboard boxes to create a life-size pyramid over the entrance to the Mess? Pharaoh Cheops himself would have been proud of our efforts... The PMC was also glad to see that the 3 tonnes of wood chippings and 25 sq yds of turf removed from the Ante Room left no visible signs of damage.
Following a very welcome summer break, we were straight back into action in September with a Dinner Night for Maj Gen James Everard – GOC 3 (UK) Div; and Brig Simon Levey – the new DRAC. We also welcomed in some old friends in the form of Colonels Gedney, Orr and Todd along with Col Angus Watson (ex-CO LD) and Col David Swann (ex-CO QRH). Port Braised Venison Crumble was on the menu along with a somewhat opinion-splitting Chilli & Pineapple Sorbet. GOC was a ‘yes’, DRAC a ‘no’! The night also marked the handover of the PMC mantle from Maj Matthew Wilkinson to the newly arrived Maj Jules Smith, who has now just about recovered from the shock of capture.

The Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade followed hard on the heels and it was a similar effort to the Rundle Cup in getting some of our principle pieces of silver up to Frampton Court for a reception for the Colonel-in-Chief and the members of Gloucestershire County Council following the parade. The subbies had been set to task to assist in the polishing of the silver and, on the day, it looked absolutely spectacular. The parade itself presented a number of glorious photo opportunities for officers with some (principally Capt Perowne) taking full advantage. Hitherto largely ‘urban officers’ (such as Maj Kingsford) even managed to look wholly competent on horseback and the parade passed without a hitch – at least until out of sight of the crowds when the afore-mentioned Kingsford’s horse became slightly skittish at the echo from the band and cannoned sideways into the unsuspecting C Squadron Officers.

The Field Officers’ Lunch took place in October, welcoming Maj Chris Badock QRL into the fold as B Sqn Ldr. The 6 course session, complete with foie gras, oysters, whole lobster and flatulence to match, unfortunately coincided with the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess Octoberfest Party which put some of the team off centre for several days to come. This lunch was closely followed by a Battlegroup Balaklava Dinner Night with the Mess hosting Brig Maciejewski again. The dinner also marked the formal arrival of 2Lts Garbutt and Wilson into the Mess with their rather shaky rendition of Tennyson’s ‘Charge of the Light Brigade’. The evening was initiated with Crimean Vodka, though thankfully the Chefs were not able to source the Crimean delicacy of flaming lamb’s testicles – much to
the chagrin of the Commanding Officer. The Mess also welcomed the new Padre, Nathan King who, not wanting to show poor form, threw himself selflessly on the mercy of the Emperor with something approaching a religious zeal.

In November, in amongst the parties and work, RHQ entered a select team into the Army Rowing Championships held in the gym at Aliwal Barracks and were very pleased to finish 3rd out of the whole Army. There was certainly no doubting the effort put in...

We were also delighted to host Dougie Covill’s 90th Birthday Party in the Mess and to see so many ex-10th Hussars Officers, families and friends back on ‘home turf’.

We also waved farewell to the RSM and Adjt, Capt Peter Perowne who swapped places with ADC to COMMARCF, Capt David Warwick. The Livers’ In threw a 1980s Après Ski party supplemented by a fireworks display based on ‘Shock and Awe’, despite the pouring rain. During the festivities, Capt Will Wythe sadly decapitated the famous piddling boy statue; though this should miraculously recover to full health in time for future service. At the end of the month there was also a rare sighting of the QM(T) and MTO on Salisbury Plain at the KRH Battlegroup Obstacle Crossing Demonstration.

December was yet again somewhat attritional with an intense social calendar running at complete odds to the Regimental Health Committee direction. The first weekend saw combined a day’s shooting on the Bulford & Tidworth Garrison Shoot with a Ladies’ Dinner Night in the Mess. The weekend was a great success with no less than six officers blooded, bagging their first pheasant.
The Officers also went carol singing on the Tidworth married quarter patch, fortified with mulled wine and mince pies. As the loosely teemed choir rolled ever more merrily down Furse Hill, the singing deteriorated as the abuse went up. The last Wednesday of term saw the Officers serving Christmas Lunch to the soldiers in the cookhouse whilst seeking to avoid fin-stabilised brussels sprouts and low trajectory pigs-in-blankets...

As ever, the invitation to ‘the other place’ was extended and the WOs and Sgts arrived with blue lights flashing aboard a fire engine and ‘funbulance’ with their usual range of ribald carols to follow. Tom Moger regained favour with a presentation to the Mess from ‘The Tidworth Sniper’.

The last day of term was marked with a Regimental Carol Service in the Garrison Church and a festive lunch. With creaking livers, we were all happy to head off for leave in mid-December.

The Mess has grown steadily in number during the year and is now very nearly to full manning. This is great news for the lives-in and certainly spreads the burden of Orderly Officer a little! During the year we have welcomed in our new RMO, Maj Anna Lea (subsequently married off as Hicks), Capt Wayne Price on Commissioning and our Admin Officers, Capts Rob McLaughin and Andy Harvey – the latter having rejoined the Regiment having been with us as a WO2 in 2002/3. 2Lt Jo Williamson also transferred in from the AAC.

Luke Sherbrooke and Ed Astley-Birtwhistle (Biscuits AB) joined early in the year from the RMAS Factory followed later by Nick Westlake-Toms, Rhys Wilson and, following a similar principle to the Tower of London’s Ravens, Ed Wicks (Son of Al) and Bertie Garbutt (Son of Garbo). We bade farewell to Mark Harrison, Rob Adkin, Patrick Boulter and Rob Forrest who all went to check whether, in this age of austerity, the streets of London were now paved with brass. Nick Berchem also headed off on promotion in March to ATDU via Djibouti and the Signals School – it is hard to tell which of these latter two venues will provide the most communication difficulties. MSM McParland also handed over to MSM Briscoe at the end of the year and our thanks go to him for a job very well done.

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Luke Sherbrooke and Ed Astley-Birtwhistle (Biscuits AB) joined early in the year from the RMAS Factory followed later by Nick Westlake-Toms, Rhys Wilson and, following a similar principle to the new emphasis being placed (quite rightly, in my view...) on Health and Safety.

The Mess was to be transformed into a pyramid, (buried under a pile of cardboard MFO boxes) offering a myriad of corridors to negotiate on the way in (and out), with C Squadron soldiers jumping out on guests, (they were still trying to find their way out on the following Tuesday...). The atrium (a grand name for a Trusthouse Forte style foyer) had to be negotiated around a hot air balloon which had somehow become lodged indoors, (conveniently in

So that’s where all the MFO Boxes went

Two old gits – Welfare in safe hands...

Lt Welford

The party this year was likely to have been a low-key affair as it was felt that the previous year’s party couldn’t be topped. It was in a fit of defiance that a few voices felt this attitude could no longer be tolerated and that we should be up for the challenge, not least as in 2011 there might not be the opportunity. A straw poll followed and it was decided that this year’s theme would be ‘Around the World in 80 Days’, allowing for a very wide interpretation.

After considerable discussion a small and select committee was established to analyse the art of the possible, particularly given the
crimson and primrose colours). The Ante Room had scaffolding erected and covered in flame resistant sheeting (H&S head on), which was then decked out with straw bales and lit up by candles, as amazingly A Squadron turned the room into ‘Nobody’s Barn’, with 5 tonnes of earth, sand and wood chippings (handy for any fire suppression) on the carpet (since replaced). Various farm implements, barrels and dim lighting all added to the effect of making the place seem much cosier and warmer, not to mention the fencing enclosure strapped to the two vertical scaffolding poles which were covered with ‘flame proof’ paint (according to the QM).

The breakfast room was the ‘chill out’ room courtesy of B Squadron. This year we had veered away from the inflammable cloth tent being erected in the middle of the room, as it was a little awkward to negotiate with a drink in both hands, when all the guy ropes had been strapped to the furniture. This time we went for an open plan look so that everyone could get easy access to the French doors onto the patio (safety), which had been cleverly fenced off using proper security fences, wedged in concrete blocks, pilfered from one of the various building sites around camp. Cleverly we covered them in the flame retardant sheeting which allowed them to be painted with more of the QM’s ‘special’ paint to look more like a courtyard wall and then draped them with a lot of dried up vegetation. This allowed an area for smokers to pack into and all ‘burst into flames’.

HQ Squadron did a splendid job in the dining room, lowering the ceiling to cause that cosy feeling by using excellent lightweight rolls of nylon cloth which hung just above head height. It was quite low and meant that the band couldn’t stand on a stage, so HQ looked into raising it a little, but found that the light fittings were what determined the height. No problem, particularly as the halogen bulbs gave off a great glow against the nylon, adding to the atmospherics. Luckily the band were all quite tall anyway, apparently... (I didn’t see them). The other excellent thing that the EME and his team created was an electric Hornby-style (but a little bigger) railway which had a train with open carriages making its way through a huge ‘mountain’ made of papier mache, painted in more of the QM’s ‘special’ paint and embellished with thousands of pieces of polystyrene, giving it that snowy effect. What made it, was the fact that the carriages could take three shot glasses each, all containing enough alcohol that when lit, would cause so much smoke as it went into the tunnels through the mountain, that it properly looked like a steam train...
The marquee was decked out by D Squadron in a Chinese theme. Each table had several helium filled balloons anchored to the table, but cleverly suspending a small basket with the table name on. The CO was very keen to spread the love and suggested the releasing of Chinese lanterns, flame fired paper ‘balloons’, however, when the wind blew them towards the pile of MFO boxes at the front of the Mess, he sensibly called a halt until it had veered more towards the RTR Mess.

Our thanks must go to the Master Chef and his team who once again out did all expectations. He demonstrated his considerable ability to work under pressure when fire alarms (know one ever found out who or where they were tripped) threatened to ruin dinner, as they automatically cut off the gas in the kitchen. Luckily we were able to circumvent the system and dinner was on time and at a splendid temperature, (I confess now that I took two Beef Wellingtons, delicious!). His team also showed tremendous flexibility when the buffet tent lights, daisy-chained on extension leads from the officers’ accommodation into the tent, blew the fuse and they had to revert to kerosene fuelled outdoor torches being brought into the tent, to allow the guests to see what they were choosing to eat.

The only risky thing I noticed all evening was when one of the two Tequila girls lit one of the guests’ mouth having filled it with Tequila and, after spilling some down his chest, by accident (when she tripped over a farm implement, which she hadn’t seen as the candles were quite dim), his chest hair caught fire which made him spit the flaming tequila onto a nearby female guest’s wig which went up like Guy Fawkes on bonfire night! Luckily she wasn’t in the dining room with the low nylon ceiling; otherwise she might have set the fire alarms off…had they still been working.

My thanks to everyone on a sterling effort, not least to MSM SSgt McParland and his team for putting up with us and once again allowing us to ruin his Mess. Let’s go bigger and better next year…!

V-S
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

2010 was another busy and eventful year for the WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess with events such as FIRIC, Ex AFRICAN THORN, Castlemartin Ranges, The Freedom Of Gloucestershire Parade filling our Mess diary in the last 12 months.

January was the calm before the storm with the majority of Mess Members deployed to South Africa in the dismounted role for a six week period. Never one to miss an opportunity though, WO1 (RSM) Bland held a Mess Meeting in one of the lodges to discuss plans for functions on return to Tidworth. The first of which was a wine tasting with the reason, should we need one, to choose the wines for the dining out of WO1 (ASM) Lee. The Mess was educated in the history of wine, taste, smell and the bottling process; at the end of the night it would be fair to say we had all learnt something, there are two types of wine, Red and White!

The Mess bid farewell to WO1 (ASM) Lee in March with a dinner night where all were in good spirits, even the PMC, WO2 Portsmouth, who issued only one port fine, a record in anyone’s book.

Between April and May the Mess strutted its stuff in our Nation’s capital for the Cavalry Memorial Parade and the annual Army v Navy rugby match. We invited the senior members of the Cpl’s Mess for a combined dinner night and then in June we said goodbye to the outgoing CO, Lt Col Harrison. The Mess had built a strong relationship with Col Harrison and for that reason all were expecting to stay until late in the night, having to listen to many a whisky-fuelled debate on ‘cap badges’ (or Mottos) and were not disappointed. The CO’s henchman, SSgt Sweatman, promised to do his now legendary head stand and a couple of Mess Members (who shall remain anonymous) set his chair up accordingly. Sadly SSgt Kenny Maclean unknowingly sat on it and to everyone’s amusement it collapsed and sent him flailing across the floor.

July saw preparations for the summer function begin in earnest. CAL-FEST was billed as a 48hr festival of music, food, entertainment, fun and laughter. It delivered on all fronts. The team, under SSgts Calvert and Weatherby, worked long into the night in the weeks before the event to prepare a plethora of marquees, bands, paintings, ‘summer cocktails’ and, the now infamous, DJ Penfold. What a fantastic weekend, Cal’s aspiration was to end his tenure as PEC with a bang. He definitely did that and we don’t really mind having to pay for it for the next two years!

October brought the handover of RSMs with WO1 (RSM) Paul Bland handing the stick to WO2 (RQMS) Paul Taylor. With increasing popularity, the Mess celebrated once again its own
twisted version of the Oktoberfest. Mrs Davis-Bawn showed that she has what it takes, by defeating all comers at the beer stein holding and the nail hammering competitions. As always, it proved very interesting to see what our Mess Members interpretation of German Dress is! Probably best if we lose those photos!

As always, the biggest night in our Mess Calendar is in November when we celebrate the Battle of Ramnuggur. This year was the 162nd anniversary and as a Mess we went all out to ensure a great night. The guest list was huge and saw Mess Members both past and present come from all over the country. The only slight hiccup involved the REME band who double-booked a function and disappeared half way through their set, sending WO2 Barrow, into a tail spin! The food, as ever, was spectacular and the free cocktail bar went down a treat with many a Mess Member and their wives, plenty of whom were heard to shout 'I want another green one whatever it is'!

As the year drew to a close, our final evening of festivities saw the eagerly anticipated trip up to the Officers’ Mess. This now traditional event sees Mess Members delay holidays and finish courses early, driving hundreds of miles across Britain to get a chance to be ‘hosted’ by their Squadron and Troop Leaders. SSgts Ashton and Calvert were tasked with coming up an ingenious form of transport, and as always they didn’t disappoint. The Funbulance and Karaoke Fire Engine brought most of us to tears with laughter.

WO2 Sinclair took it upon himself to musically direct the carols that he and SSgt Preston had written. The usual suspects got their fair share of mickey taking and the Officers returned their own salvos. We retired into the Mess and after several impressive showings on the Fox’s Mask up came Sgt Perry, to say he took an age would be an understatement. Some say he is still there, but in fairness those young subalterns have had a lot of experience, they have been in the Regiment for at least 3 weeks!

Later in the evening we retired to our Mess and were entertained by the new Mess band which included Sgt Smith accompanied by SSgts Shepherd-Garner and Preston – a great start to a glittering career in showbiz for all of them we think?

The Mess has said farewell to a number of Members this year. WO1 (ASM) Lee finally left to take up a posting in BATUK. A fond farewell, after 22 years of service was given to WO2 (RQMS) Sword and WO2 Wilson. We also bid farewell to SSgt Bren Weatherby from QM(T) and Sgt Jones from the LAD, all were active members of the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess and will be sorely missed. We wish them all the very best of luck in the future and offer an invitation to the Mess when ever they’re passing by. The Mess also welcomed Sgt Steve O’Mara (Mr Vice), Sgt Gilliam, Sgt Malone, Sgt Kalewski and Sgt Perry, who begin their new life as SNCO Mess Members.

PT
It has been another highly successful year for the Corporals’ Mess. We started it off with a fantastic Christmas Ball where the Mess transformed the Junior Ranks’ Dining Hall into a Winter Wonderland. It was the first time we had used the cookhouse for such an event, but it turned out to be a big hit. Our entertainment for the night was a disco and the band Marlow, who were fantastic and got everyone up dancing including the QM(T), Capt Caulfield and his wife Louise, who didn’t stop dancing all night. We literally had to push them out of the door to go home at the end of the night! A big thank you to Cpl Lee and his committee for all their hard work – a great night was had by all.

The Corporals’ Mess gave the Sergeants’ Mess a chance to get some poker payback after the last meeting when the Corporals ran away with first, second and third place. Towards the end of the night, which was organised by Cpl Smiles, the final table was very Sergeants’ Mess heavy. The RSM took out Cpl Smiles in what was described as a great piece of bluffing, but may have also involved a bit of underhand dealing, to see off our best player and take first, second and third place for the Sergeants’ Mess. We eagerly await the next tournament, where we expect to regain our status as the Regiment’s resident card sharks!

As we moved into March, some 50 Mess members were invited to the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess for a dinner night. As usual, the Seniors welcomed us into their Mess making us all feel very much at home. There was some lively banter going on between the two Messes with the Seniors egging on some of the new LCpls into touching the silver, WO2 Portwood and Cpl Kennedy (respective PMCs) soon had full notebooks for port fines. LCpl Larkin enjoyed himself so much he had trouble holding down his food at the table (too much port poured by Sgt Bensley, apparently). After all the port fines, which seemed to be never-ending, we finished off the evening with a ‘dog race’ night, with lots of bets going on but, by that stage very few people knew what they were betting on! A few bleary-eyed members of both Messes were still going strong at 0730hrs in the morning! Had the PMC been at his usual work-place in Tech that morning, the QM(T) would have understood him feeling a little ‘peeky’. However, he was on a course at Deep-cut so the RSM packed him off into a car with a bacon sandwich saying ‘go in your Mess kit, you’ll be the best dressed NCO there’! He did; he was; but sadly they didn’t see the funny side at all!

Cpl Campbell was tasked with the job of PMC for the Medicina Ball which he carried off in great style. The food was out of this world, and the entertainment fantastic. LCpl Newsham managed to get over his nerves to stand up as Mr Vice and performed his duties very well. The Mess Members looked fantastic in their Mess Dress, all of us feeling particularly proud as we don’t often get the chance to wear it. This was to be Lt Col Harrison’s last function with the Mess before he handed over as CO, I think he also felt just as proud as we did of our Mess and there may even have been the glimmer of a tear towards the end! He said it was quite fitting for him to have his last farewell from the Corporals’ Mess, because Medicina had been the first function he attended as CO KRH. We wish him, and his wife Tina, all the best for the future, and thank them both for all their hard work and support to the Mess.

The Summer Ball kicked off in July when Cpl Marshall produced a brilliant Hawaiian party. The Mess turned out in their crazy shirts, shorts and sandals for the function which was held outside the Aliwal Arms. A BBQ, authentic steel band and later our favourite band Marlow made for a great night’s entertainment. Talking of entertainment, the REME also provided some of their own when they got the photographer to take a picture of them all posing around the mechanical surfboard, naked! This raised an eyebrow or two from the RSM because it hadn’t even reached 9 o’clock by that stage!

November means the Brocklehurst Trophy and this year was no different. The boxing night was held in the gym with the largest number of bouts we had seen in many years. The Corporals’ Mess was well represented with our own section and many of us showing off our Mess Dress once again. LCpl Larkin was in ceremonial dress
and accompanied every HQ Squadron fighter to the ring with some enthusiastic waving of the HQ Squadron flag. It looked like he really enjoyed himself but it may well of been the fact he was able to get close the two 'ringside girls' both of which appeared to have come out somewhat underdressed! LCpls Forbes, Simler, Harvey, West and Malloy all took part in the boxing and showed what the Mess is made of – very well done to them all. On completion of the bouts, we all retired to the Mess, where a buffet and a disco had been laid on for us to enjoy. This also gave us the opportunity to say farewell to WO1 (RSM) Bland and presented him with his leaving gift (a print of 'The Scouts'). We all wish him, Tara and their family, all the best for the future and thank him very much for all his hard work and support that has gone a long way to making Corporals' Mess what it is today. We also welcome in WO1 (RSM) Taylor who now takes on that role.

We now look forward to 2011 and all the challenges that it will bring, including building on the great work we have had as a Mess over the last year. We look forward to growing in strength and most importantly enjoying ourselves while we do it. Until next time…

AMK

The Wives’ Club

We are very lucky within the Regiment to have such a fantastic group of ladies who help in the organising of events for families and friends, and supporting the welfare team whenever they can. The great thing is you can do as little or as much as you like and it’s all appreciated. Our wonderful committee is made up with wives of serving soldiers who volunteer their time and work hard for the benefit of all. This year was as busy as ever, organising a number of ‘Teas on the Tank Park’ and being involved in the Regimental Cultural Awareness Day, SSAFA Big Brew Week, as well as helping the welfare team with parties for the families, our regular ‘meet and greets’ which are held every Wednesday in the Aliwal Arms and, of course, the very successful Spring Fête held in April.

The Fête was one of the highlights of the year and with the help of the whole committee, with Tina at the helm, including C Squadron who helped put up all the tents, it was a day to be proud of. The Brigade Commander, Justin Maciejewski, kindly opened the fête for us and there was a huge range of activities and stalls held at the Tidworth Church Hall. We were fortunate to have a glorious day where the sun shone and all the hard work of organising and planning paid off. Much laughter was had by all and we manage to donate £700 to The British Forces’ Foundation which was a huge accomplishment.

As ever, the Teas on the Tank Park were really enjoyed by those who took part. The boys were treated to lots of delicious pies and homemade cakes and the girls always surpassed themselves with their culinary skills. We also managed to coincide one of the Teas with the Cultural Awareness Day on the Parade Square in September which was fascinating – it was quite a challenge competing with the delicious food from Thailand, Nepal, South Africa, Cum bria (!) and the Caribbean. We are always lucky to have keen soldiers happy to walk around selling our goodies!!!

I would also like to thank D Squadron who gave up a weekend to organise and supervise Exercise CRIMSON COCONUTS. It was my first ever experience of ‘Plain living’ and proved to be surprisingly good fun. Everyone who took part really rose to all the challenges with a smile ever present on their faces. Next time though I will pack my own bag and will ensure more thermals are included!

The SSAFA Big Brew in October was also a huge success with over £600 being raised through more delicious cake and pastry baking by the KRH wives and girlfriends. This year it was SSAFA’s 125th birthday and it was fantastic that we could raise so much money for this well deserving charity which helps men and women who serve and their families. Donna Thompson must have a particular mention because of her amazing SSAFA cake which took pride of place in the centre of the table.

We also were able to support the welfare team in the setting up of the Halloween and Christmas parties held for family and friends...
of the Regiment which were both great fun, hugely entertaining and very well attended. The Aliwal Arms was transformed for both events and the children had a magical time.

We ended the year with the WAGs’ Christmas party which was held in the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess. The RSM and Mess Members were very kind to allow us to host the event in such a wonderful venue. It was a brilliant evening; we were waited on by dashing young Late Entry Officers, ate superb food, were treated to a show by the Hunky Hussars and ended the evening with much dancing around handbags.

Finally, I would like to say a few thank yous. Firstly to all members of the welfare team who always go that extra mile to help us. Capt Geordie Kennedy is leaving us at the beginning of 2011 and moves with a spring in his step to MT Troop; I know all the Wives and Girlfriends wish him well in his new job and welcome in Capt Wayne Price who takes the helm. Also a big thank you to Tina Harrison who made such a great contribution during her time at the Regiment. Finally it goes without saying that we are most fortunate to have such a great team of ladies giving up their time and supporting the Regiment’s families. Thank you to you all, we couldn’t achieve anything without your help and hard work.

Mrs AP!
Op HERRICK 11 with 1 COLDSTREAM GUARDS Battlegroup

In November 2009, 35 members of the Regiment deployed on Op HERRICK 11 to join 1st Bn Coldstream Guards Battlegroup (BG) operating in the Nahr-e-Saraj (South) area of Helmand, Southern Afghanistan. Their task was to run a fleet of MASTIFF 2 armoured vehicles, alongside a similar force from 3rd Bn The Yorkshire Regiment, in order to protect the BG’s vital assets and supplies from Taliban attack.

The ability to take the expertise KRH soldiers gain on Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks and apply it to other, lighter, vehicles once again showcased one of the Regiment’s main strengths. Directly transferring their knowledge of armoured vehicle care, manoeuvre and previous operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the group soon found the MASTIFF 2 the ideal platform to get the enemy on the back foot. Even though the area had only been seized a few months earlier on Operation PANCHAI PALANG, the Taliban remnants in the region soon learnt that attacking ISAF vehicle patrols was an ineffective use of their dwindling resources. MASTIFF 2 had the protection, firepower and visibility to make it a real symbol of the security advances made by BG.

The key aim of the vehicle patrols was to bring fresh supplies and materiel from the enormous Camp Bastion into the heart of the area of operations. These formed the core function of the group, with groups of three to twelve vehicles patrolling up to three times a day, visiting up to six different patrol bases and checkpoints. The end result was morale-building fresh food, mail, water, general supplies and engineer stores for reconstruction projects. In the words of the Commanding Officer of the BG, Lt Col Toby Grey, we were “the life blood of the operation.”

The biggest of these projects was the construction of a road through the centre of the area. This was to provide security, mobil-
ity and economic regeneration and proved of considerable benefit to ISAF and the locals alike, squeezing the area of Taliban influence away from population centres. As a huge construction project in a war zone, however, the road required serious protection and was granted this through the sentinel use of the Mastiff Group in overwatch. For nearly three months, the project was afforded security 24hrs a day by up to four MASTIFF. As a result, the Taliban were limited to occasional pot-shots from distance onto what was otherwise a very ‘soft target.’

Being the KRH, we did not limit ourselves to the vehicles, however. Two of our subalterns, Lts Welford and Moger worked with the BG HQ as watchkeepers, significantly reducing the burden on the command group. Sgts Silvey and Blacklock were embedded into Guards’ Companies, completing a variety of important tasks including working with the local population and Afghan security forces, for which both were awarded a Regimental Medal. Almost everyone else also took the opportunity to join the Guards’ and Yorkshire Regiment’s soldiers on foot patrols, providing an essential boost to manpower as required.

By the end of the six month deployment, the KRH had conducted hundreds of patrols without suffering a single casualty. Whilst sometimes frustrating, stressful, intense and strangely mundane, this ultimately aided the BG to provide reassurance and reconstruction projects to thousands of locals.

Exercise TRASIMENO ACE
28 June – 2 July 2010

“What are you doing sitting down doing nothing? Why don’t you use your armour in a great scythe-like movement through the mountains?”

CHURCHILL IN A LETTER TO FM ALEXANDER IN 1944

In the face of severe funding restrictions, 12 Mech Bde somehow managed to secure and hang on to the funding to allow about 50 officers from across the Brigade to attend a battlefield study in June – Ex TRASIMENO ACE. The aim was to follow in the footsteps of the 8th Army and Mark Clark’s 5th (US) Army, northwards through Italy, focusing on the fighting in Tuscany and Umbria on the approaches to the River Arno in Florence and the subsequent break out towards the Gothic Line.

The Commanding Officer with Majs Wilkinson and Buczacki were the KRH representatives and joined a happy throng of officers drawn from all the Regiments and units of the Brigade. The transport plan for the exercise had been neatly and comprehensively unpicked by the budgeteers meaning that the clan arrived in Italy on four different flights via three different airports. The promised minibuses (helpfully allocated as one per syndicate) evaporated to be replaced by a fleet of about 18 Fiat Puntos all driven by Field Officers – meaning that trying to get anywhere was something akin to the Italian Job. Until you’ve tried to move a convoy of 18 Puntos through the centre of Florence at rush hour, you haven’t lived. In fairness, the transport issue was comparatively minor to arriving at the accommodation for the first night to find that we were to be billeted three to a room, only to find that there were only two beds!

We began the study in the area of Lake Trasimene just to the South of the town of Cortona, nestled precariously on a steep hillside. This had been the site of a battle during the Punic Wars where Hannibal’s Carthaginians had achieved a notable victory over the Romans of Gaius Flaminius. The wide valley floor around the edges of Lake Trasimene itself have been strategically important throughout the centuries – and it was no different in 1944 when the Allied Army under the command of FM Alexander pushed north of Rome towards the Gothic Line.

Each Regiment was tasked to host a stand. This was to involve a brief summation of the battle at each location followed by a discussion on a particular factor of the campaign. The KRH stand was in the town of Impruneta – attacked by the 6th (South African) Armd Div on the night of the 1/2 August 1944. The 6th (SA) Armd Div was interesting in its own right – founded after El Alamein, it had been held in North Africa, equipped with a variety of armoured vehicles, including Shermans, and only recently brought over the Mediterranean to
join the Italian Campaign. It mostly comprised of armoured units including such famous names such as the Royal Natal Carbineers, the Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regiment and the First City/Cape Town Highlanders. What it was chronically short of was Infantry, and to alleviate this, Alexander had attached the 24th Guards Brigade including 5th Bn Grenadier Guards, 3rd Bn Coldstream Guards and 1st Bn Scots Guards.

The town square of Impruneta has changed very little in the intervening 66 years and it was easy to picture the Shermans of the Natal Carbineers kicking up dust as they roared through the town en route to the bridges over the strategically vital River Arno in and around Florence, which the Germans were hurrily preparing as reserve demolitions. By the time the Allies arrived there a few short days later, the only bridge still standing was the Ponte Vecchio – which had been mined and blocked to prevent any crossings.

Then, as now, getting the Infantry v Armour balance right was key. And the age-old quandary of how the light role (or indeed lorry-borne) Infantry keep up with fast moving armoured formations was as relevant then as it is today. With the Regiment about to embark on a training year as a Hybrid Battlegroup of a Medium Armour Squadron; an Armoured Squadron; an Armoured Infantry Company; and a Light Role Company, the parallels are clear.

Of course, shortly after the attack on Impruneta, over in the East of Italy the 14th/20th King’s Hussars were fighting bitterly at Medicina with 6th Gurkhas using The Kangaroo APC – a ‘de-frocked’ M7 Priest. The integration of the light role infantry in Kangaroos with the remaining armoured squadrons of the Regiment – and the time they spent training together in Egypt – was a key factor in their successes in the later stages of the campaign. Likewise the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO) fought as dismounted infantry through the winter of 1944/45 – plus ça change with our current prospective roles in Afghanistan.

We also spent time up in the mountains around Monte Sole studying the actions and contribution of the Italian Partisans – including some incredibly brave and idealistic young men risking their lives night after night to attack the German lines of communication. The German response was brutal and whole villages were raised to the ground – with a number of massacres taking place. A number of parallels were drawn with the actions of insurgents in Afghanistan and Iraq and the discussions were lively and incredibly candid at times.

The Campaign itself was bitterly fought, from the great set piece battles of Monte Cassino right up into the hills of the Gustav and Gothic Lines. And of course those who fought through it certainly did not deserve Lady Astor’s rather ill-judged sobriquet. It was a fascinating and thoroughly entertaining battlefield study – thought-provoking and fun in equal measure.

Help for Heroes – Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2010

In October 2009, five ex-Royal Hussars decided to face up to their mid-life crisis and do something worthwhile for charity. The charity was Help for Heroes and the challenge was the charity’s signature fund-raising event, the Big Battlefield Bike Ride taking place across 350 miles of Northern France in late May 2010. Having all enjoyed our time in the Regiment in the 1980s and, for some the 90s, we decided to not only undertake rigorous training for the event but also give ourselves a team name – ‘The Five Fat Cavalry Officers’. We would be among some 275 other cyclists undertaking the challenge.

Fundraising started in earnest. We co-ordinated lists of family, friends and colleagues to contact and encourage their financial support. We also set ourselves a fundraising target of £40,000. Training started in early 2010. We would meet at each others’ houses on various Sunday mornings and following a healthy fry-up, we would tackle the roads of Hampshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire: on each occasion pushing the mileage
covered and pain barriers even higher. Lycra was purchased and we began to look the part. During the training rides we fell off, crashed, removed wheels/tyres and repaired punctures in near F1 pit-stop time. More importantly, we laughed our way through the many miles of training despite coming to terms with the marriage of our respective physiques and the modern-day bicycle saddle.

After many months of training and hundreds of miles on the bikes we were fully fit, kitted out with all sorts of cycling paraphernalia and we had new team colours. The Regimental-coloured Lycra kit would, we knew, put an element of fear amongst our fellow riders. Little did we know at this early stage that these ‘fearsome’ team colours would reduce us to tears of laughter and huge amusement amongst the other riders. I suspect the photograph explains why.

The fundraising went far better than any of us expected and the generosity shown by those that heard of our effort was quite amazing. We continually upped our target and by the time we were finished training and ready to depart, we had raised over £70,000.

On the evening of the 24th May, we gathered in Portsmouth’s historic naval dockyard. After a full and rousing briefing by Bryn Parry, the co-Founder of Help for Heroes, the Royal Marine band sent the 275 cyclists off in style from the parade ground in front of HMS Victory. Our first ride was the 2 miles to the ferry terminal where we were greeted by a band of pipes and drums to see us onto the ferry. Here we met up with Andrew Stuart-Mills and Nigel Murray, two former 14/20th King’s Hussars also taking part in the ride along with Peter Roe ex-11H and RH. The ‘Five Fat Cavalry Officers’ now numbered eight! The overnight ferry crossing was to be a long one with revenues at the bar considerably higher than usual.

After a few hours sleep, the ferry docked in France and buses took us to our start point, the village of Senneville-sur-Fecamp. We were met by the village Mayor, various local dignitaries and children from the local primary school. They gave us a wonderful rendition of our National Anthem and then put flowers on the graves of six British soldiers buried in their village cemetery. Their reward, for which there was great delight, was a H4H teddy bear, presented to each child by both Bryn and Emma Parry.

The Mayor then formally started the ride and sent us on our way. Ahead of us lay 6 days and 350 miles of French countryside, scattered with cemeteries and monuments remembering the fallen of both World Wars. We would visit a good number of these and pay our respects to our military forbears.

The 275 riders were a cosmopolitan group and drawn from all walks of life. Many had some connection with the Services and a good number bore the scars of active service. Some amongst us were parents or brothers of soldiers killed in Afghanistan, a good number had served there and some were due out in Helmand province a few months after the ride. We numbered 2 Generals, countless ex-officers, NCOs and other ranks together with a wealth of civilians all who wanted to ‘do something for the Help for Heroes charity’.

The spirit of camaraderie was magnificent. Everyone supported and helped each other: many a time riders would stop and help others who had problems, particularly punctures. We certainly played our part here and the ‘Cavalry coming to the rescue’ was often the case during the week. Day 2 saw us advising one young lady on the use of the gears on her bike. She could not figure out how to use them and wondered why hills seemed much harder for her than other riders! A quick TP put an end to her misery and, armed with a new found access to the 27 gears available to her, off she went. We, meanwhile, marvelled at how she had coped with Day 1.

Punctures were a further bane during the week, particularly in the rain and after a heavy downpour. Small shards of stone would wash...
onto the roads and puncture the tyre with monotonous regularity. Such was the team spirit that whenever this occurred, we would all help and put each other back in the road within minutes: the training certainly paid off. We were all fit enough to ride at some considerable speed at the same time having enough breath to not only converse with each other but also enjoy the countryside and sights. The minutes we spent on aerobic training and hours on the bikes meant we could comfortably execute this multi-tasking.

We were accompanied by a huge support team, made up of Help for Heroes staff, a fantastic organisational team from Discover Adventure (who provided all the logistics for the week), a ‘Pedalling Padre’, two buglers and a piper from the Scots Guards. All provided the riders with the encouragement, refreshment, moral and logistic support to undertake the ride.

Our route took us from Senneville-sur-Fecamp to Dieppe, Amiens, Arras, Lille, Ypres and ultimately to Dunkirk. We had many stops during the 6 days travelling through France and visited the sites of so much horrendous fighting during the First World War. We attended wreath laying services at the hugely impressive and disturbing monuments at Thiepval and Vimy Ridge as well as stopping to view the many Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries that are scattered all around this part of France. Each cemetery, no matter how large or small, was immaculately tendered and beautifully kept. Our time at cemeteries was enormously moving for us all. The scale of the loss of life and the young age at which many fell was hugely humbling.

In the village cemetery at Ramburelles, we came across a solitary Commonwealth War Grave where Captain JM Malet of the 10th Royal Hussars is laid to rest. He died in May 1940 aged 29. He is in good hands; indeed all the French we came across could not have been more hospitable throughout our time in their country. One French lady told me, ‘Our boys and men are here with us in France. We are so grateful for their sacrifices so we look after them’. This encapsulated their very hospitable attitude to us.

We all took part in the daily Last Post Association wreath laying ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres and our accompanying buglers and pipers played a major part in the Remembrance Service. There is something incredibly moving hearing a lone piper playing a lament in places such as these.

All too quickly the days passed and we arrived in Dunkirk in time to attend the beach-front ceremony to remember the 70th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940. We visited various original Little Ships that had gathered in Dunkirk harbour and we all attended the French-led ceremony at the memorial in Dunkirk. There, the guest of honour was HRH Prince Michael of Kent, himself a former Royal Hussar.

The final ride was into rather strong headwinds and rain to the commercial ferry terminal at Dunkirk. There we were taken by landing craft to RFA Largs Bay on which we would spend the night before travelling across the Channel to Dover. On reaching Dover, we witnessed a flypast by a Spitfire, silhouetted magnificently against the white cliffs – all that was missing was Vera! We all came ashore via landing craft to a huge welcome by family, friends and startled onlookers.

The week gave us all the complete spectrum of emotions. From hysterical laughter as we all re-lived memories of our times in the Royal Hussars in Fallingbostel, and together with Andrew and Nigel, the heady days of their time in the 14/20th King’s Hussars in Höhne. This was balanced by the moving visits we undertook to the many cemeteries and monuments that are scattered across northern France. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the French attendants at each of these cemeteries really do a magnificent job in looking after our fallen soldiers.

Our final tally for funds raised came to approximately £85,000 for which were all extremely grateful to all that helped us to get to this figure. Help for Heroes continues to go from strength to strength and for us to have taken part in such a venture was enormously worthwhile, enjoyable and satisfying.

MR
Officer Professional Development and the Flashman Lectures

The education of the Officers beyond the standard Junior Officers Leadership Programme (JOLP) and Junior Officers Tactics Course (JOTAC) remains a feature and priority for the Regiment. The aim of OPD during this year has been twofold; first to prepare the Junior Officers for their mandatory career courses and secondly, to educate the Officers' Mess for the next phase within the Campaign-FORM cycle.

The Book Club and the Flashman Lectures continue to be the main vehicle for the OPD. The Book Club covered a wide spread including George MacDonald-Fraser’s ‘Quartered Safe Out Here’, covering his recollections of the War in Burma; to Colin Gray’s ‘Fighting Talk Forty – Maxims on War Peace and Strategy’; and Marston and Malkasian’s ‘Counterinsurgency in Modern Warfare’. The look forward for the Book Club is the 12 Mech Bde counterinsurgency reading list which looks both comprehensive and substantial; and will certainly keep us busy for a little while!

The Flashman Lectures have been running for a while now, with the intent to broaden our Officers’ perceptions through challenging their acceptance of perceived wisdoms. Named after MacDonald-Fraser’s Victorian anti-hero (himself an apparent 11th Hussar), we have been lucky to inveigle a number of fascinating and thought-provoking speakers down to Tidworth with the promise of nothing more than dinner and an opportunity to come and speak to an interested and (relatively!) informed audience. This year has been no exception.

We were fortunate to have incredibly candid talks from Sir John Scarlett, the former Director of the Secret Intelligence Services; Chris Donnelly, Senior Fellow at the Defence Academy and former Special Advisor to four Secretary Generals of NATO, and a group of US COIN Scholars from the US Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, to name a few. As we look forward to the 2011, the emphasis will change from general education to preparing the Officers’ Mess in developing the intellectual bedrock that lays the foundation for mission specific training for Afghanistan.

CB

Exercise CRIMSON COCONUTS

It is not every day you get to dress up in your husband’s clothes and open yourself up for some serious public ridicule. Dropped off at the Regimental Parade Square on a sunny but cold Saturday morning, it was with a degree of apprehension that I found myself ‘in at the deep end’ joining 44 other Wives & Girlfriends (WAGs) on Exercise CRIMSON COCONUTS. A ‘WAG’ for the first time, I anxiously braced myself for a weekend experiencing life in my husband’s shoes. The introductory letter and kit list, hand delivered the week before, outlined the activities for the weekend but did little to allay the butterflies in my stomach as I raided a wide-range of green clothing from my husband’s Army wardrobe. As I stepped out across the ‘hallowed parade square’ in the bright sun I felt woefully under-prepared and comically dressed in a humongous combat jacket (down to my knees) and a pair of pantomime-baggy combat trousers held up with string. A quick scan of the other WAGs and I felt a huge sense of relief – we were all in the same boat.

Following a short opening brief from D Squadron Leader, Major Julian Smith, we were unleashed on the Squadron Sergeant Major, WO2 ‘Wheelie’ Barrow, for drill. I think the idea was to convert us from an ill-disciplined rabble into a cohesive unit. Not surprisingly the WAGs sense of fun, some confusion over left and right, and mostly a lack of coordination, unhinged the plan and drill was curtailed, the SSM deflated, and we stopped for a coffee break before complete chaos set in.

Having been divided into three groups, we enjoyed a whole host of activities on Saturday. My second foray into ‘army life’ was in the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (let’s just call it a simulator with guns). This was brilliant; lying on the floor, weapon in hand, shooting at cyber enemies that popped out of buildings or from behind trees. It was harder than expected and we sadly could not hide the Mrs Hughes in glamorous pose

KRH Doc 1 2010.Layout 1 13/04/2011 12:16 Page 75
computer statistics... which confirmed that our ‘hit ratios’ were poor. I think I fired about 115 rounds and shot only about 6 people! Following my first experience of an Army packed lunch, complete with frozen sausage roll and lump of cheese, we moved on to the ‘vehicle stand’ where we clambered onto tanks, recce vehicles and a range of REME recovery vehicles. I learned how to aim, and potentially shoot, at a running man over 1000 metres away and also how to use the crane on a Challenger Repair and Recovery Vehicle (big tracked thing). The rest of the afternoon was spent rotating through a variety of stands including first aid, survival skills, concealment and camouflage. This last stand involved putting on cam cream, learning why things are seen, getting camouflaged up and a competition to find people and items spread out before us – nobody identified Tpr Harris hidden not 10 metres away – particularly as we were all somewhat distracted feasting our eyes on Tpr Mitchel whose toned and oiled body appeared from behind the trees. On the survival skills stand, Sgt Silvey – a Bear Grylls look-a-like in shorts – managed to give a few of the girls quite a fright when he asked the watching audience to choose a chicken for slaughter, apparently ‘killing’ it with his bare hands but cleverly switching
the live chicken for a pre-wrapped and cleaned frozen supermarket one. We all then had a go at cooking an egg equipped only with an orange and an Army hexi-burner cooker...

Late afternoon we were dropped out at Beaches Barn on Salisbury Plain and given a tour of the ‘accommodation’ by SSgt Maclean. Camp beds had been erected in one of the barns and we all unpacked sleeping bags and warm clothing whilst the D Squadron team prepared a BBQ (thankfully we were spared compo rations) and an all night roaring camp fire. The following party, notable for its loud music, dancing round the fire, quiz and odd tipple must have been a bitter pill to any real soldiers trying to exercise seriously that weekend on the Plain.

The early morning wakeup call with WO2 Barrow banging mess tins loudly was almost as unforgiving as the freezing cold crisp weather. Revived by bacon baps and copious quantities of tea, we watched Sgt Collier's merry men conduct a demonstration attack on a number of poor unsuspecting dummies before starting the last three stands of the weekend: softball shooting at targets of husbands/boyfriends faces, command tasks and the highlight for the day: paintballing. With odds stacked completely in our favour; we charged through a wood firing paintballs at unarmed D Squadron soldiers who were left yelping and with bruises to show for their efforts.

After my initial trepidation about participating in the weekend, I really ought not to have worried. We all had a wonderful and memorable two days; it was extremely cold at times and I did enjoy a soak in a hot bath afterwards, but I would definitely go on the WAGs’ Exercise again in a shot. I proudly display my Ex CRIM-SON COCONUTS photo in the downstairs loo and now have a mild appreciation for the feeling of elation on return to camp at the end of the Exercise (ENDEX). I’m sure all the other WAGs would join me in thanking D Squadron for a brilliant weekend. We were looked after so well, had great fun, made some friends and took away some new skills and a bit of knowledge about army life.

SON

OS
Regimental Sport

Alpine Skiing 2010/11

This was the year of the Crimson Ex WHITE KNIGHT, with Maj Jez Hay acting as Exercise Director, and Sgt “Hank” Mackay his right hand man. So it was perhaps with especially high hopes that a motley group of Hawks departed Tidworth on 28 Nov 2010, bound for Verbier: land of powder snow, ludicrously expensive beer, and naive chalet girls. Led by Lt “I commissioned in to the 14th” Clarke, the team of Lt Bush, Lt Welford, LCpl Forbes, Tprs Park, Smith, Neary and the Brothers Lawrence were determined to return to Tidworth clutching a host of silverware, or at least with some memorable stories.

The team arrived in Verbier, transport thankfully still intact, to find that not only were the snow conditions excellent, but that they did just about fit in to the chalet – little thought was given at this stage to quite how the influx of Christmas and New Year guests were to be accommodated. Skiers were sorted in to groups (LCpl Forbes gamely trying to subvert the entire system by placing himself in the novice Group 6), and the first two weeks passed in a succession of powder days, high speed crashes, the esteemed institution of Gay Sunday, and the even more esteemed institution of the Warrior Party. All Hussars were as smart as the proverbial carrot in their crimson as the massed ranks of Armoured Corps and Air Corps skiers enjoyed the noxious, but oddly enjoyable, KRH signature cocktail, as the KRH affirmed their status as the beating heart of the Ex WHITE KNIGHT social scene. The only black spots in an otherwise Arcadian first fortnight were first, how to ward off scurvy while subsisting largely on a diet of rosti and cheese, and second, how to prevent the entire KRH team going down with the dreaded Verbier black lung, which seemed to claim victims with plague like ferocity. Through the purchase of industrial size quantities of clementines and Beroca, Lt Clarke found something of a solution to the former; the latter was to prove more problematic. The two week point was marked by the arrival of Lt Welford, fresh from JOTAC and developing cunning ways to prevent the onslaught of the Third Shock Army. With an utter disregard for the sensibilities of those addled by two weeks of reasonably intense après ski, Lt Welford insisted that Monday night was clearly THE big night in Verbier; Lt Clarke, perhaps showing his years, never really recovered. The skiing was beginning to step up a notch, with an increase of pole training and, with the advent of seeding races, an opportunity to dust off the crimson and primrose KRH zoot suit, of blessed memory to generations of skiers.

The team was progressing well throughout the early stages, particularly the novices who had never strapped on a pair of skis two weeks before, and were now all attempting fairly serious off piste runs and skiing through poles in at least a fair imitation of racing. Credit for this was due both to the courage of the soldiers and the ability of the Ecole Suisse de Ski instructors, who proved uniformly excellent. For the more advanced skiers the advent of speed and jump training brought its own thrills. LCpl Forbes and Tpr Neary sought to get as much air time off every jump as was humanly possible, while the KRH officers declared themselves land mammals and sought ski on snow contact whenever decent.

With the Christmas stand-down we bade a temporary goodbye to Tpr Park and Tpr Lawrence who decided that they preferred turkey to snails for their Christmas dinner, but welcomed the first members of that small but stalwart group, the KRH Supporters Club. A touch of the traditional British Christmas was maintained with a carol concert, and the crimson hue to Ex WHITE KNIGHT 2010 furthered with the appearance of Padre Kevin
Mention should be made though of LCpl Forbes who was, due to maintaining his “fastest man in the KRH” posture by finishing 10th, airlifted to hospital; and Lt Bush succeeded in maintaining his “fastest man in the KRH” posture by finishing 10th. Despite waiting in the start gate for 20 minutes while the previous racer was ailing, the KRH team defended their lead, as the KRH team donned zoot suits, (the stitching of which was severely tested in a few instances), and came to the Individual Slalom competition in good heart and with a fair degree of optimism.

“Slalom specialist” Lt Welford showed a portent of things to come by first of all getting lost and then falling over, but Lt Clarke managed to produce the first of an unbroken run of top 15 performances that saw him end the championship as the top KRH seed. In the Team Slalom competition the KRH A team managed 3rd place behind the very strong LD and 1AAC sides, aided by a stunning 6th place from LCpl Forbes, a man normally second only to Lt “fastest / fattest man in the KRH” Bush in his distaste for Slalom. The B team produced the first of a number of strong performances, Tprs Neary, Park and Smith ensuring a close second place behind a LD B team that included two top twenty skiers. Moving to the Giant Slalom the A team once again achieved a solid third place and the B team a second, with the novices performing exceptionally well, particularly Tpr Smith with a 40th place. However, with (in the words of Maj Hay) the “girly, technical stuff” over, we moved to everyone’s real reason for skiing – the speed events. Maj Hay had decreed that, since he did not judge the course stiff enough, a jump be built, to better prepare those who would be going on to Divisional and Army Championships for the rigours ahead. So, for those who had only started skiing 5 weeks previously, and even for those who had started skiing quite a long time previously; Nemesis reared its head in the shape of a worryingly large mound of snow covered in luminous yellow paint. All KRH skiers showed superb determination over a testing Downhill course: Tpr Smith got the quickest B team time despite taking a fall off the jump in the training run the previous day; Tpr John Lawrence steeled himself to perform well above his seeding, after waiting in the start gate for 20 minutes while the previous racer was airlifted to hospital; and Lt Bush succeeded in maintaining his “fastest man in the KRH” posture by finishing 10th.

Mention should be made though of LCpl Forbes who was, due equally to innate skiing ability and innate unconcern for his own safety, the KRH’s Great White Hope for the downhill. Ravaged by illness he still managed to finish 19th though barely able to stand on skis, and then proceeded to spend 3 days in bed recovering from the effort! Partly for this, LCpl Forbes was awarded the very well deserved prize of “Spirit of Verbier” at the Ex WHITE KNIGHT final prizegiving.

With the Super G confirming the B team’s strong second place behind the LD, and the A team’s third place overall, the A team of Lts Clarke, Welford, Bush and LCpl Forbes made the journey to Serre Chevalier to compete in the UK Land Command Ski Championships, Ex SPARTAN HIKE, and hopefully qualify for the Army’s. With Lt Bush and LCpl Forbes having respectively passed on the mantle of sick-boy, it was now Lt Welford’s turn to ski manfully on while looking thoroughly sorry for himself. Whether his illness can be used as an excuse for getting lost on a downhill course that he had skied four times and inspected three times before is, however, open to debate. Faced with a positive array of REME and Artillery teams muttering about snow temperatures while waxing their skis manically, the KRH still performed extraordinarily well. The team managed a 2nd place in the UK Land Command Team GS, to whoops of delight from the ex-Verbier contingent, and a 4th place in the Super G and Downhill. They were also the Divisional Champions in these three disciplines. Through seeding point black magic the KRH were denied the title of Divisional Champions, but came second to Oxford University OTC, and thanks to the equally admirable efforts of the Nordic Team the KRH were declared Combined Divisional Champions and the overall UK Land Command Champion Skiing Regiment.

The quaint alpine village of Chantemerle to which we moved for the Army Championships was to prove a less happier hunting ground than the stark Stalinist monstrosity of Villeneuve, but with Tattersall shirts under zoot suits and a refusal to be as intimidated by the Luc Alphand Downhill as we probably should have been, we set to adding tone to what would otherwise have been a vulgar brawl. LCpl Forbes, finally free of the illness and injury that had plagued him during Ex WHITE KNIGHT and SPARTAN HIKE, skied better and better throughout the Army Championships, achieving a 20th place in the last event, the Super G, and a 29th place in the Combination; Lt Clarke, continuing the consistent form he had shown all season, finished as the KRH top seed in 46th. Lts Welford and Bush did less well, the “slalom specialist” crashing out spectacularly in both slaloms, and the “speed specialist” crashing out even more spectacularly in the Super G and Downhill. No fall was quite as spectacular though as Lt Clarke’s, who managed, having not fallen in a race all season, to fall in the last Super G, break a ski, wrench his leg and take out a gate. A smashing end to a smashing season. Roll on 2011/12.
On the 27th November, 11 members of the King’s Royal Hussars embarked on Exercise CRIMSON HIKE, which was described as a Nordic Skiing trip. In reality it was a 5,400 mile road trip around Western Europe, encompassing ten countries, countless service stations and many many hours of skiing the wrong way up various mountains.

As the convoy departed for its first destination, Norway, we were falsely inspired by Sgt Bell’s navigational advice that, ‘you can definitely drive all the way from Calais to Norway, without needing any ferries’ – despite there being some rather obvious stretches of blue on our map. All doubts were justified as our navigator, the ever popular Tom-Tom, dumped us at the first ferry terminal it could find in Denmark. Despite this, we soon(ish) arrived at Skeikampen, a cluster of apartments in the shadow of one alpine slope, with many possibilities for uphill skiing.

After some much needed sleep, the Nordic experience began. Seasoned alpine skiers, and complete novices alike soon found themselves aching in places no-one knew it was possible to ache, after hours of what can only be described as ice-skating on drugs.

Praise must go to 2Lt Wilson, for his culinary expertise in producing some of the best deep fried burgers the Officers had ever tasted, and to Sgt Bell, for cooking something incredibly spicy every night. By the end of our three weeks, the majority of the team had grasped the concept of skiing uphill, if not the actual technique, clearly demonstrated by Tpr Brown spending the majority of his time lying in the snow, and 2Lt Matthews’ surprising inability to ski downhill!

Arriving in Tidworth on New Year’s Day was a much-reduced team of 6, selected to continue on to the competition phase of the exercise. Our stay in Hochfilzen as guests of the Austrian Army was an experience, billeted in a 22 man room with only a wood stove to serve as a boiler. The only thing left to boost our morale was the hope that Austrian military chefs were worthy of Michelin stars. Alas Austrian conscripts appear to live off a somewhat Dickensian diet of gruel and bread. And so did we for the next 5 days.

We therefore supplemented or meager rations with numerous trips to the local pizzeria, much to the delight of the manager, who insisted on sharing his schnapps with us after every meal. The racing culminated in the Military Patrol race, essentially a long slog across country carrying weight as part of a four-man team. This is fine, unless you are the slowest member, as 2Lt Lambert found out when he spent two long hours chasing the KRH PTIs up and down the valley.

Overall the team did exceptionally well, not only finishing second in our division, but winning both the Combined Divisional Championships and the overall title with the Alpine Team. After this success the Team qualified to compete in the Army and British National Championships, first entailing another long drive back to Germany.

Arriving at the stadium in Germany was an experience; the team had never seen so many hills, or such steep inclines on what is deservedly the second hardest course in the world. This clearly was going to be tough! The competition here stepped up a notch, with many members of the National Team competing. Throughout the two weeks, the team took part in many races, up to 20km in length and always with seemingly more uphill than downhill sections!

Tpr Vernon again excelled adding two medals to his growing collection, and gaining a place in the National Development Camp. The racing again culminated in the Military Patrol Race, this time over some 34km, two shoots on the range and a stretcher race. Coming across the finish line for the final time, the relief was clearly etched on the faces of the team. Still only the 12 hour journey back to the UK now…

ML
Although the season was marred by the absence of the Regiment’s two key players, Capts Phil Kaye and Quentin Hicks, both Army team players serving separately in Afghanistan, the Regiment was still able to enjoy some pleasing results.

Maintained and administered by the unerring skills of Cpl ‘Percy’ Pearson, the stables were deliberately whittled down this season with the retirement of Pepo and the sale of Candil, leaving five playing ponies. Having brought the ponies in, well fed, rested and with healthy-looking winter coats, the Regt was assisted by Capt Giles Fearn RWxY who, while working at the Garrison, was able to help bring the ponies back to full fitness.

The Inter-Regimental draw gave us the opportunity of making amends for last year’s defeat to the Household Cavalry Regiment at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, as once again we were to meet the HCR on the groomed pitch in front of New College. This year we were grateful to be able to call upon the skill and experience of the Colonel of the Regiment, David Woodd (1 goal), who was ably assisted by Lt Col Nick Hunter (2 goal) and augmented by Maj Charlie Valdes-Scott (-1), A Sqn Ldr. The Regiment was able to welcome 2Lt Paul Cowell (-2), a handy but not terribly aerodynamic horseman, fresh from his Tp Ldrs’ Course.

Lt Col Hunter got off to a tremendous start, despite his 1am finish in the office the night before, with a penalty placed firmly between the opposition’s posts, signifying that we were up for a fight. However, by the end of the first chukka it was evident that the game was deteriorating into quite a scrap, with few flowing moves and little running play.

Despite every noble effort to break free from the opposition to make the play and some cracking hits up field from Cols David and Nick, we were rarely able to complete the play due to strong defence, with a couple of strikes just wide of the mark. The play was evenly spread in both teams’ halves, though the HCR proved strong horsemen. Harry Wales was able to break clear on occasion with some valiant play, managing to score from a throw in at the half way line, which took the HCR to an irretrievable lead. It was a hard-fought and exhausting game which was lost more through penalties and loose play, than an overwhelming opposition.

Thanks, on behalf of the Regiment, to Cols David and Nick for generously giving up their time and for playing their own ponies, in a game that would not have been viable without their dedication and commitment.

The Captains’ and Subalterns’ Competition is still well supported with 16 teams coming together from Regiments across the Army. The competition is divided into 4 Divisions based on handicap, with the best teams competing in Div 1. This year the KRH were in Div 3 where we were pitted against 2x teams from the HCMR, the QRH and the Gunners. We were able to call upon Capt Ed Hodges (-2) to join 2Lt Paul Cowell (-2) and Maj V-S (-1), but were in need of a fourth member. Up to the plate stood Capt Giles Fearn who, after not having played for ten years, was given a handicap of (0 goals). He proved every bit...
worthy of this handicap, and more, as he immediately took control
of proceedings and gunned the ball up field. Despite courageous
and sometimes desperate efforts from both the QRH and HCMR
(‘Red Team’) to win the 2 chukka matchettes, (which counted
towards the American tournament), they were narrowly but fairly
beaten. Day two brought us down from Perham Down to compete
on the Tidworth Tattoo ground where we were pitted against the
HCMR (‘Blue Team’), winners from the day before. Although guilty
of some Div 3 elementary mistakes, costing us dearly, it was as the
whistle went for the penultimate time with 10 seconds left on the
clock that we were given a 30 yard penalty while being ‘½ a goal
down. Everything, the outcome of all three games, rested on the
ability to hit a ball 30 yards in a straight line through an open goal.
The responsibility was handed to 2Lt Paul Cowell, who, while
being threatened with Orderly Officer until Christmas and beyond
if he missed, without hesitation, smacked the ball convincingly
and firmly between the posts, winning the tournament.

Our thanks to Cpl Pearson for his total dedication and tremen-
dous efforts to keep all the ponies fit and sound. He went on to
play gallantly and score penalties during the Grooms’ Tournament
run by Tidworth Polo Club. Our thanks also to Brigadier (Retired)
John Wright for all his support to the Regiment and Tri-Service
polo over the years, as we learn that he retires at the end of the
2010 season.

Brocklehurst Trophy

The noble art of the Pugilist has gone from strength to strength
within the Regiment over the last year. Early on in his tenure,
the Commanding Officer identified boxing as one of the key sports
that the Regiment would concentrate due to it’s adherence to some
key aspects of combat; skill, focused and controlled aggression and
discipline.

The year began with the registration of a further 24 boxers from
the Regiment with the Army Boxing Association, bringing the
total boxers on strength to around the sixty mark. Additionally,
the number of trained boxing coaches within the Regiment was
increased considerably, so that each Squadron had at least one
trained coach and in many cases two. This would ensure that as
the Brocklehurst Trophy approached, each Squadron could con-
centrate on their own structured training programme without any
outside interference, nor any prying eyes from the opposition. The
serious training started for the competition in mid-September
with Squadron teams battling to fit in the comprehensive train-
ing around the myriad other activities facing the Regiment on a
day to day basis.
SSgt Sweatman our resident “Meathead” from the recently ennobled “Royal” Army Physical Training Corps was instrumental in ensuring that the Gymnasium was turned from its usual “place of pain” into our own Madison Square Garden, with the whole of the Gym decked out in a very appropriate crimson and primrose and the ring naturally taking centre stage.

28 October saw the culmination of all this training and the nerves were racked up as the Brocklehurst Trophy Competition was upon us. After the usual injuries and medical failures we managed to provide 12 bouts of boxing for the entertainment of the Regiment. Before the boxing commenced and, once the entire Regiment was assembled, there was a small surprise for HQ Squadron Leader, Major Ian Simpson who was called into the ring to receive the Regimental Medal. This was presented to him by the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel David Woodd who, along with 12 Mechanised Brigade Commander, Brigadier Justin Maciejewski, were our principle guests for the evening. Fortunately Ian was able to leave the ring under his own steam for the first time ever, and not feet first as he always did in his boxing days.

Finally the lights went off and the atmosphere was raised to fever pitch as AC/DC’s Thunderstruck boomed around the pitch black arena. Gradually dry ice was pumped in and laser lights cut through it raising the temperature even higher. Then silence, as a solitary light beamed onto the MC, RSM Bland who, standing in the ring, with one word sent the gym into a frenzy of cheering: BOXERS!

The lights cut to the first boxer Tpr Rider (B Squadron) who was stood high on a gantry. With his choice of music playing his image was projected onto the walls with the weight that he was fighting at and the squadron he represented. He was led into the ring (as were all the boxers) by one of the “Pit Bunnies” who’s attire left little to the imagination!

Tpr Rider was matched against LCpl Simler (C Squadron) who went on to win the bout in a Light Welterweight competition. The following boxing bouts took place over the rest of the evening with the eventual winner in bold:

Bout 2 – Tpr Forbes (C) v Tpr Winstanley (D) Light Welterweight
Bout 3 – Tpr Padee (A) v LCpl Harvey (A) Welterweight
Bout 4 – Tpr Stancombe (A) v Tpr Cree (B) Welterweight
Bout 5 – Tpr Washbrook (C) v Tpr Bradshaw (C) Middleweight
Bout 6 – Tpr Stoddart (A) v Tpr Queen (D) Welterweight
Bout 7 – Tpr Edgell (HQ) v Cfn Primhak (C) Super Heavyweight
Bout 8 – Tpr Price (C) v Tpr Unsworth (A) Cruiserweight
Bout 9 – Tpr Critchley (HQ) v Tpr Critchley (HQ) Cruiserweight
Bout 10 – Tpr Davies (B) v Tpr Stanford (D) Cruiserweight
Bout 11 – Tpr Davies (B) v Tpr Stanford (D) Cruiserweight
Bout 12 – Tpr Molloy (A) v Tpr Calvert (D) Super Heavyweight

With the Bouts completed all the boxers and corner men marched back in to the ring to the Regimental quick march and thunderous
applause of the Regiment. The Brigadier awarded trophies to winners and runners up alike and then the Brocklehurst Trophy to the winning Squadron who this year was A Squadron. Finally the Brigade Commander congratulated the boxers, all of whom had shown incredible courage to fight as hard and as well as they had. The consensus all round was that the competition had been a complete success.

Following the boxing, the Junior Ranks moved to the Aliwal Arms where there was a curry buffet laid on and perhaps the odd drink or two. Likewise the SNCOs and Officers (by kind invitation of the RSM) went to the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess where we too partook in the odd snifter and welcomed the boxers in for a well deserved drink.

Thanks for a successful evening must go to all the Squadron coaches who performed miracles around the busy Squadron programmes in order to ensure that the boxers were fit and skilled enough to partake in the competition; Sgt Sweatman for his sterling work in liaising with the Army Boxing Association and the preparation of the Gym for the competition (although his impending SJAR may have been a motivation); Our Medical Officer, Major Anna Hicks for agreeing to be the ringside Doctor despite returning from Afghanistan only a few days previously and to RSM Bland who was the Master of Ceremonies on what was his last day in the Army. Most importantly though, the Regiment must thank all the boxers who took part in the competition. Through their hard work and courage they built upon what is already a strong boxing core within the Regiment and demonstrated the importance and popularity of the Brocklehurst Trophy.

Football

The team returned from Christmas leave ready to push on in our quest to regain the Cavalry Cup. Unfortunately the winter snow restricted the league matches we were intent on using to prepare for cup games. So as the thaw set in, we again made the long journey to Catterick for a repeat 1st round match against RDG. Having booked into a nice hotel overnight, we arrived for the match well prepared and confident. On paper we had the beating of the RDG, but it’s a funny old game and although we dominated possession for the first 45 minutes we couldn’t get the goal we needed to settle the nerves. This resulted in a 1 – 0 score line at half time. After the break we seemed to find our flow and scored twice in 10 minutes and all was well, until RDG scored, levelling the score, resulting in extra time. This was when our superior fitness and youth paid off and after a hard fought match we started the trip down the M1 as 5 – 2 victors. Next came the QRL, a home fixture in front of the Regiment and again we felt confident that we could win. We started well but failed to convert early chances. QRL’s confidence grew as a result and scored from one of their few chances. The only goal of the game saw a dejected dressing room again rueing missed opportunities. With only the league to focus on we continued to play regular football ending the season third in the premier league.

After the summer break and a poor World Cup the interest in football gained a new high. At the initial football meeting, Capt Ford
had 45 soldiers all keen to play. This enabled us to enter 2 teams in the league for the first time in 3 years. The season started well, training on Monday evenings was well supported and the fixtures were coming thick and fast. The B Team, which is very much focused on getting soldiers playing for fun whilst developing new talent, have played 6 games. Although yet to win it should be noted that all 6 matches have been against other Regiment’s First XIs. On each occasion they have worn the shirt with pride and have kept score lines respectable and the style of play improving. I’m sure their first win is just around the corner.

The First XI have faired better. Having played 6 games to date, we have only been beaten twice. Both losses were in cup games where we again played good football but failed to find the net at key times. At the end of the year, we are 3rd in the league with games in hand and with plenty of time until the end of the season, we should do well. We are entered into 2011’s Cavalry Cup and, BATUS aside, hope to progress further than last year. The fist team continue to make up the majority of the RAC Squad and regularly send 9 players to represent at Corps level. We have the Corps captain in Tpr Hume with the Corps team now being managed by SSgt Blacklock and SSgt Dix. It all bodes well for the future.

DVGF

Rugby

2010 saw the rejuvenation of The King’s Royal Hussars Rugby Football Club, The Hawks, from a dormant club laden with good intentions, to a fully functioning team with fresh direction and a rapidly filling fixture list. While the demands of Regimental Duty consistently play havoc with manpower, the club has generally managed two practices a week and has eight fixtures booked for the season. This has provided the needed focus for the club with player numbers swelling to about 30 regularly. The standard however, varies across the board with 3 regular Royal Armoured Corps players as well as a number of Union virgins.

On the pitch, development has been the main priority. Although the three games before Christmas were all defeats, the enthusiasm, skill and ability of the team continued to improve throughout. The most notable were the performances of Tpr Wilton, and his one very impressive run per game, Lt Clarke’s ferocious tackling, and Lt Gillespie’s two tries against 2 LSR. Tpr Campbell has also proved a stalwart in the front row, and has very much deserved his regular place in the Corps Side.

During the last match of 2010, LCpl Simler had the honour of captaining the team under the lights on the new Aliwal pitch. The game started well, and after 20 minutes the score was 10-10. However the match had to end prematurely, as rugby once again proved its dislike for gingers, with LCpl Goldsmith and Tpr Neary colliding heads and the ambulance having to be called. As this goes to print, the Regiment are preparing for their first ever quarterfinal appearance in the Shield of the Community Cup Competition. Both London District Troops and 1 Royal Anglian were unable to field a side, and it is just the Troops Hereford and their “special” team which stand between us and a place in the last 4. Much of this progress must be put down to an hard work of the management and coaching staff including Mr Robinson, Capt Witham and Capt Hood, who’s time, backing and effort have been instrumental in the club’s resurgence.

Outside of the regimental focus, Cpl Farling once again enjoyed a good season with the Corps side and has been instrumental in the development of both Tpr Campbell and Tpr Sheridan who now regularly represent the Regiment at the Corps level. Here the results have been mixed with a victory against the Medical Corps and a hard fort draw against the Army Air Corps. At Squadron level, the cancellation of the Old Comrades Cup due to icy pitches was a huge disappointment to all involved.

While The Hawks RFC hope to continue to develop throughout 2011 before the pace picks up in 2012. The aspiration of a tour to the United States in late 2012 is still firmly in the sights. With interest, enthusiasm and enjoyment levels at an unprecedented high, Hawks RFC is truly on the up.

JRH
Cricket

It seems hard when Britain is sitting under several feet of snow to contemplate that summer ever existed, however it did and true to recent form, the Regiment produced a cricket team. Due to commitments in the Falklands a significant number of the cricketers were away for the season’s early matches when the KRH played the initial rounds of the two competitions in which it was entered; the 4th Division Cricket Competition and the Army Major Units Cup.

The draw for the 4th Division competition saw the KRH in a pool with 11 Signals Regiment and 4th Battalion, The Rifles. Although we lost to the Rifles, the Regimental Team came very close to causing an upset with a narrow defeat to a very strong 11 Signals Regiment team; where, despite some heroic bowling defending a low total, the Regiment lost by two wickets and were knocked out of the competition. In the Army Major Units Cup, the Regiment were drawn against 3rd (UK) Division Signals Regiment who had clearly been recruiting over the winter for they were much improved since the 2009 season; unfortunately the Regiment once again found itself on the end of another defeat.

Things were not all solemn though; there were a number of ‘friendly’ games played over the course of the summer. One of these was the annual meeting engagement with the KRH and 2 RTR; following on from a victory in 2009 the KRH, won convincingly by nine wickets. Later in the summer the intersquadron cricket was played as part of the D’Arcy Hall Cup. After a frantic day of cricket, C Squadron ran out convincing winners completing a ‘white wash’ over the other Squadrons.

In addition to the cricket played over the summer, the team turned out to support a Help for Heroes charity match between Chalke Valley Cricket Club and the Bunbury CC, captained by David English. The day was an immense success and the Regiment received a large amount of praise for the soldiers’ huge efforts in making the day such a resounding success.

The Regiment also played a significant part in supporting a successful season for the Royal Armoured Corps. Capt Perrott, Lts Welford and Bush, Sgt Budd, Cpl Duxbury, LCpl Carter and Tprs Slocombe and Stafford all performed well in a season that saw the RAC qualify from the group stages of the EDF Cup, beating the Royal Artillery in the process.

Despite a turbulent season it is credit to the cricket players within the Regiment that the KRH still manages to support a competitive team; thanks go to all those involved in the 2010 season and it is hoped that they will make a reappearance in 2011 – once that dratted snow has cleared.

THMP

Gliding

2010 has proved to have been another successful year for Gliding, as members of the Regiment have been able to enjoy the facilities at nearby Wyvern Gliding Club at Upavon Airfield on a regular basis, with many novices signing up to ‘give it a go’. This influx of new talent, as well as the established ‘old and bold’ has enabled the Regiment, for the first time ever, to field its own cross-country glider racing team. With a new team in the pipeline, the first challenge facing its management was to find a suitable team name, and following a small competition, ‘KRH GRIT’ was chosen: the King’s Royal Hussars Glider Racing Independent Team.

With a team name and a team now established, the second major challenge was a rather pressing one – finding the means and ways of procuring a suitable glider to take the team to victory. After
some frantic calling around and the pulling-in of a few favours, the team captain, Sgt Yeo, managed to acquire sponsorship from Tim Dews of ‘Airborne Composites’, who very kindly agreed to the loan of a glider. No sooner than it had arrived in Tidworth, it was awash with a myriad of KRH emblems, Hawks and ‘KRH GRIT’ stickers. The team was now ready for action.

The first major competition on the team’s calendar was the Inter-Services Cross Country Gliding Championships, held at Keevil, near Devizes. With Sgt Yeo at the controls, the team achieved an impressive finish somewhere in the middle of the pack. An admirable first competition and a solid building block from which to advance from throughout the season. Most importantly however, was the opportunity to publicise the fact the KRH now had its own team, and to ruffle the feathers of the opposition who were quite rightly wary at the new competition.

With a busy summer competition schedule there are too many to document, however perhaps the most notable was a 220km course around Keevil, Thame, Bicester Chievely and back to Keevil. Flown by Sgt Yeo, it was the most testing of the season due to the unfavourable weather conditions and unfortunately, with the finish line in sight, Sgt Yeo had to ditch his glider in a field and await his recovery crew – although was suitably entertained by a farmer who came across him and took pity on the downed-Hawk.

As the year progressed, the team were able to move away from purely racing and open the chance to glide to the remainder of the Regiment, offering taster sessions to both serving soldiers, their families and friends, on Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays in Upavon. The exhilarating experience of being winched up to over 1,000 feet in a two-seat glider and then being free to soar up like a Hawk to the clouds in ‘thermals’ over the glorious Wiltshire countryside was a unique and memorable experience. June saw the club host an open day, and we were able to get over a dozen members of the Regiment airborne throughout the afternoon, before an enjoyable BBQ and evening activities.

KRH GRIT has had a promising first year. Despite no major victories during the competition series, the team has established itself so that next season, BATUS dependant, the team will be able to return to the circuit to once again compete. Gliding is a money and time dependant sport and the team would not have been able to operate had it not been for the generosity of The Regimental Sports Fund, The Corporals’ Mess and C Squadron who have all contributed towards the costs of the season’s gliding. Additionally, a crack ground team is essential, and in particular the team is grateful to Cpl Haynes, LCpl Aitken, Minna, Petie and Josh, all of whom have been invaluable on ground-crew duties. Hopefully the team will soar skywards throughout 2011.

PY

Parachuting

Whilst there is currently only a small community of Skydivers at RD, the future is bright for this growing sport. Major Jeremy Denning finished his post of OC of the Joint Services Parachute Centre Netheravon in the summer of 2010, but not before getting more than ten KRH Soldiers trained and jumping in the Joint Services Adventure Training Static line progression course. Major Hicks, the RMO has arrived on posting, bringing with her a wealth of experience as Captain of the Army 4-Way Formation Skydive team, and an accelerated freefall instructor.

Lt Bird underwent Accelerated Freefall ground-school training but was unfortunately prevented from jumping by the weather. Lt Scott has been a keen jumper this year – being the ideal build for skydiving with VERY long limbs he has great potential for becoming a very talented parachutist, if only he could be torn away from his various other adventure sports! The planned KRH Adventure Training Skydiving Expedition to California had to be postponed due to the RMO being deployed at short notice to Afghanistan, but it is now planned to happen after the Regiment returns from Afghanistan in the autumn of 2012.

AJH
Cross Country

Despite the strong demand for Regimental athletes to compete in team sports, Cross Country has had a strong representation this season. The mainstay of competitions has been in the 4 Div League, but representation has also ventured into the Tidworth Steeplechase Competition and the Tidworth 10k, a weekend fun run.

Tpr Vernon, D Squadron has annihilated the field with two first places and a second in three of the 4 Div League races that he has competed in. He has quickly galvanised a formidable reputation amongst the military running circles and has already been selected for the Army team – one to watch for the future.

There has been plenty of fresh talent stretching their legs on the course. In particular Cfn Bird has improved dramatically since last season. As the resident team PTI, he crafted some testing pre-season training and led by example with some places in the top 50 (in a field of over 300). Equally, Tpr Lemott, in his debut season has proved than the length of your legs does make a difference. His lanky frame has frequently made it into the top 70, with spectators always amazed at the irrepressible grin spread across his face as he crosses the finish line.

Half-way through the season and KRH currently sit mid-field in the 4 Div League with 3 races remaining. Although we don’t expect to make a surge to the lead with the remaining time, the results prove that some real individual talent lies in the Regiment.

Indoor Rowing

2010 witnessed a resurgence of many sporting activities on the KRH calendar, however a new addition in the summer programme was indoor-rowing. Despite a lack of water features in the Tidworth area preventing a more common version of the sport, rowing, of the indoor kind, has seen a rise in popular interest throughout the year. Driven by QMSI Sweatman, who was coincidentally the Army Indoor Rowing Club Secretary, the Commanding Officer agreed to host the culmination of the Army indoor rowing calendar, the Army Indoor Rowing Championships.

As the competition was to be held on home turf, with a home crowd in support, the competition became a main-effort for the Squadrons. To aid our chances of coming away with some silverware, the Regiment entered six teams with an additional four entries into the individual competition.

Sgt Budd proved his passion for rowing in the individual event, by a remarkable performance against Olympian, Capt Bourne-Taylor, from the HCR. At the finish line there was merely three seconds in it, with Sgt Budd coming a very close second. Capt Scott came in 13 seconds behind the winner, securing a solid 3rd place. An even more astonishing feat as Capt B-T is a four times Boat Race victor and has an Olympic Silver medal to his name. However, in his defence, he has been away from rowing for some time, having recently returned from Op HERRICK with a Conspicuous Gallantry Cross to his name.

Each Squadron entered a team into the Sub-Unit competition, a 4000m event split between four rowers. Capt Rutter was eager to ensure that the veteran RHQ Dream Team (CO, 2IC, Adjt and CMO) put in a good performance, and following his rigorous daily training schedule it was clear that the effort paid off, defeating the majority of the Squadron entries. Luckily, the KRH A-Team of Capt Hodges, Capt Scott, Sgt Budd and QMSI Sweatman were on hand to show all how it is done, and swept to a convincing overall victory in the team competition. Worthy of a mention, are the entries from DMRC Headley Court who were clearly an inspiration to us all.
With high seeds in the individual events, and the winners of the team category all coming from the KRH, it was with no surprise that the spread-bet, six team entry into the competition ensured the victory was ours, being crowned 2010 Army Indoor Rowing Champions.

Ex WYKE HAWK – Regimental Adventure Training – Jun 2010

A fter the success of the Regimental Adventurous Training Camp in Cornwall in 2009, it once again fell to A Squadron to organise two weeks Adv Trg in June for the Regiment. Due to various camps being closed down recently in the South West of England, it was by chance that OC A Squadron stumbled across a little known, yet glorious and very suitable Chickerell Camp in Wyke Regis, near Weymouth, which duly became the hub of the exercise. The Regiment sent down a Squadron at a time for three days to take part an action packed programme of dinghy sailing, hill-walking, rock climbing, mountain biking and canoeing. The watersports took place at Sutton Bingham Reservoir, a short drive from Chickerell Camp, which handily provided all the facilities needed to run the activities. Perhaps the most popular was the sailing, as aided by the weather which could be summed up as 'scorchio' and...
availability of stickies from the SQMS tent, made a very civilised
day of it. Most importantly however, was the chance for all to find
their sea legs and take to the water, proving that sailing is not a
sport reserved exclusively for officers, despite the fact that it was
run by Lt Bird, with Capt Tyson and 2Lt Lambert in support…!
The hill walking proved a welcome bit of exercise after eating too
many of SQMS ‘Taff’ Allen’s burgers. The canoeing with SSGt
‘Tank’ Shearman offering an early morning wake-up call as one
once again unwittingly rolled over. The rock climbing under the
experienced auspice of Sgt ‘Cliff-hanger’ Hepworth, introduced
many to a new challenge, offering them the opportunity to con-
quer fears and put their life quite literally in someone else’s
hands for the 200m abseil.
A welcome break from the tank park, all the Squadrons enjoyed
the whole experience, particularly given the weather and the
enjoyable ‘run ashore’ in Weymouth. Thanks to all the instructors
for their dedication and skill, allowing for an incident free and safe
camp which was of enormous benefit to the Regiment.

RWB
The year 2010 has seen the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), and it has made the kind of efficiency savings, my £30m pa, that I had been working on pale into insignificance. I did reflect, though, that the reductions planned are not of the same proportion as the Options for Change in 1990 where we reduced the regular element of the army from 150,000 down to nearly 100,000. Many things appeared unchanged from 20 years earlier: the speed with which it was done; the secrecy and, therefore, lack of consultation; and that decision making was based on ‘rough order of magnitude costs’, a delightful term that really means advanced guesswork. The net result is that it is becoming apparent, as is frequently reported in the press, that there is a bit of a shortfall. How much is, of course, open to some speculation, although I have a pretty good idea. My leader, the LF Plans Director, a Gunner, keeps saying to me ‘I bet you are glad you are leaving the Army this year’.

Two ex-KRH, Col Felix Gedney and Lt Col Richard Slack, the latter re-badged to 9/12L on 1 Jan 2011, sit very near me and have been among those at the forefront of the rather tricky challenge of trying to sort out the force structure. I see Maj Mark Collins at regular intervals, as I wander into the training branch to make investigations into the cost of elements of individual training. Individual training costs the Army some £0.5bn per annum, and it costs Defence well over £1bn (since many of the costs are not immediately visible). Brigadier Miles Wade is still here, but is rarely in the Headquarters. I get the impression that he spends a lot of time pottering around with journalists, or rushing off on visits with the CinC, but his staff did assure me that he works very hard. The other Wade, WO1 Gary variety, is similarly elusive, out on visits much of the time.

The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars 91
Having left the leafy glen that was the Army Training Regiment (Winchester) as Commanding Officer just over a year ago, I arrived as Chief of Staff in the maelstrom that is the Collective Training Group (CTG) in the Land Warfare Centre (LWC). I thought I had worked hard as Commanding Officer but nothing really prepared me for the CTG where, initially at least, I was working for Brigadier Tim Allen. CTG is responsible for all the collective training that regiments and battlegroups go through on their way to Afghanistan and comprises a military and civilian staff of over 2500 spread across the UK, Germany, Canada, Kenya, Belize and Afghanistan and which prepares up to 19000 soldiers every year for deployment.

The force preparation cycle, called Campaign FORM (the Formation Operational Readiness Mechanism) is a 24 month process during which there is a six month deployment on operations. The remaining 18 months are filled by Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT) and Mission Specific Training (MST) which is a continuous process of individual specialist courses and battlegroup exercises. Armoured regiments still do their early HFT in BATUS with the light role units doing a similar exercise either in Kenya (at BATUK) or on Salisbury Plain. This period is designed to train people on their core equipment and gives regiments like ours what seems like a rapidly-reducing opportunity to have a decent run-out in armoured vehicles. Units then move into the MST phase which, as the name suggests, is designed to prepare them for the specific operation: at the moment, Afghanistan. They should now have the equipment and vehicles they would expect to see in theatre and they enter an intense period of exercises at CAST and CATT, at OPTAG and on Salisbury Plain where they carry out the culmination of their training before deployment. It is worth saying that the training is now considerably more complex than it was when I last deployed with the Regiment in 2005 as the main ‘battling’ takes place at company/squadron and below. In fact we now spend a lot of time focusing on the section / multiple level as this is where the majority of the action is out in Afghanistan.

In October, I realised that despite the ‘carrot’ of further promotion, I was finding it difficult to remain committed. I have always hated passengers, people who do not give their all to the Army, but are happy to draw the pay, so I decided that I should go. The decision was not motivated by the promise of a well-paid job, outside the Armed Forces, I had no such offer. But it would be untrue if I said that my decision was not heavily influenced by a strong feeling that nothing could possibly top command of The King’s Royal Hussars.

I leave positive that it is the right decision for Tina and I, but also incredibly grateful for the privilege of commanding the finest Regiment in the British Army; of my twenty two years, it was undoubtedly the best two and a half. Tina and I plan to settle locally to Tidworth, and look forward to catching up with you all, in the future.
Hawks in BATUS
Maj TM Holloway

By the time the Journal hits the streets for general consumption, the Regiment will be well into its deployment to BATUS meaning no great mileage in listing lessons learnt here during 2010. The change in nomenclature after 38 years from Exercise Medicine Man to Exercise Prairie Thunder (Ex PT) is intended to underline the change in the BATUS training construct. The key message is that whilst some aspects of the training in BATUS have changed there is plenty that endures and will be familiar to old hands. The training remains operationally relevant though is not focused on Afghanistan and under the same budgetary constraints that are faced by all. We have traded the reserve demolitions and armoured counter moves of the Cold War, for Dismounted Close Contact for all, a greater focus on a populated and urban battlespace and integration with air and aviation to name a few.

It has been another busy year here with 5 Hybrid BGs from 1 (UK) Armd Div coming through during the training season. The focus for BATUS has shifted from the delivery of CT4 to CT3 training. Consequently the role of the safety staff has morphed from Observer / Controller to Observer / Mentor. Crucial to the quality of the delivery of live fire safety and the mentoring is continuity of the safety staff. In 2010, the Regiment provided five NCOs to fulfill the task, in addition to the four Hawks on the Permanent Staff, with numbers bolstered by Maj Willis from CAST(S) for PT5. Whilst not a serving KRH SNCO, SSgt Woods AAC (Late 14/20H) has been flying Gazelle at BATUS for much of the last 2 years.

UORs in Joint Capability
Maj RJ Cullinan

It seems much longer than a year ago that I typed my last journal article; I guess that is reflective of life in the MOD! There has been lots of uncertainty, frustration, rumours, counter rumours and many changes, but life continues to be both fun and challenging in Joint Capability. Thankfully, the world of Urgent Operational Requirements (UORs) has been largely unaffected by the wider MOD shenanigans, in that UORs are still very much required and funded by the Treasury and therefore not subjected to the same pressures and cuts as the Equipment Programme. However, the level of scrutiny imposed has increased exponentially with every little detail requiring intense justification, where several years ago a business case would have been waved through on a nod and wink. This has been fascinating to witness first hand and it is mind boggling to reflect that in my short time the thick end of £3 billion has been approved on capabilities for Afghanistan, the majority of which the K RH will benefit from, directly or indirectly, on Op HERRICK 16. Mercifully, there have been no requests for tank-sized mothballs, but I fear they are coming very soon…

The year has seen a few excitements away from my desk with a fantastic trip to the Defence Vehicle Dynamics exhibition at the Millbrook Proving Ground, where I was very fortunate to be test-driven around the cross country driving circuit in a Bowler Wildcat. I knew it looked familiar, but it was only as I was being smashed around the various obstacles that I recalled the Top Gear episode in which Richard Hammond uttered the phrase “I am a driving God” as he was carried away by his experience in one, much to the amusement of Jeremy Clarkson et al (the youtube clip is well worth a look!). The vehicle is an awesome and almost indestructible Paris-Dakar rally car that literally laughs in the face of rough terrain, it was being demonstrated as a potential Special Forces Light Strike vehicle, with a price tag of a mere £50K – worth every penny by any measure!!

I was also lucky to visit to HMS Dauntless in Portsmouth, an impressively capable ship. I purposefully wore my Regimental tie and it was instantly recognised by the Captain and his Officers, which made the day even more rewarding; the parting shot from the Ward Room was a renewed interest to visit the Regiment in Tidworth and an enquiry into the state of Officers’ Mess drinking fitness. I assured them that we would be delighted to host them and that champagne was always available for honoured guests and, if necessary, tests of drinking prowess!!

At home in West Byfleet the girls are all well and have all been busy in various ways; Rosie studying to become a Bookkeeper; Daisy is 4 going on 14 and has mastered cycling and skiing which has been wonderful to watch; Jemima continues to be a delightful little hell raiser in the throes of the terrible twos and Molly has been maintaining her fitness along the canal in anticipation of Friday the 13th…

A proud Daddy with Daisy sporting her first Ski School badge in La Tania
Training the Old and the Bald – the Late Entry Officers’ Course

Major RM Jackson

The formation of the Late Entry Officers’ Course (LEOC) in 2003 was a response to the growing demands placed on the LE Officer and the increasingly wider employment opportunities available to them. The course is now mandatory for all LE Officers and must be completed within 18 months of Commissioning. It is also mandatory for promotion to Major and attendance at ICSC/L. All Officers in the British Army – no matter what their route to a Commission – now undergo training at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) ‘the spiritual home of the Officer Corps.’ LEOC run seven Regular Army (four week) and two TA (two week) iterations per year, and some 400 LE Officers attend the course annually.

The course mission is “To deliver the relevant education for LE Officers on Commissioning in order to provide the requisite knowledge to enable them to assume an initial Captain’s appointment” and is achieved through ten overarching Training Objectives. Some are an update on familiar subjects such as Information Technology, Military Law, and Health & Safety Legislation. Others such as Defence and International Affairs (DIA), Doctrine, and the Combat Estimate are unfamiliar ground in a formal education environment. In fact one of the main roles of the Directing Staff is to put the students at ease and to impress upon them that whilst they may have had a shorter formal education period than their Direct Entry (DE) counterparts they are in every other respect their equal.

External speakers, academic staff from the RMAS War Studies and DIA departments and the LEOC Directing Staff, provide the instruction in a mixture of central lectures, student-led seminars, TEWTs and visits. A core theme running throughout the course is that students should learn from each other, made easier by the All Arms environment, with the average amount of experience per course in excess of 1,000 years! Syndicate room discussions tend to provide an unrivalled spectator sport and the concept of debate as opposed to argument has had to be explained on more than one occasion!

Despite initial student trepidation, the DIA essay has produced a number of excellent submissions and the doctrinal case study presentations draw on examples from all aspects of military life. The diversity and richness of experiences in each of the syndicates is perhaps unrivalled on any other course currently delivered across the Army.

Outside of formal instruction, time is allocated for students to discover RMAS and reflect on the meaning of ‘Serve to Lead’ and the importance of Sandhurst to the Officer Corps. Individual Private Study afternoons are included and an evening with the Officer Cadets provides a forum where the LEs can pass on their experience, whilst the Officer Cadets are given the opportunity to enquire about their military life ahead of them.

The LEOC occupies the ground floor of Faraday Hall, with excellent facilities and syndicate rooms. State of the art IT equipment is standard and each student is issued with their own laptop. As a broadening course, the LEOC is not seeking to create a fully trained Staff Officer. Its focus is on self-development and in providing an awareness of key issues that embody the role of a modern Army Officer. Of course, we also have our very own Late Entry Officer here at the Academy too, in the shape of Major Les Lewis. SSgt Jagger is also at the Academy and has developed a worrying interest in pace-sticking since his arrival, even competing in the Army Championships!

In summary, the LE Officers now have their own ‘commissioning course’ to assist in the unique transition between SNCO or WO to become an Officer. Feedback continues to be positive, with most students believing the course hits the mark and the tempo is consistent with the course aim of achieving professional development.

Headquarters Luncheon District

Major AHL Michael

It has been a busy year at London District Headquarters but a fun and interesting one too. In January, Lucy (my wife) was keen to start riding again after the birth of our son Bertie and so we both booked into the Household Division stables at Hyde Park Barracks for a riding assessment. After overhearing that Lucy was “very talented”, while I was told by the Riding Master I had to work on my technique, I was relieved to realise that Lucy would thoroughly enjoy her social rides around Hyde Park.

At work, the early focus was on managing the occupation of Woolwich Station by Second Battalion The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment (2 PWRR). 16 Regiment Royal Artillery was the last regiment to be based at Woolwich Station but left in 2006 as the plan at the time was to sell it. However, the sale of Chelsea Barracks imposed a rethink and it was decided to retain the site for the Line Battalion on duty in London. 2 PWRR completed their move in August and, I believe, are very happy.

An ever increasing feature at Woolwich involves its use as the site for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic rifle, pistol, trap and skeet shooting events and the Paralympic archery competition. It is considered a fitting venue as the barracks was the home of the
Royal Artillery from the eighteenth century. The other London District venue for the Olympic Games will be on the parade ground in front of Horse Guards for the beach volleyball. Another fitting location as my replacement will be able to watch the whole event from his or her desk!

Contributing to the development programme of Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, was another major feature of my work last year. The barracks will be used by 1 Welsh Guards and 1 Coldstream Guards (rotating every two years). 1 Welsh Guards move in from March this year. With new single living accommodation for all soldiers and a wide range of other improvements and extensive refurbishment of the nearby married quarters the standard of the site, long regarded as the worst, will have improved beyond recognition by the end of the programme although distanced perceptions will be the last to change.

Another line of work involves helping with the project to build new facilities for The King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery, as a pre-cursor to their relocation from St John’s Wood to Woolwich Station at the end of this year. They will be built an eco-friendly complex at Napier Lines, the hot water and heating of which will run on fuel pellets created from horse manure and soiled bedding! At the end of last year, the Commanding Officer of The King’s Troop cut the turf to mark the start of work and, although the polished spade provided by the contractor snapped in two during the photo shoot, the project remains on track.

Of course there are other bits and pieces that have happened in this reporting period but when I’m recounting to Bertie’s children ‘the time we last won the Ashes in Australia’ I will also happily remember that I was working at London District Headquarters which is a very happy place and full of friends.

A Cherrypicker with the Gurkhas
Captain PRW Kaye

I was posted to the 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles (1RGR) as a result of UK forces withdrawing from Iraq in 2009, thereby denying KRH Recce Troop the opportunity to deploy with 12 Mechanised Brigade’s Operations Company. Fortunately 1RGR were on route to Afghanistan and seeking additional officers. I was initially seconded as OC ISTAR, where in short my job was to generate a clear battle picture for the Commanding Officer. This initially sounded quite fun, though I quickly discovered that I was predominantly stuck in an Ops room. Fortunately, lady luck was on my side, as I received a phone call from the CO over Christmas leave asking if I would like to be the Police Mentoring Team Commander. This sounded far more fun, and so I eagerly accepted. Thus, in April 2010 I found myself in Afghanistan with fourteen Gurkha soldiers and over a hundred Afghan National Police in the Nahr-e Saraj South (NES(S)) district. NES(S) is a block of land between Gereshk to the North East and Lashka Gar to the South West, and is flanked by the River Helmand and Nahr-e Bughra Canal.

I arrived with an extremely poor view of the ANP, having read various damning reports from previous British military commanders who had served in Helmand. However, within a matter of days my initial assessment was proven to be incorrect as the ANP became our (ISAF’s) key link to the Local Nationals (LN’s) and, with their local knowledge, an effective weapon against the Taliban (TB).

Principally I mentored an ANP commander called Lt Mohammad Wali (MW) and his hundred plus men. MW had been serving in the AO since 2007 as a militia commander under a local war lord called Haji Kaduz. An oversight in ISAF diplomacy saw the funding to this militia cut, and so they disbanded allowing the TB to take over the ground. MW returned to the AO during the initial stage of Op Panchai Palang (Summer 2009) when the Light Dragoon Battle Group broke into NES(S). Thus, when he returned to the AO, he was well known to the LN’s and by the time I arrived, he had been in the AO as the local ANP commander for the best part of a year. This was invaluable as the village elders (VEs) had a great deal of respect and time for him.
Lt Mohammad Wali: a robust fighter

Similarly, he also had a great deal of respect and time for his VE’s. This was in stark contrast to the Afghan national Army (ANA) who were extremely difficult to work with, reluctant to fight and saw the LN’s as a source of additional income through illegal taxation. Therefore, the VE’s used the ANP as their link to ISAF and GiROA.

The insurgency we faced was exceptionally localised, such that without an intricate knowledge of each village and tribal make up we had no chance of pin pointing and targeting them. However, many of my ANP had grown up in these villages and still had relatives working in the surrounding fields. Unfortunately the TB were aware of this and so intimidation beatings were administered on these relatives and as a result I did lose four ANP to desertion. On a positive note, it gave the ANP a personal motivation to defeat the insurgents in order to protect their own family. Again, this is in contrast to the ANA who felt no personal compulsion to defeat the insurgent. This link to the ANP also enabled us to conduct our own mini-integration scheme, particularly to the younger insurgents. For example, in the first week of our deployment we caught a 15 year old boy who had been laying Radio Controlled IEDs. I left it to MW to administer a punishment he saw fit, and so he used the VE’s as a form of a guarantee that this youth would not work for the TB again. Three months later that same boy came in to tip off MW of some ‘out of area’ insurgents resulting in another successful operation.

My job, therefore, proved to be exciting and rewarding and any initial regrets that I had soon dissipated. We increased the number of ANP Check Points (CPs) from eight to twelve and the number of ANP from 80 to 109 men. A key frustration was that MW had the ability to recruit at least another hundred fighting age males from our AO into the ANP, thereby denying the TB of any potential fighters but our recruiting figures were restricted and trying to lift this cap proved to be impossible. Fortunately progress was made once the ‘top brass’ realised that our ANP model was working. A permanent Police Station was also constructed for MW to reside in, though when I left we still had not been able to furnish it for them. Fortunately the ANP were quite happy eating, sleeping and conducting everyday business on the floor. My Sgt had the teeth-pullingly frustrating job of trying to account for the ANP and their weapons and ammunition. Again basic resupply of ammunition was depressingly difficult, hampered by the corrupt chain of command.

Corruption was our greatest obstacle to progress, and it was worse the higher up the chain of command you went. For example, ANP commanders at a district level expected to receive a bribe from the likes of MW in order to maintain their position as a commander. The ANA in our AO would prevent LN’s selling us (ISAF) local produce so that they could impose their own ‘tax.’ This situation developed into such an issue that the LN’s would tell us that they regarded the ANA as a hindrance to progress. Tragically in early July three Gurkhas were murdered by a rogue ANA soldier in their Patrol Base and in late July a serious fire fight broke out between my ANP and the ANA at the local market. One of my CP commanders, Said Mohammad, was shot through the head at point blank. I then witnessed the full meaning of Afghan revenge as six ANP assaulted thirty two ANA, killing three of them and wounding two more. It was exceptionally hard to stop the fighting despite being in a drainage ditch with my interpreter and the ANA platoon commander and with MW on the radio. Fortunately no LN’s were injured in the cross fire or any of my Gurkhas. The TB were also quick to exploit the situation firing in a few RPGs confusing the situation further.

Living and fighting alongside MW and his men was a phenomenal experience. It is a role which needs to be approached with the right attitude and mentality. I firmly believe that the most efficient way of defeating the TB is through the use of the local fighting age males by bringing them into a legitimate organisation such as the ANP. Clearly every AO is going to be different and ultimately GiROA and ISAF have a great deal of work at the higher strategic and political level in order to effectively defeat the insurgency at the Quetta Shura level. However, I do believe that at the tactical level, with the right local commander, one is able to make a great difference to the lives of the LN’s and ultimately defeat the TB insurgency. It saddens me that it is taking ISAF so long to relearn our lessons from defeating insurgencies such as the Mau Mau in Kenya and the Dhofar Rebellion in Oman. One can only hope that in the next counter insurgency the British Army finds itself in that we remember these costly lessons.

Serving with our affiliated Regiment on Operations was an honour and I would thoroughly recommend the experience to all KRH subalterns and junior captains.

The Gurkha soldier is a unique breed and very different to your typical KRH soldier, with their own unique strengths and weaknesses. I firmly believe that any Armoured Corps soldier, with the correct mentality and training would perform equally as well in the light infantry role in Afghanistan.
Deployed on Op HERRICK 12 as 2IC of the Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) team attached to Task Force Helmand (TFH) HQs based in Lashkar Gah (LKG). Our Tri-Service team of nine were responsible for delivering targeted attitudinal and behavioural change on selected target audiences, both local national and insurgent, whilst supporting a number of radio stations and advising TFH and the Battle Groups (BGs) on PSYOPS. In simple terms we had to convince the local Afghans that the Government of Afghanistan (GIRoA) and ISAF could deliver a better future for them than the insurgents.

The insurgents have led the way on the all important information front since 2001 with their enduring message that “they will be here long after the foreign ISAF troops have left” and that “GIRoA and the ANSF are merely ISAF puppets.” As David Kilcullen has stated “the insurgents use kinetic actions to enable their information campaign whereas for ISAF the reverse has been true.” Compounding this has been ISAF’s dilemma to articulate a simple and convincing narrative to explain to critical audiences, both in Afghanistan and at home, why we are there. This makes the job of producing a coherent and believable narrative at Task Force level quite tricky. Our problems in explaining to local Afghans what we are doing here and why was thus the key area for us to address in day to day business. Our “first- with-the-truth drive” on the various radio networks saw us wrestle some initiative away from the insurgents by ensuring that whenever an incident occurred we were the first to broadcast its details, good or bad. In doing so no fictitious insurgent propaganda about their successes or ISAF casualties endured.

The radio stations are a vital means of communication with not just the local population but also the insurgents themselves. These radio stations were operated from many different locations and could reach far out into the community and, as their number has grown, right along the strategically important Helmand River Valley. The majority of the programs were designed to build and retain an audience through a variety of popular songs, poems, phone ins and competitions, together with local and national news bulletins. It was great fun writing radio plays which would appeal to the local audience, with Afghan jokes and proverbs to the fore, but mixing in news and views about National Government, its hopes and aspirations for the country and how the insurgent might be defeated. Over time these have proved extremely successful and a recent survey of Lashkar Gah suggested that 1/5 of the population, (or 25,000 people) regularly listen to stations supported by ISAF. Of course we did not need a survey to tell us what we already knew: we could see first hand how stations received over 800 calls a month from listeners eager to request songs, tell a joke or discuss specific subjects. The stations, are all DJ’d...
The majority of my energy was devoted to advising BG Influence Officers on how best to integrate PSYOPS into their influence campaign and ensuring they had an influence campaign at all. There was huge discrepancy between BGs, some paying lip service to anything other than an insurgent focussed kinetic campaign, through to the more enlightened and successful HQs who understood COIN and the effective blend of Fires, Influence and Manoeuvre. Too many BGs appointed Influence Officers who failed to have any influence in their own HQs which meant they had no influence at all outside the wire. An officer in the CF LKG HQs remarked “that unless you make influence the focus of all planning, no matter how hard you try, you are drawn into traditional INS based planning. A fully trained BG Influence Officer (Major rank) would create the right ethos in the HQ and the BG.”

The concept of explaining what you are doing to the Afghans is perhaps best illustrated through the example of ‘Courageous Restraint.’ Often patrols would go to ground and withdraw from contact if local nationals’ lives were at risk. Whilst this adhered to the policy set down by COMISAF the perception amongst the locals was that ISAF were running away when shot at. Simple use of ‘Sound Commander’ loudspeakers or follow up shuras to explain the patrols’ actions, together with use of cameras to capture the insurgents’ use of local nationals as human shields for subsequent media exploitation, turns this scenario into a success rather than perceived failure in the all important eyes of the local nationals.

Needless to say it was great fun to escape from MOB LKG and visit the BGs, especially to 1RGR for a KRH catch-up with PK and Rupert Reid. I clocked up exactly 50 helicopter flights in the theatre which explains not only a fair degree of tourism round Helmand but also my reluctance to conduct road moves with some units whose drills had to be seen to be believed. Indeed, there was precious little activity conducted by the Infantry BGs that the KRH could not have done as well or better.

We also worked closely with the FCO and DFID in the PRT in LKG contributing to their Counter Narcotics and Agricultural program by hosting a “Farmers’ Hour” weekly radio show featuring the Provincial Director of Agriculture. This gave him a platform to explain his plans and reforms as well as enabling local farmers to call in with questions, problems and frequent abuse! The senior religious figure in Helmand, the Director of the Hajj, was always keen to launch into a verbal tirade against the insurgents on air, which gave the anti-insurgent message crucial religious authority; at least until the zealous Director was arrested for embezzling US $1million in charitable funds!

Op HERRICK 12 was a fascinating and challenging tour but, as with so much in Helmand, left us wondering what we could achieve with more men and more kit. My PSYOPS team was the same size as that which supported a single BG on Op HERRICK 4 in 2006. Thankfully with US funding some improvements are at hand such as a satellite enabled RIAB network across the whole of Helmand. This will ensure a coherent message is broadcast throughout the area whilst still allowing several hours of local programs, similar in construct to the BBC and its regional studios. So, are the local Afghans being persuaded that GIRoA and ISAF offer a better future than the insurgents? I think they understand what it is we can offer but with an insurgent in every village shura whispering “we’ll still be here in 2015” it takes a brave Afghan to shut his door completely to the Taliban.

"And you said the Taliban are how close?"
With a US PSYOPS team in MUSA QALA DC
ADC to Commander Allied Rapid Reaction Corps

Captain DRM Warwick

I had heard of the ARRC but had no idea what it really was. Corps Headquarters and NATO were very much alien concepts and I knew from my first day I had a lot to learn and fast! I was to be ADC to COMARRC, Lt Gen Sir Richard Shirreff KCB CBE, who currently commands a high readiness, multinational, NATO headquarters.

The job of the ADC is not easily described on a job description as most of the work falls under the ‘and anything else the Commander requires’ bullet point. There are many standard tasks which can be easily listed, such as de-conflicting and prioritising his diary, filtering information in and out of his office or organising his movement and accommodation. Most importantly, an ADC must ensure that his General arrives at the right place, on time, in the correct dress and armed with the required information. However, the purpose of the ADC is to take away all of the trivial work, so that the General is not tied up with administration. It is that trivial work that presents the variety of tasks that makes it so difficult to describe exactly what an ADC does. Nevertheless, my job as ADC was made infinitely easier by the close relationship I had with the ARRC Quarter Master and the only man in the KRH to have had more promotions than General Richard: Lt Col Danny Wild. Continually obliging, it seems there is nothing he cannot acquire, making the lives of everyone around him so much easier.

The Corps headquarters imposed a few culture shocks on me when I arrived. My first came when walking along the main corridor to the Commander’s office. Previously, I had come from a world where the CO was king and a visiting Brigadier to the Regiment was a demi-God. I had once had the privilege of introducing myself to the Brigade Commander and that had been the extent of my interaction with senior officers. At the ARRC, there were seven Brigadiers on my corridor, as well as two Major Generals, all of whom I would speak with daily.

There were two large events to mark the departure of the ARRC from Germany. The first was an honour bestowed upon the HQ by the Germans. They kindly presented us with the Großer Zapfenstreich (‘Grand Tattoo’), the most important ceremonial act executed by the German federal armed forces, the Bundeswehr. It is a rare act and was a significant gesture to mark the end of a long established partnership between the ARRC and Germany. The parade was a unique display, conducted at night but with lines of soldiers carrying torches to illuminate the parade. The military formation consisted of about 400 armed infantryers including a band and, whilst I am no ‘drill-pig,’ it must be commented that their drill was faultless: executed with German precision!

The second large event was the Farewell Parade which saw Generals and dignitaries from all over Europe descend upon JHQ for the day. There was a strong turnout of crimson trousers as we were joined by Richard Crofton as ADC to General Adrian Bradshaw and Chris MacGregor, who had been working at the ARRC for two years (writing enormous exercises for the headquarters) as ADC to HRH The Princess Royal. My highlight came the day before the event when Captain Crofton phoned me, in his first few days in post, to tell me he was in Germany but had left his General’s medals and Sam Browne in the UK. There is something sadistically satisfying about watching another ADC’s pain as he tries to turn his world the right way up. Needless to say he got the General’s possessions to the parade but this highlight was topped when he then phoned me whilst driving away to tell me he had left his own hat and gloves at the reception. I can assure you his first week was one of his worst and he has done very well since then.

The main event of the summer was the progressive move of the headquarters to the refurbished RAF Station Innsworth, now named Imjin Barracks. Whilst the concept of a unit move would ordinarily seem a complicated and arduous beast, the ARRC was faced with additional complications and headaches. Housing difficulties, education placements and multinational intricacies with driving licences and taxes was all detail that would not be missed or overlooked by General Richard. After a tense and confrontational summer the contractors began to deliver what was required and the upheaval of moving finally started to seem less dramatic, albeit with continued problems. Additionally, to assist the ARRC’s transition into a new community, General Richard spearheaded a sustained effort to engage with the local leaders to ensure that the ARRC was not only promoted and advertised but also integrated and established into the area. Soon, however, the focus switched to the preparation for the ARRC’s deployment to Afghanistan in January 2011 as the main staff body of the ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) Joint Command.

One of my highlights was accompanying General Richard on Exercise ARRCADEN CAESAR, in Italy. It was a staff ride inviting formation Commanders to gain a deeper understanding of the tac-
tics and lessons learnt by allied forces during the Italian campaign of the Second World War. The trip was planned for a long time, with a generous budget, using the Italian contingent of the ARRC to assure some impressive highlights. My job was to ‘ADC’ Sir Michael Howard, who accompanied us as a subject matter expert having been involved in the campaign in his younger years as an Officer in the Guards. Every stand was carefully selected, in some fantastic locations, overlooking beautiful rural areas with every meal eaten in superb restaurants carefully selected in mind of their great local produce.

People often ask if I made any huge mistakes during my tenure but I think my survival is testament to a relatively clean record. I did have one very scary moment though. General Richard uses a smart phone to store all of his contacts, send his emails and check his diary. One afternoon I took his phone, along with my own and the Military Assistant’s, and connected them to the internet to update. To my horror, during the update the General’s phone had a software failure: the memory erased, the screen went black and no combination of buttons could provoke a response from the phone. As the General left for the night I told him his phone had
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

The KRH has kept up its commitment to ATR(B) through Cpl Williamson as a PTI in the gym, Cpls Irwin and Plant section commanding, and Captain Scott platoon commanding. Thus, it is little surprise that ‘The Hawks’ are maintaining a stronger than ever reputation. Even Cpl Irwin and Cpl Plant’s drill instruction is significantly above par, despite not being a widely appreciated attribute of the Regiment!

Commander of Rhine Platoon, Captain Scott, is currently responsible for 39 Soldiers under Training (SuTs) and all but one are bound for the RAC. This, at the time of writing, includes seven KRH recruits, three of whom have recently turned from their original choices and who are already fiercely proud of their destination! Scott has taken the opportunity of his ATR (B) posting to not only train recruits but also to enjoy life by doing as much sport and adventurous training as time will allow. This has been easy to organise due the predictable forecast of the ATR.

Two Crimson wearers also contributed to a third of the ATR (B) Snowboarding Team at the 2010 Army Championships in Stübai, Austria. James Scott and Den Irwin competed in the Open Competition gaining some large scores on the mountain (and off the mountain in the case of Cpl Irwin). Not only did the ATR(B) Open Team come second overall in the Slope Style Competition (where one gains points by performing tricks using jumps and rails), but the team also won the games night, proving themselves to be a dominant and well rounded band of men!

Cpls Plant and Irwin continue to work as section commanders in the same squadron. Being an ATR Section Commander is without doubt one of the busier jobs in the Regiment but, at the same time, the most rewarding. Not only are there two daily overnight duties to fill in each Squadron but, of the eighteen week training cycle, at least five weeks are spent away. Furthermore, the days are long for Phase 1 recruits and their section commanders remain with them throughout. That said, these are certainly outweighed by the perks of ATR (B). Not only is the Regiment located 40 minutes North of London and 20 minutes South of Cambridge but it also has access to some fantastic leisure facilities including the unit’s vast and high tech gym. If this is not enough, then try the on-site dry ski slope or fishing at the lake (apparently amongst the top ten fishing lakes in the country) or maybe even one of the three golf courses that are within three miles of the camp. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, ATR (B) has a long and reliable forecast allowing staff to organise their private lives well in advance. Perhaps the most satisfying aspect of the job is passing off the parade square with the well trained and tightly knit platoon that you greeted only fourteen weeks earlier as raw recruits.

As ADC I have certainly broadened my knowledge of the wider Army, specifically of its higher echelons and gained an insight into its complexities, nuances and difficulties. The job is not only vast, it is also varied but at the same time extremely enjoyable and, with hindsight, rewarding. A huge privilege was gaining an understanding of the NATO environment and observing the careful manner in which the multinational relationships need to be dealt with to create an extraordinary, but fantastically diverse organisation that has so many extra facets compared with a single nation headquarters. My time at the ARRC and working to General Richard has given me a view into a military world that I had not known existed. I have a much greater understanding of the operational and strategic levels of the Army, as well as the implementation of the comprehensive approach and I know that this will be invaluable to me throughout my career.

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn

Capt JD Scott

The KRH has kept up its commitment to ATR(B) through Cpl Williamson as a PTI in the gym, Cpls Irwin and Plant section commanding, and Captain Scott platoon commanding. Thus, it is little surprise that ‘The Hawks’ are maintaining a stronger than ever reputation. Even Cpl Irwin and Cpl Plant’s drill instruction is significantly above par, despite not being a widely appreciated attribute of the Regiment!

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Cpls Plant and Irwin continue to work as section commanders in the same squadron. Being an ATR Section Commander is without doubt one of the busier jobs in the Regiment but, at the same time, the most rewarding. Not only are there two daily overnight duties to fill in each Squadron but, of the eighteen week training cycle, at least five weeks are spent away. Furthermore, the days are long for Phase 1 recruits and their section commanders remain with them throughout. That said, these are certainly outweighed by the perks of ATR (B). Not only is the Regiment located 40 minutes North of London and 20 minutes South of Cambridge but it also has access to some fantastic leisure facilities including the unit’s vast and high tech gym. If this is not enough, then try the on-site dry ski slope or fishing at the lake (apparently amongst the top ten fishing lakes in the country) or maybe even one of the three golf courses that are within three miles of the camp. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, ATR (B) has a long and reliable forecast allowing staff to organise their private lives well in advance. Perhaps the most satisfying aspect of the job is passing off the parade square with the well trained and tightly knit platoon that you greeted only fourteen weeks earlier as raw recruits.

Two Crimson wearers also contributed to a third of the ATR (B) Snowboarding Team at the 2010 Army Championships in Stübai, Austria. James Scott and Den Irwin competed in the Open Competition gaining some large scores on the mountain (and off the mountain in the case of Cpl Irwin). Not only did the ATR(B) Open Team come second overall in the Slope Style Competition (where one gains points by performing tricks using jumps and rails), but the team also won the games night, proving themselves to be a dominant and well rounded band of men!

With recruitment significantly reduced for the time being, opportunities to get fit and undergo various courses present themselves with increasing frequency. Bassingbourn continues to be a very different walk of life allowing individuals to see what else the Army is able to offer.

Key Leader Engagement - General Shirreff with The Lord Lieutenant of Gloucester

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn

Capt JD Scott

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After the welcome Christmas break, when many soldiers took the opportunity to return to Nepal, the 1st Battalion entered a period of intense pre-operational training. Companies revolved around live firing packages in Otterburn and Mission Rehearsal Exercises on Salisbury Plain. While the Battlegroup was formed up on the Plain our Colonel in Chief, The Prince of Wales paid a visit. A number of the families due to attend were trapped by snow in Kent but one coach load made it through. Apart from observing the training that the Battalion was undergoing the Prince was also able to present the Parish Trophy which is awarded to the Rifleman who has made the greatest contribution towards upholding the name and reputation of the Battalion.

The 1st Battalion moved out to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 12 during March and April and took over their Area of Operations (Nahr-e-Saraj in Helmand Province to the north of Lashkah Gar) from the Coldstream Guards. Attachments included Malta Company from 1 MERCIAN and a company of Estonians. Coincidentally, 1 MERCIAN, as a Battalion, were also deployed on Herrick 12 and one of their companies was our second Gurkha Reinforcement Company (GRC 2).

Many soldiers from 2nd Battalion also returned to Nepal for Christmas and not until the New Year did training in Brunei start in earnest. Sp Coy moved to Sittang Camp to conduct specialist platoon training. B Coy took themselves off to the jungle for 18 days on Ex Kalo Biralo. During February the Flying Kukris Rugby Club competed in the Bangkok 10s and acquitted themselves extremely well. At this time Captains Hughes, Rose and Kye took part in 'Ironman Malaysia' and apart from excelling as individuals raised £30,000 for Help for Heroes and the Gurkha Welfare Trust. A Coy were also on jungle training for two weeks in February on Ex Red Fort. In March the Inter-Company Military Skills Competition took place culminating in a win for C Coy.

During Easter the Flying Kukris were back in action this time in Manila where they won the plate competition before moving on to Hong Kong where the team was plagued by injuries but all had a good time culminating in the HK 7s. In April and May B Coy ran the Junior Leadership Cadre in Sittang Camp and Sp Coy moved to Townsville in Australia. After initial specialist training they reformed in Fire Support Groups to focus on training for contemporary operations with an eye on next year’s tour in Afghanistan.

The Battalion was also able to take part in adventurous training during the early part of the year making good use of ‘local’ facilities. This included diving and kayaking in Miri and Kota Kinabalu and climbing in the Indian Himalayas. During May the Battalion shooting team returned to UK and won almost a clean sweep in the 3 and 4 Div Skill At Arms Meeting.

With the benefit of hindsight one can say with certainty that the 1st Battalion experienced a particularly tough operational tour on Op HERRICK 12. The blunt statistics of 4 KIA and 31 WIA (RGR only) speak for themselves. In one tragic incident Maj Josh Bowman RIFLES (OC A Coy), Lt Neil Turkington (Platoon Commander) and Cpl Arjun Purja Pun were killed on the night of 12-13 Jul 10 by an Afghan National Army Sergeant. The company was mentoring the Afghan National Army and had built up a good rapport with the subunit; there had been no indication that anything like that might have happened. The only consolation was that our soldiers accepted that partnering must go on and they continued to act in a highly professional manner. They might have been forgiven for doing otherwise, but to their credit they showed not only restraint but understanding.
The tour produced its successes as well as tragedies and before departure Village Development Committees had been set up in the areas protected by the companies. Influential elders were identified and were empowered by channelling development and security efforts through them. The beginnings of civic responsibility started to emerge which was truly gratifying as bottom up delivery of local government must be a key to bringing stability to the area.

The 2nd Battalion are earmarked for Op HERRICK 14 in 2011 and started their training in Brunei in July. The Commanding Officer Lt Col Chris Darby departed shortly after and Lt Col Fraser Rea took over as the Battalion moved to Rollestone Camp on Salisbury Plain for their formal pre-operational training which occupied them for much of the late autumn and winter. So the close of the year saw the 2nd Battalion undergoing rather similar training to that which had concentrated the minds of the 1st Battalion at its start. Serious and detailed as this training was, during the first free weekend in November, the Flying Kukris Rugby team managed to break away and descend on Singapore for the annual 7s competition. One hour after landing the team was on the rugby pitch which was not ideal, but they did well enough to be invited back again next year.

PHG

HMS Dauntless

During the last year, HMS Dauntless, under the command of Captain Richard Powell, has progressed rapidly from undertaking trials to becoming an operational unit. Only delivered in December 2009, the Ship’s Company have spent much of 2010 conducting machinery and weapons trials in order to ensure that the Ship is fully functional. First though, we had to pass through the hands of Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) and prove that we were safe to take the Ship to sea under the White Ensign. This we did with aplomb and 2010 was off to a good start.

During the year, Dauntless has had a fair share of media attention. In April, Alan Titchmarsh visited the Ship in order to film a sequence for a programme about the Royal Tattoo, ‘All the King’s Men’. He was welcomed onboard, and enthusiastically participated in some arduous naval activities, including supplying 4.5” shells to the medium-calibre gun and taking part in flight deck circuits. The latter is circuit training of a physical kind, rather than flying circuits in a helicopter.

April also saw Dauntless’ first visit to her affiliated city of Newcastle. The Ship was made very welcome, and it was a real pleasure to meet with the Mayor, his councillors and all the Ship’s affiliates. The opening reception was a great success, and all of the Ship’s Company are eager to return as soon as possible. The passage to Newcastle also allowed the Ship to take some of its affiliates to sea, and we were very proud to embark a group of Officers and Soldiers from the King’s Royal Hussars.

Trials continued successfully throughout the Spring, culminating in the Ship’s Commissioning Ceremony on 3 June. The Commissioning Ceremony dates back to the time when there was no standing Navy in this country. Any merchant ship sailing under an English flag was liable to be called into the service of the King in pursuit of his military objectives. This reliance on private ship owners lasted until the reign of Henry VIII, who was the first monarch to provide a permanent fleet of ships dedicated to the King’s service, which were commissioned as they entered service and decommissioned as they left. The ceremony is the culmina-
tion of all of the Ship's Company's hard work to bring the ship through the build process and into the Fleet. It includes the presentation of the Commissioning Warrant which is the formal authority for the Captain to command the ship. On a glorious summer's day, with the Ship's Sponsor, Lady Burnell-Nugent, in attendance, along with family and friends of the Ship and her Company, Dauntless was commissioned into the Service. The ceremony concluded in the traditional manner with the Captain's wife, Mrs Carolyn Powell, and the youngest member of the Ship's Company, Engineering Technician (Marine Engineering) Clough cutting the commissioning cake.

After summer leave, the Ship paid a visit to the City of Southampton for the Boat Show. During the Boat Show, HMS Dauntless drew over 5000 visitors, predominantly from the general public, over a 2 day period. The Ship then approached one of the most important milestones for both the Ship and the class. HMS Dauntless was to have the honour of being the first Type 45 destroyer to fire the new Sea Viper surface-to-air missile. This weapon represents a huge leap in capability for the Royal Navy, replacing the much older and far less capable Sea Dart which has been the mainstay of Fleet air defence since the Falklands War in 1982.

Sea Viper is capable of engaging tens of targets simultaneously at speeds of up to Mach 4.5 (over 4 times the speed of sound) with pin-point accuracy. The firing was planned for the end of September in the seas to the West of the Hebrides. After proceeding to Crombie to onload the missiles, Dauntless sailed around the north coast of Scotland to the firing area. The target for the launch was a Mirach remotely piloted drone, which is capable of simulating an air-to-surface missile. After 2 days of rehearsals, on 29 September, the drone was launched for a live firing run. At the specified range, firing permission was granted and the missile lifted out of the silo with a great roar and a great deal of smoke and flame. 7 seconds after launch, the Ship's radars detected the missile climbing through 40,000 feet and then tracked it as it descended steeply into a direct hit on the target. Captain Richard Powell said of the event, “We are delighted with the success of this firing, which is particularly important for the UK, as the Sea Viper system will also work in support of land and air forces.”

After the firing, and a return visit to Crombie to offload the spent missile canister, the Ship visited her second affiliated town, Great Yarmouth. The passage to Great Yarmouth was especially notable as we were once again delighted to be able to host a number of Officers and Troopers from the King's Royal Hussars on the trip down. A number of the Ship's Company also took part in a jail break, racing the Ship from Crombie to Great Yarmouth, but without being able to pay for anything on the way done. This was a great success, and they raised a great deal of money for the Ship's charities.

The visit to Great Yarmouth, from 8 to 11 October, was a resounding success. This was the first visit to the town by a major warship and the first time a RN ship has berthed in the town's brand new commercial port. The Ship's Company paraded through the town to mark the establishment of the new affiliation; a football match was played against a local team and a donation was presented to the Caister Lifeboat charity, which has been adopted by the Ship. On her passage back to Portsmouth, the Ship invited parents and children on board during an overnight passage. 29 relatives of the Ship’s Company took part in this opportunity and were able to enjoy Damage Control demonstrations, Ship's tours and small arms firings as part of Parents and Children at Sea. This is a great benefit to all members of the Ship and their families, as it helps to build an understanding of life at sea with the Royal Navy.

On her return to Portsmouth, and having completed the majority of her trials, HMS Dauntless reached her In Service Date on 16 November. Everyone involved with the Ship can take pride in the fact that, due to the hard work and dedication of all.

Immediately after Christmas leave, the Ship sailed off to Norway to complete cold weather trials and conduct exercises with the Royal Norwegian Navy. This gave the Ship’s Company an oppor-
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

The opportunity to experience the Arctic environments, whilst enjoying port visits to Bergen and Tromso. In particular, Captain Powell, Lieutenant Commander Matt Stratton and Midshipman Tom Forster all braved the icy seas to go windsurfing North of the Arctic Circle. This was done in aid of ‘C’ Group, a charity dedicated to assisting injured Royal Marines, and they raised in excess of £5000 through their efforts.

The Ship is now busy preparing for Basic Operational Sea Training (BOST), an intense period of instruction and assessment by FOST which ensures that the Ship will be ready in all respects for her first operational deployment. Exactly what 2011 has in store for the Ship is still unclear, but we can be certain of two things: That the Ship will continue to progress with the same indomitable spirit; and that we shall always be most proud to be affiliated to the King’s Royal Hussars.

The Royal Wessex Yeomanry

The Regiment ended 2010 with the return of 36 soldiers who had been fulfilling the Regiment’s commitment as the lead for the Yeomanry Main Effort – that of manning Heavy Base ISTAR equipment. This was a large cohort in comparison to previous deployments. The Heavy Base ISTAR role is one that provides an essential Force Protection capability to the deployed force and is developing well as a further ISTAR asset that provides real time information for the prosecution of targets. As an operational role it is very compatible with the basic tenets of the Yeoman ethos; i.e. timely and accurate passage of information, professionalism and reliability combined with swift and aggressive action. However, the Yeomanry association with the role has now come to an end, and our focus has returned to providing Individual Replacements and augmentees to the regular RAC Regiments, in particular the KRH and LD Battlegroups on Op HERRICK 16.

Regimental and Squadron level training continued throughout the year with a mix of Welsh and Wiltshire franchises of the Taliban, who proved to be a thoroughly dodgy and slippery bunch. Recovery skills were also put to the test as the over enthusiastic REME contingent prided themselves on finding the biggest, muddiest puddles that Salisbury Plain had to offer.

In May, the Regiment put together a shooting team, which delivered an impressive display of talents (some of which were on the range) until the final knockout style shoot, where the team was robbed of the silverware by a target that failed to fall when hit. Or that’s what they told us. Although prize-less, the competitive spirit was aroused and the foundation has been laid for a return next year that is sure to provide an upset to the RIFLES Battalions.

The Regiment’s place in the Wessex Counties continues to flourish as it takes part in ceremonial and contact events across the
region of Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. The Ten Tors celebrated its 50th Anniversary and the Regiment again provided the essential support framework for its success. This is a busy weekend for all, and despite not having hiked the 55 km over the Moors, everyone returning on Sunday night certainly felt like they had done their fair share of mileage.

Having worked hard, the Regiment was keen to prove its ability to play hard as well. The Officers’ Mess was once again privileged to be invited to take a day’s shooting at Slepe Farm, courtesy of Colonels Selby-Bennett and Chamberlain. Due to his incompatibility with firearms, the Regimental Second in Command – Maj The Hon Alex Bathurst – came equipped with a very smart hand-crafted, bespoke beating stick which was tremendously effective at scaring birds. The respective Mess functions saw spectacular acrobatics across full tables of glasses and silverware, some fairly innovative shapes being cut on the dance floor by the Honorary Colonel, General Sir Richard Shirreff, and a (very) SNCO strutting his funky stuff in an unnamed location in Salisbury.

Badminton Horse Trials was a great success both as a command and control operation but also as a community engagement event. The day was used as a families and employers day, with over 120 people turning up. It was made even more memorable by a visit from the Regiment’s Royal Honorary Colonel, HRH The Earl of Wessex, who graciously accepted an invitation to support the event. Cross Country Day is a very long day, but it didn’t finish when the last horse was safe, as it was all back to the Regimental Marquee for a Cocktail Party. C Squadron acted as marvellous hosts as past, present and serving Yeomen homed in on the RWxY for much needed sustenance.

The Royal Wessex Yeomanry was also delighted and extremely proud to be asked to take part in the granting of The Freedom of Gloucestershire to The King’s Royal Hussars. The Guidon of C Squadron (Royal Gloucestershire Hussars) was proudly displayed and numerous officers and senior ranks acted as hosts. A fortunate few were selected to meet HRH The Princess Royal which was the culmination of a wonderful today.

The Royal Wessex Yeomanry is in very good health and our affiliation to the King’s Royal Hussars remains as strong as ever. The Regiment is 94% manned, with a good number of ex-KRH Officers and other ranks well represented. We look forward to renewing our bond on operations in 2012 with support to The King’s Royal Hussars Battlegroup on Op HERRICK 16.

ELD
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

D (DLOY) Squadron RMLY

Last year was one of the biggest we had faced as a Squadron for many years. This was due to our Op HERRICK 13 commitment with the RMLY being the last of the Yeomanry Regiments to deploy 35 Yeomen in the CORTEZ role, since renamed to Heavy Based ISTAR.

Sadly, or not as the case may be, we said goodbye to our immediate KRH connection with SSgt Brannick and Weekes, both of whom have now headed off to pastures new in civilian strasse.

Without doubt, both had made their mark on the Squadron in various ways and I know that those of you who know them both will be able to guess what those ways were!!

Our main effort for the year was to carefully select those members of the Squadron who had volunteered for Op HERRICK 13 and support them in their training before being mobilised. It was the first time the Regiment had been asked to provide such a large cohort to do a specific job on operations. There were a lot of volunteers who put their names forward and the DLOY Squadron sent our 7 volunteers to Chilwell in July, all of whom got through mobilisation with flying colours.

They were then split into various syndicates under the care of 5 Regiment RA, and spent the next 3 months doing their various courses split between Catterick and Netheravon. WO2 Fothergill; Cpl Boughton and Innes; and LCpl Green, Clayton, Woods and Whitehill; then flew into Camp Bastion in early November. They are all doing a fantastic job and as I write most have now completed their R&R package. They are due home in early April and we look forward to seeing them. Sadly, the Yeomanry is losing its role in the Heavy Based ISTAR with the RA taking over from HERRICK 14. I know for our guys have learnt a huge amount for the experience and will bring so much back to the Squadron.

As for the rest of us, we are continuing our development both individually and collectively for the challenges we will face further down the line. With the threat of announcements across the TA in April, we have concentrated on fitness, range work and low level infantry tactics. Cpl Clark has started a Squadron fitness club and Cpl Dutton has put his efforts in persuading the chefs to remove eggy bread from the menu to be replaced by all things green!

Our social side has always been strong and the bond between us all is as strong as ever. As you will know in the KRH, there is a certain sense of humour that can only come out of Lancashire and that is the glue which keeps the Squadron together. We have many new faces and the drill hall is an ever changing place. The 2IC, Capt Glen Miller, has just been mobilised for Op TOSCA in Cyprus and will shortly be going to Chilwell. In turn we are preparing the next wave of volunteers for Op HERRICK 17 for which the Regiment has a requirement to produce 50 soldiers.

The Sqn Ldr, Maj Toby Gaddum is taking the lead on Ex LION STAR in Cyprus in April 2011 and there will be a strong element of D Squadron joining him. The exercise will be based around the training areas close to Episkopi. Ironically we will be out there at the same time that other members of the Squadron will be coming through Bloodhound Camp on their post-Afghanistan decompression.

In these turbulent times, D Squadron RMLY very much carries the attitude of ‘business as usual’. We have embraced the requirements and pressures that operations present to us in a professional manner, with a good dose of down-to-earth Lancashire humour.

THG
1st Hussars

2010 was a year that began slowly and ended quickly. At the start of the year, the Regiment experienced a number of training restrictions during the winter of 2010 that severely reduced the amount of days soldiers paraded and conducted training.

The Regiment re-emerged in the spring and conducted two mounted exercises in April and May 2010. **Ex PATROLLING HUSSAR** and **Ex MOUNTED HUSSAR** provided D Squadron with an opportunity to refresh basic crew and patrol level drills at the mounted and dismounted levels. May 2010 saw the passage of command from Lt Col Ian Haley CD to Lt Col Christopher Brown, with the Regiment providing a fitting send off to Lt Col Haley, saluting his 36 years of service in the Armoured Corps and the 1st Hussars.

The world descended on southern Ontario in June 2010 with the G8 and G20 Summits in Huntsville and Toronto respectively. The Canadian Forces conducted Op CADENCE, a multi-level security and support operation to civilian law enforcement. Lt Christopher van den Berg contributed to the Op as a Platoon commander with Sgt Jamie Knight as his Platoon 2IC. Together with more than a dozen Hussars, Lt van den Berg and Sgt Knight employed a Screen to observe and monitor the outer security cordon surrounding the G8 Summit in Huntsville. The performance of the 1st Hussars was commended at all levels for their professionalism.

The fall of 2010 brought a re-focus on basic soldiering skills for annual Individual Battle Task Standards requirements. The Regiment conducted two range weekends to obtain a 90 percent successful completion rate. Soldiers fired their C7 5.56 mm rifles at Canadian Forces Base Borden from 23–25 September. Soldiers culminated their marksmanship at Land Forces Central Area Training Centre Meaford, Ontario conducting fire and movement in jungle lanes. The 22–24 October training weekend in Meaford also provided an opportunity for gunners to fire the C6 7.62 mm General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) and C9 5.56 mm Light Purpose Machine Gun (LPMG) in a static position.

October 2010 also witnessed the Change of Honorary Colonels in the Regiment. Our King’s Royal Hussars cousins have become quite familiar with the generosity and hospitality of outgoing HCol John Drake. His contributions to the 1st Hussars from 1999 – 2010 allowed the Regiment to visit the KRH in 2000 and 2005. Cross-visits from the KRH also occurred in 2004 and 2008 to London where KRH guests enjoyed the world-class golfing of HCol Drake’s Red Tail Golf Club. Two 50-man guards took to the parade square on 2 October to bid HCol farewell and welcome HCol...
André Maas as the incoming Honorary appointment. HCol Maas is a distinguished and successful London businessman who founded Militex Coatings, a defence contractor. An audience of 200 turned out in cold and wet weather for the parade and dinner held in the evening at Museum London.

December 2010 brought the busiest month of operations for the 1st Hussars. Regimental leadership reconfirmed their commitment to Physical Fitness by successfully conducting the Canadian Forces Physical Fitness Test collectively in Sarnia on 11 Dec 10. The soldiers also gathered for a day of sports and in the evening for the Men’s Christmas Dinner.

The unit’s Area of Operations was inundated with record snowfall amounts (even by Canadian standards) mid-December. Accumulations totalling nearly 2 metres of snow paralysed Lambton and Middlesex counties, closing major highways, and overwhelmed civic authorities. The 1st Hussars mustered personnel to respond to a request of Assistance to Law Enforcement Agencies 14-16 Dec 10. It was also revealed in December 2010 that budgetary increases would allow the Regiment to return to a normal tempo of Operations beginning in January 2011. Welcome news for all.

As 2010 comes to an end it is with great respect and sense of achievement that the Squadron can look back and reflect on a job well done. With the departure of our OC, Maj Kim O’Grady, to Officer Commanding Rotation 24 of Operation ANODE and the arrival Maj Geoff Craggs in November, the unit has had little time to take a break.

In 2010 the Squadron has been involved in a variety of differing tasks and activities, all of which have contributed to providing capability and improving the training opportunities for the members of the Squadron. Commencing in March and extending through April, the Squadron had the unique opportunity to work with the members of the Regular Army in their preparatory training for their next operational rotation. The exercise was a good one for morale as selected soldiers were given the opportunity to experience airborne operations and also to work with their regular counterparts in a field environment, where they gave an excellent account of themselves.

April sees the Squadron’s participation in Anzac Day and this year was no exception – marked by an excellent turn out. Of course, after the Dawn Services and march through Perth, the Squadron returns back to Es Salt Lines and launches into the traditional Anzac Day function when the Honorary Colonel and many ex-members visit to meet up and renew old acquaintances.

In the weekend prior to Anzac Day, the unit holds it own ‘Old Boys’ at the 10th Light Horse Memorial in Kings Park. This function provides an opportunity for the members of the RAACA to join the ranks in commemorating the deeds of the Regiment during WW1. Importantly, the day also commemorates the thousands of horses taken to the Middle East to serve in the Light Horse who never returned to Australia.

July saw a switch to the Squadron conducting Troop-level conventional operations. The Squadron deployed to the Bindoon Military Training Area for a Troop vs Troop exercise that saw 1 Troop prove and clear a designated route in anticipation of a convoy escort task. Correspondingly, 2 Troop conducted counter reconnaissance in preparation for a deliberate ambush on future high value target suspected to be using the same road. The exercise was well attended and continued to fuel a healthy rivalry between the two troops, allowing the trainees in 3 Troop the opportunity to experience Light Cavalry troop operations.

August and September saw the Squadron continuing with the initial employment courses to qualify new Cavalry Scouts and potential junior leaders as Cavalry Patrol Commanders. Typically this results in a slow down for Squadron-level activities but places a greater onus on individuals attending the courses and providing the instructor support crucial to a successful outcome. As the requirement to provide JNCOs increases, the requirement to train and retain experienced and knowledgeable junior leaders is crucial to Squadron effectiveness.

The 2010 Beersheba Dinner was held in October. This is always a very well attended dinner the affords us one of the few opportunities to gather as a Squadron in a formal setting, to enable past members to join with us and share some comradeship, and to parade the 10th Light Horse Regiment’s Guidon. As well, the Beersheba Dinner gave the opportunity to formally hand over command from Maj Kim O’Grady to Maj Geoff Craggs.

The last week in November was the final opportunity in 2010 for the Squadron to deploy into the field. The Squadron engaged in a high tempo weekend focusing Light Cavalry in Urban Operations that saw the establishment of observation posts, night patrols, a
2010 has been another very busy year for Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles (QAMR). The Squadron has continued to have a high tempo with personnel deployed on both operations and large formation exercises. QAMR's current role is to provide armoured reconnaissance and integrated Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) to the New Zealand Army, it has a secondary role to provide mobility to the various light infantry units and within the New Zealand Army. QAMR had personnel (at mainly Troop size) deployed to various missions around the world, including East Timor and Afghanistan. Operation GYRO in East Timor saw the deployment of New Zealand armoured vehicles, The Light Operational Vehicle (Armoured) or (LOV (A), to that theatre for the first time since the M113 in 1999. The New Zealand Light Armoured Vehicle (NZLAV) which is the main vehicle employed by QAMR was deployed to Afghanistan. While the deployment of NZLAV was small, it made up for the disappointment that the personnel from QAMR faced when told after completing Pre-Deployment Training for Afghanistan that they weren’t going. The half Troop were to deploy as part of a security detachment operation out of High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), but were shifted to a different deployment in support of NZSOF (New Zealand Special Operations Force). The 11 personnel and 3 vehicles supported NZSOF operations for 5 months and found it very rewarding.

Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles

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Unfortunately 2010 saw a run of technical problems that grounded a number of our vehicles, causing a reduction in the Squadron’s mounted capability. Notwithstanding, the Squadron continued to excel in audit results for technical, governance and safety aspects of unit performance. This was a direct reflection of the quality of the work done by the Adjutant and the ARA staff in 2010 and their commitment alongside the Reserve Members to seeing the Squadron outperform the other Reserve units in Western Australia.

One of the most notable achievements for the Squadron in 2010 was the ongoing eradication of ‘hollowness’ through our efforts in recruiting and retaining personnel and the efficient processing of non-effective personnel. With around 20% real growth in 2010, A Squadron 10LH became the only Reserve Unit in the 13th Brigade to grow above its Unit Entitlement for personnel, and we continue to regularly parade in strong numbers. We also acknowledge those Reserve Cavalry Officers and Soldiers who have volunteered to serve on operations in 2011.

As 2010 closes and we look back on another very busy training year, the Squadron is able to yet again claim high achievements in both individual training and collective training that further demonstrate our capabilities in Light Cavalry operations. And, with sustained growth in recruitment and attendance, our support to Australian Defence Force operations remains as strong as ever. A Squadron 10LH is well positioned to justify its place in the ORBAT for another year.
East Timor it will see the Squadron back to full strength at home for the first time since 2008.

The Squadron has had a busy year participating in the various exercises and providing support to other units and courses. As a Squadron we are quite often outnumbered by the supporting elements attached to us. The exercises have seen QAMR travel all over the country however the majority of our work has been within the South Island. Support was also provided to 2nd/1st Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/1 RNZIR) for Exercise Saladin. One Troop deployed to Tekapo to conduct live combined arms training and also observed a Javelin missile being fired during the live field firing. A rare occurrence in these fiscally strapped times.

Exercise Nemesis was conducted in Waiouru over June and July 2010 to support the Officer Cadet School. QAMR acted as 'Hunter Force' utilising various ISR assets to cue 'hunter/killer teams' that subsequently detained the cadets. This was an opportunity for the Squadron to integrate various unmanned sensors and prove different and new capabilities. Time and distance penalty’s were added to the already long list of problems for the captured sections and added another level to their training.

The largest exercise that the Squadron participated in was Ex Southern Musket which was held on the West Coast of the South Island around the towns of Westport, Greymouth and Hokitika. Southern Musket was a combined arms exercise and saw the Squadron combine PDT for those personnel from 2/1 RNZIR and QAMR deploying to East Timor late in 2010. It was a busy exercise and The Squadron maintained a high tempo throughout. One of a number of tasks conducted was a QRF callout to the Monteiths Brewery to deal with an explosion that the local authorities were unable to cope with. I’m sure that a cold ale or two would have been most welcomed by the lads as it was a sunny day on the coast, which is something of a rare event for that part of New Zealand.

In September Christchurch suffered a large 7.1 magnitude earthquake and the New Zealand Defence Force was requested to assist the local authorities. This saw the Squadron deployed to assist the Police with cordons around central Christchurch as the city had sustained a lot of damage due to the high number of old and historic buildings located in the central business district. It was a busy week for the Squadron having just returned from Waiouru after providing support to the Advanced Gunnery course and conducting a live
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

shoot on the moving target range (MTR). The efforts of the Squadron were greatly appreciated by Civil Defence and the Police.

QAMR celebrated the unit’s 146th birthday in a quiet fashion in 2010 with a function in Burnham Camp. Cambrai was commemorated and the unit hosted a function which was attended by many serving and retired armoured corps and unit members. Unit personnel also attended a church service the following day at St Paul’s Church in Papanui, Christchurch. This was an additional opportunity for current serving members of QAMR to mingle with retired personnel from the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps (RNZAC) and share stories of past glories and “the good old days” at a church that has special significance with the RNZAC Association and attached Returned Service Association (RSA).

In November of 2010 a change of command took place when Major Sholto Stephens deployed to Afghanistan and handed over to Major Scott Cordwell in November. A parade was held and the guidon was passed over as is tradition. Major Cordwell was previously the OC Whisky Company, 1RNZIR.

2011 looks to be another challenging year with QAMR continuing to grow and to contribute to the many NZDF deployments. On behalf of all ranks within Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles let me pass on all the best to the King’s Royal Hussars for the New Year.

Ake Ake Kia Kaha, (Forever and ever be strong).

SC

IX (B) Squadron RAF

2010 was a very busy year for IX (Bomber) Squadron, beginning with their first deployment on Op HERRICK, in support of 11 Light Brigade. The squadron deployed on 12th January and the tempo swiftly increased with the advent of the warmer weather resulting in sorties being flown in support of a wide variety of formations. In all, over 460 sorties were flown totalling approximately 1600 hours. The tour finished on 12th April but the Icelandic volcano eruption threw a spanner in the works and Squadron personnel ended up completing their journey back to home soil on HMS Albion. Following Post Op leave, the Squadron was straight back into training with the aircrew developing and enhancing their core skills and the engineers doing a superb job keeping the Tornados ready to go. In May, the all ranks post operational dining-in night was hosted in the Officers’ Mess which was also used to formally say good-bye to the outgoing Squadron Warrant Officer, Stu Bowers, retiring after almost 39 years service.

As one deployment ends, preparation for the next begins. The annual detachment to German Air Force Base Lechfeld in Bavaria, commenced in June. Exercise ELITE was an Electronic Warfare exercise and an opportunity to hone and display skills in the Suppression of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD) role, flying with the Air Launched Anti Radiation (ALARM) missile loaded. Despite the passage of time between returning from Kandahar and Ex ELITE, all members of the Squadron approached their tasks with the same pride, determination and professionalism displayed on active service. The 8th July saw the Squadron receive a short notice tasking to assist the Northumbria Constabulary in the search for the fugitive Raoul Moat. Tornado imagery assets were used and the first 2 sorties launched resulted in useable imagery which led to Moat’s campsite being discovered.
In September, an all ranks group of personnel attended the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain Service at Westminster Abbey. This was a magnificent event attended by members of the Royal Family, together with the senior Air Officer cadre of the Royal Air Force. As personnel filed out of the Abbey to watch the flypast and parade of Squadron Colours, WO Dean Wood noticed a line of RAF personnel being used to section off a walkway from a small door from which Prince William and the Duchess of Cornwall then emerged. Keen to promote IX (B) Squadrons’ attendance at the event, three of them quickly joined the end of the line just in time to speak to Prince Charles and the Prime Minister who were very interested in where they were from and asked about their involvement in Afghanistan. Air Chief Marshal Simon Bryant CBE, CinC Air Command also stopped for a chat as he followed the Prime Minister so it was a case of ‘right place, right time’ and very successful in promoting the Squadron just prior to SDSR decisions being made. Hopefully the VIPs weren’t aware that our personnel had gate-crashed the line!

Towards the end of the month, the Squadron Association weekend took place. The day consisted of hosting the honoured guests and past members of the Squadron watching some low level flypasts. The day finished with an all ranks dinner night held in the Officers’ Mess presided over by a former OC of IX (B) Squadron, Air Marshal Sir Stuart Peach KCB CBE, now Chief of Joint Operations, however the stars of the night were the small number of wartime Lancaster crews – a truly legendary and inspirational group of men.

27th September was day one of the Force Development (FD) and Adventurous Training (AT) week, planned to take the time to enjoy team building and sporting events of our choosing. Many activities were undertaken including scuba diving in Scotland, sailing around the Isle of Wight and cycling/walking in Norfolk studying the plethora of WW2 airfields and sea defences. One team also set off for Europe, retracing the route used to take the bridges across the Rhine during Operation MARKET GARDEN. More adventurous Squadron members took part in a parachuting course and another group flung themselves off a Welsh hillside to try and gain a paragliding qualification.

Remembrance Day saw a short service take place by the ALARM memorial, dedicated to Flight Lieutenants Kevin Main and Dave Williams who were killed in action during the Iraq war in 2003. On the following Sunday, Squadron personnel were also on parade at venues across Norfolk remembering all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The 11th November was also Wing Commander Nick Hay’s last full day in command. At 1645 he was ‘crewed in’ to a model Tornado aircraft appropriately decorated in Squadron decals and complete with his name adorning the side of the cockpit. He was subsequently towed through the camp to the sound of applause from Squadron members lining the taxiway. On arrival at the Belfry Bar, he was greeted by the Executive Officer and invited to put his hand in his pocket. Double shift beer calls, where all members of the Squadron have the opportunity to socialise together, are few and far between. Nick’s proved to be an outstanding function and demonstrated to the new boss, Wing Commander Andy Turk DFC, the camaraderie and ethos that embodies IX (B) Squadron. The handover process was completed on the 12th November when the Squadron paraded outside the Headquarters Building and Wing Commander Hay’s pennant was lowered from the flagpole and presented to him by Wing Commander Turk.

The year drew to a close with the usual sequence of social events and Christmas functions before departing for a well earned break with families and friends. 2011 promises to be another busy year for the unit with a major overseas exercise in February at Nellis Air Force base in Nevada (excellent proximity to Vegas) and working up to another deployment on Op HERRICK towards the end of the year.

MJG
KRH Army Cadets become Kentucky Colonels.
The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Army Cadet Force

Army Cadets from Hampshire cap-badged to The King's Royal Hussars joined a total of 30 from across the county and the Isle of Wight, for the first ever visit by UK cadets to their counterparts in the USA, last year, where they were appointed Honorary Kentucky Colonels.

The awards, which were presented to the youngsters at Government House in the Kentucky state capital of Frankfort, were the highlight of their weeklong visit. The trip was organised as part of the Army Cadet’s 150 year anniversary celebrations.

During the week youngsters took part in a wide variety of activities including fieldcraft, range shooting, hiking, rock climbing and an interesting session of water survival training called ditch and drop, jumping into a swimming pool with all kit on, removing it under water then staying afloat for five minutes. Not as easy as it sounds the cadets admitted.

In addition to the state capital they also visited a police headquarters, museums and helped with a community project to restore antique cast iron fencing around a public square in Millersburg. The youngsters were kept busy following a tiring programme of events; one female cadet even fell asleep while writing a note of her experiences.

Cadets had to fund the cost of travel themselves but were then hosted by the US Army Cadet Corps based in Millersburg. Next year it is planned for the US cadets to visit Hampshire and Isle of Wight for the second leg of an exchange, building on what Winston Churchill described as a 'special relationship'.

The Cadets continue to have close ties with KRH who provide training visits and inspections throughout the year. As well as visiting their respective Detachments KRH Squadrons have hosted a number of visits to Tidworth this year were the Cadets have the opportunity to experience what life is like in an Armoured Regiment, something they have very much enjoyed and hope they can continue to enjoy in the years to come.
As your new Chairman, may I first on your behalf thank Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Kaye for all he did and achieved during his six years as our Chairman, and during the previous five years as the Vice-Chairman. Eleven years overseeing our Association is long service in anybody’s books, and Colonel Johnny did it all so very well. I have my work cut-out to follow in his footsteps.

I am hugely honoured to have been appointed, and I am much enjoying attending some of the various reunions that are organized around the Kingdom, and meeting those who have served, often with their families. While those members of the Association who I have met are all in good heart, they are disappointed that not more attend the reunions, and so am I. In order to encourage greater attendance, the style of a number of the reunions have changed; you may wish to relook at what is on offer. The initiative of holding a Regimental Cocktail / Finger Buffet after the Cavalry Memorial Parade was well received by all who attended in the RAF Club, and the details are published further-on in this Newsletter. I do hope that all who parade that day will join us for at least a quick drink before moving-on elsewhere for lunch, or some serious drinking.

It is clear to me that a reunion is when two or more who served together meet-up, and that the Association should focus on delivering that for you its members. One major change that I have instituted, which has been approved by the Trustees, and received with acclaim by all to whom I have spoken, is that your Association will now advertise and promote the activities and reunions organized by any of our predecessor regiments. Within the ex-military community, there are a number of Old Comrades’ associations and groups that are run primarily for members of our predecessor regiments. These include: The Shiners’ Club, The Cherrypickers’ OCA, and Noah’s Arc. Details of each of the organisations appears later in the Newsletter, and their activities are advertised in the 2011 Diary, on the Website, and on Facebook. Officers’ luncheons and the like will also be advertised, when we are informed. The Association will not financially support the activities of these fissiparous organizations, only promote them, and thereby encourage reunions between members.

As ever at the cutting edge of technology, and as a way of keeping in touch with the membership, your Association has its own Facebook Page, and I have discovered that many of you use Facebook. Our Page is the “KRH Regimental Association”, and all the various activities and reunions are advertised, together with the name and email address of the organizer. There are currently some 200 members who regularly view our Page, and a total of 384 who “like” our Page. I am sent a weekly Sitrep by Facebook, and I hope that the Association’s Facebook Page will be increasingly viewed and consulted.

We are now also on the Web. www.krh.org.uk went live at the beginning of March, and will increasingly become the medium through which the Regiment and the Association keeps the membership up-to-date with all that is happening on the KRH-scene. It is still in its infancy, ie pages and links continue to be populated, but do let Home Headquarters (North) know what else we should provide.

We are very much on “Receive” as we exploit the capabilities of this area. I would hope that by using the Website as a medium to advertise activities, and also to publish this Newsletter, we can
reduce the horrendous expense of postage. This will be a gradual change, but those of you who are uncomfortable reading magazines on the small screen, and many of us are not good at it, will continue to receive the Newsletter through the post.

We have taken the opportunity at the same time, to update the Database of all who have served in the five regiments. This will make it easier for our two Home Headquarters to search for those who served together, or who may live close-by, and enable the Association to provide a better and perhaps more pro-active service to you the membership. To that end, I should be grateful if you would complete the Form that is enclosed with this Newsletter, and allow us to use your details in a more pro-active manner. You may also submit the Form through the Website, by clicking on the Button marked “JOIN”.

The highlight of 2010 has to be the Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade, where our Colonel-in-Chief accepted the Freedom Scroll from the Chief-Executive of Gloucestershire County Council at Frampton Court. This is reported elsewhere, but I was delighted that so many Association members took the opportunity to update themselves on the state of the Regiment, and enjoy a thoroughly good day out. The Parade was outstanding, by anybody’s standard, and the professionalism displayed by all who worked that day was hugely impressive. The organizer on the ground, Major Ian Simpson MBE, was rightly awarded the Regimental Medal for the excellence of the arrangements.

You will read, and many of you will have heard the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Alex Potts, talk about “The KRH Appeal”, and the rationale behind the begging bowl in the face of the Regiment’s forthcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Your Association is fully committed to promoting The KRH Appeal, and I hope that the great majority of you will support this hugely worthy cause. A number of us can afford to write cheques, but others will, through their own efforts, raise many hundreds of pounds. I thank you in advance for your generosity of spirit and time in order to ensure that the King’s Royal Hussars may deploy in the certain knowledge that their families at home will be properly looked after. The Appeal will continue to grow, and to become the financial bedrock upon which we shall look-after our own in the years to come. We read daily about the horrors of current operations. Yet for the soldier who served, it may be many years before the effects of those horrors come to light. The KRH Appeal will go some way to assist those of our soldiers who have been affected, and their families, this year and in the years to come.

I represented the Association at the Funeral of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Ross, a former Chairman of the 14/20H Association. At the Wake thereafter many commented, as they always do on such occasions, that we should hold our own funeral in advance because the gathering of Regimental chums is such fun. We do hold something similar and that is called a Reunion. The difference is that we feel an obligation to attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a chum, and so attend; that feeling of obligation is not there year after year with the various reunions. May I ask you to reconsider your obligations and to consider supporting your local Reunion, they are enjoyable, and regularly there are actual “reunions” between members who haven’t seen each other for tens of years. I look forward to seeing you there.

South West Reunion:
Jeremy Moger
The South West Association is in good fettle and I hope going from strength to strength. My aim is to hold two gatherings each year, one in the summer and another as close to 22nd November (celebration of the Battle of Ramnuggur) as possible.

This year we gathered as before at Manor Farm, Droop, Hazelbury Bryan (home of Jeremy & Arabella Moger) on 12 June where seventy-five old and bold enjoyed a very good buffet lunch in glori-
Central Southern Reunion in the WOs and Sgts Mess at Tidworth. Geant Major (WO1 Paul Bland) for allowing us to hold the 2010 Reunion, see you all then.

£14.00 per person, this increase due to the rise in VAT. I hope to include partners etc to also attend, never forget that they were also part of the Regimental family and are most welcome. The cost will be £14.00 per person, this increase due to the rise in VAT. I hope to see you all then.

Central Southern Reunion:
Richard East
We were really grateful for the generosity of the Regimental Sergeant Major (WO1 Paul Bland) for allowing us to hold the 2010 Central Southern Reunion in the WOs and Sgts Mess at Tidworth.

This was a wonderful setting in the new style Mess and it allowed us to admire all our old pictures and silver which were so well displayed. We were at near capacity with 95 former and serving members of the Regiment present, and we were served a most excellent lunch provided by the Regimental Chefs. The Mess staff members who helped at lunch were serving soldiers from the Regiment and we all enjoyed being able to talk to them, and the Officers and Warrant Officers at Regimental Duty, as well as catching up with old friends.

The Commanding Officer and the Colonel of the Regiment both gave an up date on past and future events which showed us all just how busy the Regiment has been and is likely to be in the future. The Colonel of the Regiment also gave a resume on the Freedom of Gloucestershire Parade, and we were able to admire photographs taken on the day on the large screen viewer. Bob Penfold ran the Raffle with his customary humour and efficiency, and after lunch many returned to the bar to chew over old times.

The Commanding Officer has offered us the opportunity to return to the Regiment for the 2011 Reunion and we very much hope to be able to do this. The date has not yet been confirmed but subject to the Regiment’s commitments, we are looking at a date in October 2011.

North West Reunion:
John Cornish
The weekend started early with Mick Gates having his 80th birthday party at the “Boars Head” on the Friday evening. Needless to say there was a good turnout and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The Saturday Golf Tournament had to be cancelled due to the unfortunate death of the organiser, Bill Butcher. The Saturday evening started relatively slowly with eighty-four Old Comrades and Serving Officers sitting down for dinner. After an excellent meal and the Loyal Toasts, the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel David Woodd, gave a brief speech and then handed over to The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Alex Potts. Colonel Alex brought Association members up-to-date with what the regiment had been up to in the past 12 months and what the current plans were for the future. The Chairman then gave a short speech on the Association and its future plan. The dance floor was then cleared of diners so that the younger and more energetic members could enjoy the Disco. There were an additional 160 members, which included 64 serving personnel their wives and girlfriends, who had chosen not to dine prop-up the Bar. It was a pleasure to see so many young, local, and serving members attending, and this certainly made for a more up beat atmosphere. The dance floor was certainly getting a hammering with athletic displays from some very agile officers and senior ranks. The Barton Grange Hotel did us proud, and thanks to their efforts, an excellent meal and the Loyal Toasts, the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel David Woodd, took the salute.

Sunday morning saw the Guidon Party joining the Chairman for breakfast at the Hotel before Church Parade. The Guidon Party then led the column of Old Comrades and serving personnel as they marched to church with Mick Fogg bearing the Association Banner and Colonel Tony commanding the Parade; Colonel David Woodd took the salute.

The Service of Remembrance was conducted by the Reverend Jeff Finch, and Darryl Cartwright played Last Post and Reveille. After the Service, personnel gathered at the columbarium for the very solemn internment of ashes for the late SSGt Jack Kelly and the late Mrs Pat MacGregor.

It was a real pleasure to see so many serving members of The King’s Royal Hussars attending, and it certainly made a very big difference to the Church Parade.
Removal of the last Gate Guardian from Fulwood Barracks

March On, The Guidon
RSM and Guidon Party at Barton Grange
Gloucestershire Reunion:
Tony Singer OBE
The Gloucestershire Branch Reunion Luncheon was held at the Victory Club, Cheltenham, on Sunday 28th November 2010. The numbers were down on last year, with a number of cancellations on the day due to the very harsh weather, this despite the addition of a number of Royal Gloucestershire Hussars members. However, we were delighted to see the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Alex Potts, who was able to update attendees on all that the Regiment is doing. The Victory Club looked after us very well, and everyone commented how delightful the food was. In an attempt to raise the numbers, I have moved the Reunion to March, when the weather is better, and there are fewer conflicting military activities. Thus, this year’s Reunion will be a Fork Luncheon on Sunday 13th March 2011 at The Victory Club in Cheltenham, with free drinks for those wearing a Regimental Tie. Information has been circulated, and if you would like to attend, but have not received my letter, please get in touch. Do try to support.

North East Reunion:
Mick Taylor
The Reunion was held at The Coachman Hotel, Darlington on the evening of 26th September. The evening was very enjoyable with excellent food. Numbers were down on last year though we did have two generations of Trotter’s in attendance who had served with the 11th Hussars (PAO) and The Royal Hussars; Willy, his son James and Willy’s brother, John. Cath Lane and my wife Kim did an excellent job of selling Raffle tickets to a very generous gathering. After dinner, everyone retired to the bar for a few drinks until last orders were called at midnight.

East Anglia Reunion:
Johnny Kaye
Unfortunately, the East Anglia Reunion had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. This was a great shame as The British Racing School has always put on a very good luncheon for a most reasonable price. I am hopeful that there will be more interest and a better response in 2011.

The King’s Royal Hussars Regimental Trust
(Welfare Fund)

Accounts Summary 2009-2010
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2010

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<th>31 March 2010</th>
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<td>Net Assets</td>
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY FOR THE ABOVE PERIOD

Income:
Voluntary Income £41,716 £44,259
Investment Income £16,707 £21,121
Charitable Income £20,534 £17,051
Total Incoming resources £78,957 £82,431

Resources Expended:
Grants Furtherance £6,783 £10,274
Charitable Activities £52,365 £55,074
Governance Costs £1,679 £1,553
Total Resources Expended £60,828 £66,901

Net Incoming resources before revaluation of investments:
£18,129 £15,530

Losses on revaluations of investments for the charity’s own use:
£128,713 (£123,169)

Net movement in fund £146,842 (£107,639)
Total funds brought forward £547,961 £655,600
Total funds carried forward £694,803 £547,961

The Fund assisted a total of 80 individuals who were serving with or had served with The King’s Royal Hussars or its predecessor regiments.
For the next seven years Tim embarked on a series of staff appointments which included S03 G3 Ops at HQ 24 Airmobile Brigade in Catterick and, post Staff College, Military Assistant 2 to the Chief of the General Staff, first to General Peter Inge and subsequently, following the infamous Lady Buck affair, General Charles Guthrie. Tim returned to command C Squadron in 1996, taking them in the Armd Recce role to Bosnia in 1997 where, detached to the 1 RRF Battlegroup, they looked after the Sipovo area of operations. He subsequently polished his after-dinner speaking skills with a short tour with the Army Presentation Team at Camberley.

Promoted to Lt Col in 1999, Tim was appointed S01 Armoured Training & Advisory Team (ARTAT) in Sennelager, with considerable responsibilities for the field training of all RAC regiments in Germany. This proved excellent preparation for his next appointment, command of The King’s Royal Hussars between 2001 and 2003. After a full training season, including BATUS in the first year, somewhat blighted by the Foot & Mouth Epidemic of 2001, Tim re-rolled the Regiment to prepare for a dismounted tour of Northern Ireland. With RHQ in Dungannon, the Squadrons rotated through a series of tasks including stints in various outstations. It was a tense time, both in the peace process and the development of the new Police Service of Northern Ireland. Tim set professionally high standards in countering the dissident threat, but also applied immense common sense and charm in supporting the police, rebuilding relationships that had waned. He ensured that Killymeal House, a Georgian house that served as the Mess, was put to full use, both as a smart but welcoming home from home for the Officers and also as the focal point for ‘influence operations’ with the local community.

Returning to Staff College in 2003, Tim taught on ACSC before promoting to Colonel in 2004 and heading off for a tour as Chief Operations Support in MND(SE) in Iraq; the tour included a spell providing higher HQ to the Black Watch Battlegroup, during their high profile deployment to the Baghdad area with USMC – and during the final months – responsibility for training 10th Iraqi Division. He then became Commandant Land Warfare Collective Training Group in 2005-07 before promoting to Brigadier in 2007. He deployed as Deputy Commanding General CSTC-A in Kabul, responsible for training the Afghan National Army, and then took over as Commander Collective Training Group in Warminster from 2008-09. Clearly his skills, as someone with an innate understanding of people and training, proved too attractive to the commercial world, which snapped him up in late 2009.

Tim will be remembered as an Officer with high standards matched only by his enthusiasm for fun, and his love of the Regiment and its ethos. He will be fondly recalled by many for his characteristic stance in the Mess – legs planted apart, one hand deep in pocket, the other handling a large cigar, eyes sparkling whilst laughing loudly. Tim’s deep Regimental interest continued post-command being actively involved as a Regimental and Winchester Museum Trustee, including a spell as Chairman of the latter. Unsurprisingly he continued to be actively engaged in RAC Sailing, only handing over as Commodore of RACYC on his retirement.

We wish Tim, Sarah, George and Harriet all the best for their future (back) in the Middle East.

NG-T
Colonel CHD Darell  

After graduating from Oxford in 1977 and completing Sandhurst, Charlie Darell joined The Royal Hussars (PWFO) in Sennelager in time to go to Belfast on an Op BANNER tour in 1978. The Troop Leaders' course was followed by 18 months in Caterick, where training recruits, shooting, hunting with the Zetland and Bedale, and playing a lot of cricket in the summer were the orders of the day.

Marriage to Saskia in 1980 was followed by a posting to D Squadron in Berlin for six very happy months. Memories include a period of heightened tension in Berlin as a result of a military coup in Poland; rumbles down the main streets in Chieftain tanks with a police escort just to have a troop photograph in front of the Brandenburg Gate; and Hermann Hess (Hitler's deputy) at Spandau prison. Fallingbostel was home for the next six years, initially with D Squadron, then as 2IC A Squadron, and then B Squadron Leader, punctuated by a year at Bovington to do the Long Armour Course. Highlights were Challenger 1 Troop Trials, Major FTXs with Challengers charging across the German countryside, polo, hunter trials, drag hunting, skiing, and running Regimental Sports.

A wonderful year at the Staff College in India was followed by two years of penance at the Ministry of Defence. It was a relief to return to Regimental Duty in Münster as A Squadron Leader of RH and then the newly formed KRH. Promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel and a posting to HQ ARRC as SO1 Trg/EPs in Rheindahlen were followed by command of the Corps HQ Support Battalion, which included an operational tour in Bosnia as part of IFOR. A busy tour as Chief G3 Ops at HQ Land was followed by a year in Kuwait as an Instructor at the Staff College. Promotion and two years as Col Trg at HQ DRAC preceded a memorable tour as Commander British Forces in Afghanistan 2004/5. This was followed by a course at the Italian equivalent of RCDS in Rome and three glorious years as the DA, with additional responsibility for Albania.

CHDD  

Lieutenant Colonel JAF “Tiny” Howard  

Having managed to persuade the Army to sponsor him through university, Jonathan Howard completed his first operational tour in the City Centre, Belfast as part of his annual attachment to the Royal Hussars. On commissioning from Sandhurst, he was posted to D Squadron in Berlin, action-packed in all respects but taxing his newly-honed troop leader skills in the dense woods of the Grünewald training area. However he was more adept on the sporting scene playing cricket for the Berlin XI and convincing some of the Geordies in the squadron to convert from football to rugby.

When the Regiment moved to Fallingbostel, Jonathan was made the RSO and Command Troop leader, becoming very familiar with the local chateaux for “Zero Hotel” during the annual FTX and CPX season. He then moved to C Squadron as 2IC before becoming the Adjutant and Ops Officer to Brigadier Euan Morrison. There followed an enjoyable array of worldwide appointments starting in Hong Kong as SO3 G3O&D. Work requirements and representational sport enabled extensive travel throughout SE Asia. Jonathan was then sent to the Australian Staff College at Queenscliffe in Victoria. It was then time to return to UK and rejoin the Royal Hussars at Tidworth as C Squadron Leader, t detached to 1 (UK) Armd Bde. Despite drill not being his forte, a particular highlight was commanding C Squadron (Right of Line) on the Guidon Parade. During this tour he was also very proud to have been part of the Regimental rugby team that won the RAC cup against QDG on their home ground whilst firing at Castlemartin. The difficulty getting into his tank the next day on the ranges is still remembered.

Jonathan then became an instructor at JDSC and thereafter was posted to the Sultanate of Oman as the Chief Instructor at the Armoured School at Shafa. Here he found himself organising two Brigade level and highly glittery parades within 6 months of each other for the Sultan’s nephew. Much more fun however was exercising in the desert with the Omanis and also introducing Challenger 2 to them (2 years before we got it!!). There was even an opportunity to establish Officers’ No 12 Dress, Desert, Formal Evening – with a crimson dishdash!

Having been picked up for promotion, there followed one and half frustrating years as SO1 Armour at DLW, trying to predict the doctrine for the always-doomed TRACER project. However, commanding NUOTC at Newcastle followed which was a hugely enjoyable and satisfying 3 years with the officer cadets lapping up all the challenges thrown at them whether military, adventure training, sporting, raising money for charity or, indeed, social. The Millennium was seen in with live rounds and tracer in Sarajevo during a 6 month tour as SO1 Ops CJOTF. There followed 3 interesting years in charge of officer recruiting at Upavon before another operational tour – this time in Kuwait as the Assistant Defence Attaché but with the added responsibility of liaison officer to HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div during the invasion of Iraq. It led logically into his next appointment in Ghana where he spent 3 extremely interesting years as the Defence Adviser to the British High Commissioner in Accra with the added responsibility for Cote d’Ivoire and Togo. The highlight undoubtedly being facilitating the evacuation of British citizens from Cote d’Ivoire in 2005. In fact, more Gurkhas went in than Brits came out! The job also enabled extensive travel in the region such as to the household names of Ouagadougou, Bobo Dioulasso, Kumasi and Dikodougou. Time once more to return to UK for the last time for a final posting at Westbury at the Army Officer Selection Board.

Jonathan is now working as a leadership consultant presently involved in assisting the NHS with leadership development. He is based near Sherborne with his wife, Louise, and 3 sons.

JAFH  

Lieutenant Colonel HAO Wicks  
14/20H 1978-1992 and KRH 1992-2010  

Alastair joined the Army on 3rd November 1976 on an ‘O’ Type engagement, cap-badged SCOTS DG. He attended the second Rowan Course at Sandhurst where Jeremy Moger was one of the DS. Jeremy encouraged him to change to 14th/20th King’s Hussars where he was eventually Commissioned on 4th April 1978. He joined B Squadron in Northern Ireland and then spent 4 years troop leading in Hohne on Chieftain.

He was selected to be ADC to The Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal for the presentation of the new Guidon in June 1982. He remained in B Squadron until 1984 as 2IC, until he was posted to A Squadron to take command of the reformed Guided Weapons (Swingfire) Troop.
In Nov 1985, he was posted to the Duke of Lancaster’s Yeomanry as Adjutant and remained there until the first of his Staff Jobs as SO3 Personnel at BATUS Canada. In 1989 he returned to 14/20H in Munster initially to take over HQ Squadron but after a year, was fortunate to be given command of D Squadron and almost immediately deployed on Op GRANBY (First Gulf War).

In 1992, he was posted as SO2 Armoured at the Brigade and Battle Group Tactical Trainer in Warminster for a couple of years before volunteering for Loan Service in Oman, serving with the Sultan of Oman’s Armour as Chief Instructor for two years. On returning to UK in 1997, he spent three years as SO2 Armoured at the Armoured Tactics and Reconnaissance Division at Warminster running the Armoured Troop Leader’s and Crew Commander’s Courses.

In November 2000, he went back out to the Middle East as the Armoured Advisor to the British Military Mission in Kuwait, again on Loan Service. During his time there he was assigned as a Brigade Liaison Officer to one of the Kuwait Armoured Brigades and assisted the ‘passage of lines’ for the UK and American forces invading Iraq on Op TELIC 1. In late 2003, he returned to UK as SO2 Armoured (Cultural Attaché!) to the Royal Artillery at Larkhill. From there he moved to become Senior Instructor at the Communications and Information System’s School at the Armour Centre.

In 2008 he was promoted to Lt Col (at last!) and moved to London as SO1 Armour at UK Trade and Investment Defence Security Organisation (formally DESO). In 2010 a job opportunity arose to be employed as a Military Contract Officer with the United Arab Emirates Army helping to set up a Collective Training Centre. As a result he left the British Army on 18 August 2010, two months short of his 34th year in the military and is now based in Dubai.

Throughout his career Alastair has been a keen sportsman having represented the Regiment in Rugby, Skiing, Polo, Swimming and Windsurfing. He has also represented the Regiment and The Organisation (formally DESO). In 2010 a job opportunity arose to be employed as a Military Contract Officer with the United Arab Emirates Army helping to set up a Collective Training Centre. As a result he left the British Army on 18 August 2010, two months short of his 34th year in the military and is now based in Dubai.

As a final high note to his happy time with the Regiment, on 17th June 2007 and 2009. For four years and skippered the RAC yachts (White Knight 5 and Windsurfing. It has given me a sense of responsibility, teamwork and leadership. This is what it was all about.

Promoted to Sergeant in 1979 at the age of 24, he was a Troop Sergeant and Gunner Instructor in D Squadron – The Berlin Armoured Squadron. It was a great Squadron, who managed to wipe the floor with the opposition in every competition – a fantastic and memorable time was had by all who served in D Squadron in Berlin and what was achieved is still remembered to this day even the B Pass on Hohne Ranges…

Leaving Berlin in 1981, he was posted to the Junior Leaders Regiment Bovington as a Gunner Instructor once again – and enjoyed the huge sense of achievement teaching young soldiers to become Tank Gunners culminating with live firing at Lulworth Ranges. During his time at JLR he was introduced to cross-country and marathon running which was to be very useful later on in his career. Returning toRD and A Squadron in 1983, he was part of the team who introduced Challenger 1 to the RAC and took part in the first FTX on CRI when it was first unleashed to the world’s media.

Staying at RD, Eddie took command of Recce Troop and was later promoted to a Squadron Sergeant Major. It was during this time in Fallingboothel that all the running and fitness paid off. Many readers will recall the famous Bunker runs and those that took part in the JNCO’s Cadre will remember the bergan runs and the odd hosing down as we returned from a run! Returning to Tidworth to continue as SSM, it was during the Regiment’s last year in Tidworth, that Eddie married Lesley and was promoted to RQMS just in time to move the Regiment to Munster.

After 12 months in Münster, Eddie was once again promoted and was the last Regimental Sergeant Major for The Royal Hussars. This was all that he had set out to do from that early age of 15 when he was a Junior Soldier. On amalgamation in 1992, Eddie was appointed the first Regimental Sergeant Major for the King’s Royal Hussars – an absolute honour with very many fond memories of that most important time in the making of the Regiment.

Commissioned in 1993 he spent a short time away in Winchester at the Army Training Regiment. Returning to RD in 1995 for short spell as MTO, it was after returning from BATUS that he was told that he was to take over the appointment of Quartermaster where he stayed for the next 4/5 years – a fantastic tour of duty refurbishing York Barracks and being a key part of the keeping hold of the new combat kit (CS95) ahead of time. During this time he also deployed to Bosnia and Kosovo and prepared the Regiment for its final move to Tidworth.

After an immaculate handover, Eddie took over as Headquarters Squadron Leader where he remained until December 2000 when it was time for him to leave RD for good and see what was on offer in the ERE world. In 2001, Eddie was awarded Regimental Medal Number 188 for his services and contribution to the Regiment – another very proud moment indeed.

In 2003, Eddie and Lesley were posted to Gutersloh as The Base Quartermaster – a fantastic job but it was heartbreaking to see how different Corps did their day to day business and Eddie was so glad that he had a RAC upbringing all those years under the watchful eye of Chas Goy and Mick Keats! The final years saw Eddie posted back to Bovington as OC 12 Cadet Training Team.

After 40 years in Service, would I do it again? YES I would! I have no regrets, really fond memories of my time spent with the Regiment and at ERE. It has given me a sense of responsibility, loyalty and camaraderie – something that I believe is missing in civilian life. Eddie has now retired, living in Worthing with Lesley. He joined his local Harley Davidson Chapter ‘1066’ and ‘Husar These Riders’. Weather-permitting he rides his Harley Davidson motorcycle whenever he can – ‘Live To Ride’ – ‘Ride To Live!’

EMH
Major IJ Hardbattle

Major Ian Hardbattle joined the Army in 1976 and carried out his basic training at Bovington as a member of the Junior Leaders’ Regiment. After spectacularly failing to catch the selector’s eye, he left Juniors in December 1977 having reached the lofty heights of Junior Trooper. His Troop Leader at the time noting in his final report that the young Hardbattle possessed few if any of the attributes required of a Junior NCO!

Undaunted, Ian made his way out to Germany joining the 14th/20th King’s Hussars in Hohen, where he was posted into the newly formed D Squadron as a tank gunner. The next 7 years saw a number of different jobs and deployments pass in what now seems like an idyllic whirlwind; along the way thankfully proving the Junior Leaders’ Troop Leader wrong, as by 1985 he moved with the Regiment to Catterick as a Corporal Gunnery Instructor.

Whilst at Catterick working as part of Trade Squadron, Ian managed a 6 month deployment to Belize as part of Recce Troop, before realising his true calling and moving south to a particularly splendid stretch of the Dorset coast as a School’s Gunnery Instructor. In between shepherding Troop Leaders and Regimental Gunnery Officers, he found the time to marry Lynn and set about the business of starting a family.

The next 10 years saw postings to Berlin, Hohen and Munster as well as cheeky deployments to Kuwait and Bosnia, culminating in a return to Lulworth as the RSMI of the Gunnery School in 1998. Commissioned in 2000, it was straight to work in the Training Wing co-ordinating the conversion of KRH to CR2. Deployments to Canada and Northern Ireland ensured life remained interesting, as did a tour with the Regiment to Iraq whilst flying the Careers Management Officer’s desk. Service at Regimental Duty culminated in a two year stint as Quartermaster, doubling up for a while as OC Rear Party – now there’s a job to bring tears to your eyes!

The final couple of years, prior to the leap of faith into civilian life, were spent at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate working as the Contract Monitor for the MOD Private Finance Initiative. A good grounding for the future as the job entailed supervising a large team of contractors and civil servants. Whilst at Harrogate, the Regiment afforded Ian the honour of awarding him the Regimental Medal for his efforts in maintaining the Regiment’s profile and good name within the Foundation College.

Ian now works in York with the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, as a Health and Safety Officer.  

Captain M R Harrison
KRH 2003-2010

Captain Mark Harrison was commissioned into The King’s Royal Hussars in August 2003. His first job was to host a foreign officer from the Pakistani Guides Cavalry for 5 weeks, an early lesson in international diplomacy and one that has gone on to serve him well.

While enjoying riding lessons and pub suppers during the Armoured Troop Leaders’ Course at Bovington, he managed to secure the Armourers and Brasiers prize, happily ahead of some keen and thrusting RTR officers. He joined A Squadron for a full training year on CR2, successfully commanding 2nd Tp through SPTA build-up excercises, followed by Ex MED MAN 4 in BATUS. While Bowman radio problems delayed the Battle Group deployment, he supervised a 3-week adventure training camp in the Rockies – the first in a long line of completely buckshee appointments that he was to secure.

Back in Tidworth, Mark organised the first KRH Snowboard team (Buckshee No 2), competing at the Army championships in Austria, where the team finished 3rd overall. He returned to A Squadron for the pre-deployment training for Op TELIC 6, before deploying with the Squadron to Al Amarah, as part of the 1 STAFFORDS BG. He had a busy tour in Iraq, mentoring out-lying police stations, and taking part in numerous security operations mounted in CR2. As the security situation in the region declined, Mark thought it best to head home. He returned to familiar territory in Lulworth to undertake a second troop leader’s course, this time the Close Recce variety. After missing the Signals Phase for a holiday in Spain (Buckshee No 3), he jointly purchased a speed boat, which was conveniently moored nearby for the duration of the course.

Before taking command of Recce Tp, he returned to the Army Snowboard Championships for a 2nd year (No 4), secured a place on the Army team, and competed at the Inter-Services competition. His time as Recce Troop leader saw him deploying to Canada as OPFOR Recce Coy 2IC, avoiding close encounters with some local wildlife, and completing half an Ex DRUID’S DANCE that was cancelled due to too much rain (No 5).  

Mark was then posted as ADC to GOC 3(UK) Div – then under command of Gen Shirreff. This proved a busy period, and included visits to the US, Kenya, Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as visiting every unit in 3 (UK) Div. When Gen Shirreff promoted and became COMARRC, Harrison duly followed and spent several months at HQ ARRC in Rheindahlen enjoying German beer, several ski trips, and foreign visits (No 6). He returned to Tidworth as A Squadron 2IC and saw another BATUS exercise on CR2 before taking over as Regimental Ops Officer.

As Ops Officer, Mark helped prepare the KRH Battle Group for deployment on Op TELIC 14, making time to compete at the Cresta Run (No 7) in the process. After a full OPTAG training period, the Iraq drawdown meant that the KRH task morphed into providing the RSOI group in Kuwait to process all those heading up into Iraq. Mark returned from Kuwait to spend his final months in the Regiment enjoying horse-riding and summer parties (Nos 8 and 9), before leaving Regimental Duty to start a Masters Degree at SOAS.

Widely known as the Gwa Hussar, Mark thoroughly enjoyed his time in the Regiment, both on and off duty. He regularly used fancy dress parties to impart cavalry hospitality, and had the dubious honour of finishing the Emperor twice after being too drunk to realise he didn’t have to.

Having left Regimental Duty, Mark still managed to represent the Regiment for a 2nd year at the Cresta Run (No 10), and after a brief spell teaching in China, is now working for a leading green technology company in London. We wish him the best of luck and happy hunting.  

DRMW
Captain R M Adkin
KRH 2006-2010

Capt Rob Adkin commissioned from Sandhurst in August 2006 and, after a brief few weeks at RD getting to grips with the role of Regimental Orderly Officer, embarked on his Troop Leader’s Course shortly after.

After 6 months of ‘gruelling’ subject matter training in the workings of a Challenger 2 Armoured Squadron, he found his hopes of a Cyprus tour had been replaced by one in Iraq, not on Challenger 2 but on Warrior in a protective mobility role. Rob deployed on Op TELIC 10 with D Squadron, attached to the 1 Royal Welsh BG during an exhilarating tour of intense fighting. On return to RD, Rob slipped back into the peace time duties of a Troop Leader, being hassled by senior subalterns and doing his utmost to avoid irate Squadron Leaders preparing for a testing tour of BATUS. Rob managed to escape the madness, being sent on the RGO’s course in Dorset; lucky enough to have the pleasure of attending during its tenure of a 3 month stint at Lulworth in the Summer. Fond memories of afternoons lounging on the beach with pretty girls, were sadly interspersed with less than happy memories of some of the most obscure bits of the Challenger 2’s gun kit.

On completion, Rob deployed on Ex MEDMAN 4 in BATUS, followed by a month working as Safety Staff. An epic live firing exercise aside, these months held happy memories of Medicine Hat, with his partner in crime, Capt ‘Two Taser’ Beattie – monumental road trips in a classic Oldsmobile and a night spent sleeping in a multi storey car park with Capt Crofton were just two of the highlights he could recall.

On return from BATUS, Rob took up post as the RGO, delivering a full Regimental combined arms live fire exercise at Castlemartin in preparation for the Iraq tour that never was. Rob subsequently joined B Squadron, successfully managing to migrate with the Challenger 2 fleet, allowing him to begin his role as a Squadron 2IC with the added benefit of being the main battle tank squadron, deploying on Ex DRUIDS DANCE and 4 weeks spent conducting TESEX on Salisbury Plain. Rob completed the final weeks of his service in A Squadron at a point when the Regiment was preparing to undertake its deployment on Ex AFRICAN THORN.

Off duty, Rob saw active participation in Regimental and Corps squashes, together with two distinctly frightening seasons on the Cresta Run. He left the Regiment in February 2010 and has since settled into life in London where his flat has often been the overnight resting place for many a wayward subaltern; perhaps appropriately re-branded as ‘KRH London Branch’. Rob leaves behind very fond memories and a thoroughly challenging yet rewarding time with the Regiment.

Captain GPF Boulter
KRH 2007-2010

Patrick Boulter commissioned into the KRH in April 2007. His first glimpse of regimental life was at the hands of Cpl Pearson (Percy) in the stables and Patrick found himself whipped into the polo team in double quick time and enjoying a halcyon spring of endless chukkas and riding out. Sadly, soldiering intervened and it was off to Bovington for his Troop Leader’s Course.

Patrick made the most of his time in Dorset and diverted much of his energy to riding, rock climbing, and sailing. Returning to the Regiment just in time to attend the Army Telemarking Championship in Rauris, Austria, Patrick found himself in the ‘pro’ group and, perhaps unsurprisingly, returned home empty handed...medal wise at least.

Patrick began his career at RD in C Squadron as 2nd Tp Ldr. He completed a variety of exercises with C Squadron over the course of the training year, with a quick spell to Argentina to brush up on stick and ball thrown in for good measure. Fresh back from Argentina he went to BATUS as OPFOR for the 2RTR BG, before completing Ex DRUID’S DANCE on the Plain. Having established himself as something of a skier, Patrick found himself organising two successful trips to Verbier – this time for some of the downhill variety. Upon return to Bightry, C Squadron and Patrick were thrust into a steady build-up of vehicle conversion courses, a CALFEX, CFX, and MRX in preparation for a deployment to Iraq in 2009. Unfortunately because of the draw-down, Op TELIC 14 never materialised and Patrick found himself on far more familiar territory in Cornwall running a sailing AT package for the Regiment.

Patrick finished his career as Maj Kingsford’s 2IC in D Squadron, with both officers treasuring many happy memories. With marriage in the offing, he decided to hang up his spurs and has laterly thrown himself into various businesses in London and Switzerland. No one is exactly sure what these businesses might be but he seems to be enjoying himself!
Obituaries

Sir Norman Wisdom OBE

10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1930–1937

Norman Wisdom’s highly successful career on the stage, in films and on television was fully covered in the national media following his death, aged 95, in October 2010. But as Sir Norman said himself, in many interviews, he owed everything to his Army service in the 10th Hussars in India in the 1930s.


His father, a chauffeur, was a bully and when Norman was nine his mother, a dressmaker, left the house leaving him and his elder brother Fred behind. Although he had custody following a divorce, their father disappeared without notice for long periods leaving the boys to fend for themselves – going to school barefoot and becoming street urchins and petty thieves. After some two years, with frequent cautions to Norman from benevolent policemen, the father returned to learn that their mother had secretly been seeing her sons. Having given Norman a beating they were placed with guardians in Hertfordshire. After six months of happiness, including raiding orchards for fruit, their father failed to pay the 5 shillings (25p) per boy rent each week and they were moved to Deal in Kent. The first guardians found the two boys too much to handle so Norman was thrown out but he was next lodged with an understanding couple, going to school, learning to enjoy sport, joining the Sea Scouts and doing odd jobs.

Norman left school aged 14 and became a bicycle delivery boy for grocery stores in Deal, earning 14 shillings (70p) a week, until a new motor van caused him to be made redundant. So he left to seek his fortune in London, working as a bell boy and waiter in hotels. Then, seeking further adventure, Norman walked with a mate to Cardiff – 183 miles in three weeks – only to be abandoned by his ‘friend’.

Next he tried to get a job in the Hippodrome Theatre but, rejected again, he signed on as a cabin boy on a cargo ship bound for the Argentine. He learnt to box and during shore leave in Buenos Aires Norman was encouraged by his ship mates to enter the ring with a big prize boxer. Battered and bruised he stayed the three rounds needed to win £5. But after recovering he found that his ‘mates’ had gone off to drink his winnings, leaving Norman to return alone to the ship, whereupon he was chased around by a homosexual Greek engineer until the latter was laid flat by the only other man on board, a cook.

After further adventures the ship returned to Cardiff and Norman was laid off, to spend a lonely Christmas 1929 alone in a hostel. Destitute and back in London he tried to contact his grandparents and his father but all rejected him and Norman never saw his father again. He got a job in a hotel but was sacked on his first day for eating a chicken. So he then lived rough, hiding in a cinema all day, finding warmth at night by the Underground vents near Victoria station. A kindly coffee stall owner gave Norman a hot pie and Bovril when he closed for the night and, most importantly, suggested he joined the Army.

Despite his small size, and knowing nothing of music, Norman was accepted as a drummer boy with the King’s Royal Regiment at Litchfield. He loved Army life and after 3 months he was given two weeks leave with pay in London. There Norman found that his mother, now remarried and prosperous, insisted on paying £35 to buy him out of the Army and find him a post as a trainee draughtsman. On his first morning Norman decided to walk out and return to the Recruiting Office in Rochester Row. There he met Mr. Roberts, Bandmaster of the 10th Hussars, shortly to be posted to India.

Not disclosing his previous service and by now knowing a fair bit about music Norman enlisted in to the Regiment, sailing on the troop ship SS Southampton, bound for Calcutta via the Suez Canal, ‘in the fearsome heat of an Indian of an Indian summer I marched proudly through the white-washed walls of the barracks and into the square at Lucknow. Like the rest of the troops I was in khaki, and wore a white topee with the brass badge of the 10th Hussars emblazoned on it, gleaming in the sun. The badge was a plume of ostrich feathers over a coronet and a ribbon: Ich Dien’.

Norman loved Army life, as excerpts from his autobiography explain.

‘The Army would clothe me, feed me, keep me fit and educate me. As bandsmen, among four squadrons numbering 800 men, we were even known as ‘the Gentlemen of the Regiment’. What a turn-up for a one-time Oliver Twist. Right then I couldn’t ask for more’.

Norman found that he wasn’t the smallest man in the Regiment and he became pals with the Smith brothers, George and Jim, who shared an orphanage background in Kent.

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‘The Regimental Journal of The King's Royal Hussars 125

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'I was taught to fire a rifle – I became a marksman – plus map reading and survival in rough terrain. The bonus was a beautiful chestnut mare all of 12 hands high……..

Norman proved to be a good rider and on one occasion he was leading two other horses on exercise. The riding sergeant-major led a charge towards a five-foot bush fence. His two charges flew over the fence but Norman’s horse, Sixie, dug her hooves in, throwing her rider high in the air over the fence to be dragged by the other horses for several yards before they finally pulled up. The sergeant-major roared with laughter and looked down on Norman:

‘Tough little bastard aren’t you?’ ‘Yes Sir, thank you, Sir!’

This incident encouraged Norman to perfect the art of falling of a horse without hurting himself, before putting on a display before the whole regiment. Throughout his subsequent show business career he did almost all his own stunts, often against the advice of his director.

Similarly he realised through appearances at concerts and in the Officers’ Mess that he could tap dance, sing and make people laugh with him when he performed the tripping stunts which later became his professional hallmarks. Norman became the camp jester but he remained with him throughout the remainder of his long life. He received popular acclaim at the first Royal Variety Performance of the Queen’s reign at the Palladium in 1952.

His ‘Norman Pipkin’ and other films were popular behind the Iron Curtain, and especially in Albania, because the people could identify with his humanity and humour in a perpetual struggle against the powerful and pompous. Finally he was properly recognised as a great actor by the critics and his fellow professionals, winning a BAFTA award, being appointed OBE in 1995 and a Knight Bachelor by HM the Queen in 2000.

Norman’s kept his private life separate. He was married to Freda for 22 years, with two children Jackie and Nick, who once played cricket for Surrey, and two grandsons. His main home was on the northern tip of the Isle of Man. He also designed and built a house in Spain and he maintained a flat in Surrey, always paying UK taxes.

Norman was twice the guest on ‘This is Your Life’. In the first (BBC) programme his old comrade Wally Hedley and members of the Band of 10th Royal Hussars were featured. He appeared again with ITV in 1987.

One of Sir Norman’s last appearances in public was to be present at the official opening in 2006, by HRH Prince Michael of Kent, of ‘Horsepower’- the Museum of The King’s Royal Hussars in Winchester. Although by that time suffering from a form of dementia he sparkled when confronted by a pretty girl who interviewed him for BBC TV. He again spoke movingly of how much he owed to his Army service in the 10th Royal Hussars.

Sir Norman’s Funeral in Douglas, Isle of Man, on 22nd October 2010 was preceded by the parade of his horse-drawn coffin through crowded and clapping streets, witness to the affection he inspired.
in his adopted home and where he was much involved in local charities. The Regiment was represented at the subsequent Service in St. George's Church at which a great British star was remembered.

As Sir Norman reminisced:

‘After settling in we were given a pep talk by the CO, Lieutenant Colonel BO Hutchison, who despite his somewhat unfortunate initials, was a suitably commanding figure from the Old School. He reminded us that we were in a strange country with totally different customs, that we must remember at all times we were representing King and Country, and gave us a dire warning of what would happen to us if we stepped out of line. Straight back home on the first ship! But we could find enormous enjoyment in the life if we put our hearts into it. I needed no second bidding.’

**Major General JB Willis CB**

10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1947–1969
The Royal Hussars (PWO) 1969–1981

John Willis was truly a son of the Regiment. He was born when the 10th were stationed at Aldershot in 1926 and the first eleven years of his life were spent at ‘regimental duty’. His father was a warrant officer in the regiment which moved first to Egypt in 1928 and then in 1930 to Meerut, followed by Lucknow, in India until late 1936.

Mr W N (Tim) Willis had enlisted as a trumpeter in the 20th Hussars in 1912, aged 15, serving in the First World War and transferring to the 10th in 1917. On moving from the Band he was promoted rapidly, spending only one day as a sergeant for administrative reasons, before becoming Troop Sergeant Major of MG Troop under Major (later Colonel) Colin Davy, MC, also a former 20th Hussar. Tim Willis was subsequently SSM of B Squadron and RQMS during the long tour in India and after retirement from the Army in 1937 he was a long standing member of the Tenth Hussars' Old Comrades Committee, becoming Chairman in the 1960s.

John and his sisters were evacuated to the country from London in 1940. After two years at Redhill Technical College he volunteered, aged 16, to join the Royal Navy as an apprentice engineer but was turned down due to a lack of molar teeth. However at a second attempt in 1944, he was accepted to undergo pilot training. (It was expected that the war against Japan would take several more years and Great Britain's main contribution was to be based on aircraft carriers of the Pacific Fleet).

First it was considered important for potential pilots to become proper sailors, with training at HMS Royal Arthur and HMS St Vincent. In due course, John and his colleagues were granted the rank of Acting Leading Naval Airman prior to embarkation on RMS Queen Elizabeth in the Clyde, bound for New York. The original batch of 365 hopefuls was now only some 80 strong. Initial flying training on Stearman N2S aircraft at US Naval Air Station Bunker Hill, Indiana was to have been followed by an advanced course at Corpus Christi, Texas, but the atomic bombs dropped on Japan ended the War and the Royal Navy found itself no longer in need of new pilots.

So, disappointed but with useful experience of the wider world, John returned to England on the Queen Elizabeth only to be offered a post as Sick Berth Attendant, Cook or Writer (clerk). Fortunately he met a Brigadier who was looking for potential officers in the Indian Army and he transferred to the Indian Army Armoured Corps Officers' Training School, Ahmednagar. John was awarded the last Sword of Honour before Partition but British Officers were no longer needed in either Indian or Pakistani Armies. Although again disappointed, fortune at last returned to his roots with a Commission in the 10th Royal Hussars.

Once in Germany, John quickly proved to be a highly efficient Troop Leader. Apart from a short staff tour with HQ 11th Armoured Division, he remained at Regimental Duty for 11 years, culminating in two years as Adjutant at Aqaba in Jordan and Tidworth. He was an excellent rifle shot and was Captain of the team which won the Cambridge Shield in 1954. John was also a versatile all-round sportsman. He was in the hockey team until his last days in command and, when time permitted, he sailed for the Regiment. A good horseman, having learnt to ride in Lucknow as a boy, he was also a stalwart member of the polo team throughout his Regimental service, with a handicap of (plus) two.

In 1958, with his good friend and contemporary Bernard Greenwood, John was selected for the two year technical staff course at RMCS Shrivenham. Whilst there he met and married Belinda Firbank, a very pretty young Master of the Mendip Farmers' Foxhounds.

They returned to the 10th in Paderborn and John was a notably energetic and effective A Squadron Leader. John Robins, one of his Troop Leaders, recalled when paying tribute at the Service of Thanksgiving in Ilminster that John worked hard and played hard. ‘If you made a mistake it could be costly, as a penalty came winging your way in summary fashion’. John Willis was a much respected and well-liked Squadron Leader both in barracks, for example leading the Regiment on the Guidon Parade in 1961, and in the field.

In late 1962 he was posted to Bovington to manage the trials of the problematic Chieftain tank – a hard but successful tour which destined that all his future appointments, except command, were to be technical in nature.

After attendance at the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, John returned to the Regiment, by now based in Little Aden and with Squadrons detached around the Arabian Peninsula, to be Second-in-Command to Colonel Bill Lithgow. In this role he led the band on a successful tour to Addis Ababa, before being promoted to be one of the last Brevet Lieutenant Colonels in the Army. On 23rd July 1965, five days before his 39th birthday, he took over command of the Tenth.

He would have relished a more sharp-end tour as John was a fearless and quick-witted leader, but two months later the Regiment
returned to York Barracks, Münster, with the unglamorous task of nuclear force protection. We trained as a normal armoured reconnaissance regiment and under John’s command became highly effective in the role. The Air Squadron (6 Sioux helicopters) had been formed in Aden and, once in Germany, they reached full operational strength and efficiency with entirely Regimental pilots under the leadership of Nick Mylne and then David Edwards.

With his love of flying, John was in his element and he was a leading exponent of how helicopters and armoured forces should integrate on operations, well ahead of much contemporary thinking. Under his command, the 10th was a most happy and respected Cavalry Regiment. It was a privilege to serve as his Adjutant. Before he handed over command to his old friend Bernard Greenwood in March 1968, news arrived that the Regiment was to amalgamate with the 11th in 1969. John’s positive attitude and leadership ensured that high morale and exemplary standards were maintained to contribute to the new Regiment.

By now John and Belinda had 4 children one of whom, Hugo, is a serving Officer in The King’s Royal Hussars. His subsequent military career was based entirely in England at Shrinvenham, in the MGO Secretariat, at the RAC Centre Bovington, and culminated in five years as Director General Fighting Vehicles and Engineer Equipment in the MOD.

After leaving the Army he was a Director with International Military Services (IMS), involving much travel, and the Willis family treated him to a flight in a Stearman N2S plane, similar to the one he had flown over 60 years earlier.

John’s military career of 37 years was unique, starting as a Naval Airman 2nd Class and finishing as a Major-General, via the Royal Air Force, the Indian Army and the British Cavalry. He was greatly respected by all who served with him and he will be much missed.

National War Fund

James Noel Cowley, who died in January 2010 at the age of 97, was born in December 1912. He spent the WW2 years with the 24th Lancers and took part in the assault on Normandy in June 1944 during which he was wounded and evacuated back to England.

Having transferred to the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO) in 1947, he moved with them in 1948 to Iserlohn where he took command of ‘A’ Squadron. He was then posted to HQ BAOR as GSO 2 (Operations and Training) before rejoining the Regiment in 1952, who were then still in Iserlohn, once again assuming command of ‘A’ Squadron before returning with the Regiment to Tidworth in 1953 where he became Second-in-Command under Lieutenant Colonel Mike Morley.

In 1954, he was selected for a year’s language training at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at London University before assuming the appointment of Military Attaché at the British Embassy in Budapest in 1955. He was in Budapest during the turbulent year of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956 during which the Freedom Fighters fought valiantly but in vain against the Soviet Army. The Hungarian Communist régime declared him persona non grata in absencia in January 1957 whilst he was on a liaison visit to the Foreign Office in London thus bringing his tour as Military Attaché in Hungary to an abrupt and premature end. He was awarded the OBE for his service in Budapest and was later made an honorary member of the Hungarian Order of Chivalry, the Knightly Order of Vitez by the Hungarian Government in exile.

His next appointment was as Military Attaché in Tel Aviv where he stayed for just over three years before retiring from the Army in 1961 following which he worked for the Horse Race Betting Levy Board under the chairmanships of Lord Wigg and Desmond Plummer.

His wife, Doreen, whom he married in 1943, predeceased him and he is survived by a daughter, Peta, two grand-daughters and a great grand-daughter.

GBN

**Lieutenant-Colonel CCG Ross**

Christopher Ross died after a long illness on 22nd December 2010. Born into a happy North London home; his father won the Military Cross in World War One, and as a solicitor represented Ruth Ellis at her trial. Christopher went to Marlborough, and despite the family legal background, decided to become a professional soldier.

He joined the Regiment in 1951 and after service as a troop Leader in England, was appointed ADC to Major-General Dick Hull, the Chief of Staff Middle East Land Forces in the Canal Zone. On return from Egypt, he became Regimental Signals Officer and ensured good communications during the demanding exercise in the Gebel mountains in Libya, no mean task with the ‘19 Sets’ which were by then well past their ‘sell by’ dates!

He was now developing a particular interest and expertise in all matters concerning uniform, ceremonial, military music and Regimental history. In this field, he was invited to accompany a trumpeter onto a TV programme ‘Ask Pickles’, which was a success despite him writing off his car in Salisbury on the journey to Alexandra Palace!

He became Adjutant in 1959 and, under the clear guidance of Ted Walsh, masterminded a parade in 1961 when Field-Marshall Templer presented the Regiment with its first Guidon since the Peninsular War. After his tour as Adjutant, he was posted to London, and during that time met Fiona at a 17th/21st Lancer dance and they enjoyed 47 years of happy marriage together.

He was Second-in-Command to Michael Palmer when Princess Anne was appointed Colonel-in-Chief. When discussing a suitable present to give her, in his bath, he hit on a personalized number plate ‘1420H’. Research revealed that this registration was in existence, but that it was on a milk float belonging to United Dairies in Ealing! They were kind enough to surrender it, and it was presented to Her Royal Highness during her first visit to the Regiment in Paderborn.

He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1974, did two GSO 1 appointments in the UK before retiring in 1979 to become the Diocesan Secretary in Salisbury. In his time there, he made a significant impact in the community and wrote a definitive record of the Canons of Salisbury Cathedral; he was made a lay canon himself in 1995. During this time, he was also active in the Regimental Association, becoming Chairman in 1986.
His funeral, which was held in Salisbury Cathedral on 13th January, was a magnificent affair, planned and written by him in great detail. It was very well attended, and a large number of his friends, present and former members of the Regiment, including representatives from the Church and from the City of Salisbury were there. We offer our deep sympathy to Fiona, and to Alastair and Geraldine.

Major Sir Richard Keane Bt

10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1939–1944

Major Sir Richard Keane, 6th Bt, who has died aged 101, was a journalist, soldier and farmer whose adventurous life included being parachuted into enemy-occupied Yugoslavia in the Second World War.

Keane began his wartime service with the County of London Yeomanry before joining the 10th Royal Hussars. During the Battle of El Alamein, when he was second-in-command of a Squadron, a fellow officer, Grant Singer, who commanded a reconnaissance troop, pointed out a tank which Keane had overlooked while shooting at long range. Keane’s gunner knocked out the tank, which came to a halt about 500 yards away. The commander and crew jumped out. The commander turned out to be General von Thoma, who was briefly in command of the Axis forces in the battle, and who then surrendered.

In 1944 Keane was dropped into Vojvodina, a province of Serbia under enemy occupation, to help the Yugoslav partisans. After the German invasion, Yugoslavia had fragmented. In Croatia there was considerable support for the Axis forces; in the remainder of the country, two resistance movements formed, the royalist Chetniks under Mihailovic and the communist partisans under Tito.

Keane was recruited by Fitzroy Maclean, the SAS officer who played a notable part in persuading Churchill that Tito’s forces were more effective and that the Allies should drop Mihailovic. Keane described his experiences afterwards as long periods of boredom broken by moments of sheer terror. He subsequently served in the military missions in Belgrade and Rome before retiring from the Army.

Richard Michael Keane, the son of Sir John Keane DSO, who became a Senator in the Republic of Ireland, was born at Cirencester on January 29 1909. The Baronetcy, in which he succeeded in 1956, was created in 1801 for John Keane, an Irish Tory politician who was an MP for Youghal in the Parliament of Ireland and then, after the Act of Union, for the same constituency in the new Parliament of the United Kingdom.

After Sherborne, Richard went up to Christ Church, Oxford, to read PPE. In the four years before the outbreak of war, he was diplomatic correspondent for Reuters and then for The Sunday Times. In 1936 he travelled to Germany with some of the Mitford sisters to cover the Nuremberg rallies for the newspaper. After a rather disturbed night in their hotel, he complained to Unity that the Nazi soldiers had come in late and made an awful noise taking off their boots. She replied that she wished she had had a storm trooper in her bedroom.

Postwar, he worked for ICI as a publicity consultant until 1962, when he moved to Cappoquin House in Co Waterford. The house, an 18th-century Georgian structure built on the site of an old Fitzgerald castle overlooking the river Blackwater, has been home to the family for many generations.

Keane’s father, John, was nominated for the Irish Senate, and in 1923 much of the house was destroyed by arsonists. Before setting the place alight, the republican perpetrators apologised to the Baronet, saying that it was more than their lives were worth to disobey orders from Dublin. They added, however, that if a conflagration on the following Thursday would suit him, they could provide transport a day or two earlier to remove the furniture and pictures.

The house was rebuilt over a period of 10 years. When Keane had taken over Cappoquin, the estate had been run-down, but he restored its fortunes, proving a successful and innovative landlord. The doyen of the old Anglo-Irish families, he was a spirited conversationalist, and people came from far and wide to talk to him. In 1961 he edited Modern Marvels of Science.

Richard Keane died on December 28. He married, in 1939, Olivia Dorothy Hawkshaw, who predeceased him. He is survived by a daughter and two sons, of whom the elder, Charles, born in 1941, succeeds in the Baronetcy.

Sir Richard’s Obituary is reproduced with kind permission of the Daily Telegraph

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Major WJ Pinney

11th Hussars (PAO) 1964–1969

The Royal Hussars (PWO) 1969–73

“We welcome to the Regiment Captain WJ Pinney, who comes to us from the Royal Horse Artillery. Captain Pinney spent three years of his service with the King’s Troop in London. He is not only an accomplished horseman, but also a Minor Counties Cricketer.” Thus the 1964 11th Hussars Journal welcomed Jim the Pin.

Into the Mess in Hohne walked an absurdly tall lanky officer. He quickly impressed us with his knowledge of the horse of which we had some 45 between the polo and racing stables. Within a very short time it became quite clear that whatever had been his background, he was now firmly an Eleventh Hussar.

Before coming to the 11th, James had travelled the traditional route into the Army via Marlborough (Cricket XI for 3 years) and Sandhurst, (Cricket XI again). No sooner was he commissioned (in 1952) than he was off to Melton for the Long Equitation Course and then the King’s Troop. 27 Guided Weapons Regiment after the Troop must have seemed a let down. In any case he was off to another equitation course after a couple of years, this time a year at the French Cavalry School at Saumur, thence to the join us in Hohne.

He served for 9 years with the 11th Hussars, commanding A squadron in Hohne and, after a break at HQ RAC 3 Div, again in Cyprus with UNFICYP. Quite soon after his arrival, in 1964, Mrs Pinney joined the Regiment. Essex shared James’s love of the horse and was a star on the Rhine Army Horse trials circuit. Their devotion to each other lasted a lifetime.

James made a deep impression on those of us who served with him. Above all I remember him for his absolute integrity and selflessness. He was a model to the rest of us. He commanded respect by setting a consistent example of how life should be lived whether dealing with his soldiers or his horses.
He had a quiet dry sense of humour but his love of practical jokes was less evident at Regimental Duty than his reputation might have led us to expect. In the early 60s as an example, rumours that the Great Bustard had been seen on Salisbury Plain spread like wildfire through the bird watching fraternity. Hoards of twitchers gathered but of course in vain. James felt it his duty not to disappoint. A goose was duly purchased, given a paint job based on a local pub sign, and released nearby. History does not relate how many twitchers claimed the bird.

Life after the Army, first farming in Dorset and later retiring to their lovely house, Old Hall in Shopshire, centred around his family, his horses, his hunting and his fishing. He was a most complete countryman. He was Master of the Cattistock for two seasons, and a long time active supporter of the Pony Club. In the hunting field he was elegant and brave, a superb horseman quietly able to be where a Master should be.

Latterly he continued to hunt with Tanatside despite the onset of Parkinson’s disease defying medical advice and logic. One of his earliest memories was of his mother being carried from the hunting field on a gate after a fall that paralysed her down one side. Her example of stoicism and determination was a model for James in his own adversity.

As a family man James was steadfast, a generous and loving father, a devoted husband and a much loved grandfather.

**Major A Watson MBE**

*11th Hussars (PAO) 1955–69 The Royal Hussars (PWO) 1969–1983*

Andy Watson joined the 11th Hussars in Malaya in 1955. He was in Michael Cooper Evans’s troop in B Squadron in Johore Baru and he was in B Squadron for most of his subsequent regimental service. Andy showed early ability as an armoured car driver by the way he handled a Daimler on treacherous Malayan rubber plantation tracks. After serving with the Regiment in Carlisle, Omagh and Aden he was selected to be an Instructor at the D&M School. He instructed there again as a QMSI in the early 1970s and his last post in the Army was Assistant Senior Instructor. Andy married Pat during the Carlisle tour and with their two children, Wenda and Kim, she remained a loyal supporter throughout his career.

Back with the 11th in Hohne in 1963, Andy was first a troop sergeant, by now on Centurion and Chieftain tanks, and then SQMS of A Squadron. His passion for cars was shared by Prince Michael of Kent and rally driving was a popular activity. After amalgamation with the 10th at Tidworth, he was SSM of B Squadron with first George Norrie, and then David Shaw, from 1969 until 1974. This period included a tour in Northern Ireland where ‘the Troubles’ were at their height. A six month tour with the United Nations Force in Cyprus and a six week exercise in Hong Kong, not to mention normal training in Centurion tanks on Salisbury Plain, followed.

Andy was on the advance party when The Royal Hussars left for Sennelager, returning for 10 months to Bovington prior to his appointment as RSM of the Regiment in 1975. This tour was a happy and successful one. Soon after taking over, the Regiment went to Canada for its first full Suffield exercise. Andy’s D&M expertise was most valuable in keeping the Chieftains roadworthy and time was also found to visit our affiliated regiment, the First Hussars, in London, Ontario. In 1976 there was a four month tour in Co. Tyrone and a high point of Andy’s tenure as RSM was HM the Queen’s Silver Jubilee at Sennelager in July 1977. He was not the shouting type of RSM but got the best from people by his great sense of fun and knowledge of how things should be done properly. His wise advice was appreciated by two commanding officers, Nigel Winter and John Friedberger.

In 1978 Andy was Commissioned and served as MTO in Sennelager and OC D&M Wing in Catterick before a brief spell with 11 Cadet Training Team and a final tour at the D&M School, from where he retired from the Regular Army in 1983. However his military service was not yet over and he held the appointment of PSAO/Administrative Officer with 23 SAS (V) for the next eighteen years. Initially based in Leeds with B Squadron, he moved to RHQ in Birmingham after three years. His achievements whilst there, in particular through re-organising the Regiment’s finances at a time of great change in the Army, were justly recognised by promotion to Major and the contribution Andy made to this important regiment over many years was recognised by the award of the MBE.

Andy and Pat retired to Wistow, near Selby in Yorkshire. He remained cheerful and considerate throughout his final illness and died on 2nd December 2010.
Alec Metaxa died on 23rd July 2010 from an incurable illness, bravely borne.

The funeral service was full to overflowing with his family, relations, and many friends from the 50 plus years of his marriage to Carolyn. Colonel David Wood of the KRH was there represented, and others from the 11th Hussars, were also there.

Alec’s son William gave the address mentioning the 11th Hussars as one of Alec’s interests. The congregation learnt from William of his father’s many talents, for he had been most modest. Above all he was fiercely loyal, and had the ability to get on with people. After seven months training,

He had a vivid early life, witnessing dog-fights high in the sky between ‘the few’ and the German fighter escorts. At Eton he had the experience of going to the murky air raid shelter when the V-1s were going by on their ominous journeys. He was a brilliant cricketer, scoring a vital 93 runs in the match against Winchester, and a century at the 4th of June match. He was also a gifted singer, and loved music and Covent Garden.

Alec was commissioned, and joined the Regiment when it was at Westendorf, Landkreis Celle, an ex-Luftwaffe barracks and airfield amongst pine forests on the road from Hanover to Hamburg. He had studied Modern Languages at Eton, so was encouraged to continue improving his German whilst there. The Regiment was equipped with Daimler Armoured Scout Cars, a pre-selector gear-box and four speeds forward, and reverse! Their vital radio sets required skill to coax a range of 15 to 20 miles, and constant re-tuning.

We would do Border patrols, along the border between East and West Germany, at a time when relations with Russia, and hence East Germany, had become increasingly strained. With summer came larger Exercises culminating in Divisional Training in an area around Höhne Ranges, Hamlyn and the River Weser. Sometimes we would hear the unforgettable noise of tanks moving at night.

After university his career was with Rank Hovis McDougall. He had a vivid early life, witnessing dog-fights high in the sky between ‘the few’ and the German fighter escorts. This was a brilliant cricketer, scoring a vital 93 runs in the match against Winchester, and a century at the 4th of June match. He was also a gifted singer, and loved music and Covent Garden.

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After university his career was with Rank Hovis McDougall. He became their negotiator – buying the hard Canadian wheat that was the vital constituent together with home grown wheat to make the English loaf. He was twice President of the British and Irish Millers, and of the International Millers – being awarded the CBE for services to the Milling Industry in 1992.

After the War, all young men of 18 were required to do two years National Service. To serve in a Regiment with many of its Officers decorated for gallantry in the Desert with 7th Armoured Division, and then in the Bocage of Normandy and on the Brussels and the East – was character forming, for the 11th Hussars were so competent, modest, and compassionate.

Edward Paul went to St Edward’s School, Oxford (maybe not surprisingly!) in the winter term of 1941 and left the School before the winter term of 1945. He had the usual academic distinctions at school and ended up as a Sergeant in the JCT. He also showed signs of later cultural interests in his appointment as School Librarian and his acting in school drama. Strangely he represented the School at swimming, which did not seem to go on into his future life.

He joined the Army as an Officer Cadet at Sandhurst in January 1947. He was part of Intake 1 and served in Marne Company. As an Officer Cadet he graduated in July 1948 and was commissioned into the 14th/20th King’s Hussars. The Regiment was the training regiment in Catterick and for most regular officers this was probably quite a tame role until the opportunity arose for the Regiment to send one Officer to join the under-manned 8th Hussars in Korea. Edward’s name was drawn out of the hat leaving two other disappointed subalterns.

Suffice to say that Korea was the coldest campaign fought by British soldiers since the Crimea. A fellow 8th Hussar Officer reported that he had never been as cold in his life and he did not remove his vest and socks for 4½ months. Edward always claimed that his signature could be found on several dockets in the Pentagon archive for waterproof boots and tent heaters which were not available to British troops.

A book was published in the autumn of 2009 entitled ‘To the Last Round’ which recalls (by author Andrew Salmon) the epic and brave British stand on the Imjin River in Korea in 1951. If you come to read this book you will see from time-to-time references of what Edward “wrote”. He corresponded with Alan Grieve (who had served as a National Service Officer with the 14th/20th King’s Hussars in 1948/9) from Korea and these letters were kept. In one of his letters he praised the Belgians and Turkish troops for their brave support and the letters were sent to the Belgian Embassy. In due time they were returned to Edward and he made them available to Andrew Salmon for his book.

In April 1951 the British 29th Infantry Brigade, deployed along the Imjin River, faced an entire Chinese army. The climax of the campaign came and the Brigade fought for three days in the bloodiest single battle fought by British soldiers since the Second World War. The Gloucester Regiment was not relieved, and the withdrawal took place. For his part in this action Edward was awarded the Military Cross. In the book there is an extraordinary photograph of him – he left his own blazing Centurion tank, opening fire on advancing enemy infantry with a Chinese carbine picked up from the battlefield. The photograph was taken in the closing stages of the action and Edward was unbelievably standing on top of the tank while the photographer lay low. The campaign was one of soldierly endurance, determination and very considerable bravery.

Soon after Korea, Edward left the Army and joined Tate & Lyle. He went into the Sale Room of the Head Office in London. In the Raw Sugar Department of Tate & Lyle, he joined an expanding business and the company bought a stake in a Paris sugar business. Edward was sent to Paris for some five years where he did extremely well. They wanted to keep him in Paris but Head Office wanted him back to take over as ‘Number 2’ in the Tate & Lyle International Department.
He became involved in trading with Iran, which was a substantial business for the company. This culminated in a so-called ‘breach of contract’ allegation by Iran covering the period before and after the Shah had been exiled. Unbelievably, Edward Paul was accused of “forging his own signature”, which is a strange one. Evidently the government at the relevant time had bought 250 million tons of raw sugar and then tried to get out of the contract. Edward Paul and his ‘Number 1’, Michael Atsfield, were interrogated by various generals and accountants. Their investigators could not believe that the two Directors of Tate & Lyle International had not bribed at some time, some official, somewhere. At one stage, if the forgery and theft had been proved, Edward was threatened with having his hand cut off in accordance with their customary justice.

The whole affair culminated with arbitration in London with Edward’s name quoted on the BBC in relation to the $22 million owed to Tate & Lyle. Tate & Lyle were represented by a leading commercial QC who ducked out at the last moment and another commercial QC took his place. This displeased Edward Paul no end and he demanded a meeting with the rather senior QC asking for an apology for dropping the case. Suffice it to say that negotiation took place and after innumerable petty offers the sum of $15 million was offered and subsequently a performance bond was released. Tate & Lyle received the full amount and a complete acquittal for any wrong doing. This was towards the end of his time with Tate & Lyle and he left with a distinguished career behind him in 1988, having been the International Managing Director since 1984.

Early retirement did not deter him from being active and he took an Open University course. He was a voracious reader of history, biography and current affairs. He them became involved with the Jerwood Foundation (alongside Alan Grieve). He was closely interested and involved with theatre in London as well as most of the other activities of Jerwood in the visual and performing arts. His wife, Antonia, had worked at the time of their engagement and his wife, Antonia, had worked at the time of their engagement and marriage in a leading London gallery and both Edward and Antonia never lost their interest and knowledge of 20th Century British art. Edward played a leading part in Jerwood rescuing the Royal Court Theatre from insolvency and financing the two Jerwood Theatres within the Royal Court.

On the sporting side, Edward was never a fanatical horseman but he was a very low handicap golfer playing until almost the end of his life and in earlier days a very competent tennis player (with Alan Grieve and others at the Burlingham Club). Retirement as such did not particularly suit him and he liked to be, if not physically engaged, certainly intellectually challenged. He combined all the virtues of a civilized, cultured Cavalry Officer and will be sadly missed.

Captain HPJ Rae
Life Guards 1972–1978
14th/20th King's Hussars 1978–1992
The King's Royal Hussars 1992–1997

Hugh Prentice John Rae was born on the 20th September 1954. He joined the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps on the 6th January 1971 which started a long and successful, military career. ‘Skip’ as all of us remember him, passed out from Junior Leaders and joined the Life Guards in 1972. In 1977 he was posted, on ERE to Lulworth and it was here that he came into contact with the 14th/20th King’s Hussars. In 1978, he transferred to 14/20H and was posted to C Squadron. He remained with C Squadron serving in Hohne and Northern Ireland (Close Observation Troop), until promotion to Sergeant when he was posted for his first tour as an instructor at the Royal Armoured Corps Gunnery School, Lulworth.

He returned to the Regiment at Catterick and was promoted to Staff Sergeant, then on to Münster where he supervised the Regiment’s gunnery training, ensuring that the standards were of the highest order! Another tour at the Gunnery School followed until the Gulf War when he was tasked with setting up the ranges in Saudi Arabia and supervising gunnery training for the 14/20H Battle Group. After the end of Op GRANBY, Skip returned to the Regiment as B Squadron Sergeant Major and was then promoted to Regimental Sergeant Major. He was the last RSM of the 14/20H and took a leading role in preparing the Regiment for amalgamation with the Royal Hussars.

In 1992 Skip was offered and accepted a Short Service Commission (Late Entry). On Commissioning he was posted to the Royal Armoured Corps Gunnery Wing BAOR at Hohne, Germany. After 2 years in BAOR he was posted to Pirbright and finally to Bovington as Motor Transport Officer. Skip was demobbed at Bovington where he went to work at the BBC advising on security before starting a very successful second career in waste management.

Skip was a great lover of sport – Swimming, Water Polo and Rugby in the main. He represented his Squadron and Regiment many times. He will be best remembered for his abilities on the Rugby Field and was awarded his Regimental Colours twice. He was also selected and played for the Royal Armoured Corps team. He also played for a number of local civilian rugby teams and was a well respected and sought-after player.

In 1983 Skip married Stephanie and later that year they had a daughter, Louise. After leaving the Army they settled in Lulworth, a village always close to their hearts. During his illness, Louise got married and Skip was determined that the illness and side effects of the treatment would not stop him from escorting and giving away Louise at her wedding: doing so made him a very proud father indeed. Louise gave birth to Georgia in 2009 and she soon became the apple of Skip’s eye, he doted on her and was very proud that he was a grandfather.

He was meticulous and hardworking in everything he did and had a great sense of humour. He was a very loyal friend who was always willing to help others. He was also a great supporter and ambassador of the Regiment. This made him well respected and loved by all those who knew or came into contact with him. Skip passed away in August 2010 after a long hard battle against cancer. A great bloke, who will be missed by all that knew him.

Captain NSM Delamain
10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1952–1960

Nicholas Delamain, who died on 8 March, aged 78, joined the Tenth Hussars from Sandhurst in May 1952. He spent his entire Commissioned service at Regimental Duty with the exception of his life and in earlier days a very competent tennis player (with Alan Grieve and others at the Burlingham Club). Retirement as such did not particularly suit him and he liked to be, if not physically engaged, certainly intellectually challenged. He combined all the virtues of a civilized, cultured Cavalry Officer and will be sadly missed.

He was Assistant Adjutant for a year and afterwards Adjutant for nearly 18 months. He retired from the Army in 1960. His second son, the late Charles Delamain, who died in 2009, served as a subaltern in The Royal Hussars (PWO) from 1979 until 1983. He is survived by his first wife, Juliet, and children, Rupert, Georgina and Julian.
Captain SJ Elliott

10th Royal Hussars (PIWO) 1944–1948

Along with many others, Stephen Elliott served his country energetically and modestly during the Second World War. These qualities were evident in his subsequent career with Shell and, as he would see it, in what he gave to his family, his Church and his community.

Stephen Elliott joined the war in 1941 with training at OCTU at Sandhurst and Glasgow. He was Commissioned into the Wiltshire Yeomanry just before Christmas 1942 and sent off to join them in Palestine as a troop commander. The Regiment had originally been deployed there as a mounted unit but then they were mechanized with Sherman Mk IV tanks which he says were “fast, easy to maintain and could climb like a goat”; above all, he recalled, “the traverse was very fast, 360° in less than a minute”.

He joined the Italian Campaign in April 1944 and entered battle just south of Monte Cassino on 22 May. This battle, and others, formed a series of disconnected recollections which include praise for the indomitable Sikhs of the 4th Indian Division and being struck on the head by a stray bit of fresco near Pietro de la Francesco, dislodged from a church during a bombardment.

A long time after the War, he returned to the Gothic Line battlefields with a party from the Regiment and was hugely impressed by the calibre of the current young troop commanders and squadron leaders on the trip. They in turn related immediately to his experience of unreliable communications and ‘staying away from the hedges’; nothing much changes at the sharp end of warfare.

Towards the end of 1944, Stephen Elliott transferred to XRH in C Squadron, concluding the war in Italy and eventually found himself serving in occupied Germany at the end of the hostilities. This was a difficult time and particularly so where he was concerned, being delegated to attend the trials of known war criminals and subsequently to be a ‘Mandatory Witness’ at their executions. This was part of his duty at the time but a duty on which he reflected and was silent for long afterwards.

As a Captain and after demobilization in 1948 he returned to England without much idea of what he wanted to do but nevertheless ‘drifted’ into Shell Petroleum Company. This turned out to be a good move as he stayed with the company for 35 years, explored the world on various missions that, in his lighter recollections, had more comedy than commerce about them. He was, of course and again, a loyal and energetic executive in the gas marketing team.

Stephen Elliott was born in 1923 and the son of the parish priest of Lychett Minster in Dorset. Subsequent moves took the family to Aldbourne, near Swindon in Wiltshire but his education was at King’s College in Taunton. His faith was uncomplicated but devoutly at the high end of Anglo-Catholicism and he brought this to his life in Egham, Surrey where he settled with Helen his wife and raised there his three children. He was a Churchwarden and served on various Parochial and Diocesan councils, but his key contribution — understated with typical modesty — was as a driving force in the Runnymede Mental Health trust. But running as a thread through his later life was a continuing reference to his Regimental career and his war service which probably served as a sharp but unforgettable reference point for everything he did and everything he thought.

WO2 (RQMS) WM Butcher

14th/20th King’s Hussars 1961–1986

William (Bill) Butcher, 70, died whilst playing golf at Stanley Park Golf Club, Blackpool, on the 2nd October 2010. His funeral (15th October) was very well attended with friends and family and many from the Regiment, showing their respects. His family were very touched to see so many of the ‘Hawks’ on parade together with his golfing pals. He would have enjoyed ‘that bugler’.

Bill was born 5th December 1939, living in Fleetwood until he joined the 14th/20th King’s Hussars in 1962. Marrying Vivienne in 1966, he began a family of four (two girls, Tania & Jo and two boys, Ian & Sandy) plus numerous cats and dogs. During his time with the Regiment he served in Germany, Benghazi, Hong Kong, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and several locations in the UK. Bill did it all: Driver, Signaller, Gunner, Troop Sergeant, SQMS, Intelligence WO, SSM, RQMS (both Tech and Boots & Socks). Bill was also a gunnery instructor on all of the Armoured Fighting Vehicles that the Regiment had at their disposal. He was very proud to serve with the Regiment and one of his proudest moments was when he received the new Guidon from Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal at the Guidon parade in Höhne, West Germany in 1982. He was deservedly awarded the Regimental Medal of which he was very proud. Both on and off the Tank Park, Bill was respected by all his contemporaries and was an active Mess member.

On leaving the Regiment, Bill settled in Blackpool working for Focus DIY as a store manager and eventually retired in 2005. Sadly he lost Vivienne in 1995 to cancer. After Viv died, Bill took up golf and this quickly became his passion, meeting many new friends and playing in different locations in the UK and abroad. He looked forward to the Regimental and Noah’s Arc Reunions, attending as many as he could, relishing the chance to catch up with old friends and often organizing the golf tournaments. An ardent sailor (all the canals North of Watford) he still lived life to the full. With the advent of digital photography he also rediscovered the joy of photography becoming a major contributor to Noah’s Arc web pages.

Bill is survived by two sisters, two brothers, four children and eight grandchildren.

WO2 (SSM) T Parnell

Duke of Lancaster’s Own Yeomanry 1935–1936
Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons) 1936–1938
16th/5th Lancers 1938–1942
10th Royal Hussars (PIWO) 1942–1958

Tom Parnell was one of the brave band of tank commanders who fought in the 10th Hussars through most of the Regiment’s North
African campaigns. He was also well-known to many younger generations of 10th, Royal and King's Royal Hussars, through his regular attendance at Old Comrades and Regimental Association events over the past 25 years since he became an In-pensioner in The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Tom was born in Bolton in 1918, the middle of five children, and he had a happy childhood. Leaving school at 14 he got a job in a mill for 14 shillings (70p) a week. Through a friendly local farmer he became interested in horses and he joined the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry in 1935. Loving cavalry life, he enlisted in The Royal Dragoons the following year, shortly before the Regiment returned from a tour in Egypt. Tom was soon promoted Lance Corporal but he had joined the Army to see the world, so he volunteered to join a draft for India. He was posted to the 16th/5th Lancers at Risalpur, near Peshawar, to see active service as a cavalry Corporal on the North West Frontier the following winter. He was probably one of the last survivors to hold Indian General Service Medal with clasps 'NWF 1937/1939'.

Late in 1939, the 16th/5th handed over their horses and returned to England, by troopship through the Suez Canal, in order to be mechanised. In early 1942, with the threat of invasion over, Tom sailed on RMS Queen Mary, newly painted grey as a troopship, for New York, where soldiers were not allowed ashore, and then round the Cape of Good Hope to Suez. On arrival in Egypt he was assigned to the 10th Royal Hussars, promoted to Troop Sergeant and fought with C Squadron in the campaigns leading up to the Battle of El Alamein.

On the third night of this momentous battle, C Squadron was ordered to attack German positions on a ridge. The attack failed and Sgt Parnell's tank was hit by a German 88mm anti-tank gun, killing the driver. Tom was badly wounded as a result, losing his sight, and spent several weeks in hospital in Alexandria before rejoining the regiment at Tmini. He took part in the battles of El Hamma, El Kourzia, Djebel Kourmia and the final campaign for Tunis in April and May 1943.

The 10th spent the winter of 1943/44 at Boufarik, 25 miles south of Algiers, training for operations in Europe, to which it sailed in the Durban Castle in May. From disembarkation at Naples, the tanks having been shipped to Taranto much further south, the Regiment moved frequently to and fro across Italy before taking part in the intensely fought battles to break through the German's well-defended Gothic Line.

On 4th September, the 2nd Armoured Brigade was ordered to make a hasty and ill-reconnoitred attack between the rivers Conca and Marano. Sgt Parnell was wounded in this battle (as was his good friend Sgt (later Major) Dougie Covill of A Squadron). However Tom managed to discharge himself from hospital after ten days and rejoined C Squadron to take part in the 10th's remaining tough battles in Italy until the end of the War.

Although toying with the idea of leaving the Army to become a mounted policeman, Tom remained with the Regiment throughout subsequent moves from Trieste, to Graz in Austria, Lübeck and, finally, Islerlöhn in Germany. He was a good German speaker and, being an experienced horseman, Tom was involved in the return to the Spanish Riding School in Vienna of their famous Lipizzaner horses. Some 60 years later he was a Guest of Honour at the School.

On leave in Bournemouth in 1945 he met Pearl, the daughter of a farmer from near Ely. They did not marry until 1951 but on one occasion he was staying with her parents and he chatted to a German prisoner-of-war who was working on the farm. It transpired that Tom was billeted near Lübeck with the man's parents.

The Regiment returned to Tidworth in 1953, and in 1954 he was posted as a SSM with the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry in Devizes. Tom was disappointed not to be with the 10th for the tour in Jordan from 1955 to 1957, but family life was important and the Parnell's son Nigel was born in 1955. He returned to the Regiment for a final tour as SSM A Squadron in Tidworth before leaving the Army in October 1958 having been an exemplary, brave, smart and popular regimental soldier.

Tom enjoyed a successful second career as a training officer in the oil industry but he was devastated when Pearl died in 1967. He remained living in Doncaster till 1986, three years after retiring, but at the age of 68 he decided to join The Royal Hospital.

His life then entered a new phase as he was able to enjoy visiting his two growing granddaughters, Lee and Rebecca, and travelling, particularly to California where most years he went on a trail-riding holiday. He taught himself wood-carving, entered fully in to the life of the Hospital and continued to ski each year until well into his 80s. Tom was a much respected and valued In-Pensioner during nearly 25 years at Chelsea. His sense of humour was typified by the display, without authority, of a number plate ‘SSM 10H’ for his buggy which he drove with pride on the Founder’s Day Parade.

Tom Parnell was a good-looking man and he retained fine features into old age. He had many friends and his Funeral Service in the Chapel of The Royal Hospital on 26th January was attended by a large gathering.

**Staff Sergeant AJ Mayall**

14th/20th King's Hussars 1964–1987

Allan joined in 1964 while the Regiment was stationed in Benghazi, and was sent to join A Squadron in Cyprus. Not long after the Regiment returned to the United Kingdom at Perham Down, Allan was accepted for training for the newly formed Parachute Squadron Royal Armoured Corps. Allan passed the course but before he could join the Squadron he was involved in a near fatal tank accident. After spending several months in hospital and rehabilitation, he rejoined the Regiment. Allan was determined to serve with the RAC Para Squadron and had to re-qualify and pass the “P Company” parachute selection course, again, which he did and spent 3 enjoyable years with the Parachute Squadron. On rejoining the Regiment, Allan joined Air Squadron who at the time were equipped with Sioux and later Scout helicopters. On promotion to Corporal he was posted to B Squadron. During the 1978-79 Northern Ireland tour, Allan was a search team leader and had a good find of ammunition and bomb making equipment. Allan enjoyed instructing and during his time in the regiment he taught Signals and NBC. Allan also spent 2 years as a Permanent Staff Instructor with B Squadron The Duke of Lancaster’s Own Yeomanry. Allan then returned to Catterick to assist running the Basic Military Training Wing. One small achievement he was very proud of is that he had been in every Squadron in the Regiment, including Air Squadron.

He was a keen rugby player who played for the Regiment, 4th Division and even went on tour from Belize as part of an Army representative side, playing in Mexico City. Allan was a member of the Regimental Team that won the Cavalry Cup in the 1973-1974 season and he continued playing and coaching rugby until the mid 1980s.

Allan’s prowess as a singer became obvious at the post rugby match parties and when it was decided in Höhne to open the Lanterns
Folk of the Regiment also joined the Army. Allan’s repertoire of bawdy ballads, comic songs and Lancashire folk music, plus his memory for jokes, one liners and put downs was astounding. It wasn’t long before the Mashers were in demand around messes, wives clubs, squadron bars and smokers; they even had world wide recognition by singing “my brother Sylvest” on BFBS radio. Not only was Allan a dedicated performer, he was, along with his wife, Cath, a great supporter of the folk club and encourager to other folk acts, a trait that Allan took with him into civvy street where he continued with his music right up to his final days and indeed at his funeral. He was a great bloke, friend and entertainer; he is sadly missed by all who knew him, military and civilian alike.

**Staff Sergeant R Standish**

*14th/20th King’s Hussars 1960-1978*

Roy Standish, 73, died at St. Kentigen’s Hospice on Thursday 12th August 2010 following a stoical battle with cancer. His final days were spent surrounded by his loving wife and children.

He was born 17th January 1937 in Leigh, Lancashire, the middle child to Leonard and Ada Standish. After leaving school he started work in the pit. He met and married Maureen in 1958 and their life was blessed with children. After the birth of their third child, he joined the 14th/20th King’s Hussars and their fourth child was born in Benghazi. He spent his Army career travelling the world with his family.

Following his retirement from the Army in 1978, he moved to North Wales and worked firstly as a postman and then later as a County Council driver for the local day centre. He was a keen darts player and won many trophies over the years. He took a very keen interest in carpentry and joinery and much of his retirement was spent making dolls houses and wooden toys.

Roy’s last ten years were been spent seeing the sights of the UK; he always said he had seen enough of the world and wanted to see what the UK had to offer. He enjoyed many wonderful holidays with Maureen, leaving her with cherished memories of special times together.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Maureen, their four children Rita, Julia, Leslie and Peter as well as 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**Corporal MHG Drury**

*14th/20th King’s Hussars 1925-1938*

There are some people you meet in life and they make an instant impact on you. Maurice Drury, Drew, was one of those people. I first met him at an Old Comrades weekend when he was standing his full six foot two beside Colonel “Forty” Allen. At that time he was Assistant Chairman of the OCA and inseparable from Forty – he had been Forty’s Trumpeter in the 1920/30s when the regiment was mounted. Drew’s father had been Regimental Sergeant Major of the 20th and it was natural that the sons of the Regiment also joined the Army.

He joined the 14/20H in 1925. He was very good at running and riding but one day was called into the office and was told he had to choose between the two, he chose riding and once represented the Regiment at Earls Court. At the same time he joined the Band and took up the EEB Bass. He himself said he was ‘not very good but enjoyed the music’. When in India, they were sent all the big hits from Boosey and Hawkes – Chou Chin Chow, Salad Days etc.

He remembered the time he went to India leaving from Hounslow Barracks and his father came to say goodbye. Unfortunately for him, his father knew Mr Grimes, the Bandmaster of 14th/20th. He was told to wait at the gate until the two of them came back from the pub. After a long drinking session his father came back to see him, shook his hand and said “be good son” and that was his farewell.

When in India, he used to tell me about the Grand Vice Royal Balls and Maharajas’ Dinners that the band had played at and, for summer holidays, how they went into the mountains for a cooler climate. All of the Band rode white horses and it was a standing joke in the Regiment that they would get shot first because they would be seen first. When the Regiment went by train, the band went in front of the train on a purpose-built wagon. Often it was the bass players who took charge of the machine gun as the clarinetists were wont to be a little too excitable and used to fire in circles of 360°. In those days it was a great adventure to travel to these exotic places. In the mornings he would lie in bed while his wallah brought him his cup of tea and biscuits (which everyone kept for their horse) and shave him. Reveille and look to their mount. If the Squadron was short of a man, the Bandmaster Mr Grimes would rehearse Bandsmen to make up the number. Mr Grimes was not a great Bandmaster but a very good rough rider.

When the Regiment were mechanized, the horses were sold off to the local populace. Drew was immensely sad to see all these beautiful well-kept horses being used as pack horses and he determined that it was time for him to leave the Army. He joined the Prison Service on his release in 1938. Just after the start of the Second World War all the cells in the prison were emptied and turned into offices for MI5. He was then called up and once told me, that men waiting to be sent to their Regiments, were sometimes chosen to form firing squads to shoot spies in HM Tower of London. He would never say if he was one of those chosen. Somehow he ended up a Regimental Sergeant Major in charge of a Penal Regiment and said he was getting shot more from the back than the front. He was once told to hold a position with two other men, but once the German tank came around the corner, they were to be off to Dunkirk where he was evacuated by one of the ‘Little Ships’.

After the war, he went back to the Prison Service and was posted to Bermuda to start a Borstal, for which he was the Governor. He always said that young men just needed someone to take an interest in them. One day his beautiful wife, Vera, said she missed the snow and that’s what brought them back to England. Born in 1911, he died on 19 March 2010; he was predeceased by his wife Vera and leaves his son, Michael.
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Lest We Forget

We extend our deepest sympathy to relatives and friends of former members of the Association who have died.

SSgt A J Mayall 14/20H (1964–1987) 27 Apr 10
Mr J Rusbridge 10H (1948–1968) 13 May 10
Mr G D Toid 11H 15 May 10
Mr J F Dalzell 11H (1942–1946) 22 May 10
W I Abel Smith Esq 10H (1949–1950) 31 May 10
Tpr H Nelson 14/20H 9 Jun 10

Mr W H Brown 14/20H (1939–1946) 14 Jun 10
Lt M De Gruchy Lambert 14/20H (1957–1962) 29 Jun 10
Mr G W Smith 14/20H (1968–1975) 10 Jul 10
Mr G Smith (937) 14/20H (1968–1975) 17 Jul 10
Capt H P J Rae (Skip) 14/20H (1978–1997) 1 Aug 10
SSgt R Standish 14/20H (1960–1978) 12 Aug 10
Mr H S Gant 14/20H (1957–1959) 15 Aug 10
Sgt E A M Holdaway 14/20H (1934–1960) 10 Sep 10
Mrs A Cripps | wife of: Maj A T H Cripps 14/20H 14 Sep 10
WO2 W M Butcher (Bill) 14/20H (1961–1986) 30 Sep 10
Sir Norman Wisdom OBE 10H (1932–1937) 4 Oct 10
Col J R Tinkler Late REME at 10H (1926–1964) 12 Oct 10
Mr J L Walker 14/20H (1980–1989) 10 Dec 10
Mr A S Killey 14/20H (1955–1959) 15 Dec 10
WO2 T Hart 14/20H (1939–1944) 22 Dec 10
Maj Sir Richard Keane Bt 10H (1939–1944) 28 Dec 10
The King’s Royal Hussars  
1st September 2010

Colonel-in-Chief  
Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO QSO

Colonel of the Regiment  
Col (Retired) DJB Woodd

Home Headquarters
Chairman Regimental Association  
Col (Retired) ARE Singer OBE
Regimental Secretary (HHQ(S))  
Maj (Retired) RCH Boon
Regimental Secretary (HHQ(N))  
Capt (Retired) JC Cornish

Regimental Headquarters
Commanding Officer  
Lt Col Potts
Second-in-Command  
Maj Kingsford
Adjutant  
Capt Perowne
Operations Officer  
Capt Hodges
Career Management Officer  
Capt Rutter
Resettlement Warrant Officer  
SSgt Durrant
Regimental Sergeant Major  
WO1 Bland

C Squadron

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D Squadron

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2Lt Garbutt
2Lt Matthews
WO2 Barrow
SSgt Maclean
Sgt McLeish
Sgt Silvey
Sgt Whitehill
Sgt Collier
Sgt O’Donnell
Sgt Bradley
Cpl Hurst
Cpl Lee
Cpl Davies
Cpl Stringer
Cpl Bohana
Cpl Simpson
Cpl Kennedy
Cpl Mulcahy
LCpl Johnstone
Tpr Hatton

Cpl Morley
Cpl Hinton
Cpl Harrison
Cpl Oakes
LCpl Buckle
LCpl Smith 096
LCpl Tollfield 620
LCpl Bradbury
LCpl Fremont
LCpl Davenport
LCpl Freitag
LCpl Cook 916
LCpl Mountain
Tpr Baron
Tpr Davies 572
Tpr Edmonson
Tpr Mason 293
Tpr Payne 287
Tpr Dynes
Tpr Sutton
Tpr Webb 058
Tpr Narraway
Tpr Payne 509
Tpr Riding

Headquarters Squadron

SHQ
OC Maj Simpson
2IC Capt Price
SSM WO2 Sinclair
SQMS Sgt Bretherston
Storemen Sgt Arrow-Smith
Cpl Mulcahy
LCpl Johnstone
Tpr Hatton

Cpl Thornley
Cpl Bourne
LCpl McGlone
LCpl Steele
LCpl Smith 590
LCpl Munday
LCpl Ruse
LCpl Beard 695
LCpl Linnane
LCpl Madigan
LCpl Malone
LCpl Barnett
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Tpr Wilton
Tpr Massey
Tpr Neary
Tpr Seaborne
Tpr Ollerhead
Tpr South
Tpr Carter 853
Tpr Critchley
Tpr Farrer
Tpr Begg
Tpr Parker 304
Tpr McLaughlan
Tpr Bradford 601
Tpr Holmes
Tpr Gurung
Tpr Meads
Tpr Radcliffe 435
Tpr Campbell 162
Tpr Holland
Tpr Hagley
Tpr Freer

Gymnasium
Sgt Bell
LCpl Green

QM Dept
QM Capt Wills
RQMS WO2 Taylor
USA WO2 Robinson
Sgt Grief
Cpl Marshall 103
Cpl Jollife
LCpl Thompson
LCpl Stocks
LCpl Bennett
LCpl Wilkinson 655
LCpl Hodgson
LCpl Howarth

QM(T) Dept
QM(T) Capt Caulfield
RQMS(T) WO2 Wood
QM(T) SSgt Sgt Weatherby
RVEM SSgt Lowe
QM(T) Sgt Sgt Bensley
Cpl Kendall
Cpl Smiles
Cpl O’Donnell
Cpl Maher
Cpl Hocking
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LCpl Larkin
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LCpl Lockett

Unit Welfare Office
Tpr Capt Kennedy
UWO Capt Kennedy
UW SNCO Sgt Davis-Bawn
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<td>Maj CDW Smith</td>
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<td>Maj HJ Willis</td>
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<td>Capt BEH Bishop</td>
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<td>Capt RH Crofton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt GLA Hanratty</td>
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<td>Capt QJM Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt PRW Kaye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt LE Lewis</td>
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<td>Capt PJ Perowne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt THM Perrott</td>
<td>IEF Torchlight – Op HERRICK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt RJ Reid</td>
<td>1RGR – Op HERRICK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt JD Scott</td>
<td>Rhine Pl Comd, ATR Bassingbourn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt KC Sloan</td>
<td>STW 2IC, The Armour Centre</td>
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Soldiers at ERE

WO1 Penkethman AFV CIS School
WO1 Rogers HQ 1 Mech Bde
WO1 Childes PSLO (QM(T)) ARMacen
WO1 Towell Overseas Recruiter
WO2 Wade SO3 TIGER Team HQLF
WO2 Bellman Tayforth UOTC
WO2 Loftus CLM Wing
WO2 Rutherford BATUS QM(T) Dept
WO2 Coleman BRITCON UNFICYP
WO2 Ruddick US ARMY Exchange Post
WO2 Hobbs ART 20A Bicester
WO2 Baker Recruiter – Abergavenny
WO2 Bellman Recruiter – Milton Keynes
SSgt Danson HQ DRAC
SSgt Kostilek HQ ARMcen
SSgt Taylor CRT
SSgt Spyers 752 Export Support Team
SSgt Spyers 236 AFV D&M School
SSgt Green B Sqn RWxY
SSgt Dix HQ ARMcen
SSgt Davies ARMAT (UK)
Sgt Sercombe C Sqn RWxY
Sgt Mitty ARMAT (G)
Sgt Price AFV Gnr Sch
Sgt Godfrey B Sqn RWxY
Sgt Shaw 40 CTT
Sgt Bradley Tp Sgt RAC Trg Regt
Sgt Eadsforth AFV Gnr School
Sgt Holland AFV Gnr School
Sgt Pople RAC Trg Regt
Sgt Almond G3 CBRN A1 7 (Armd) Bde
Sgt Miller HQ 16 (Air Assault) Bde
Sgt Smith AFV D&M School
Sgt Burnie AFV D&M School
Sgt Debaughn ACIO Preston
Sgt Hudson ACIO Southampton
Sgt White A Sqn RWxY
Sgt Wilkinson 19 CTT
Sgt Mackay Project Panther Team HQLF
Sgt Donald AFV CIS School
Sgt Hay AFV CIS School
Sgt Fenby AFV D&M School
Sgt Daisly AFV D&M School
Sgt Clayton DST Leconfield
Sgt Bain AFC(H)
Sgt Burns ART 9 Preston
Cpl Sullivan RAC Trg Regt
Cpl Jones HQ BATUS
Cpl Irwin ATR(B)
Cpl Shepherd GOC 1 (UK) Armd Div Driver
Cpl Duxbury LWCTG Westdown Camp
Cpl Ashmore RAC Trg Regt Provost
Cpl Plant ATR(B)
Cpl Astley ATDU
Cpl Law ATR (W) Provost
Cpl Williamson ATR (B) Gymnasium
Cpl Bowman RAC Trg Regt
Cpl Green RAC Trg Regt
LCpl Hughes RMAS Storeman
Tpr Goodwin LWC Dvr
Tpr Hopes ART 20A Bicester
Tpr Cooper ART 23 Chepstow
Tpr Hodges ART 23 Chepstow
## Births

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Capt</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>Trina</td>
<td>Amy Elizabeth</td>
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## Marriages

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<tr>
<td>LCpl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj</td>
<td>Lea</td>
<td>Maj Gareth Hicks</td>
<td>03/01/2011</td>
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</table>
How to find HorsePower

The museum of The King’s Royal Hussars is located in Peninsula Barracks off Romsey Road, Winchester.

**By Car:**
Follow the signs to Tower Street car park and take a 5 minute walk to Peninsula Barracks.

**By Train:**
Turn right out of the station and take a 5 minute walk to Peninsula Barracks.

**Park & Ride:**
Take the Park and Ride bus service alighting at Castle stop.

Discover the story of three famous Cavalry regiments in the historic Peninsula Barracks, Winchester

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Opening hours for the museum are as follows:
Tuesday to Friday: 10am – 12.45pm & 1.30 – 4pm
Weekends & Holiday Mondays: 12 Noon – 4pm

**Admission is free**
Limited free parking is available outside the museum.

www.horsepowermuseum.co.uk
Tel: 01962 828541
The KRH Appeal
Looking after soldiers and their families now and in the future.

A great opportunity for you to make a real difference and enhance the lives of our injured soldiers, old comrades and their families. Please support your Regimental family

Why have we launched The KRH Appeal?
As a modern, versatile armoured regiment, The King's Royal Hussars has provided a large number of mounted and dismounted troops for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq over recent years. Thankfully we have not incurred the scale of casualties experienced by other regiments, however with our largest deployment to Afghanistan planned for 2012, now is the time to act to ensure we are prepared properly. As a family regiment, we aim to look after our own, and as such, the existing Regimental Welfare Trust Fund has provided welfare grants for our soldiers and their families, serving and retired, for many years. This Appeal will increase the funds the Trust has available, so show your support for our serving soldiers and become involved with the Appeal by donating money, organising your own events or just participating in the events.

Support the KRH Appeal and allow our Regiment to make a difference to the lives of soldiers and their families who have been affected by their active service.

How will my money be used?
The KRH Appeal is part of the King's Royal Hussars Regimental Trust Fund and designed to support soldiers and their families both past and present. Your donation will help to:

• Support the families of those killed in action by promptly responding to problems of bereavement and hardship.
• Support those wounded or injured on operations, particularly those who have had to leave the Army and to assist them in finding new employment.
• Support the families of those seriously wounded or injured in prolonged recovery situations.

Don’t others do this? There are many charities who currently provide excellent support to HM Forces and in some cases we will be working closely with these in joint fundraising events. However, having funds immediately available, at very short notice, will ensure we can provide the personal support we believe our soldiers and their families deserve. In addition, many areas we would like to support such as helping extended families would not normally be covered by the major charities.

Visit www.krh.org.uk or www.bmycharity.com/krh to make a donation and find out how you can help with fundraising.

The KRH APPEAL OFFICE
Aliwal Barracks, TIDWORTH, Wiltshire SP9 7BB
Phone: +44(0)1980 656839 • Web: www.krh.org.uk • E-mail: info@krh.org.uk

The KRH Regimental Trust is a registered charity—Charities Commission No 1021455