The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

The King’s Royal Hussars
Regimental Journal
Tidworth

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

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Tidworth

CONTENTS

Foreword by The Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal .........3
Foreword by the Commanding Officer .........................................................4
The KRH Appeal ..........................................................................................5
Diary of Major Events 2011 .......................................................................6
Regimental Notes .........................................................................................8
Operational Honours and Awards ...............................................................13
Non-Operational Honours and Awards ....................................................13
C Squadron ...............................................................................................16
Obituary – Trooper D G Harrison .................................................................28
B Squadron ...............................................................................................25
Obituary – Trooper E J Heal ........................................................................19
A Squadron ...............................................................................................20
D Squadron ...............................................................................................29
HQ Squadron .............................................................................................35
QM’s Department .......................................................................................36
QM(T)’s Department ...................................................................................37
Reece Troop ...............................................................................................39
Command Troop ........................................................................................40
Mechanical Transport Troop ......................................................................42
Training Wing ................................................................................................43
Provost Troop .............................................................................................45
Welfare Office ............................................................................................45
Light Aid Detachment REME .................................................................47
SPS Detachment .........................................................................................50
Regimental Aid Post ....................................................................................52
Catering Troop ............................................................................................52
Gymnasium .................................................................................................54
Regimental Chaplain ..................................................................................56
Battlegroup Headquarters ..........................................................................57
The Officers’ Mess .......................................................................................60
The Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess ...............................................64
The Corporals’ Mess ...................................................................................66
The Wives’ Club ........................................................................................68
The Royal Southern Yacht Club Twinning Ceremony – Friday 29 July ....70
The Regimental Open Day – Saturday 8 October ....................................72
Exercise MONS HAWK .........................................................................74
Exercise OFFA’s ACE .............................................................................76
Regimental Sport .......................................................................................77
Downhill Skiing ..........................................................................................77
Nordic Skiing ...............................................................................................78
Snowboarding ..............................................................................................80
Polo ................................................................................................................82
Football ........................................................................................................83

The Editor welcomes contributions and comments from readers – charles.smith924@mod.uk

Regimental Sport...........................................................................................77
The Regimental Open Day – Saturday 8 October ....................................72

Farewell ........................................................................................................122
Regimental Association .............................................................................118
The King’s Royal Hussars Regimental Trust (Welfare Fund) ...................121

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

As your Colonel-in-Chief I have been following the development of the Regiment with keen interest over the year. The training conducted in your core armoured vehicle roles, both in the UK and during demanding exercises in Canada, has once again demonstrated your professionalism and spirit in the best traditions of Cavalry soldiers and I have been impressed to hear how this has continued as you have turned to preparing for operations in Afghanistan in 2012.

It promises to be a demanding operational tour. I look forward to being kept in touch with your progress and wish you a safe and successful deployment. My thoughts will also be with your families and I would like to thank them and the Regimental Association for their continuing support which is so vital to the Regiment.

Anne
Foreword by the Commanding Officer

The consistent theme for the Regiment throughout 2011 has been one of training. We started the year reminding ourselves of our Combined Arms Manoeuvre foundation skills and progressed through tank ranges in Castlemartin, field training on Salisbury Plain before completing a full exercise at BATUS in Canada during the early Summer. Whilst the emphasis was on practising our skills as tank crew, much of what we were practising was deliberately preparing us for operations in Afghanistan. Following the completion of the exercises in Canada the preparation for Afghanistan started in earnest and for both B and C Squadrons this included a period to convert themselves from Mounted to Dismounted Combat Troops. This is a well trodden path for soldiers in this Regiment but that does not make it any easier. However, we have worked hard over the past 2 years to develop these skills and our soldiers’ willingness to learn remains high and has allowed us to convert with success.

Training for Afghanistan is both thorough and complex. There are an extraordinary number of courses that have to be completed and it is a challenging business to weave all the new skills together at Squadron and Regimental levels. But it has been a pleasure to watch the officers and soldiers rise to these challenges and do so with a tangible sense of purpose and pride in their work. The Regiment is training for a range of roles for Afghanistan, and together they touch at the very heart of the campaign; our tour in Helmand will be the focus of next year’s journal, but we finish 2011 looking forward to the challenge.

As you would expect, there have been less opportunities for sport and adventurous training than in previous years, but we have grasped every available chance and have enjoyed some encouraging results for our young football, rugby and boxing squads. It is with these squads that we hope to run sports tours after Afghanistan and also provide sufficient adventurous training opportunities that will help the soldiers to recuperate from the tour.

Alongside our physical preparations for Afghanistan, the launch of the KRH Appeal has allowed the Regiment to raise welfare funds that are likely to be needed in the event of casualties being taken. The secondary aim of the Appeal has been to bring the Serving Regiment and the Association closer together. I believe the Appeal has enjoyed successes on both accounts and I hope that everyone in the Association feels better informed about the serving soldiers through the Association website and the various Appeal fundraising events. The messages and acts in support of the soldiers from our Association members have been most welcome and are hugely beneficial to the morale of the Regiment.
The KRH Appeal

The Regiment launched the KRH Appeal at the Cavalry Memorial Parade in 2011 with the intent of raising some additional welfare funds in advance of the operational tour to Helmand. Whilst the MOD, NHS and Service Charities provide excellent support to injured soldiers and their families, there is an important and meaningful role to be played by Regimental Charities. Therefore the KRH Appeal aimed to generate a contingency fund before the tour started with the intent to conduct further fundraising during and after the tour as required. There was a secondary purpose to the fundraising; to provide opportunities for members of the wider Regimental Family (families of serving members, friends and former members) to interact with the serving soldiers and gain a better understanding of the challenges of modern soldiering. By all accounts, the KRH Appeal succeeded in these objectives; as the Regiment deployed over £100,000 had been raised and soldiers had received countless messages and expressions of support for the tour.

To raise such a fantastic amount has taken an enormous amount of hard work and generosity from many. It has also been a family effort, without significant involvement from external or corporate bodies. The Regiment ran an Open Day, Carol Service, Auction and Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition, all of which feature in this journal. Retired members of the Regiment opened up their gardens, homes, dining rooms, as well as running, cycling and singing their way into persuading people to give. Families have rattled buckets, sold wristbands, cufflinks and generally spread the word. The whole venture has been a wonderful expression of support for those deploying while recognising the importance of the Regiment in supporting our own when help is required.

Whatever impact the tour will have on our soldiers, we deployed knowing that we had the complete support of our Regiment in its widest sense.
Diary of Major Events 2011

January
9  Return from Christmas Leave
10  Regimental re-ORBAT
17  12 Mech Bde COIN Study Day
25  Visit of GOC Maj Gen James Everard
26  KRH BG Study Day and Dinner

February
5  Oxford UOTC Trg Day with B Squadron
10  Visit of 11th Hussars Old Comrades Association
10  Ex MUDDY HAWK, BG HQ Staff trg
21–25  KRH BG CAST, Warminster
26  Al Haniya Dinner (14th/20th)
28–4 Mar  KRH BG CATT, Warminster

March
5  Salisbury Reunion
7  B Squadron with 3 YORKS BG CAST/CATT
14  Individual Mission Specific Training starts
11  The Grand Military, Sandown
13  Gloucester Branch Reunion
14–25  C Squadron, D Squadron, Recce & ComdTp
15  Visit of Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB)
18  Visit of 12 Mech Bde Comd
26–8 Apr  B Squadron Annual Firing at Castlemartin Ranges

April
13  Cavalry Cup KRH vs RDG, Catterick
22–4 May  Easter Leave

May
6  Welfare / Wives Ann Summers Party
8  Cavalry Memorial Parade
19  Ex MUDDY HAWK, BG HQ Staff trg
21–26  Initial Afghanistan Recce
23–27  Ex CRIMSON CHUKKA, pre BATUS Combined
Arms Training
24  Visit of Estonian CDS
30–16 Sep  12 Mech Bde Crew Training School (CTS) at
Bovington, run by A Squadron
30–19 Jun  B Squadron on Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 2,
BATUS, with 3 YORKS BG

June
1–2  RUSI Land Warfare Conference
7–9  Visit of MS (MCM Div)
7–11 Nov  Lt Khaled Al Jabri (UAE Army) Attachment
22–23  Op HERRICK 13 (16 Air Asslt Bde) Mission
Exploitation

July
2–22  KRH BG Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3, BATUS
9–10  Support to Royal Wiltshire Show and Rundle Cup
26–28  Ex OFFAS ACE, 12 Mech Bde Battlefield Study in
Wales
29  Royal Southern Yacht Club Twinning Ceremony,
Hamble

August
1  Visit of GOC Maj Gen John Lorimer
5  Opls’ Mess Medicina Ball
6–29  Summer Leave
30  Op HERRICK 16 Mission Specific Training starts,
Regimental re-ORBAT and A Squadron reformed
30–2 Sep  Op HERRICK Comds Study Week

September
3  KRH Appeal Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot
4–15  A Squadron Brigade Advisory Group (BAG)
Afghanistan Immersion
5  Operational Support Visit (CIW as was)
5–9  Regimental Small Arms Ranges, Bulford
10  Offrs’ Mess Great Gatsby Summer Ball
12–16  All Ranks Briefings and Tactical Comd Cadre
15  Farewell visit of 12 Mech Comd Brig Justin
Maciejewski
18–23  Ex PASHTUN HAWK, mission specific live firing
package in Lydd
22  A Squadron BAG CAST with 3 RIFLES BG
25–9 Oct  Capt Harry Jadoon, Pakistan Army attachment
28–30  Ex JACOBITE ACE, 12 Mech Bde Battlefield
Study, Edinburgh
27  Flashman Lecture (Targeting) – Lt Col Nick Perry

October
3–4  Enhanced Cultural Understanding Course and
Ex CRIMSON CLUB, dismounted exercise on
Salisbury Plain
5  Air Manoeuvre Planning Study Day
6  Visit of HMS Dauntless
6  Flashman Lecture (Mentoring) – Maj Al Johnson
8  Regimental Open Day
9  Central Southern Reunion, WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess
10–21  Ex CRIMSON LION dismounted exercise for
C and B Squadron in Brecon
24–28  Op HERRICK Cascade Training Week 2
24–26  Tactical Influence Foundation Course and
Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL, endurance patrols
competition, Brecon
25  Balaclava Day
27
   Op CLEAN SWEEP, litter picking in Tidworth
27
   Offrs’ Mess Balaclava Dinner

November
1
   Support to Poppy Appeal Day, Waterloo Station
1–10
   Ex PASHTUN LION CF LKG (KRH BG)
   Command Staff & Tactical Training Exercise (CSTTX)
11
   Visit of new 12 Mech Comd Brig Doug Chalmers
12
   Northern Reunion, Preston
13
   Remembrance Sunday
14–18
   Op HERRICK Cascade Training week 3, Longmoor Camp
15
   Offrs’ Dinner Cavalry and Guards Club
18
   WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess Ramnuggur Ball
20–27
   Commanders Afghanistan Recce
23
   Wives Christmas Fayre
26–2
   Ex PASHTUN PANTHER CF LKG Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX), Thetford
29–2
   Ex PASHTUN TEMPEST A Squadron
   Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX), Castlemartin Ranges

December
3
   Offrs’ Mess Shoot and Ladies Dinner Night
3
   Alpine, Nordic and Snowboard Ski Teams Depart
4
   Families Christmas Lunch and Children’s Christmas Party
5–9
   Regimental Small Arms Ranges, Bulford and
   Ex PASHTUN HORIZON 1, LOCON support to Bde CAST
6
   Wives Christmas Party
12
   12 Mech Bde Dinner Night, Bulford
12–13
   G1 and 4 Comds Study Period, Bulford
13–14
   Ex SAPIENT ACE, weapons effects demonstration
15
   Soldiers’ Christmas Lunch and WOs’ & Sgts’ to Offrs’ Mess
16–3 Jan
   Christmas Leave
17
   KRH Appeal Carol Service, Gloucester Cathedral
Regimental Notes

2011 started off busy, got busier, sailed through frenetic and touched on insane! It was to be a year of two halves: initially the Regiment was focused on Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT) on tanks in our core role, switching post summer leave to Pre-Deployment Training for Op HERRICK 16 for a predominantly infantry-based deployment in March 2012. The Regiment was configured into the KRH Hybrid Battlegroup comprising HQ Squadron and D Squadron, with attachments from C Squadron Light Dragoons (a Formation Reconnaissance Squadron), Corunna Company 3 YORKS (Armoured Infantry Company in Warrior Fighting Vehicles) and Queen's Company (1st Battalion Grenadier Guards) as a Light Role Infantry Company in trucks. C Squadron were detached to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards who were the Contemporary Operating Environment Force (COEFORE) Battle Group and destined to be our enemy tank force in Canada. A Squadron were temporarily disbanded to backfill the other sabre squadrons and their hierarchy established and then ran the 12 Mechanized Brigade Crew Training School (CTS) in Bovington. Meanwhile B Squadron were detached to the 3 YORKS Battlegroup as their Armoured Squadron.

The first couple of months were spent gearing ourselves up for BATUS and Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 in April, a demanding 4-week exercise that has superseded the familiar Ex MEDICINE MAN series. All squadrons conducted low level training exercises on Salisbury Plain, the Headquarters conducted Staff Training in the form of Ex MUDDY HAWK and Battlegroup Study Days which progressed into the more formal training delivered by Combined Arms Staff Trainer (CAST) and Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) in Warminster. With the appropriate foundations laid, the training moved onto preparations in the tank simulators for Annual Firing at Castlemartin Ranges. All squadrons, less A, deployed to Pembrokeshire and conducted a very successful firing period, developing both confidence and experience ahead of the final challenge that lay in Canada.

However, the plan changed! As with all plans especially military ones, most rarely survive contact, although this time it was the elements and not the enemy that scuppered us. Unprecedented amounts of snow across Alberta prevented the Range Teams from being able to prepare the BATUS Prairie for our arrival: tank targetry could not be emplaced on the ranges, the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) were uninhabitable and the weather continued to be atrocious – the worst for 40 years according to some cowboys! After a week of uncertainty and with the coaches under starter’s orders for the airport at Brize Norton, the decision was finally taken to delay the
KRH Battlegroup’s exercise from April to July when we would undertake Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3.

This was to have several consequences, a significant number of key personalities were due to move on which meant that a fresh and unprepared team would now have to hit BATUS cold, but would have the benefit of integrating early and enduring through pre-deployment training onto operations in 2012. Furthermore, the configuration of the Battlegroup changed with the last minute inclusion of Number 2 Company, 1st Bn Grenadier Guards, a Light Role Company that was tasked to convert to Protected Mobility in BULLDOGS (AFV 432, with a lick of paint!), having never operated from tracks before. The new Ops Officer rapidly convened Ex CRIMSON CHUKKA on Salisbury Plain to bed in all new arrivals and crack the Mechanization of No. 2 Company. As if there was not enough to be getting on with, the Estonian Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), a 4* General, was visiting the UK and the KRH had attracted the selector’s eye to host him for an afternoon on Salisbury Plain; it was an ideal opportunity for the new Second-in-Command to deliver his first of many Regimental briefs and step up with the Commanding Officer away on a Recce to Afghanistan!

Meanwhile A Squadron were operating the Crew Training School facilitating training for over 2500 troops from across the Brigade at a rate of 175 students per week for 16 weeks. Each cohort received 5 days of training on the vehicle they were due to deploy in to Afghanistan. The skills and drills package included reaction to enemy fire, being hit by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), initiating recovery in the event of a breakdown and dealing with casualties. This training was deemed essential to enable the vehicle crew to operate in an unfamiliar vehicle as a crew prior to progressing onto Collective (Troop or Squadron based) training during the more demanding tactical exercises that were to follow.

The exercises in BATUS may have changed in character and name but they still provide some of the best and most arduous training available to our soldiers. At any time of year the conditions are very challenging. B Squadron who deployed on Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 2 in June with the 3 YORKS Battlegroup and endured biblical rain and relentless mud. On PT3 in July, the KRH Battlegroup baked in temperatures of 40°C, was feasted on by mosquitoes and was doused with several torrential downpours; C Squadron was lucky enough to get the lot as they deployed for both exercises. The 20-day exercise remains half live-firing, both mounted and dismounted, and half fought against a live enemy, COEFOR, who are enhanced by a capable insurgency and media, both friendly. The training was excellent and pushed us to the limit whilst giving us a taste of the complexity and friction that exists in Afghanistan. It entailed managing significant concurrent activity in both the planning and execution of multiple missions and recalibrated us perfectly for the commencement of Op HERRICK Mission Specific Training (MST) which was to start at the end of August.

Whilst the KRH Battlegroup was returning back to UK from Canada, B Squadron were heavily engaged in ceremonial preparations for the long awaited twinning ceremony with the Royal Southern Yacht Club. The significant event formally recognised the historic links between the Regiment and the Club, who’s third Commodore was the Lord Cardigan. B Squadron marched immaculately in Blues through Hamble and provided an honour guard. All present remarked on the smart turnout and the Regiment’s excellent standing in the local area was confirmed. With the parade complete and all others safely back from BATUS,
we collapsed into 3-weeks well earned August Summer leave and 
braced ourselves for what was to come…

Refreshed and recharged we hit day one of Pre-Deployment 
Training dressed in the 2011 season’s new threads, otherwise 
referred to as Multi Terrain Pattern (MTP) combats which have 
replaced both the CS95 and Desert combats. The Regiment had 
not conducted pre-tour training since 2009, when we were des-
tined, then stood down, for Op TELIC 14, so for many what 
was to come was a shock to the system. MST is in many respects 
similar to a downhill ski race: once through the start gate there 
is no stopping, the pace gets increasingly fast, there is little time 
to reflect on what you are doing, survival instinct kicks in and 
one is absolutely shattered at the end. The key differences are 
that in the MST additional gates (or training events!) are con-
stantly squeezed in, the course continually evolves, it is a gruel-
ling 6-months long, not sub-3 minutes and obviously it is not as 
much fun as the alpine event! It is widely acknowledged that 
subsequent tours of Afghanistan are very achievable; most cannot 
face the onslaught of MST more than once!

With a re-ORBAT completed, the Regiment force-generated a 
Combined Force Headquarters (a much expanded and enhanced 
battlegroup headquarters, two light-role squadrons in the shape 
of B and C Squadrons, capable of mounting in Afghan specific 
Protected Vehicles such as MASTIFF, HUSKY and JACKAL. A 
Squadron were to form an ‘Advisor’ team to the Afghan National 
Army (ANA) as part of the 3 RIFLES Brigade Advisory Group 
(BAG), and D Squadron were to train as WARTHOG Squadron, 
a highly mobile, tracked, heavily armed and protected delivery 
system for dismounted troops as part of the ISTAR Group

(The Light Dragoons Battlegroup). In addition Battle Casualty 
Replacements (BCRs) and a Rear Operations Group (ROG, or 
‘Rear Party’ in old money) were also required. The unenviable 
task of finding all the warm bodies to meet this enormous require-
ment was the bailiwick of the Careers Management Officer, Capt 
Mark Witham, who rapidly became an Excel spreadsheet wizard!

The first training event was the conceptual Op HERRICK Study 
Week for Commanders, a very detailed series of presentations on 
every aspect of Afghanistan was delivered to set the baseline level 
of understanding from the outset. Concurrently the troops were 
firing rifles, shotguns, sharpshooter rifles, light machine guns and 
pistols on Bulford Ranges in preparation for more complex shoot-
ing that was to come at Lydd and Hythe Ranges. Ex PASHTUN 
HAWK was an authentic live firing package which practised all 
in a multitude of scenarios including defence of a platoon house, 
firing from vehicles and compound clearances in a ‘kill house’, 
previously the preserve of Special Forces.

The Regiment was delighted to welcome back Lt Col Nick Perry 
– ex-Chief of Staff 16 Air Assault Brigade and one of the most 
decorated and Afghanistan experienced officers currently serving 
in the British Army – to deliver a Flashman Lecture on the lead-
ership realities of Operations in Afghanistan to both the Officers’ 
and Sergeants’ Messes; his considered advice was lapped up by all. 
Throughout this period, individual MST courses took their toll 
on availability with an endless requirement to qualify many in an 
array of courses from Environmental Health, ISTAR, Counter-
IED and First Aid. At the same time, vehicle license acquisition 
and subsequent crew training continued for those who had been 
unable to complete it before. Physical fitness also was central and
constant to ensure that all were fit enough to endure the arduous realities of patrolling in Afghanistan where soldiers routinely patrol carrying 60kgs.

The Regimental Open Day and the Central Southern Reunion on 8 and 9 October saw the Regiment opening its doors to our wider families and association members and was a fantastic opportunity to update all on our activity. B Squadron shouldered the responsibility for organisation and delivered a very memorable, informative and enjoyable weekend, whilst raising valuable funds for the KRH Appeal. The following day the Regiment hosted the Central Southern Reunion, commencing with a Service of Reunion in St Michael’s Church, followed by a fantastic lunch in Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess.

One of the biggest challenges of the training was the concurrent conversion to Light Role. To facilitate this B and C Squadrons conducted several infantry-based exercises, culminating with a 2-week deployment to the Brecon Beacons for Ex CRIMSON LION to practise and hone dismounted close combat skills in a demanding environment. This proved essential and focused the minds of all on the challenges of operating without vehicles and instilled in the Junior Non-Commissioned Officers (JNCOs) the importance of their role as middle management within the troop, conducting kit checks, gripping young troopers and anticipating future activity; this is a level of involvement that is not normally so explicitly demanded of cavalry JNCOs.

Subsequently, our dismounted abilities were verified with another robust performance in Brecon on Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL: a 4-man, long range reconnaissance endurance patrol event conducted over a 55km course in 48-hours, which tests basic infantry skills along the way. 2011 saw the biggest entry field of teams to date and some of the most inclement weather Wales had to offer which resulted in a third of all teams throwing in the towel. The Regiment entered 3 teams, all of which finished veryrespectably, achieving a gold (1 of 4 awarded), a silver and a bronze medal.

With the change of role, came a change of Brigade Commander and we were fortunate to host Brigadier Doug Chalmers late 1 PWRR, soon after he took command. The visit went very well and he took the time to brief both Messes in detail on his previous experiences of Afghanistan and his intent for Op HERRICK 16. In particular, he highlighted his key themes of empathy, rapport and coherence. His clear direction was gratefully received the Regiment who now looked forward to serving under his command on operations.

The Regiment supported the Northern Reunion and Remembrance Sunday in Preston; as always it was a great opportunity to re-affirm our strong links with the Northern elements of the Regimental Association, and the fire and brimstone Remembrance Service will not be forgotten by those who attended! The following weekend the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess celebrated The Ramnuggur Ball which was a fantastic evening befitting the 163rd anniversary of the battle.

Ex CRIMSON SALTIRE was the culmination week of Cascade Training during which all aspects of Counter Insurgency operations were practised at Longmoor Village, as a rehearsal prior to Ex PASHTUN PANTHER, the Confirmatory Exercise (CFX), in Thetford. CFX, which aims to validate all skills and lessons learnt, is widely regarded as one of the best exercises of MST due to its phenomenal resourcing with all manner of Afghanistan-specific equipment and infrastructure, including realistic casualties from Amputees in Action, fast jets and helicopters, recently returned Afghanistan veterans to provide advice, and even real Afghan local nationals and interpreters – all surreally played out in the depths of Norfolk.
With the demanding CFX cracked and Christmas leave in sight, the Regiment was justifiably proud of its achievements: the Officers’ Mess switched its attentions briefly to raise funds for the KRH Appeal with a day’s shooting swiftly followed by a successful Ladies Dinner Night despite a prolonged power cut in the hours before the dinner! The Snowboard, Alpine and Nordic ski teams departed for a foreshortened ski season due to the demands of post-New Year pre-deployment training.

As MST began with a conceptual period, Brigade deemed it appropriate to conclude the year with another, this time with the less enthralling – but no less important – subjects of G1 (human resources) and G4 (logistics). The two-day package reinforced how vital these aspects were if the Regiment was to have a successful tour. We all ‘got it’ and reflected how much we had developed since we had last sat ‘on receive’ in the Bulford Study Centre, fresh from Summer Leave just a handful of weeks before. The study periods were rapidly followed by Ex SAPIENT ACE, a weapons effects and judgemental training demonstration on Salisbury Plain. Multiple Commanders and above deployed in full battle dress with all the trimmings – including protective eye wear, gloves, ear defence, OSPREY body armour and anything warm (the Ops Officer even admitted to wearing long johns!) – to view the full range of Op HERRICK weaponry in action, in order to increase understanding of weapon effects and the risks of collateral damage. It was a beneficial day, if not a little cold and a distraction from Christmas celebrations that we would have otherwise been engaged in. Us cavalry types were left feeling that a Squadron or three of Challenger tanks in Helmand would be far more decisive, and accurate, than infantry entrusted with dismounted heavy calibre weapons; regrettably a counter-insurgency campaign on the wind down is no place for heavy armour and shock action!

This left the usual round of Christmas celebrations to be conducted in a single day. On the final Thursday before Christmas leave, the annual Troopers vs Corporals Football Match was played. The Other Ranks’ Christmas Lunch was then held with an RSM-led KRH Appeal Auction which raised a considerable sum. The final commitment was the Regimental Carol Service at Gloucester Cathedral, ably organised by C Squadron. It was a fantastic and well-attended event and a poignant way to mark the end of what must go on record as one of the most action-packed years on record. The Regiment completed 2011 exhausted, but confident, well set and eager for the rigours of Op HERRICK 16 (March to October) in 2012.

RJC
Operational Honours and Awards

Member of the Order of the British Empire
Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Perry DSO MBE

Before promoting, Major Perry was Chief of Staff of Task force Helmand (TFH) through a period of exceptional operational tempo. His unrelenting professionalism set the tone for the Headquarters and his innovation was instrumental in a shift in approach that contributed directly to campaign success.

Over the six month period, he synchronised a dauntingly complex web of activity that included in excess of eight hundred sub-unit and battalion level deliberate operations. Despite constant pressure, he was unstinting in his precision and thoroughness. On a number of occasions, his speedy interventions and corralling of Task Force assets resulted in significant successes against the enemy.

At Task Force level, he sat at the heart of an emerging strategy which sought to dismantle and degrade the insurgent network through the application of precision targeting. His input to the development of this new approach was foundational.

On top of this, his leadership of a staff of some two hundred and fifty personnel was exceptional. He was unflinching in his commitment and inspired a tight team that was relentless in its pursuit of excellence. He also built the closest possible relationship with American led Headquarters Regional Command (South West).

The vision, energy and sophistication he brought to the post of Chief of Staff contributed directly and substantially to operational success.

Lt Col Perry becomes a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Commander Task Force Helmand Commendation
Captain Philip Kaye

Captain Kaye deployed on operations in Nahr e Seraj South as a seconded officer with the 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles as commander of a police mentoring team during Operation HERRICK 12. Without ever having commanded Gurkhas before, he immediately took control of their training and moulded a highly effective team. He built a relationship with his local police commander that vastly increased the effectiveness of the force and showed the highest standards of courage and leadership.

One example was shown on the 7th of August 2010 when his police team were establishing a checkpoint at a weekly market and an argument broke out with the Afghan Army and Police. With almost no warning an intense firefight broke out, but showing enormous presence of mind Kaye managed to pull his men back, send clear reports to his headquarters and restrain the Afghan Army troops. Had he not done so many more casualties would have been inevitable.

Throughout the tour Kaye and his team operated from a remote and austere position adjacent to a local police checkpoint. He worked tirelessly to build a relationship with his charge but he also held him to account. He prevented problems from growing and showed remarkable energy and determination in improving police effectiveness.

Capt Kaye instilled confidence in his men through impeccable leadership and tireless effort and set the example to others as to how much can be achieved when the right relationships are built with the police.

Non-Operational Honours and Awards

Gold Cross of Honour of the Bundeswehr
Major General Adrian Bradshaw CB OBE

In August, Major General Adrian Bradshaw was presented with the Gold Cross of Honour of the Bundeswehr at a small gathering at the German Embassy in Belgrave Square. It is awarded for meritorious service and exemplary achievements over 20 years.

Meritorious Service Medal
Warrant Officer First Class (Regimental Sergeant Major) Bland

WO1 Bland undertook 21 years of exemplary service with the Army. He began his career in Catterick in 1989, serving initially with The Royal Hussars before the amalgamation into The King’s Royal Hussars. His contribution, both professionally and to wider Regimental life, was always considerable. As the Regimental Sergeant Major, his personality and approachable temperament resonated well with soldiers and officers alike. He generated affection, loyalty and respect in equal measure.

In 2000 he was a Regimental Challenger 1 Gunnery Instructor before a short conversion course enabled him to assist in the Regimental conversion process to Challenger 2 in 2000-2001. WO1 Bland’s career has seen him at continuous Regimental duty for 21 years. This has seen him in the key positions of
Troop Corporal in Kosovo, Troop Sergeant in Northern Ireland, Regimental Gunner Staff Sergeant and Troop Leader in Iraq.

It was as a Squadron Sergeant Major in Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 7 that WO1 Bland had his most demanding tour. His ability to engage and understand the moods of all ranks, made him an irreplaceable advisor to the Squadron Leader, who trusted and relied upon his insight. He was an unflinching example to the Squadron and an exceptional motivator throughout hardship.

As Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 Bland set and expected the highest standards from his soldiers, particularly in the field. He took a deep interest in the wider aspects of welfare of all members of the team, and was in no small part responsible for consistently high morale within the Regiment.

Meritorious Service Medal
Warrant Officer Second Class Wood

WO2 Wood has had 21 years of exemplary service with the Army. He began his career as a Junior Leader in 1987, serving initially with the The 14th/20th Kings Hussars before the amalgamation into The King's Royal Hussars. His contribution to the high standing and excellent reputation of the Regiment was invaluable. With a vigorous dedication to achieving and maintaining high standards of soldiering, he was a Sergeant Major who upheld the core values of the Army with a passion.

WO2 Wood showed selfless commitment and dedication to duty throughout his service. He managed to bridge the gap perfectly in balancing his high standards of discipline with a friendly approachable nature that endeared him to all. He was a leader and a mentor, something that was recognised with his selection to represent the Regiment as an instructor with the Royal Wessex Yeomanry. His work typified his approach and attitude to soldiering when he was described as "a consummate professional in whose hands our future soldiers are secure."

Outside the workplace WO2 Wood was a committed father, a keen sportsman and an active member of the local community. His passion for martial arts led him to not only pass on his skilful tuition to soldiers, but also benefited many civilian organisations. Giving up his free time to work with local children and youth groups in martial arts over many years showed a dedication and commitment that went beyond the norm.

The Commander in Chief Land Forces Certificate for Meritorious Service
Corporal McLuskey

Corporal McLuskey was employed as a Class 1 Vehicle Mechanic in The King's Royal Hussars, responsible for the inspection and repair of Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks and the development of junior vehicle mechanics in a Sabre Squadron fitter section. His selfless dedication, infectious work ethic, outstanding performance and contribution to D Squadron and the Regiment was far beyond what was expected from his rank.

McLuskey's professionalism is built upon modesty, hard-earned experience and relentless passion for his trade. He has consistently performed to a standard far above his rank with unquenchable enthusiasm. As a single parent, he balances a ferociously busy work schedule alongside his parental commitments without complaint. McLuskey is a natural leader with a hands on and practical approach that has earned him the unwavering respect of his team; his exceptional trade knowledge is renowned and he is immensely proactive in instilling his Challenger 2 experience into other members of the Light Aid Detachment no matter what his workload. An entirely trustworthy and hardworking individual, his unquenchable thirst for his trade is contagious and the junior tradesmen under his command feed off his unrelenting enthusiasm and thrive under his leadership. Corporal McLuskey is the epitome of what the Corps strive to produce in junior leaders.

McLuskey continues to be an outstanding example of commitment and professionalism. His inspirational team leadership combined with his determination and willing acceptance of additional responsibility are impressive and humbling.

General Officer Commanding 3rd (United Kingdom) Division's Commendation
WO2 Dunn

Since Commissioning from Regimental Sergeant Major of The King’s Royal Hussars Capt Wills was instrumental in the success of the Regiment and the wider Army, by enhancing the reputation of both with his loyal and dedicated service. Employed as Training Officer, Squadron Logistics Officer in Afghanistan, Motor Transport Officer and subsequently as the Quartermaster he excelled in every area and developed procedures that have benefited not just the Regiment but the wider Army. Throughout his career, including 22 years in the ranks, Capt Wills’ professionalism and dedication to duty ensured that the very highest standards were maintained in every area of soldiering. Seeing operational service in Northern Ireland and Afghanistan he demanded and achieved the very best from those around him, commanding the respect of all with outstanding professionalism, a fierce loyalty and infectious humour.

As Quartermaster he was once again exceptional in planning and preparing the Regiment for the Combined Inspection Week (CIW) and Health & Safety Inspections, the latter requiring a complete transformation of procedures, organisation and management. In addition, Capt Wills provided the inspiration and drive to deliver the logistical elements of a major overseas exercise. The deployment of the Regiment to The Republic of South Africa, to conduct Exercise AFRICAN THORN, involved the movement of a Major Unit, it’s vehicles, equipment, manpower and stores; a task that required many months of detailed preparation.

The Commander in Chief Land Forces Certificate for Meritorious Service
Captain Gary Wills

Since Commissioning from Regimental Sergeant Major of The King’s Royal Hussars Capt Wills had his most demanding tour. His ability to engage and understand the moods of all ranks, made him an irreplaceable advisor to the Squadron Leader, who trusted and relied upon his insight. He was an unflinching example to the Squadron and an exceptional motivator throughout hardship.

As Regimental Sergeant Major, Capt Wills set and expected the highest standards from his soldiers, particularly in the field. He took a deep interest in the wider aspects of welfare of all members of the team, and was in no small part responsible for consistently high morale within the Regiment.
Sergeant Major Dunn enjoyed his soldiering and his enthusiasm rubbed off on those around him. He was also the lynchpin in developing the Squadron’s excellent reputation for administration, be it personnel or equipment.

On ranges, he ran the firing point with ruthless efficiency and in no small part, was responsible for the Squadron being awarded the accolade as ‘The Best Medium Armoured Squadron at Gunnery in the British Army’.

Sergeant Major Dunn’s outstanding leadership and personal example was crucial to the success of C Squadron during the last 18 months.

**General Officer Commanding 3rd (United Kingdom) Division’s Commendation**

Staff Sergeant Ormond

Staff Sergeant (SQMS) Ormond was the C Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant during the Squadron’s commitment to the Small Scale Contingent/ European Union Battlegroup based with 42 Commando Royal Marines. This meant that the Squadron was held at readiness against emerging tasks for the whole of 2010.

SSgt Ormond was responsible throughout for the Squadron’s vehicles, equipment and stores. Because of the operational task of the Small Scale Contingent Battlegroup, the Squadron was required to maintain at least 90% operational effectiveness throughout 2010. SSgt Ormond’s contribution towards that was considerable. His management of the Squadron’s stores, weapons and equipment was simply outstanding. His diligence, attention to detail and, at times, downright hard graft was hugely impressive indeed. It was not by chance, that Ormond was awarded the Regiment’s Teevan Award for administrative excellence in Dec 2010 – for his outstanding performance as SQMS.

SSgt Ormond is a leader in every sense. The SQMS role is one that has an immediate and telling impact on Squadron morale and Ormond ensured that the soldiers of the Squadron could want for nothing – and in turn they were instinctively loyal to him. He ensured that his small team, often of mixed ability, was well drilled, pro-active and hard working on behalf of the rest of the Squadron.

SSgt Ormond’s contribution to both the Squadron and Regiment was nothing short of outstanding.

**General Officer Commanding 3rd (United Kingdom) Division’s Commendation**

Sergeant Hendron

Sergeant Hendron was a key player in the Squadron throughout this time. His attention to detail, willingness to work hard and his clear intent to be the very best he can, stood him apart from his contemporaries. His personal example was outstanding and rubbed off on those around him. He was conscientious, rightly confident in his own ability and able to grasp and assimilate the bigger picture. Without this leadership and example, it would have been easy for frustration to set in amongst the soldiers.

With his Troop Leader deployed to Afghanistan, Sergeant Hendron was the de facto Troop Leader and Tank Park Manager. This would have over-faced most Sergeants – not least one who has only held the rank for a few months.

In addition to his already considerable portfolio within the Squadron, Sergeant Hendron also found the time to complete various Small Arms Instructor Qualifications and a 30mm Gunnery Instructor’s Course, where he scored an A Grade with a recommendation to return as a School’s Instructor.

Sergeant Hendron’s commitment, personal example and leadership were instrumental to the success of C Squadron. His performance and dedication were significantly above what one would expect of a man with his relative lack of experience.

**General Officer Commanding 3rd (United Kingdom) Division’s Commendation**

Sergeant Rigby

Sergeant Rigby was employed as a Troop Sergeant in B Squadron, The King’s Royal Hussars, where he excelled. Additionally he was B Squadron’s Tank Park Manager, an additional responsibility, in which he shone and proven most efficient.

Sergeant Rigby, threw himself into this role. Whilst others were resistant to JAMES, Sergeant Rigby used his signals background to understand, utilise and embrace the web based JAMES, often identifying and solving significant issues at his level. Sergeant Rigby’s knowledge of JAMES procedures was also used to support the Regimental Vehicle Manager.

Concurrently, B Squadron started their preparations for their HFT Training Year. Sergeant Rigby spent a considerable amount of time briefing, educating and developing the Corporals (acting as Sergeants) within the Squadron. Under his guidance the Squadron developed low level procedures which paved the way for a seamless transition to full Squadron holdings.

In addition to excelling in the role of Tank Park Manager, Sergeant Rigby continued to carry out the duties of a Troop Sergeant with intelligence and skill, showing great understanding of the function of leadership. It is worth noting that Sergeant Rigby was also a Troop Leader during this time.

Sergeant Rigby continues to show outstanding commitment and professionalism to his work. His command style shows intelligence, compassion, flexibility and an acceptance of extra responsibility.
The transformation that the Squadron has undergone since last year has been akin to a reverse metamorphosis from butterfly to caterpillar as we have sadly given up our beloved tanks and become grubby infantry types! However, having begun 2011 as the Army’s premier Medium Armour Squadron, the Senior Squadron is now proving itself to be a strong light-role infantry unit.

The start of the year saw preparations for BATUS begin in earnest. We deployed straight out on exercise for some more low-level Squadron training on our vehicles. The utterly miserable January weather cleared our heads after Christmas and meant that Salisbury Plain was turned into a mud bath. The conditions meant that vehicle drills, night navigation and dismounted close target recces were all much more challenging than normal, but none more so than the epic saga of the recovery of Cpl ‘Nosher’ Wilson. Having selflessly taken it upon himself to throw a track in the most inaccessible re-entrant on the Plain, the ensuing 12 hour recovery effort (including SSgt ‘Tiffy’ Southard also throwing a track as he attempted to make the first recovery) meant that all involved had been reminded of the intricacies of such a delicate job.

February saw the Squadron ride out onto the Plain once more to practice conducting operations in built up areas in Copehill Down Village. Along with our friends from 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment who provide one of the infantry companies forming part of the KRH Battlegroup, the day was an excellent opportunity to train with other combat arms as well as getting the inside track on the tactics and methods employed by our future enemy when we deployed to BATUS as COEFO!

This was followed by two glorious weeks in Warminster on the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT). This is a huge facility with about 60 life-size tank simulators all linked together on a computer database meaning that about 250 soldiers can train in a fully synthetic environment and practise all of their skills and drills in real time. This excellent facility enables us to practice our various manoeuvres, advance to contacts, quick attacks, obstacle crossings and really work on the skills that we will need out in Canada and beyond. CATT also has the significant advantage that it’s always sunny on the database so you never get cold or wet. It is so civilised that there is even a pause in the battle for lunch!

In the middle of March, C Squadron deployed back down to Castlemartin Ranges, in Pembrokeshire, to fire our Scimitars once again. Because of our operational tasking with 42 Commando Royal Marines in 2010, this was the third time in 18 months that we had been on ranges – more than any other Squadron in the Royal Armoured Corps. All the hard work in preparation for the ranges was proved as the Squadron rocketed through the various live fire exercises with excellent results. This month also saw a few old faces disappear and some new ones join the clan. Sergeant Major Chris Dunn has moved to become the RQMS(Tech) and SSgt Josh Ormond has moved, on promotion, to become B Squadron Sergeant Major. Both have been stalwart members of the Squadron for the last 2 years and will be greatly missed. In their place we welcome WO2 Mark Lowe and SSgt ‘Snotty’ Green.

May saw the Senior Squadron deployed to British Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) Canada, to play the enemy for Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 2 and 3. Although under the Command of the Grenadier Guards, the opportunity to oppose both B and D Squadron on the Prairie was eagerly anticipated.

As soon as the ageing BATUS vehicles had had the cobwebs and hibernating animals cleared out of them after winter shutdown, and had been lovingly beaten back to life the boys headed for the Rocky Mountains to complete various Adventure Training courses. By far the most popular was Ex ‘Broke Back Mountain’,
which saw forty riders charge off into the mountains for a week-long riding expedition. The Senior Squadron took the opportunity to show off its fine Cavalry heritage and style, with almost all finding it a lot easier to fall off a horse than a tank!

C Squadron returned from the Rockies having survived the bears, tick bites and lonely cowboys to begin final preparations for the first exercise. First into the ring was B Squadron and the 3 YORKS Battlegroup. Unleashed on the larger but slower moving enemy, like wolves on a herd of bison, the rogue tank tactics of the Senior Squadron (such as working as lone vehicles or ambushing pairs), accounted for 75% of the kills of the 3 YORKS Battlegroup.

Having made a name for ourselves during the destruction of the men from the 'Duke of Boots' the Squadron recharged their batteries with a period of standdown whilst the KRH Battlegroup limbered up for the royal rumble on Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3. The ‘Rodeo Capital’ of North America, Calgary, was the destination for most with the plethora of cowboy outfitters meaning that many returned to camp looking like extras from a spaghetti western.

With Squadron pride at stake, the Senior Squadron cautiously set about the destruction of a far more cunning KRH Battlegroup headed by a worthy adversary in the form of ‘Dirty D Squadron’. However with a kill percentage of over 80% the Prairie experience of C Squadron showed their contribution to the enemy forces was highlighted by the Grenadier Guards as the key weapon in the enemy Battlegroup. C Squadron returned to Tidworth as a stronger, closer and more robust unit.

However, the demands of MST meant that the Squadron could not rest on their laurels for long.

All attended vehicle courses prior to summer leave, at the home of the Royal Armoured Corps in Bovington, as well as similar courses in Leconsfield. Here the Squadron learned the intricacies of the Mastiff family of vehicles, as well as the Husky and Jackal. These vehicles are, though a step down from the mighty Challenger 2 (and even the mighty CVR(T), vital to operations in Helmand province as well as being good fun to roar about cross-country on the driver training area.

Immediately following summer leave the Squadron launched into
The Regimental Journal of The King's Royal Hussars

Two weeks’ worth of small arms ranges at Bulford, getting used to all the new weapons that we will be using on tour. This was followed by an excellent range package at Lydd and Hythe Ranges in Kent. Authentic live firing shoots such as the defence of a platoon house and firing from a vehicle at electronic pop up targets made the ranges good fun and really honed the marksmanship of the Squadron. The highlight though was the compound clearance training using ‘Simunition’ (military paintball bullets). Spurred on by the fact that the RSM had volunteered to be the enemy, the boys swept through rooms with gusto despite coming out of it covered in bruises!

In between all the military training the Squadron has worked hard for the Regimental appeal with a strong Senior Squadron contingent at the charity clay pigeon shoot. Spearheaded by Captain ‘Deadeye’ Tyson (who set the tone with a score of three from eighty clays) the team showed a strong all ranks commitment from C Squadron. More success was achieved in the Squadron’s longstanding commitment to running, cycling and rowing the distance from Tidworth to Kabul in the Kabul or Bust competition. Starting early on Saturday morning and finishing 5871km, 500 bottles of lucozade and a Squadron’s worth of exhausted cavalrymen later, the distance had been smashed, with the CO finishing the last 1km on a rowing machine. Some stunning personal efforts included Cpl Baldwin’s day-long Forrest Gump impression on the running machine and 2Lt Wilson’s 100km sprint on the bicycles, despite him considering anything with wheels and no engine as dangerous, immoral, profoundly ungentlemanly and a risk to one’s health!

October was the Welsh month for the Squadron, with everyone deploying for two weeks’ worth of rain, bogs and hills. For a lucky few this was followed by a further week in Brecon on Cambrian Patrol. Here the Squadron had the chance to put into practice the Afghanistan tactics and procedures that will be used next year for the first time, under the expert tutelage of mentors from the Grenadier Guards and The Royal Welsh. The Squadron practiced the vital infantry skills of patrolling, multiple attacks, ambushes, strike operations, walking through rivers and generally being cold and wet. Though a change of pace for many, the boys were

Swift justice for the RSM!
keen to prove themselves and were commended for the speed at which they absorbed these new skills.

The Cambrian Patrol saw a team of eight drag themselves over 55 kms of hills, 1800m of elevation and one night-time river crossing during the course of a non-stop 48 hr long-range reconnaissance patrol. The Bronze medal that the team received on completion is a highly commendable prize, especially as the poor weather conditions this year saw many of the teams (both British and International) stopping within the opening first 12 hrs of the competition.

Having completed a week of counterinsurgency operations in the villages of Longmoor training area, the Squadron deployed to the wilds of Norfolk for their Confirmatory Final Exercise (CFX). This saw all the skills learned and honed in Lydd, Brecon and Longmoor put to the test with the addition of a full time enemy, Pashtun speaking local population, full scale Afghanistan villages and as many helicopters and additional vehicles as we could cram into our FOB. The various operations undertaken by the Squadron were conducted with a live (and unpredictable) Afghan National Army contingent who often threw a spanner into a meticulously planned works. Excellent serials such as the ‘Green Zone Clearance’ saw the Senior Squadron tested to the limit but the highlight had to be 30 lucky members of the Squadron being transported back to Tidworth from Norfolk in a Chinook at the end of the exercise!

With the exercises now done until after Christmas the Squadron is very much looking forward to a well earned break, but only after the eagerly anticipated Christmas carol service.

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**Obituary – Trooper E J Heal**

_Trooper E J Heal_ joined the Regiment in March 2011 where he joined B and then C Squadron. During this time he completed Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 2 in BATUS and a number of dismounted exercises as a multiple point man.

_Trooper Heal_ excelled in both the mounted and dismounted role. His positive ‘can do’ attitude made him an asset to the Troop. While in Canada his knowledge of hull and automotive systems were above and beyond that expected of such a junior rank. His professionalism and admirable work ethic ensured his vehicle remained task-worthy at all times.

_Trooper Heal_ performed well throughout all the MST exercises. He embraced his role as one of his Troop’s counter-IED Vallon men, relishing the responsibility which had been bestowed upon him. Through perseverance and hard work _Trooper Heal_ developed a detailed understanding of the techniques and processes required of a Vallon man. _Trooper Heal’s_ confidence and intellectual capacity made him an essential member of the Troop. He showed a clear ability to identify ground signs and lead the multiple through difficult terrain. His ability to deal with the rigours of being a Vallon man ensured he was considered in high regards by both his commanders and peers.

_Trooper Heal_ was tragically killed in a road traffic accident on Sunday 25th December 2011. His loss deeply affected the Squadron as a whole and was a great shock to all who knew him. His funeral took place in Clevedon, with full military honours and was well attended by both family and friends. The Squadron provided the Funeral party, the Firing party and lined the route to the crematorium.

The loss of such a young and promising soldier in such an unfortunate accident is deeply upsetting. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.
Crew Training School

In January, A (xHx) Squadron was given the sad news that while they were not being ‘disbanded’, they were being broken up for the Summer. This resulted in Troops (complete) being attached to B and D Squadrons, another team formed a Maintenance Troop to work on the Regiment’s tanks, while the SQMS was able to keep his merry band. The breaking-up of the well honed and finely tuned machine that was A Squadron had come about after the Maj Valdes-Scott had been summoned to Brigade Headquarters for a chat with the Chief of Staff, before being ushered into see the Brigade Commander and receive his orders. He was to establish a school in Bovington to train up to 2,500 troops from across 12 Mechanised Brigade as crews on the new Urgent Operational Requirement vehicles that would be employed in Afghanistan in 2012.

Maj V-S was able to retain his trusted SSM, WO2 ‘Tank’ Shearman, to assist. Once the troops had departed for other Squadrons, the duo started their planning, by shutting themselves into the Squadron conference room, for two days to work through the ‘Lines of Development’ in order to establish the requirement. The following months proved fruitful and with help from HQ Land Forces, Divisional HQs and the Armour Centre the school started to take shape. The Instructors were ‘home grown’ coming from within the Bde, some being supplied by the Regiment, such as LCpl Thomas and LCpl West, and they all attended a gruelling 5-week course specialising them on their various vehicles. The school started with 150 staff and 120 armoured vehicles, some of which had to be brought in from as far away as Edinburgh, Chester and Norfolk. With a fleet of 25 Land Rovers, numerous vans, trucks and cars, the school took up every single available parking slot in the Armour Centre.

Cpl ‘Monkey’ Hodkinson was quickly selected to become a ‘local’ Sergeant, for his ability to herd 70 Instructors. With LCpl Pickering able to assist in ensuring the 70 Instructors parked their cars where they were supposed to and the SSM able to ensure the Instructors turned up in the right place, the KRH led the way. After a dry run during the first week, the first of the students turned up for the start of a relentless 16-week rotation throughout the Summer from May to September.

Having ironed out the creases, the first of the KRH ‘students’ arrived. Maj Alex Michael brought down C Squadron for crew training on MASTIFF. One of the only Squadron Leaders to attend the Crew Training School (CTS), he was able to develop and practice Tactics, Techniques and Procedures. Proving hugely beneficial; the week was clearly a success as they confirmed their recently devised ‘Actions On’ when shot at and blown up on the Confirmation Lane at the end of the week. Lt Astley-Birtwistle attended once on MASTIFF, then returned the following week to Leconfield for conversion to RIDGBACK (RB) before re-showing at the CTS to conduct his RB drills. He liked it so much he returned for a third time to complete the HUSKY crew training. Capt Clarke brought down Recce Tp for conversion to JACKAL, (then quickly returned to Tidworth to retrieve his driving licence). The Troop excelled in the vehicle, employing its excellent all-round situational awareness, awesome mobility and considerable suppressive firepower.

By the middle of September, 4 Mechanised Brigade had begun to take over the vehicles, accommodation and facilities, as well as to provide Instructors for familiarisation training. The 12 Brigade CTS came to end on handover in mid-September, and following...
a short period of leave, the Instructors returned to join their regimental pre-deployment training. More locally, A Squadron was reforming in Tidworth to concentrate on their part in the forthcoming deployment. The CTS trained over 2000 troops for 12 Brigade, and was formed, led and largely run by the KRH, contributing significantly towards the vehicle training preparation of the Brigade for Op HERRICK 16.

A Squadron Reforms
While the CTS entered its last weeks under Maj Valdes-Scott’s command, A (xHx) Squadron reformed in Tidworth on 30 August 2011. Under a new fledgling team, the Squadron reformed to undertake Mission Specific Training (MST) for the HERRICK 16 deployment. The new Squadron was formed almost exclusively from officers and men who had been at ERE for at least two years. Ending his three years in command of the finest of Squadrons, Maj Valdes-Scott handed over the reigns to Maj Charlie Smith who returned after five years. Similarly the Second-in-Command, Capt James Scott, had also just returned from a posting at Army Training Regiment (Bassingbourne). Steadying the ship and providing much needed continuity in the Squadron Headquarters remained WO2 (SSM) Shearman. Sgts Sercombe, Holland, Duxbury and Wilkinson had all recently returned from postings and Sgt Baines joined us from B Squadron. Swelling our numbers and keeping us in line were Cpl Rymer, LCpl Johnston, LCpl Arnfield, Tpr Mason and Tpr Lawrence. Sgtt Warren returned home to his A Squadron roots as the SQMS. He was assisted by Cpl Ian Caldwell who was in his last few months of colour service, and latterly he was joined by LCpl Bowman. The mentoring task that falls to A Squadron on HERRICK 16 demands that we be a small, rank heavy organisation. The advantage is that we have a considerable wealth of experience and are able to engender a friendly and open but very professional atmosphere, where everyone can contribute ideas and opinions to get the best out of the training.

A Squadron’s task on HERRICK 16 is going to be an interesting one: as part of the Brigade Advisory Group (BAG) we are to form a Kandak Advisory Training Team (KATT) to train, advise and support an Afghanistan National Army (ANA) kandak (Dari for battalion). It demands that we live and work intimately with the ANA Kandak chain of command. We will specifically be mentoring the Kandak in charge of the security of Highway 1, running west to east across Helmand. The task requires us to be both vehicle trained (on JACKAL and HUSKY) and able to patrol on our feet, as we will conduct both sorts of patrols in support of the ANA soldiers.

Alongside the deploying part of the Squadron, SHQ established A Squadron Rear; this is what will form the basis of the Rear Operations Group (ROG) during the Tour, and consists of those who will maintain the all-important support to the deploying Regiment and families – a crucial but often thankless task. The main part of A Squadron Rear at this stage was Maintenance Troop who formed to look after the tank fleet on behalf of the other Squadrons, under the effective eye of Sgt O'Donnell. Alongside them were the Officers’ and Sergeants’ Messes and some other small elements of HQ Squadron.

In early September, as memories of Summer leave were still fresh in the mind, the new Squadron Leader, 2IC and Sgt Holland went on an 11-day recce to Afghanistan to find out more about the prospective task and to see the good mentoring work that was being done by our H14 predecessors as they approached the end of their tour. This was invaluable as it helped the Squadron Leader to understand what the task involves and what extra manpower might be needed. The team were also able to gain a good idea of where we will be living, which is settling for the soldiers. It will help to inform the training that A Squadron needed to undertake during MST.

The MST period began with everyone who will deploy on H16 undertaking a mandatory All Ranks Briefing day and then specific extra training for the commanders. This was followed by a number of study days into Afghanistan culture, influence and planning for the use of helicopters in operations. There have been a raft of individual courses that the team have undertaken including medical training, electronic counter measures training and training in using the issued ‘Vallon’ metal detector. Much of this has then been passed onto the rest of the team through lessons we have since conducted. LCpl Francis, our Squadron medic has provided some excellent medical training and run a number of team medic courses for the Regiment. This has helped us to achieve a high percentage of team medic trained personnel. The major training bill that emerged from the recce was the importance of driver qualifications. Being a small team, it is essential as many as possible have a C licence to be able to drive the JACKAL and HUSKY vehicles we will use. We set about training as many as we could so that they could go on and train as drivers of these two vehicles. Alongside these, we made sure we continued to improve our fitness with regular PT sessions.

A Squadron was fully committed supporting the Regimental Open Day on 8 October, including running the Cultural Awareness stand (Cpl Rymer, Tpr Lawrence and Mason), helping out with the burger tent (LCpl Johnston returning to his Army chef roots), playing football for the 14/20th King’s Hussars.
and B Squadron) side against C and D Squadrons, and running the tour of the Gunnery Training Wing (Sgt Holland). At this juncture, Sgt Wilkinson fled to Canada for two weeks where he married Cassidy. We wish them both well and also best of luck for the birth of their child, due in February next year.

An early highlight of our Mission Specific Training (MST) was the Lydd Ranges package that the Squadron attended in mid-October down in Kent. This was the first opportunity we had to form up as one Squadron (with only Sgts Wilkinson and Bain missing) and to start to get to know one another. The weather was kind to us and despite the early morning starts and late finishes, we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. LCpl Francis also proved himself to be a rather fine shot! It was only a shame that we had to leave Sgt ‘A Qual’ Baines behind in Lydd to help run the next range package for the Light Dragoons, having already spent two weeks running small arms ranges for first the KRH then 3 RIFLES packages.

At the end of October, the Squadron deployed onto Salisbury Plain for three days of low level tactical training to prepare us for the Confirmatory Training Exercise (CFX) in Thetford the following week. The weather was once again fine and we enjoyed being away from camp and being able to immerse ourselves in the dismounted soldiering skills and training that is so essential in Helmand. Everyone was responsible for running different parts of the training. Meanwhile, the SQMS ensured we were (incredibly) well fed with fantastic double-decker burger creations that rivalled anything we’d seen on range packages before (pheasant, anyone?) and endless hot drinks and snacks. Only the rain on the tab back into camp (quite literally) put a dampener on things.

No sooner had we returned from our short run-out exercise than we were packing the minibuses to head to CFX in Thetford for six days. Here we spent a week going through a series of different 24 hour stands testing us on our skills at guard duty, quick reaction force, framework patrolling and operations in the Green Zone. The exercise was very well supported by contracted Afghanistan nationals who add considerable realism by speaking only in Pashto, forcing us to use interpreters. There were also a host of ex-Gurkhas dressed up as members of the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) and Afghanistan National Police (ANP)
so that we could train to work with them. The staff who observed our training were very helpful and gave useful guidance on latest procedures from Theatre, as well as suggesting how we could improve our drills. Importantly, what we lacked in knowledge and experience we certainly made up for in enthusiasm, and the staff were largely complementary about our performance.

With that important hurdle out of the way, the Squadron Leader adjusted training focus onto medical, driver and heavy weapons training. These are the core skills required to enable us to move around our area of operations in confidence and safety. Capt Scott and the SNCOs worked hard to organise it all.

We found time for a little light entertainment where we could: the Squadron was well-represented at the Northern Reunion and as a result of a chance meeting with the Member of Parliament for Flyde, a Squadron visit to the Houses of Parliament is planned for January 2012. In late November, SQMS Warren arranged a fun evening at the Swindon Dogs together; and in the run-up to Christmas, we laid on a Squadron Christmas party in the Aliwal Arms which was enjoyed by all those who attended – LCpl Johnston laying on a fantastic curry supper for us all.

In early December, the Squadron travelled to Castlemartin to undertake a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX). At this stage, we were still training in the dismounted role whilst LCpl Johnston and Tpr Lawrence practicing room clearance drills LCpl Franceis, Cpl Rymer, Cpl Rudge and Pte Kannike learning UGL handling.

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seizing all the places we could on vehicle courses. We were able to complete our formal training on the crew-served GPMG, .50 cal machine gun and grenade machine-gun systems which we will man on our vehicles next year.

As we approached the much anticipated Christmas, we received news that Sgts Baines and Bain were moving to other Squadrons and were being replaced by Sgt O’Mara from B Squadron and Sgt Walker (RWxY). At the same time, SSgt Warren was heading to B Squadron to be replaced by SSgt Addison, and SSgt Nowell took over the running of Maint Troop from Sgt O’Donnell to complete the changes. Our new acquisitions joined us for the Christmas festivities and began to bond with the team.

A (xHx) Squadron has once again enjoyed a year of variety, and we have done what we can to maintain the reputation of the Twentieth.

As I write, there is much preparation for the Squadron’s deployment to Afghanistan remaining but we are roughly on track and in good spirits. We will continue to focus our training on the basics – move, shoot, communicate and treat – whilst preparing ourselves conceptually for the challenges that ANA advising presents. Not everyone has the temperament suitable to be an advisor but A Squadron is blessed with experienced and capable NCOs who understand the importance of empathy, building rapport and patience. We are all keen to see a marked improvements in the Kandak we will advise during H16, and continue the good work currently being undertaken by our Queen’s Royal Hussars predecessors on H15. We face all the challenges ahead with a smile and desire to prove that we are the finest squadron in the Regiment.

CDWS

WO2 (SSM) Shearman
SSgt (SQMS) Warren cooking up pheasant on pre-CFX training
Sgt Holland looking none too delighted at being part of the casualty drag during the OFT3 fitness test

A Squadron Kandak Advisory Training Team at the end of CFX in November
2011 allowed B Squadron to once again prove its flexibility throughout a demanding training year seeing it carry out both Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT) mounted in Challenger 2 (CR2) and Mission Specific Training (MST) in the infantry role. The year admittedly has been busy with the Squadron completing CR2 ranges at Castlemartin, Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 2 in Canada, dismounted pre-deployment training for HERRICK 16, winning a silver medal in the Cambrian Patrol Competition, organising the Regimental Families’ day in October as well as making up the lion’s share of Officers and Troopers for the Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing and Snowboarding teams.

Upon return from a very welcome Christmas leave period, the Squadron began gearing up for a Range package in sunny Castlemartin, which entailed various low level tank exercises on Salisbury Plain and hours of simulated gunnery training in the Gunnery Wing led by Sgt Young, Cpl Solly and his team. Exercising was not all without incident, proved spectacularly by 1st Troop under Lt Cowell, who walked away from a Squadron O Group with the throwaway comment of “who uses a GPS at night anyway”. He subsequently led his Troop across every main road in Wiltshire causing havoc to night time traffic whilst trying to find his way along a simple night navigation route.

Once established in Pembrokeshire, the skies cleared (finally) and firing began in earnest. The burger tent under SSgt Addison and LCpl’s Trotman and Morecombe saw a thriving trade, with the “range tower special” proving to be a staggering mix of enough cholesterol and grease to make lesser men think twice. However in true B Squadron style both the ranges and the burgers were taken in their stride, and the week was deemed to be a great success.

With ranges completed the Squadron then headed off to Canada to form a part of the 3 YORKS Battlegroup for Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2, the replacement for MEDICINE MAN. Arriving with the promises of endless blue sky and 6 weeks of sunbathing (N.B. no mention of mosquitoes!), the reality proved slightly different, with Canada experiencing the wettest six weeks in living memory.

It is a well known fact that tanks and wet ground do not mix, a point that Lt Sherbrooke and LCpl Murphy made apparent to the rest of the Squadron, managing to get stuck in the middle of a lake, much to everyone’s amusement. However, to negate any embarrassment, he sent a more ‘favourable’ grid reference to the recovery vehicles, promptly sending his gunner half a mile away in order to escort the REME assets to his rescue. This knack of finding boggy ground was not limited to Lt Sherbrooke and was to prove a sign of things to come with even the Squadron Leader getting “bogged in” at one point, much to the Sergeant Majors’ amusement.

The exercise was split into two phases, initially a ten day live fire period, followed by two weeks “force on force”, essentially a huge
game of laser tag, played out between the 3 YORKS BG as the ‘Blue Force’, and the Grenadier Guards, with C Squadron, as the ‘Red Force’, or enemy.

With the noise of a Squadron of tanks reverberating through the sunrise, B Squadron stormed off to close with and destroy the smaller more manoeuvrable vehicles of the enemy. Within half an hour all that remained of the Squadron was Lt Bird, who had got bogged in and didn’t make it to the battle, but still tried to convince the CO that he was not bogged and was in fact causing havoc on the enemy’s right flank in a vain hope of being awarded a gallantry award! However, as the week went on the war turned in our favour, with Lt Cowell finally rejoining us after two weeks hiding behind a ‘broken vehicle’, only to drive straight into the same lake that Lt Sherbrooke had put on the map only the week before.

The end of the exercise brought about a welcome chance to explore the local sights, or to take part in various adventure training opportunities, with soldiers taking the opportunity to learn to skydive, horse ride, and even ice climb, out of Trails End Camp.

The start of Mission Specific Training for Afghanistan saw the Squadron moving from operating in 12 man Troops, to 15 man multiples. Needless to say there were a fair number of confused faces after the leave period, with the dubious knowledge that on return, we would be once again putting the tanks to bed, and breaking out our ‘tabbing’ boots.

Regardless, it was not all without glamour. Whilst the remainder of the Squadron were reminiscing about the ‘good old times’ when we had tanks, Lt Lambert and Cpl Mossop spent three weeks sunning themselves in Brunei, on a Ground Sign Awareness Course. Sgt Smith spent a week playing with helicopters in Edinburgh, the Sergeant Major and his team spent three weeks in Kent on a Search Advisors course, Tpr Brown (RWxY) was sent on the Unit Photography Course and Lt Sherbrooke and his ‘intelligent’ gang were sent to Chicksands for five weeks. All of this, as well as a plethora of other courses and back to back exercises meant that the Squadron experienced it’s busiest time in recent memory.

The Squadron then moved down to Kent for another week-long firing package to increase everyone’s confidence with the new weapon systems. The weather was kind and in between the shoots the Squadron was able to bask in the sunshine and admire the view of endless shingle and Dungeness nuclear power station. The week involved firing in a variety of new ways, including compound clearance and sangar defence. We were also given the opportunity to turn our rifles into high powered and accurate paint ball guns. This enabled a new level of realism by using a range where the enemy could fire back. The enemy was manned amongst others by the RSM and so there was particular relish taken in landing rounds on target! The week culminated in a live fire assault on a ‘kill house’, proving that our infantry skills were improving with each day and up to the standard required of light role infantry for operations.

When leaving camp yet again for our next exercise, two weeks in Brecon, many Sandhurst memories came flooding back for the Officers. The Squadron initially worked out of a farm complex with concrete floors and open doors, which were soon to be seen as luxury in comparison to the wood block that we subsequently moved into. The weather continued to deteriorate in the manner
that the Welsh mountains tend to do at that time of year, and this helped to fill the already sodden marshes that we found ourselves patrolling through. Despite the wind, mist and rain that pursued us through the Beacons, morale within the Squadron remained high and we threw ourselves at the training, with many feeling as though they were truly becoming infanteers by the end of the fortnight.

Sadly the two weeks was not the end of B Squadron’s time in the Brecon Beacons, as a small number of men were sent back the next week to partake in the Cambrian Patrol under 2Lt Westlake-Toms, a new addition to the Squadron, and Cpl Duckworth, one of the ‘older’ hands. This is seen to be the premier patrolling competition in the Army, with teams competing from around the world, including Pakistan, Norway, France, the USA, Canada and Australia. Despite having very little time to train for this event (many other regiments dedicate months towards it) the team came away with a silver medal for their efforts setting the stage for an attempt at gold next year!

Just when the Squadron thought it could relax with Christmas on the horizon, November arrived, and with it two weeks on exercise, divided between a week in Longmoor, where the Sabre troops proved that you could survive without any sleep, even if it did mean...
forgetting if you were wearing a daysack or not… Our second week on exercise entailed a week in ‘Helmand Province’ – Norfolk, during CFX, where tented accommodation, sub-zero temperatures and chest deep rivers all combined to make a memorable experience, particularly for 2Lt Westlake-Toms, who spent more time as a casualty than actually commanding his platoon, something Sgt Young took full advantage of to instil his own brand of leadership on the troops.

With all exercises complete, the Squadron began the wind down for Christmas, with the Boy’s Christmas lunch proving a great success, and the annual Sergeants to Officers evening providing a welcome chance to let off some steam. The Squadron can now thank the Army for removing 2012 from its calendar, with a busy spring of training prior to deploying on HERRICK 16.

Obituary – Trooper D G Harrison

Trooper David Harrison, died in Stroud on the 28th December 2011 after a long battle with cancer. He was 22 years old.

Trooper Harrison was brought up in Gloucester where he developed a deep passion for bikes, beginning with a mountain bike, developing into motorbikes. After a short spell as an electrician Trooper Harrison joined the Army, where he found his true calling.

After leaving basic training at the Army Training Regiment (Bassingbourne), and passing out of the Royal Armoured Corps Phase 2 training in Bovington, Trooper Harrison was posted to B Squadron in 2009, where he was chosen from amongst his peers to drive for the Troop Leader.

Tpr Harrison quickly established a reputation as a smart efficient soldier, both on exercise on Salisbury Plain and whilst maintaining the vehicles in camp.

When the Squadron re-rolled to infantry to deploy to the Falklands, Trooper Harrison took it in his stride, impressing the chain of command with both his strength and determination, Whilst deployed Trooper Harrison took part in numerous patrols, where he would often be found carrying far more than his share of the Platoon’s equipment to ease the load on those around him. Such behaviour was the norm for Trooper Harrison, and it speaks volumes for his character that he would not have it any other way. He was an exceptional soldier, despite his youth and relative inexperience, and would without a doubt have risen through the ranks above and beyond his peers.

Trooper Harrison’s personality and wicked sense of humour meant he was widely liked and respected amongst the Squadron, not least of all for his striking ginger hair. Whenever the Squadron gathered, it would be inevitable that Trooper Harrison would be in the thick of things, leading the jokes and finding the funny side of any situation, no matter how dark it may have been.

Sadly Trooper Harrison fell ill in late 2010, but before being diagnosed, he managed to pass all the required fitness tests to remain in a sabre squadron, something that he was immensely proud of achieving. Upon diagnosis Trooper Harrison went on sick leave, however he was determined to make the most of his time and bought several cars, tinkering with each to make them faster and more exciting.

Right up to the end Trooper Harrison retained his own particular sense of humour, and would often be visited by his close friends within the Squadron, who always returned with a request from Trooper Harrison to come back to work.

‘H’ will be greatly missed by all in the many walks of life in which he played what can only be described as a dominant part, and our condolences are extended to his family and many friends.

MRSL
2011 has been a consistently demanding, varied and rewarding year for mighty D Squadron. The year has been a game of two distinct halves; the first half focussed on Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT), training to fight “a war”, with the second half switching to Mission Specific Training (MST), training to fight “the war” in preparation for our deployment to Afghanistan in 2012.

Following Christmas leave we jumped head long onto the conveyor that would see the Squadron speed through a progressive series of activities and exercises all the way to Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER III, in Canada, five months later. We started with a four-day Challenger 2 exercise on Salisbury Plain. A deliberately low key event designed to blow off the cobwebs and refocus on the low level skills required for Mounted Close Combat. Salisbury Plain’s wet and windy weather failed to dampen spirits though the night moves in the fog proved challenging. However the highlight was when Sgt Collier’s tank broke down in the wash down pool at the end of the exercise and he was forced to publicly wade back to terra firma up to his chest in muddy water.

Following this refresher exercise the focus switched to Challenger 2 gunnery training in preparation for Annual Firing at Castlemartin Ranges. The gunnery building became a hive of gunnery activity with the operators in the “Loader Drill Trainer”, the gunners in the “Turret Gunnery Trainer” and “Part Task Trainer” and the commanders in all three. The Squadron Gunnery Instructors (Sgt O’Donnell, Cpl Bohana and Cpl Gillon) passionately welcomed the Squadron into ‘their’ world salivating furiously as they spread gunnery love.

Late February saw the Squadron deployed for a two-week stint in Warminster in the simulated world of the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT). The first week consisted of Squadron training practicing low level drills up to squadron/company attacks. In the second week the focus was upon BGHQ level training. This two week period cemented the major muscle movements required for a manoeuvre Battlegroup. 2Lt Garbutt, still well versed in shooting up the SQMS packet, managed to unhinge a media event by running over some civilians in front of the rolling news cameras. Tpr Barford managed to crash his unmanned aerial vehicle into the Squadron resupply truck and Cpl Lee shot up some infantry soldiers who were ‘in the wrong position’. Capt Reid, seeking out his Military Cross, single handedly defeated the enemy and unhinged the Commanding Officer’s ambush plans. A learning experience for all!

A week later the Squadron deployed en masse to Castlemartin Ranges in Wales to conduct Challenger 2 firing. The two-week
period provided a fabulous opportunity for the Squadron to gel away from the pressures in Tidworth. Some strong results were achieved during the various battle runs. There were also plenty of amusing stories. Cpl Kennedy excelled himself by only managing to complete one shoot in a whole week, breaking every vehicle he touched. The SQMS provided a pucker truckers café burger tent that would have Jamie Oliver turn in his grave. 2Lt Wilson and Sgt Hepworth took competitive eating to a new level inventing the now infamous ‘Mr Wilson’ burger challenge (3 x burgers, cheese, eggs, sausages, black pudding, bacon and a shed load of sauce!). The D Squadron ‘Shiny Tenth’ helmet (awarded daily) to the individual most worthy of abuse was never short of recipients. Those who had the honour to wear the helmet included: the Squadron Leader, Sgt McLeish, Cpl Downham, Cpl Stringer, Cpl Maclean and Tpr Vernon. Capt Moger won the academically challenged award for repeatedly failing to turn on his laser keys.

In late June the Squadron flew out to Canada for Ex PT III. The advance party under WO2 Barrow and SSgt Palfrey did an incredible job taking over and preparing the Squadron’s 28 vehicles including 14 main battle tanks. Practical jokes abounded on arrival in BATUS. Lt’s Garbutt and Matthews naively rolled up their sleeves and wasted a huge amount of time trying to source...
make-believe ‘TES’ bandages from the medical centre, much to
the amusement of the Squadron’s SNCOs. The SSM generated a
Tp Ldrs’ pull up competition, though ‘Muscles’ Garbutt managed
only one regulation heave to the obvious despair of Sgt Burnie.
It still remains unclear why the Tp Sgts did not rise to the Offrs
counter-challenge; an Inter-Troop chess competition...

The Squadron deployed onto the prairie in high spirits for an
exercise characterised by relentless heat and mosquitoes the size
of humming birds. It commenced with a 14-day live fire pack-
age with progression from individual Troop activity to combined
arms Battlegroup attacks supported with infantry, artillery and
engineers. From the very start the tanks displayed their char-
acters and were given names to match. The Squadron Leader’s
tank ‘Dumb’ named by Cpl Lee was matched by Cpl Stringer who
named the Squadron 2IC’s tank ‘Dumber’. The art of living on
a tank for 24 days provides for a unique bonding experience –
with the silver ‘poo bags’ shared between three grown males…
Throughout July the prairie heat continued to rise, reaching a
pretty unbearable 47°C. The SSM could often be heard complain-
ing about the air-conditioning in his Panther vehicle. To prevent
heat injury various states of undress – not necessarily approved by
the chain of command – were adopted in the vehicles.

Tpr Tollfield found the heat particularly drowsy in the gunner’s
position and was revived with copious amounts of water and fresh
air. The highlight of the live firing package was played out on the
final day with the Squadron adopting a traditional cavalry line
abreast charge blowing stuff up! The moment was captured on
film by the Desert Hawk and SSM’s camera. Only later would we discover that this would be the last ever D Squadron live fire CR2 charge (more to follow on this later in the article). The completion of this stage was marked with one casualty: Tpr Hume with a gnarly broken finger.

Following a maintenance day, and a glimpse of fresh rations, the exercise switched to TES (simulated ‘laser quest’ warfare). With the added pressure of C Squadron being enemy forces, D Squadron provided the armoured backbone to the KRH BG. Of note Cpl Gillon managed to ‘kill’ the enemy forces Commanding Officer, a fine scalp for the Squadron. Lt Wilson and 4th Troop gave chase to an engineer merry-go-round. As ever the morale of the Squadron never ceased to amaze; despite being tired and sweaty the smiles on people’s faces and the banter on the net always provided the amusement to keep people going. Capt ‘Calamity’ Moger and his crew were tragically slaughtered after being found still sleeping soundly in their beds by the ‘unfair’ enemy.

On the whole, the exercise was a great success, with all ranks learning new skills. Sadly, whilst the Regiment was deployed in Canada, further Defence cuts confirmed that Armoured Regiments would shrink from 4 to 3 squadron units. The consequence at Regimental level will be the likely disbandment of D Squadron in 2013 following the Afghanistan Tour. It would appear that Op HERRICK 16 will indeed be the last hurrah for ‘Dirty D’.

After summer leave the focus switched to MST for Afghanistan. The holiday glow was soon replaced with the Tsunami of bespoke courses and training that swamped proceedings. Swimming against the current we dived headfirst into a weapons package on Bulford ranges; learning to fire the new array of weapons purchased specifically for Afghanistan. This included the combat shotgun, underslung grenade launcher and long range sharpshooter rifle – all in addition to our normal individual rifles and pistols.

In parallel to weapon ranges the Squadron organised a KRH Appeal Clay Pigeon Shoot near Upavon on Saturday 3rd September. The competition raised over £3,500 for the Appeal. The D Squadron scratch team came a creditable 2nd in the Regt with Tpr Roberts top scorer in D Squadron supported by Cpl Gillon and 2Lt Garbutt. The SQMS team served up an impressive stew for lunch which brought a rare smile to SSgt Silvey.
Alongside the clay pigeon shoot a novelty archery competition tested coordination levels.

Late September saw the Squadron deploy to Kent for Lydd ranges; an excellent package that built up from basic fire control to room clearance drills and a close-quarter battle that tested the Troops and developed new skills. Pte Brown’s squeal from the grenade range could be heard from the neighbouring village and made Cpl Hocking forget where he had buried the simulated mines. The culmination of the range package was a live fire killing house shoot which pumped up the adrenalin and proved to be a fabulous end to the range package. At this juncture we said farewell to Cpl Downham who moved from his capable position in D Squadron to reinforce RHQ.

On return to Tidworth the Squadron started a three-week period of “cascade” training of tactics and life saving techniques and procedures for Afghanistan. The in-camp training covering first aid,
counter-IED trg, language trg, detainee handling and judgemental training was broken up by two short exercises on Salisbury Plain; Exercise Crimson Cub and Crimson Hog, a progressive step up, which saw drills previously covered now being tested by WO2 Barrow and the SQMS team.

This was the first time we were able to put into practise the use of Warthog. The exercise finished with the usual dawn attack on a compound near The Great Bustard Inn – sadly closed. Sgt Collier gave an excellent lesson on compound clearance before the final dash back to camp on Friday morning for tea, medals and weapon cleaning.

WO2 Barrow’s final week with D Squadron was celebrated with a speed march over Pen Y Fan in Wales. The whole Squadron departed in coaches in the early hours for a day of Welsh fresh air, physical duress and blisters. Multiple teams competed for the top prize with best times achieved by 2nd Troop with Sgt Collier’s team completing the 12 mile Fan Dance in an impressive 3 hrs 25 mins. Sgt Kennedy took a geographically challenged route and sauntered in for bacon butties in a leisurely 5 hrs 15 mins. The following week we were saddened to say farewell to WO2 Barrow and wish him the best of luck as a PowerPoint monkey in BGHQ. We warmly welcomed WO2 (SSM) Clough to the fold fresh from Canada.

Whilst the majority of the Squadron focussed hard on Cultural Awareness courses and Warthog familiarisation there was time for some fun. Sgt Burnie and a small team from the Squadron took the opportunity to show off the new vehicle to Carol Vorderman for the book launch of “Poppy Day”; sold in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

The culmination of the Squadron’s dismounted training over this period was the Confirmatory Field Exercise at the end of October in Suffolk. The Exercise, hugely well-resourced with over 200 Afghans acting as civilians, interpreters, amputees in action, fast jets, helicopters and base surveillance assets was the highlight of MST. Based around a 6 day exercise, it was split between 3 days of framework patrolling around population centres and 3 days of operations in support of the Afghan Army; the Squadron’s morale and positive attitude smoothed over any lack of dismounted experience. Highlights included; clearing a village of insurgents, puma helicopter rides and wading through rivers on foot. The greatest threat from the exercise was sleep deprivation and exhaustion; held at bay by fresh rations and cigarettes.

Following the exercise the focus switched to Mounted Close Combat with the Squadron deploying in November to Castlemartin in Wales on Warthog for a Mounted-Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise. This provided the opportunity to become proficient with turret weapon systems including the grenade machine gun and the heavy machine gun. Over the week the Squadron fired over 80,000 rounds and integrated with the Brigade Reconnaissance Force, provided by the Light Dragoons. Capt Bush, usually ecstatic in the Ops Room, managed to creep into a Sanger and give the enemy a belt of GPMG.

Staggering ever closer to Christmas the Squadron spent the following week in the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer in Warminster honing skills with the Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron. The Squadron moved precariously around the simulated database finding irrigation ditches taxing to say the least. After a slow start to the week the final two days were hugely beneficial practising Strike Operations onto compounds and reacting to incidents on the ground. Both Troop Leaders were particularly vulnerable to IED strikes... The final two weeks in camp enabled 60 of the Squadron to be trained as team medics and some well needed in camp administration. Following a filling Christmas lunch and carol service at Gloucester Cathedral the Squadron departed on well needed leave.

Reflecting on the year there is little more that could have been squeezed into a rammed programme. Over the year we have been challenged, stretched and tested both mentally and physically; the Christmas holidays could not have been better placed. As we settle in for a well deserved break we look forward to the Tour with trepidation and natural excitement.
Another busy year for HQ Squadron goes by. The New Year has seen a complete change in the Squadron command structure. After a highly successful tenure, Major Ian Simpson has left to go and frequent a ‘swamp’ at Army HQ. After completing Staff College in Shrivenham, Major Mark Kvesic has now taken over the reins. Rugby is now at the forefront of everyone’s mind and Worcester Warriors now take precedence over Liverpool Football club.

We have also had a change of SSM. After a marathon stint WO2 Rob Sinclair is moving onto become RQMS. His enthusiasm for telling anyone who will listen a story, any story, will be truly missed. After a well earned rest away from the Regiment in Afghanistan with the Military Support to Stabilisation Team (MSST), WO2 Rob Bretherton has come back to the Squadron as the Sergeant Major. The physically demanding nature of the job has already resulted in him having to have a knee operation……the desk flying is far more arduous than first expected! His zeal and enthusiasm however is clearly evident and the Troop Sergeants can now look forward to a much shorter Squadron conference.

The Squadron 2IC position has changed twice since last writing. Captain Wayne Price’s ‘short’ spell in the job came to an end once Captain Geordie Kennedy relinquished the tweed jacket and chinos of the Welfare Office. Captain James Hood took the career enhancing jump from Intelligence Officer to Squadron 2IC. James helped to run the Squadron efficiently as well as coach the Regimental Rugby team to glory. His ball handling skills will be deeply missed and we wish him good luck in his new job as General Bradshaw’s Aide-de-camp. Lt Paul Cowell, a Troop Leader from B Squadron was then given the mammoth responsibility of Squadron 2IC. He handed over his Troop of twelve and took on the training responsibility of more than two hundred. As a fellow supporter of Worcester Warriors he’s fitted in well to the mould though.

The Squadrons’ Hybrid Foundation Training culminated in a deployment to BATUS with the KRH Battlegroup. With Recce Troop leading the way with Captain Will Wyrthe and Command Troop ensuring we were never seen but always heard, the KRH performed well, maintaining its high regard within the Brigade. Special mention must also go to the Intelligence Officer Capt Tom Gibbs who worked so hard preparing ‘vital intelligence’ that he has now been horribly aged.

The end of BATUS also marked the beginning of the Mission Specific Training for Afghanistan. This began with a huge change in the manner in which the LAD being held centrally under HQ rather than divided between the Sabre Squadrons and Recce bolstered to a multiple with the Light Dragoons and 3 Rifles. The numerous infantry exercises and range packages which have defined the MST period were devised by RHQ and supported by the rest of the Squadron. This took the usual form with drivers from MT, QM Support both Main and Technical, Admin support, LAD and Chefs.

On the social side of the calendar, after a hectic 2010 with both the Freedom on Gloucester Parade and the Rundle Cup, HQ Squadron have been given a well earned break from the social scene. The Regimental Open Day did however see Command Troop try to lure unsuspecting friends and family into their tent and the Chefs try to convince visitors that rations weren’t that bad……a task even Jamie Oliver may even struggled with! The crowd was however treated to HQ’s ‘in house’ award winning band ‘Permanent Send’. SQMS ‘Fresh’ Preston delighted the crowd with renditions of some golden oldies that only the Squadron Leader sang along to.

On the sporting front the Squadron has provided teams for all the Inter Squadron Competitions. With the Old Comrades’ cup fast approaching we look to have a strong performance in both the Hockey and Football.

So as 2011 ends and an exciting 2012 begins, we look forward to supporting the Regiment as it deploys to Afghanistan on OP HERRICK 16. Post-Tour the Squadron will look to conduct as much adventurous training as possible, with the 2IC organising a skiing trip and the Regiment an AT camp the Squadron will look forward to a well earned break from the current pace of operations.

MK
QM’s Department

2011, a year consisting of just BATUS and MST! When expressed in that short sentence it all sounds so simple. Oh, how we laugh as we look back at what has been an interesting and extremely busy year.

It started with the earlier than expected departure of the QM. Capt Gary Wills went off to Bovington after handing over to Capt Dave Ford. With the ink still not dry on the hand over paperwork he departed for a less than warm recce of BATUS. His report stated that the place hadn't changed, although at -28 at midday, it was somewhat colder than he'd remembered. The weather however was to have a significant effect on the year. It was the coldest and wettest winter BATUS had experienced for about 70 years. The knock on effect was that the work done to prepare the Regiment for Ex Prairie Thunder 1 was in fact in need of a rethink. In the mean time the pressing matter of our annual firing camp needed our attention. So the new RQMS Chris Portwood set about ordering the ammunition, booking accommodation and setting up feeding contracts.

So in February the G4 team set off to tackle the Welsh weather for 3 weeks. Cpl Marshall ensured the wheels were well oiled by presenting the Castlemartin admin staff with wine, biscuits and chocolates on day one. Strangely we seemed to get whatever we needed after that. The QM felt that his first look at the BATUS weather wasn't enough so he set off with the activation team of 200 soldiers from across the Brigade to prepare the vehicles for our training. It would have been good if someone had made the decision to cancel the first exercise before we flew instead of the day after we arrived! But alas, we were there so got on with the job in hand. The weather had warmed slightly (-7) with occasional heavy snow. We weren’t to be put off, we had 2 weeks to kill before we could get flights out, so set about the vehicles, JAMES and some skiing. All in all although not a complete activation, we achieved a lot and set the vehicle fleet up for success. BATUS QM (T) commented on our ability to park in straight lines!

With the exercise being cancelled we soon found that the Regiment were being moved to Exercise Prairie Thunder 3 so at least we had the prospect of a warm period in BATUS to look forward to. Back in Tidworth the team were dealing with the not very small issue of our new combat uniform or MTP as it’s commonly known. This saw Cpl Thompson size up and demand over 4000 items of clothing. The new uniform roll out plan was not without its hick ups. Firstly we found that the cost of attaching the badges worn on the shirts and jackets would have to be met either by the individual or from Regimental funds. We rightly weren't having this. Time to call tailor extraordinnaire, LCpl John Howarth! He was given the task of sawing on all the badges. Over the period of BATUS he went about the job of attaching each of the 3000 badges. It is because of his hard work that the regiment were all correctly dressed on changeover day. Our second issue with the uniform was that they didn’t give us the numbers asked for; this has seen the whole task time line stretch until, well, today actually as we are still chasing kit.

With the MTP plan in place the QM packed his bags again and along with the RQMS, Cpl Marshall and Cpl Bennett, headed for Brize Norton, destination BATUS, again! On arrival, after another 23 hours of our lives we can’t claim back on JPA, at least the weather had improved, well apart from the initial rain. Apart from that our welcoming party was small and it would appear not ready for our large number. Bed spaces claimed and briefing received the RQMS set about a 2 week musical bed game that saw all out going move at least twice and those arriving at least once. Although we apologise to those affected, please blame the clever people who thought having 5 inward flights arriving before the first outward flight was a good idea! With the accommodation under control we set about the rest of the take over and all went very smoothly. We welcomed Cpl McGuffery from the LD’s to the team and soon got to grips with the new exercise structure and how it would affect our small team. It quickly became clear
that this was going to be a very different beast to any other BATUS any of us had experienced. The resupply chain had changed and took us some time to work out the best way to do our business but after a few days the RQ had it nipped and we settled into a busy 18 hour working day routine that ensured all bases were covered, well apart from the QM who had to reduce his day by an hour to get in an old man’s hour after lunch. The main driver of our long day was that although there were in effect 3 battle groups training there was only the five of us to provide the QM’s normal services. The 3 Cpl’s were jack of all trades, ammunition, rations, special stores, on call ambulances drivers, airport taxis as well as sick person’s controllers and hotel staff. Someone once said “never have so many owed so much to so few”, he must have been a QM at one stage. Well to the 3 of you, thank you, you made life easier with your hard work. With the exercise complete we set up a successful recovery plan and set about getting the accounts and camp ready for the incoming Battlegroup. That complete we headed home for a welcome break. Well some did. The RQ and Cpl Bennett still had ammunition to demand so lost a few days fighting the computer demands.

Leave done, batteries charged and dressed in our new uniform we were ready for MST. Then, hang on, why is the QM wandering around with a blank look and a white envelope. The dreaded redundancy had struck and Capt Ford had another project to sort, the rest of his life. That aside the team set about the preparation for the up and coming tour. The ammunition requests alone kept both RQ and Cpl Bennett busy, with deliveries to all minor and major exercises. It soon became evident that our own bunker wasn’t big enough to cope, so an additional bunker at Larkhill was found adding more confusion to our movement plans. As this was going on the new body armour started to arrive, another couple of thousand items to bring to account before issuing to everyone going forward. That done Cpl Thompson thought about putting his feet up and relaxingly preparing his account for a stock check, oh no you don’t. Instead he sent out clothing forms in preparation for the Op Tour clothing pack. Another demand of over 6000 items was collated and demanded just before Christmas. As we rolled into the Christmas festivities we also conducted a 100% check of all accounts ready for the hand over.

With Christmas behind us the hand over period came very quickly. WO2 Sinclair arrived fresh out of the RQMS factory to take over from RQ Portwood who is off to Warminster as DSM. Capt Alex Rutter fresh back from Afghanistan came to relieve Capt Ford who moves to OC ROG before leaving later this year. We wish them all good fortune in their new posts and the Regiment a safe tour.

DVGF

QM(T)’s Department

The Quartermaster Technical Department has had its share of appointment changes this year: it said farewell to Capt Michael Caulfield, who has recently completed a tour in Afghanistan and promoted to Major – “well done old boy”, and welcomed back Capt Kev Sloan. The Dept also had a change at RQMS(T), delete WO2 Mick Wood (Good luck mate), insert WO2 Chris Dunn. SSgt Nowell took on the role of RVEM from SSgt Lowe and Cpl Shepherd took on the expense account. We also said goodbye to LCpl ‘Lucy’ Lockett and SSgt Bren “legacy” Weatherby. Good luck lads and all the best for the future in Civvy Street. With fresh blood in the system the Dept was ready for BATUS. However, with the postponement of a BATUS deployment from PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, to PRAIRIE THUNDER 3, the ‘newbie’s’ had a little extra time to cut their teeth’ and we all had a little extra Easter Leave.

BATUS brought with it fresh challenges. Although the lads where looking forward to getting away from the office, with the
The intensity of a BATUS Handover, it was to be no picnic. Even before leaving camp for the prairie, it was like herding cats, and sleep had to be found where possible. Even SSgt Nowell, who only deployed on Maint Days, found it hard to stay awake.

Some, unfortunately had to stay behind, as there was still a lot of work to be done back in Tidworth in preparation for the Operational Support Visit (OSV), a Logistical Inspection. The RQMS(T), Griefy, OD and Nightmare held the fort, whilst the remainder of the team soaked up the delights of Canada (Jugs of Paralyser and gallons of Kokanee beer).

Canada marked the end of Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT) and the dawn of Mission Specific Training (MST), in essence, the start of H16 operational training. The Dept remained at max speed, and was bombarded with new and exciting TLA’s (Three Letter Acronyms), which belonged to the pre deployment training equipment. The lads have had some long and testing nights. Any SQMS will tell you the arm stores are now bulging with weapons, sights, and anything else that may have a serial number on it! Sgt Grief is living his dream, unscrambling the ‘carnage’ that the system continues to ‘support us’ with. The lads now see in binary; when they close their eyes, it’s like a scene from ‘The Matrix’. With all that’s going on; with the demands, the kit, and the tempo of training, the fact that we are still afloat is nothing short of astonishing – It must be down to the amount of tea we drink.

MST has brought with it; combat PT, and some exciting new courses to break with the norm. Cpl “Bucks” Buckley and LCpl “Brian” Parr have completed the Wolfhound Driver’s Course, and Cpl “Nightmare” Maher, the Quad Bike Operator’s Course. With still more to do, we could set up our own little camp in Leconfield. Additionally four of the team completed a Team Medic’s Course. The QM(T) got away for his well timed Quartermasters Course and missed out on some of the excitement. It took him only five
weeks to learn how to respond to ‘just sign there Sir!!!’. So the ship was steered, all but briefly, by the steady hand of RQMS(T) Christopher Dunn.

It’s not all work though; on the 10th of September four members of the Dept – RQMS(T) Dunn, S Sgt Nowell, Sgt Grief and Cpl Kendall walked up Mount Snowdon with Chris Nowell who was wounded when he served with B Squadron in Afghanistan. The trek raised £1000 for St Dunstan’s, a charity forblind ex-servicemen and women. On the day of their walk the weather decided not to make it too easy for them, with fog, rain and winds of 60mph; however they completed the trek and thankfully came back in one piece. Our hats go off to Chris Nowell, who despite his disabilities completed the route with just a few falls – well done Chris.

Finally, the Dept said goodbye to Sgt Baker from the LAD; he has been posted to Abingdon on promotion, and congratulations to Cpl O’Donnell on the birth of his son, Ryan Luca John. K S

Recce Troop

It has been a busy year for Recce Troop completing HFT training, culminating with Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3, before packing away the Scimitars and switching focus towards HERRICK 16. The year began with a range package in Castlemartin, which was a great success; the Troop performed well, demonstrating good gunnery techniques. There were a few frustrations during the firing period, but coincidently most of these disappeared when Capt William Wythe was removed from the range after a horrific attempt to look ‘Ali’ – all power to C Squadron Leader.

Having completed ranges it was full steam ahead in preparation for the deployment to BATUS. This included both a dismounted and mounted CT Level 1 exercise, used to hone the basic fieldcraft skills needed to keep a soldier combat effective over a long and draining three weeks in the field, whilst also focusing on the extra skills and understanding needed by every Recce Troop soldier. In Canada the Troop continued to perform well, fulfilling their role as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Battlegroup with great success, using a mixture of mounted and dismounted observation posts to provide timely and accurate information on the enemy. Vehicle reliability was always an issue due to the age of the CVR (T) fleet, however thanks to the efforts of Cpl ‘Bernie’ Winters working tirelessly, the troop availability remained high. Special mention should also go to Cpl Adam Leach, as thanks to his hard work the troop were pretty much the only sub-unit within the Battlegroup to enjoy the full capabilities of the BOWMAN ComBAT system. Although this still did not stop Cpl Leach from getting lost. Unfortunately no amount of training can prepare someone for a tiny crack in a GPS screen whilst live AS90 artillery fire is being called down in front of the Troop!

So, with Sgt ‘Goose’ Oldfield having eaten everything except a prairie dog, the Troop returned to the UK. On arriving back the Scimitars were packed away and the Regiment was stood down for some much needed summer leave, to return refreshed ready for the deployment to BATUS. This included both a dismounted and mounted CT Level 1 exercise, used to hone the basic fieldcraft skills needed to keep a soldier combat effective over a long and draining three weeks in the field, whilst also focusing on the extra skills and understanding needed by every Recce Troop soldier. In Canada the Troop continued to perform well, fulfilling their role as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Battlegroup with great success, using a mixture of mounted and dismounted observation posts to provide timely and accurate information on the enemy. Vehicle reliability was always an issue due to the age of the CVR (T) fleet, however thanks to the efforts of Cpl ‘Bernie’ Winters working tirelessly, the troop availability remained high. Special mention should also go to Cpl Adam Leach, as thanks to his hard work the troop were pretty much the only sub-unit within the Battlegroup to enjoy the full capabilities of the BOWMAN ComBAT system. Although this still did not stop Cpl Leach from getting lost. Unfortunately no amount of training can prepare someone for a tiny crack in a GPS screen whilst live AS90 artillery fire is being called down in front of the Troop!

The start of MST was a complex time with people being pulled in all different directions for a number of different courses. The Troop welcomed three members of the LAD, re-ruled from their usual REME employment to bolster the troop numbers. Our first MST deployment was to Kent to take part in a Regimental small arms live-fire package at Lydd and Hythe ranges. The ranges consisted of a number of different scenarios, which exercised command and control from static defensive shoots, up to strike operations on a complex compound. This was the first time that we had been able to use simulation (military paintballing) rounds, which helped to tune the troops compound clearance drills adding a new degree of realism – and pain if mistakes were made: a tough lesson learnt by LCpl Sean Spencer. The ranges culminated in a live-firing compound clearance in the rubber walled house.

This was an opportunity only given to those multiples that had proven themselves capable of handling this responsibility and the Troop had not failed to impress, receiving special mention from the directing staff for sharp and well-rehearsed clearance drills.

The next major event was Ex CRIMSON LION, a two-week dismounted exercise in the always warm and accommodating Brecon Beacons. The weather did not disappointment and the Troop spent most of the first week practicing the basics of infantry skills in the pouring rain; from pairs fire and manoeuvre, up to section attacks. To practise a bit of night navigation, an escape and evasion session was thrown in, with SSgt Chesh ‘I won’t leave the rover’ Lloyd, Sgt Goose ‘I’m not getting off the quad Avatar’ Oldfield and Cpl Peggy ‘pyromaniac’ Dyer doing the hunting. Once Cpl Winters had found his way back and Cpl Leach had stopped crying about his head torch the focus then switched to more Afghanistan-specific training for the second week. This incorporated electronic Counter Measures (ECM) and patrol drills recommend by those currently out in theatre. The Troop put a lot of effort into re-training to the new tactics and was soon on top of its game.

Having returned from a long two-weeks in Brecon seven members of the troop were then asked to participate in the Cambrian Patrol competition. The pressure was on to match the gold medal-winning performance of last year. However in the safe hands of the veteran team leader Capt William Wythe with Cpl Bernie Winters as his 2IC, the team deployed back to Brecon for the testing 48hr patrol. This was all much to the dismay of Cpl Mike Housden, who virtually had to be thrown off the bus as he attempted to avoid joining the team. Once again the team triumphed, pushing through hard conditions to secure yet another gold medal.

With MST training ramping up significantly as we approached Christmas leave, the final hurdle before the festive season was...
CFX. This was the first exercise that was observed and judged by outside units, allowing the progression of the sub-units to be properly measured. Recce Troop deployed with B Squadron to form an extra platoon for the ground holding unit. They were tested on their patrol procedures and contact drills. As always Recce led the way and put in an impressive performance, particularly on the Green Zone clearance with the lads wading through waist deep water. Cpl Bernie Winters was unable to attend as he was bedded down in his doss bag for 24-hours with a man cold.

It has not been all work though: towards the end of the year and after all their hard work Recce Troop went for a day’s go-karting at Thruxton Circuit. The overall best driver was SSgt Lloyd with an impressive win in the final race however there were cries of unfair due to the extra down force.

Having returned from Christmas leave the Troop are straight back in to training, and at the time of writing are getting ready to deploy to Castlemartin for CALFEX. The Troop is in a good place after the first half of MST training, and are hoping to continue this strong performance in the next few months and throughout the tour.

**Command Troop 2011**

It has been another frenetic period for Command Troop, supporting a multitude of events throughout the year. It has been a year of great change within the Troop with personnel changing throughout the year as the ORBAT dictated as well as a shift in role from the transition from HFT to MST.

The year began straight after Christmas leave with a series of “Muddy Hawk” exercises allowing the staff officers to practice their plans process and field communications. This involved support from the Troop in a variety of ways, from being radio operators to drawing up map traces and even teaching the more forgetful staff officers how to use the baffling computer systems!

After a few practice runs in a classroom, including one demonstration to the Commander of 3 (UK) Division, we took these skills into the field on Exercise MUDDY HAWK 8. At this stage the majority of the Troop was new to role and it showed: the attempt to put up a tent on the first morning was nothing short of comical! They were soon into the swing of things however and, by the time they were joined by the BG Staff on the Thursday they had mastered life around an HQ.

The experience proved essential to the following three weeks activities at CAST and CATT in Warminster. An HQ was established around the large simulator complexes with the aim of allowing HQ to exercise control over the Squadron and Company personnel on the training computers inside. We were the first Battlegroup ever to attempt to use real radios to talk ‘into’ the simulators and, despite some hairy moments, the HQ were able to communicate consistently throughout nearly the entire period.

Having spent nearly four weeks out of camp in one form or another, the troop were ready for a reward and this came in the form of a battlefield tour to Mons and Ypres in Belgium. Nine of the troop crossed the Tunnel with the aim of examining how the battles in WWI had been conducted and what they could teach us modern soldiers about war. Most of the Troop had never deployed on such a study and it is fair to say that it was a great success, with all of the participants not only learning a great deal but also being deeply moved by some of the tragic stories from the conflict. The subsequent cancellation of Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 gave the Troop a bit of breathing space, and also allowed a handover of command to take place as Capt Tom Gibbs handed the reins of Commando Troop over to Capt Nick Beattie.

Mid June saw a period of manic preparation (not depression) in readiness for the Troop’s impending deployment to Canada in support of BGHQ on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 3. Boxes that had previously been packed and prepped ready for the Battlegroup’s original plans to conduct Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, were re-sorted,
repacked and sent across the Atlantic. The ORBAT remained constantly changing up until the last minute as injuries and courses forced the ORBAT to be reconsidered and restructured frequently (and which eventually saw WO2 (SSM) Sinclair appointed driver/commander of OH, BGHQ’s Man truck). Throughout all this the members of the Troop remained flexible and receptive, with only a couple of grumbles. Once consolidated in BATUS the Troop set about working on their allocated vehicles; transforming them from mobile skips to dynamic fighting machines worthy of a Battlegroup HQ. However, despite the hard work some vehicles never quite got over their wreckage status. Call sign 11B, the CO’s CR2 and the intended jewel in the BGHQ crown never quite got its moment of glory, despite the best efforts of Cpl Hope and crew and was more likely to be found in the MCCP than on the front line. The initial movement on to the area was somewhat emotional – all those sat in the back of the Bulldogs, unused to the turbulent vehicle movement had to dismount on the way past EXCON in order to purge themselves of their breakfast. Luckily this was not to be the norm. The initial phases of the exercise were perhaps a little slow for the members of Command Troop as the emphasis lay at sub-unit level. However the distribution of individual sub-units across the training area meant that the signals experts within the Troop were put to the test. The TES phase saw a step-up in tempo for BGHQ and subsequently for Command Troop also. The concern that BGHQ might be attacked by the enemy – the Contemporary Operating Environment Force (COEFOR) comprised of our very own C Squadron meant that under the direction of the RSM, WO1 (RSM) Paul Taylor and Tp Sgt, Sgt Pople, BGHQ was kept under constant vigil. COEFOR never did attempt the raid; perhaps they had heard rumour of the impenetrable defence.

The return into camp provided a good handful of Command Troop the opportunity to conduct adventurous training, whilst others had to return to the UK early to crack on with MST, or continue with a bit more graft on the vehicles before handing them over to the incoming Royal Dragoon Guards BG.

On return from a well earned summer leave the focus of training was now firmly directed on MST and deployment. It meant that Command Troop were to take on a slightly different construct in order to reflect the roles that they will be required to fulfil once deployed in Afghanistan. A small element comprises the C3IS team, whose main focus will be supporting the operations room in maintaining command, control and communications with the various sub-units. The remainder of Command Troop form the Commanding Officer’s Tac Group. On returning from summer leave, a very much slimmed down Command Troop set about throwing itself whole-heartedly into the maelstrom of MST, beginning in earnest with the Regimental range packet in Bulford. This allowed Command Troop to dust off the post-leave cobwebs, and set them up for Ex PASHTUN HAWK, the Regiment’s live firing packet down in Lydd and Hythe. Ex PASHTUN HAWK was a great opportunity for the Troop to become confident with the various weapon systems as well as giving everyone an insight in to who were the crack shots within the Troop. Cpl Smith and Tpr Clements bathed themselves in glory by winning the Intra-Troop pistol competition. With little breathing space between serials the C3IS elements of Command Troop have been integral in supporting a multitude of training commitments including Ex CRIMSON LION, on the windy plains of Brecon, to Ex CRIMSON SALTIRE in Longmoor as well as Battlegroup and Brigade CAST and CATT. Likewise CO’s Tac have been intrinsically involved in a multitude of MST commitments. Whilst deployed on Ex CRIMSON SALTIRE Tac put in a tireless performance that will hopefully provide strong foundations for the future whilst in theatre. Next year will obviously be dominated by the impending deployment, though the Troop through their committed work have created strong foundations for the future whilst in theatre

The Likely Lads (Tpr Brown and LCpl Fawcett, Arnfield and Callon keep things calm in the Ops tent

Cpl Burke feeling the pressure

SSgt Underwood, he’s a real ComBAT soldier

LCpl Barton…the alpha male of the Troop
Mechanical Transport Troop

2011 started with the Troop saying goodbye to the old MTO Capt Ford who literally moved across the road to become the Chief boots and socks (QM), and welcomed in his place the new MTO Capt Geordie Kennedy. Next to depart was the MTWO “King of laminating” WO2 (Wongy) Wild; may we never have to laminate anything ever again. He was replaced by MTWO ‘Jeff (The Ginger Creeper) McParland. With his arrival there were some major concerns with the strong aromas of ammonia that started drifting around the department due to the increase in the ginger population within the Troop.

As the busiest department in the Regiment, MT are involved in nearly every Regimental activity; the first large activity of the year was Castlemartin ranges in February. A record amount of white fleet was hired in by Tpr ‘Haggers’ Hagley who very quickly disappeared under a sea of paperwork. Soon after Sgt Malone and LCpl Wilton jetted off to soak up some sun in BATUS as part of the activation party for Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 1. A wonderful welcome was waiting for them on their arrival – 6ft of snow. Although they battled through the arctic conditions and managed to activate many vehicles, the weather was so bad that the decision was made to postpone PT1 and so the activation party returned to the UK to thaw out.

The end of May saw nearly half the Troop deploy to BATUS to support B Squadron as part of the 3 YORKS Battlegroup (BG) on Ex PT 2. We also had members of the Troop attached to the BATUS Safety Staff and the Opposing Force or OPFOR. The conditions on the Prairie were the worst they had seen for many years as the snow melt had reduced it to a giant bog. However the 3 YORKS
A s with the remainder of the Regiment, the Training Wing has had a very busy but ultimately rewarding schedule since the 2010 issue of the Regimental Journal. Personnel within the Department have delivered a wide range of courses and have deployed on exercise in their “Field roles”. Further to this, there has been the usual flux of personnel transiting through the Wing before moving on to other appointments, or indeed Civvie Street. In addition, the demands placed on the Training Wing by the wider Regiment have meant that, on occasion, we have found ourselves considerably under strength.

Throughout 2011, the Wing has been a hive of activity, primarily due to pre-deployment training, which has diverted effort from mainstream RAC training. It has been refreshing to see our soldiers with the remainder of the Regiment, the Training Wing holding over 65 vehicle platforms that all require maintenance and therefore the same amount of work must be carried out with a much smaller workforce. This will be a testing year for operations or as part of the Rear Operations Group. Such is their professionalism and character that whatever is asked of them they will deliver in spades.

The increasing number of Protective Mobility vehicles the Regiment has trained in is immense; D Squadron are cutting around Warthogs like the Kings of cool and the remaining Squadron’s have a mixture of Jackal, Husky, Mastiff, Ridgeback and Wolfhound – a true testament to the Regiment’s flexibility in adapting to new platforms. The Training Wing has hosted a multitude of varying cap badges from all arms and other Brigade units. We managed to shoe horn as many people as legally possibly into the Training Wing Cinema during the Tactical Crew Commanders Cadre, the air in that room was particularly pungent, as you can well imagine. We have already seen our fair share of Afghanistan nationals polluting the O Zone above the Training Wing with their horrendous cigarettes during the cultural awareness training and the staining left from Green Tea still remains in our cups.

The three main training disciplines have continued during this period; Driving and Maintenance (D&M), Gunnery and Signals. Cpl Nugent has been at the helm of all internal D&M training conducted; he has been responsible for Panther, CVRT and Challenger 2 Cce’s. He has individually prepared all potential D&M Instructors prior to them departing to ARMCEH. Cpl Nugent recruited an apprentice in the form of Cpl Thornly (Wez) during the latter part of 2011, who will be descending on Bovington to attend the D&M School Cadre in early 2012. This dangerous duo attended a Roll Over Drills Trainer (RODET) instructors course at the RLC’s so called “School of Excellence” at DST. Armed with these new found skills, they conducted internal training here in camp. It didn’t take long before they managed to send a bout of nausea through the members of the Warrant Officers’ & Sergeants’ Mess, as they rotated this simulator through awkward angles at speed, the day after the Ramnuggur Ball. The ASM was last seen to be dry cycling outside this training facility.

However it was not all work: many of the Troop took the opportunity to do some adventurous training ranging from the high adrenalin rush of skydiving to more sedate horse riding through the Rocky Mountains. There were also a few members of the Troop who managed to sample some of the finer drinking establishments of Canada.

On the Signals front, a variety of Instructors have taught basic signals courses and advanced communications, under the watchful eye of Cpl Saunders. Since arrival to the Training Wing, fresh after BATUS, Cpl Simpson has tried to convince the ‘old and bold’ of the Regiment that BOWMAN is reliable and efficient – this struggle is ongoing. We are now sitting through the last few stragglers that have resisted BOWMAN BCIP 5.4 conversions.
The Training Wing has the upper hand in the form of WO2 Calvert (RSWO), with his magic lists of attendees.

The world of Gunnery has been transformed by SSgt Davies (RGSS), straight back from Live Fire Group. He has gone through the gunnery building like a whirling dervish, out with the old and in with the new. It has been noticed that SSgt Davies has an unhealthy attachment to laminating things; Cpl Lyons has already been given the title of Chief Laminator. We now have a fully functional facility, with all the most up to date software drops; it’s a pity the building is not being used to its full capacity due to Mission Specific Training.

As usual the Training Wing has seen plenty of comings and goings in 2011. Capt Witham has moved up to RHQ to take on the chalice as CMO; his office light can now be seen on very early in the morning and late at night, unlike it used to be in the Training Wing. SSgt Shepard-Garner has flown the nest on promotion to WO2 and headed to the Lesson Exploitation cell at DRAC; he can still be seen banging the drums in the WOs’ & Sgts’ mess at the odd function. Sgt Brace posted to the JAMES Team in Warminster; he has made the occasional guest appearance back in the Training Wing, spreading his words of wisdom. We have had the pleasure of having Cpl’s Simpson and Thornley working with us for the last four months; they are both now doing well on their respective Cadres at Bovington, and we wish them all the best. We have had three new additions to the Training Wing in 2011, Cpl Lyons has come to us from the back end of Herrick 13. He is now the Wing’s resident SAA Instructor. LCpl Fremont, post BATUS, moved from D Squadron to the Training Wing, where between sorting his own personal admin out and attending a Patrol Search Awareness Instructors Course, he has been known to conduct C-IED training.

Finally, we welcome Captain Barclay as the new Training Officer. He arrived on the very day that Ex Prairie Thunders 1 in BATUS was cancelled due to bad weather. From this moment forward all individual and vehicle courses that had been organised for Mission Specific Training had to be re-scheduled to suit the new BATUS program.

Once again, 2011 has been a demanding period for the Regimental Training Wing, and one that disproves the myth that this building in Aliwal Barracks is something of a sleepy hollow.  

D S B
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

Provost Troop

Another busy year goes by. Normal routine maintains it’s relentless pace. The Department continues to deploy on a regular basis to the ‘Glasshouse’ in Colchester for the transit of the Regimental miscreants. This, in addition to the Brigade AWOL collection team tasking, has seen the Troop charging around the southern counties, picking up stragglers from across the Army. A small contingent was also lucky enough to deploy to Castlemartin Ranges to carry out our normal law enforcing capacity as the Regimental Provost.

Along with the Battlegroup, the Troop deployed to Canada on Ex Prairie Thunder. LCpl Ford deployed early and ran the Provost alone. Unfortunately it turned out to be the worst winter BATUS had seen for many years, with temperatures as low as -30 degrees Celsius. This in conjunction with the bright lights of Calgary and Edmonton ensuring the soldiers did what soldiers do best, LCpl Ford’s initial impressions of Canada were not quite as he had hoped. The end of winter brought the beginning of Prairie Thunder 3 and the eagerly awaited arrival of the KRH Battlegroup. With the scintillating company of LCpl Day in the Guardroom and a much improved opportunity to tan, Prairie Thunder 3 was a more enjoyable experience for all involved.

Once returned from Canada, the Troop readopted its primary role of enforcing discipline. A particular highlight for LCpl Ford and LCpl Day was their saunter to the South East of England, after a handy tip off from a miscreant’s father. Messenger’s Ford and Day had the pleasure of a trip out to try and catch an AWOL soldier. With the suspect hiding away in what Tony Blair termed “the worst estate in Portsmouth” – Leigh Park, an eventful day was anticipated. After a promising start of been greeted by four heavily tattooed skin heads, a collection of pit-bull terriers and a female who looked like she’d spent a few too many nights in the Ram, the team unfortunately returned home empty handed, but in one piece.

As the pace of life for the Regiment has increased, life for the Troop has lowered to a more manageable level. This has unfortunately resulted in the Troop having to lose the expertise of LCpl Day to C Squadron, LCpl Ford to the Detention Centre and LCpl Pickering to external Regimental employment. It is also the end of an era, as Sgt Goodwin is leaving the Army and pursuing a career outside of the fence. To ensure discipline is maintained however, CPL Shores will be making a welcomed return just before Christmas and Sgt Houston from the Royal Wessex Yeomanry just after.

With the Regiment being away on operations and the Troops manning in a period of flux, an exciting twelve months is anticipated. SLS

Welfare Office

January 2011 saw a change at the top of the welfare tree when Captain Robert Kennedy handed over the office of Welfare Officer to Captain Wayne Price maintaining the KRH tradition that only Ken Dodd’s ‘Diddy’ Men can work in the Welfare Office. It was noted, however that Wayne brought a lot more hair to the Welfare Office than Robert ever did. The handover also saw Sgt D-B breaking in his third Welfare Officer; we hope that he will get it right this time.

The year started off with the traditional fundraising event for the wives club of ‘Tea on the Tank Park’. The ladies set up their stall on the apron of the tank park and during a blustery and cold February morning sold pies, cakes, biscuits and all other manner of sweetmeats to the Regiment all washed down with copious tea, coffee and soft drinks. HQ Squadron thoughtfully took their soldiers on a forced march that morning which ended at the ‘Tea on the Tank Park’ ensuring that at least a hundred soldiers from that Squadron turned up very thirsty and ready to demolish a few pies (not unusual in HQ Squadron). It was a great effort all round and we managed to raise £300:00 for the wives club.

In March we held an Ann Summers Party in the Welfare Block organised by Donna Thompson. It was with great relief that Wayne and his ‘Tonto’ Sgt D-B were informed that there was no requirement for them to be present during the demonstration of the various medieval devices that were on display. Only the girls that were present at the party know what went on that night and that’s how it’s going to stay.

April saw the Welfare team move up a notch as we celebrated Easter with a Grand Easter Egg Hunt around the camp. In fact during the Easter holidays we managed not only to do the Easter
Egg Hunt but also a Treasure Hunt and a Nature Trail, all designed to keep the tiny Hussars occupied (and tire them out). We also celebrated the Royal Wedding between Prince William and Kate Middleton. The Aliwal Arms was bedecked in red, white and blue bunting and we all settled down in front of the big screen, clutching our Union Flags to watch the nuptials. Wayne was seen pacing at the back of the room expressing his concern for the Welfare Officer at Prince William’s RAF Station, who was about to take on no end of possible welfare issues.

Throughout the year, we have been holding our weekly ‘meet and greet’ coffee mornings which continue to be a huge success and have been very important in introducing newly arrived families to the KRH and a quick way of making friends. The welfare team would like to thank all the wives that continuously bake cakes to bring to the coffee mornings and make them the success that they are. We have also bought a new indoor bouncy castle which means that the KRH now have an all-weather bouncy castle capability.

In September we welcomed the arrival of Cpl ‘Mulks’ Mulcahy, LCpl ‘Rusey’ Ruse, Tpr ‘Smiler’ Thomas (he smiles a lot more now) and Tpr ‘Stalin’ Steele who have come to us as part of the extra manning we get for the impending tour of Afghanistan. They are a most welcome addition to the team and it certainly makes our life a lot easier. All we need now is the rest of our manning uplift and we will be ready for the tour………..that’s a no then is it?

Hot on the heels of the summer break we had the KRH Open Day which saw us providing entertainment for the little ones in the form of a number of fête-esque stands where everyone was a winner as well as the ubiquitous bouncy castles. The Welfare block was transformed into a play-zone where the children could play in a closed off area and give the mums and dads a chance to get around the rest of the attractions that the open day provided. We also took the chance to do our annual fundraising for SSAFA in the form of the ‘Big Brew’. If we hadn’t been amazed before we certainly were this time when the lovely ladies of the Regiment baked the most incredible amount of cakes that we could sell to raise money. The ‘Big Brew’ stand was selling cakes and raising money throughout the entire day without a break and an incredible £630:00 was raised and donated to that wonderful cause.

The annual Halloween party is always one of our most popular events and this year has been no exception. LCpl Kirkbride takes his creative duties very seriously and started planning the transformation of the Aliwal Arms into a spooky dungeon a full two months in advance. His efforts were not wasted, by the night of the party the whole venue was unrecognisable as were the Welfare team now dressed in a variety of fancy dress costumes. We were rewarded with a fantastic turn out and everyone had put in extra effort with their costumes and pumpkin carving in order to have the chance of winning one of the many prizes available. Once again the Halloween party had been a great success enjoyed by all those who attended; we can’t wait to see what Kirky has in store for us this year.

Christmas seems to get earlier each year, so much so that we had to make arrangements back in May for Santa to visit the Families’ Christmas Lunch. It was also about this time that we had to act to ensure that Elvis would be in the building for the Wives’ Christmas Party. With the dates set and the Aliwal Arms returned to its usual state following Halloween, Kirky set about constructing Santa’s Grotto, what he achieved was outstanding, a winter wonderland fit for the Big Man to meet all of the children and hand out some early Christmas presents. The turnout this year surpassed all in recent memory and we were treated to a magnificent feast by Cpl Tony Beckett and his team, our thanks go to SSgt Richie Pickin for making this possible. To the children’s delight Santa arrived during lunch and made his way around the tables in order to speak to as many people as possible. It was then down to business and with Santa safely in his Grotto the long process of gift giving began. That done everyone went home happy, safe in the knowledge that the festive season was well and truly here.
Mere days after the Families Lunch, we were ready for the WAGs Christmas Party. With the kind permission of the RSM we were granted the use of The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Sgt Greg Jolliffe and his team worked night and day to get everything just right for what is possibly the most traumatic night in any soldier’s life. Cpl Boorn concocted a delicious menu for the evening even though he wasn’t able to be there on the night and the food seemed to be enjoyed by all along with copious amounts of wine. We also were ably assisted by a good number of willing (Yes willing) volunteers from both The Officers’ and WOs’ and Sgts’ Messes. After the food it was time for the entertainment, Wayne had, at great expense, managed to engage Elvis from his busy schedule to appear for one night only in Aliwal Barracks. This moment had been highly anticipated for many months and the King did not let us down. It wasn’t long before he had everyone up and dancing. Another successful night was had by all and we could now rest knowing that we had twelve months before we had to do it all again.

We must also say thank you to Tracy Downham who came up with the brilliant idea of collecting up everyone’s unwanted textiles and send them off to ‘Bag-for-Sport’. They then give us money for each bag that we collect. Our first collection was so successful that we are having another one in early January.

Finally, as usual, we must say a huge thanks to the Wives Committee and all the other wives and friends that help us out throughout the year. Our job is made so much easier because of your help.

WEP

Light Aid Detachment REME

The year for the LAD started with a flurry, in more ways than one. This was partly due to the changeable British weather, with large amounts of snow dumped on the country and partly due the pending deployment of the LAD to British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). The LAD deployed in order to carry out the activation of the fleet of vehicles for Prairie Thunder. The REME activation party was led by the ASM, WO1 (ASM) Hosken, he had chosen his band of merry men carefully for their trade proficiencies, skills and dedication to the Regiment (Oh and the ability to procure any spare without question…..). The LAD team were responsible for the activation of some 1000 pieces of equipment, which would be used by 6 Battle groups over the summer period with the Regiment leading on Prairie Thunder 1 and supplying Squadrons to Prairie Thunder 2 and 3. The LAD worked hard to complete the activation to the highest standard and were rewarded by BATUS Workshop commending the Regiment on carrying out the best activation to date. A great achievement for an event which has been happening for over 40 years. This period was very intense for the LAD, but provided them with an opportunity to show the true Corps spirit and provide the best Equipment Support to the Regiment possible. This also supplied a great opportunity for the tradesmen to gain a huge amount of experience on a vast number of platforms. Unfortunately due to the extreme bad weather in Canada the decision was made to cancel Prairie Thunder 1 and instead deploy the Regiment later in the year on Prairie Thunder 3. With the Regiment no longer deploying straight away the LAD personnel returned to Tidworth.

Concurrently to the deployment of LAD personnel to Canada the Regiment were on Castlemartin Ranges (CMR) on the Regimental Firing camp and the LAD deployed in support under the command of the WO2 (AQMS) Gear. This deployment allowed those that had not deployed to Canada to show their technical skills and abilities and get some quality hands on time with the equipment. The LAD pulled out all the stops to ensure that the Regiment’s equipment was maintained in the best condition and that the Regiment could keep firing throughout the range package. Not wanting to miss out on the fun in the UK, on his return from Canada the ASM could not resist a trip to the ranges and took over from the AQMS in charge at Castlemartin. Of course on his arrival he needed to get an in-depth brief of the range and who better than SSgt Palfrey, D Squadron Fitter section Artificer.

So Staff explain!
Following both the activation party and Castlemartin deployments there was little time to relax, B Squadron Fitter section were soon deploying with their Squadron on Prairie Thunder 2. Led by SSgt Hooper (B Squadron Fitter Sect Artificer), it proved to be a challenging environment, with harsh weather and seemingly endless workloads. However B Squadron Fitter Section completed the exercise and having worked hard (some more than others.....) the Fitter Section looked forward to some well deserved Adventurous Training. This included skiing, walking in the Rocky Mountains, white water rafting and horse riding.

At the start of June the Main LAD deployed to Canada in support of the KRH BG. The handover from the 3 Yorks BG was a little stressful, but the KRH REME ensured that the Battlegroup received as many vehicles as possible to start the exercise. The LAD worked sometimes round the clock to provide not only the Regiment but other independent units with the Equipment Support they require. Whilst the HQ elements concentrated on supporting these equipments, D Squadron Fitters were busy taking over equipment from B Squadron who were eager to depart. This provided an opportunity for the 2 Fitter Sections to work together to get the Challenger 2 fleet ready to start the exercise. Despite an ever changing vehicle fleet the LAD dug deep and with a never ending will to succeed and demonstrations of real engineering genius the Equipment was formed up on the dust bowl and ready to go on time.

The EME, Capt Wilson, deployed to Canada in order to lead the LAD through Prairie Thunder 3. This would be his last exercise before handing over command and the Regiment ensured that it was a busy one. The maintenance days were particularly busy for all the REME personnel that were part of the Battle Group. It was so busy that even the ASM and AQMS were seen turning spanners and fixing vehicles (Well attempting to anyway......). After what seemed like an eternity, end Ex was called and the time came for the LAD to ensure that all Battlegroups vehicles were recovered back to camp. This was more of a challenge than originally anticipated. A change in weather saw the Prairie turn into a swamp and many of the vehicles became “Bogged In”. Rather embarrassingly this included the EME whose driver managed to get his Panther stuck up to its axles. The Recovery Mechanics did an excellent job of recovering him and an even better one of reminding him about it for days after the event. A final flurry of activity took place once back at the main camp in Canada preparing the vehicle to be handed over to the next Battlegroup deploying. Spares were demanded and repairs made to ensure that we handed over the vehicles in the best possible state. Following some very long days, the job was complete and whilst some of the LAD stuck in a few days of Adventure Training the majority returned to Tidworth to look forward to some well deserved leave.

Back to work after summer leave the LAD saw a number of changes. One of the biggest being a change of EME. Capt Wilson was posted just down the road to 104 Bn REME and in his place Capt Pip Lines arrived, fresh from 7 Air Assault Bn REME and Op Herrick 13.

As well as a change of command the LAD had a change of focus, Op Herrick 16. The LAD will supply both a Battlegroup LAD and the Warthog Squadron Fitter Section, and re-rolled to form both these groups and the Rear Ops LAD. Both the Regiment and
the LAD took on a variety of different Equipments as part of their training and for the LAD this meant going back to school to learn all about the new systems. As well as learning the new equipment and undergoing Mission Specific Training (MST) with the Regiment the LAD had to assist in putting the Regiment’s current vehicle fleet into storage. This involved considerable planning and a great deal of work from members of the LAD and the Regiment. The LAD has also provided man power to a number of “Support to Training” tasks from the Brigade which included the Crew Training School in Bovington. Although the LAD have been extremely busy it hasn’t been all work and some members of the LAD found time to represent the Regiment at many sports at varying levels. The LAD also conducted their own Range period aimed at developing their military skills prior to their deployment to Afghanistan. This range period showed that some members of the LAD had been hiding their skills with 7 personnel qualifying as Marksmen.

The LAD continued to be very busy and in October took part in the Regimental Families day where the LAD got to show off some of their best toys, I mean vehicles, and show the families some of the new vehicles which the Regiment would be using on tour. Some members of the LAD had more fun than others playing with all of the operational vehicles.

The LAD also had the great privilege of helping with the Royal British Legions publicity of its 90th year and the visit of Carol Vordaman and Amanda Prowse, author of the book “Poppy Day”. Many members of the LAD took this opportunity to show off their toys again, this time allowing Carol and Amanda a ride in the LAD’s CRARRV.

Christmas provided an opportunity for the LAD to relax a little and find time to celebrate with a trip to Milton Keynes Snow Dome and an attached arms function. The LAD took these opportunities to show some truly horrific tastes in shirts and some equally dubious moves on the dance floor, but it was a great opportunity for everyone to let their hair down and reflect on a hectic but enjoyable year. The LAD will deploy with the main body at the end of March and is very much looking forward to the challenges that Afghanistan will bring. Those that are staying behind will also be busy ensuring that the equipment remains ready for the Regiment’s return and that the LAD is prepared for another year of training.

P L

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SPS Detachment

This year has seen a huge turnaround of personalities within the SPS Detachment. We have bid a fond farewell to Sgt (now Captain) Damian Hern who is now in Germany as a Detachment Commander, Sgt Charlene Rolf who has remained locally in Perham Down (much to the delight of the local Sun Bed Studio) as Staff Support Assistant with 26 Engineer Regiment. LCpl Stacey Price has also moved to Germany on promotion along with LCpl Laura Howarth who has transferred to the AMS as a Dog Handler. Cpl “Mac” Mclean has moved to Hounslow to join the Welsh Guards and last but not least Capt Rob McLauchlan has departed for his RAO Course at Worthy Down prior to his next assignment to 5 Regiment Royal Artillery in Catterick. A big ‘Thank You’ to you all and we wish you all the best of luck in your new jobs.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Capt Robert Lester, Sgt Scott Doyle, Sgt Carole Patterson, Cpl Zoe Shadbolt, LCpl Kevin Dalton, Pte Natasha Petrie, Pte Margaret Appiah, Pte Deborah Brown and finally Pte Ryan McIntosh. You will all
enjoy your tour with the Regiment; it will be challenging and rewarding in equal measure.

This year, as always, has been extremely busy for the Detachment with various exercises and general administration of the Regiment in the run up to deployment to BATUS in June. The majority of the Detachment deployed with a small Rear Party group left behind under the command of WO2 Mark Wild. On return from BATUS the Forward group went on a well deserved three weeks leave before returning to work in September. Since then it has been non-stop with various exercises and an extremely successful Pre-Deployment Health Check from Brigade HQ, where we achieved green passes in all aspects. Both the Detachment and the Regiment are now fully focussed on the upcoming deployment on Operation HERRICK 16, where I am sure that all will rise to the challenge.

Although extremely busy, the SPS Detachment managed to enter an all female team into the annual Triple Crown March and Shoot Competition at Worthy Down in May. The team was headed up by SSgt Sorsha Harney with LCpl Laura Howarth, Pte Stacey Price and Pte Natasha Petrie. Despite having little time for training prior to the competition the team managed to finish in a very credible third place amongst the all female teams. We are hoping to enter a Veterans Team in 2012 consisting of personnel from the Rear Operations Group.

But it hasn’t been “all work and no play” in 2011. In June the Detachment headed to London’s Hyde Park to watch the 41 Gun Salute by The King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery in celebration of the birthday of Prince Philip. In true Army fashion the heavens opened 5 minutes before the event was due to start. Capt McLauchlan got an opportunity to wear his new favourite anorak while the rest of us hid under the trees. Following the 41 Gun Salute we headed to the Artillery Museum at Woolwich where Capt McLauchlan (an Ex-Gunner) gave us a brief on Artillery pieces past and present. We then headed into town for a bite to eat and a few sociable drinks before returning to Tidworth the following morning.

All in all it has been an extremely busy but enjoyable year for the KRH SPS Detachment. We enter into 2012 in high spirits and very much looking forward to the fresh challenges of deployment.
Regimental Aid Post

2011 has been a busy and exciting year for the Regimental Aid Post. Over the space of 4 months the RAP doubled in size to 12 personnel, with the arrival of a Regimental Nurse after years without one, and doubling our number of Combat Medical Technicians. Exercise Prairie Thunder was tiring but productive for the RAP, providing real-time medical care for the large KRH Battlegroup, and dealing with multiple simulated mass casualty situations from the exercise scenarios. The team have been busy medically preparing the Regiment for the upcoming Afghanistan tour, including Team Medic Training for 50% of the deploying soldiers. As we look forward to 2012, we hope it will be a slightly quieter time on tour.

A H

Catering Troop

2011 has been an extremely busy and testing period for the Catering Department which has seen us pushed to our limits alongside the Regiment itself.

The year began with the final preparations for the forthcoming deployment to BATUS (Canada) for Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 1. In early January SSgt Clutton and a small advance party of Cpl Beckett, Cpl Scott, and LCpl Thapa deployed to BATUS whilst the rest of the Department were preparing to follow suit; however, this was not to be as reports of severe weather made it impossible for the exercise to proceed. With all plans for deployment postponed the swift return of SSgt Clutton was inevitable, albeit the remainder of those deployed were assigned new tasks that would allow them to remain in BATUS. Cpl Scott and LCpl Thapa took on the challenge of providing catering support for OPFOR whilst Cpl Beckett was awarded the opportunity of becoming the VIP chef for BATUS which he seized with open arms.

March was a fairly quiet month for the Department which saw the chefs carry on with their daily commitments. We then received the chance to deploy to BATUS to provide catering support and assist 3 YORKS on EX PRAIRIE THUNDER 2; LCpl Bowen
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

was first to react and deployed within a week of notification. The chance arose for Sgt Smith to strut his stuff as the RSM asked if the Regiment’s very own band ‘Permanent Send’ would represent the regiment in the forthcoming Garrison’s Got Talent competition. To the delight of all involved, the winner’s trophy was brought back to Aliwal Barracks as the band was crowned champions for 2011.

In April, Sgt Spratt was tasked by 3 Division to produce a pocket guide to assist soldiers on how to cook 10 Man ORP whilst deployed in Forward Operating Bases with no catering support. Sgt Spratt and Sgt Smith produced the newly published Self Sufficient Forward Feeding Pamphlet (SSFF) which is now being used in Afghanistan as best practice. In April the Catering Department congratulated Pte Karalo on the arrival of her newly born baby girl called Adi.

During the month of May the final preparations for deployment to Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3 were being finalised. With a Crew Commanders’ Course being held in Bovington there was a requirement for a chef to provide catering support working alongside civilian catering staff for the duration of the course. LCpl Suddell gladly volunteered his services and off he went for the next three months.

In May – besides catering support to a course in Bovington – the majority of the Troop deployed to BATUS leaving a small rear party behind to hold the fort. The first 2 weeks of Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3 saw the chefs pushed to their limits with the continuous arrival of troops and the previous Battlegroup awaiting flights out of theatre, forcing the feeding strength to in excess of 3000 troops on a daily basis; however, with a hard working and dedicated team we came through it unscathed. The deployment to BATUS presented the Catering Department with many challenges, the highlights being the first Battlegroup to deploy chefs into FOB locations during the live firing stage of the exercise. Led by Sgt Smith, 2 small groups deployed into 2 separate FOB locations where they were tried and tested. This was a real eye-opener for the younger chefs and although very demanding, the training offered a close insight as to what they may face on operations. Overall it was a good experience and invaluable as well as necessary training.

Each of the maintenance days offered the chefs a challenge to rise to, be it a BBQ or container meal with numbers climbing close to 2000 personnel in numerous locations. A lot of planning, preparation and hard graft ensured each event ran like clockwork. Throughout the majority of Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER, Cpl Beckett along with a small group of caterers ensured the smooth running of the EXCON catering facility. The final part of the gruelling tour was the ‘Dust Bowl’ where the Battlegroup returned from the training area over a 48-hour period. This presented the Catering Department the challenge of providing three 24-hour field kitchens as well as manning the main cookhouse over a 48-hour period. With the end of the exercise looming it was a credit to the chefs that they maintained their motivation and carried out the task with ease.

September saw Sgt Spratt receive the Food Services Warrant Officers trophy, a well earned reward for his outstanding contributions in the world of military catering. Sgt Smith was tasked to plan and execute the Officers’ Mess Summer Ball which was a 1920’s theme. Sgt Smith with the assistance of the Officers’ Mess Sergeant Major ensured the set-up was to the highest standard whilst the catering team demonstrated all of their skills as they produced a meal that can only be described as outstanding. At this point, we said farewell to SSgt Clutton (UCM) who was
posted to 1 SCOTS on promotion, thus opening the door for the arrival of the new UCM SSgt Pickin.

In October LCpl Bowen deployed to STANTA to assist the Light Dragoons on their pre-deployment training where he ran his own catering facility for the duration. With the Regiment planning a Regimental Open Day, the Department was tasked by HQ Squadron Leader to add a bit of spice to the event. It was decided that we would do a lecture demonstration on survival cookery which was presented by Sgt Spratt and Cpl Beckett. We also provided an Around-the-World cookery display and a ready-steady-cook theme, which saw LCpl Bowen and LCpl Thapa compete in a cook off using predominately 10-Man ORP with minimal fresh food. Additionally, Sgt Smith and his fellow band members provided live music for the event. As we know, it was a successful event for both the Troop and the Regiment. Later the same month, Pte Karalo and Pte Navisiri undertook trials for the Army and Tri-Services Netball teams. Both now represent the Army squad.

In November, the Troop sent Sgt Spratt with a team of chefs to Longmoor Training Area to support the Regiment’s pre-deployment training. Sgt Smith was then tasked to carry out the duties of contract monitoring for the feeding of troops for the duration of CATT and CAST. Sgt Smith and Cpl Scott then deployed with a small team of chefs to STANTA to run three FOB locations, whilst the Regiment carried out more pre-deployment training. This was also the month of the Rammugger Ball; the Warrant Officers’ & Sergeants’ Mess largest function of the year. Cpl Boorn was given the task of planning and executing the event with a small function team. The theme for the food was battle honours and with a lot of research and preparation, Cpl Boorn and his team produced an outstanding display of food. Following this, the Troop bade farewell (in great chef tradition) to Sgt Spratt and LCpls Thapa and Addison. Sgt Spratt went on promotion and posting to 4 LSR in Abingdon. LCpl Thapa was promoted to Cpl and assigned to 22 Engr Regt in Perham Down and LCpl Addison was selected for the redundancy package and is now a civilian chef in a hotel in Southampton.

December always has plenty of Christmas functions to cater for. One of the larger events was the lads’ Christmas Lunch, led by SSgt Pickin and Sgt Smith with the help of LCpl Hutchins. As the main kitchen was being cleaned down, LCpl Pimm and the Officers’ Mess catering team were preparing a fork buffet for the arrival of the senior ranks for the other annual tradition. A couple of hours later the Warrant Officers’ & Sergeants’ Mess invited the Officers’ Mess back for a first class finger buffet prepared by Cpl Boorn and LCpl Bowen while Sgt Smith and ‘Permanent Send’ entertained all those gathered. Thus the catering year ended in time for a well-deserved Christmas break.

Gymnasium

On 8th November 2010, I was posted into the King’s Royal Hussars’ from the Physical Training Wing at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where I had spent two fantastic years screaming and shouting at the future leaders of the British Army. I was extremely pleased and honoured to be posted in to such a historic and traditional unit as the KRH and very thankful to my predecessor, SSgt ‘Sweaty’ Sweatman, for a very thorough handover-takeover.

The year began with Sgt Bell deploying on Ex CRIMSON HIKE, which was a nordic/biathlon skiing exercise aimed at developing novice KRH skiers to compete at the Royal Armoured Corps, Divisional and Army/British Nordic Ski Championships 2011. Both the training, coaching and competition phase went extremely well, with Tpr ‘Sheeps Teeth’ Vernon putting in some fine performances during the competitions, which saw him selected for the GB National Development Squad.

Back in Tidworth and up to the KRH Battlegroup’s deployment on Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3, the Gym staff were assisting soldiers and officers prepare best for the fast pace of Field Army life; this involved delivering a wide variety of early morning PT sessions (or should that read PT thrashings!!) for the Squadrons, who were conducting simulator training at CATT. The weekly PT programmes finished on the Friday morning with combat
PT competitions, which included log runs, heavy duty tyre flips, stretcher carrying, leopard crawling and casualty carries.

In Canada, the Gym staff provided support to the Regiment by overseeing the running of Adventure Training at Trails End Camp. Sgt Bell worked alongside a mixed team of chilled out ‘white water rafting dudes’ and five fellow ‘box-hopping’ Royal Army Physical Training Corps Instructors’ (RAPTCIs’). Our task was to deliver Ex BARE DAWN, which was a five-day multi-activity week consisting of white water rafting, canoeing, kayaking, climbing and mountain biking.

On return to Tidworth, the focus shifted to physical preparation for Mission Specific Training (MST) and the forthcoming deployment on HERRICK 16. The MST Physical Development Programme (PDP) was stripped back to basics and there was a large emphasis placed on functional strength training and weighted loaded marches.

Assisting Sgt Bell in his task of implementing sound physical training, he had a team of 12 highly motivated All Arms Physical Training Instructors’ (AAPTIs’), who ensured the PDP was adhered to. AAPTII LCpl Danny Hughes was posted in to the Gymnasium as the Gymnasium 2IC. He assisted in the day-to-day administration of the Gymnasium and was a welcome addition.

During MST, the troops were introduced to a new strength training system, devised by Sgt Bell, called ‘The Core 7
Exercises’. This training system is a functional strength training system aimed at working the muscles of the body as a whole and the body’s core being targeted in every exercise. The reason for strength training being so important is firstly to reduce impact injuries and secondly, to prepare the troops for the rigours of Afghanistan (where soldiers are carrying on average 60 kg of personal equipment). Next came the Operational Fitness Tests (OFT 3, 4 and 5). These assist in gauging the physical performance of the men. OFT 3 was conducted just prior to Christmas leave. With a combination of the functional strength training and the weighted march training, the troops made relatively easy work of this test, but the other tests will follow in the New Year. The tempo of the PT will remain high as it is squeezed into busy Squadron training programmes. All members of the Regiment are aware that it is this high level of personal fitness that will carry them safely through the rigours and Summer heat of Op HERRICK 16.

Regimental Chaplain

I write this whilst the days are still short and the sun occasionally makes an appearance only to disappear behind another cloud or below the horizon. At the time of penning this article everybody’s attentions are focused on HERRICK 16.

Life is like the season of change. The HERRICK 16 season with all its challenges will change to give way to another season.

Army life – and chaplaincy is no exception – consists of planning for and living through the seasons. I remember thinking back to the preparation for Sandhurst that came and went during my time on the PQO course during the first part of 2011. Now it is 2012.

This passage of seasons very much reflects the change which occurs during our own lifetimes, as we grow and develop different roles and face new and exciting challenges. As we grow older we hopefully take those experiences with us and become something of teachers for the younger generation. I am probably already sounding like my parents. But it is true.
We can also extend the idea of the seasons within our lives into two ideas: the recycling of life to each successive spring time and also the idea of the journey from the earthly season to the heavenly season. As one hymnist put it: we are here for a season and then above.

In the early days of 2012 we each look for the spring, in a real way from the signs of early spring with shoots appearing from the muddy earth, and in the hope we have in looking ahead to potential challenges.

God looks after the birds of the air, and if he clothes the plants of the fields how much more will be clothe us and give us hope, even in the face of adversity (Matthew’s Gospel).

So my message in this Journal is keep on smiling, like the song that says the whole world smiles with you, because it is a smile which conveys so much more: it suggests hope even in the face of adversity. It suggests an inner peace, from whatever source we call home, which sustains us and enables us to share in a warm way with others.

**Battlegroup Headquarters**

2011 started with “Puzzle Palace” paddling hard and the pace has only increased since then. The dark first frosty months of 2011 were spent on a plethora of Ex MUDDY HAWKs warming up the planning ability of BGHQ within a Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT) context, in time for Combined Arms Staff Trainer (CAST) and Combined Arms Tactics Trainer (CATT) in late February and early March.

With the cobwebs blown out, all eyes were set on BATUS and the Activation Party was deployed in anticipation of Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 in May. Not content with having avoided operational tours for the previous two years the 2IC, Maj Justin Kingsford and Ops Officer, Capt Ed Hodges persuaded the Canadian weather gods to produce extra April showers in Alberta and Ex PT1 was cancelled. Carefully laid plans and preparation were thus thrown out of the window and a new TASKORG was produced for KRH BG to deploy on Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3 in July. In came Number 2 Company of 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards as the Protective Mobility (PM) Coy with the BULLDOG crews being provided by Alma Coy 3 YORKS. Having scarcely left the parade square let alone touch an armoured vehicle some urgent planning was required to ‘armourise’ No 2 Coy.

This was the first major task for the new look BGHQ as post-Easter leave the 2IC mantle was handed over to Maj James Cullinan and the Ops Officer harness to Capt Quentin Hicks. In addition the RSO plugged into the Matrix one last time to re-emerge as Int Officer, handing over in the process to Capt Nick Beattie who reappeared from the ANA assembly line in Kabul via a BOWMAN Plug-Up. Ex CRIMSON CHUKKA was thus pulled together at the end of May as a last minute training opportunity to provide veh familiarisation to No 2 Coy and a run-out for the new BGHQ team. The week on SPTA in sunny May achieved its goal with only moderate friction. OC No 2 Coy learned that it takes more than just long hair to adjust to life on an Armoured BG Command net. Recce Tp Leader was able to take his inter-personal skills to new levels by manhandling the CO of the supporting Logistics Regiment out of his command vehicle during a contact.

One of my all time favourite films is entitled: Being There. Perhaps it could be extended to Being There for Each Other, in the varied circumstances where we find each other. In this film, a simple gardener talks about the changing seasons which is understood as an analogy for the changing seasons of life, with the emphasis given that there will be growth in the garden. This may seem distant during our flatter times, the winter period, but there will be growth in the spring of our hearts.

This is the point: there is always hope as experienced in a variety of situations, whether that be with work colleagues, family or friends. The point of life is that we need to embrace it, for all its complexity and challenges since it provides a time of hope shared meaningfully with others. Now that is worth considering.

In addition there is the eternal hope in the heart of spring time, as expressed at Easter: that despite Good Friday or rather because of Good Friday there is the hope of Easter Sunday; out of the season of lifelessness the event of life appears in the form of Jesus Christ. The earthly season is replaced by the heavenly, resurrected presence of God’s son. This is the Christian hope and it provides a useful comparison with the actual changing seasons of nature.

NK
Two more study days ensured the BG understood obstacle crossings better than the alphabet and were fit to deploy to BATUS in late June. Deployment onto the Prairie was the usual straightforward affair with the BATUS inspired “do you / don’t you” need to HET the CR2s and WRs out of camp to save on track mileage! Nerves were obviously tense leading up to STARTEX as the RSO and Plans Officer spilled out of their BULLDOG by BGHQ MAIN looking rather green. So as the Squadrons and Companies were put through their paces live firing, MAIN and STEP UP danced around each other in the centre of the Prairie practising change of command procedures, getting eaten by mosquitoes and fighting for comms with the sub-units. Evening BG conference calls were enjoyed by the new RSO as he received the daily encouragement from 0A with the inspiring words “I hate BOWMAN!”

The Live Firing phase culminated with STEP UP deploying forward in support of one of the sub-unit groups to FOB INKERMAN. The Plans Officer was occasionally seen manning a radio when the walls of the FOB did not require defending or mortars supervising. The TES phase saw some early engagement from C Squadron Leader (OC COEFORE Tank Company (Contemporary Operating Environment Force – OPFOR in old money)) who stopped by on Maint Day to handover COEFORE’s battle plans. There was some early embarrassment for the Ops Officer when he failed to account for ‘killed’ recce call-signs, prompting D Squadron to chase a phantom enemy halfway to Calgary. However, it was not long before the BG got the measure of COEFORE. Cpl Hope kept the BG one step ahead of COEFORE by ensuring 11B was never fit and the CO could never be hunted. The Battery Commander’s WARRIOR became the vehicle of choice for the CO with the Fires Net keeping him better informed in one day than the Ops Officer had managed in the previous twenty.

Planning activity reached its peak in week 4 with three concurrent planning cycles in motion. The idea of bringing in two OCs to assist and gain ownership of Mission 3 backfired as the cluster of Majors bred such confusion that the BG and Ops Officer had to wait five hours for them to leave BGHQ so they could start all over again. The final day in BATUS brought a decisive victory for the BG and 1 GREN GDS were firmly defeated with CORUNNA Company and D Squadron providing decisive armoured effect; this was in no way thanks to MAIN who the Ops Offr ensured were kept at a safe and at times incomunicable distance from the fight!

ENDEX on the Prairie meant ENDEX to HFT and this brought many changes to BGHQ. Our lean (in numbers at least) configuration – which focussed on outmanoeuvring and destroying the enemy on a fast moving HFT battlefield controlled from the back of 4x BULLDOGs – was over as we expanded our horizons both conceptually to embrace the challenges of Counter Insurgency (COIN) and to welcome a host of new posts. STEP UP and MAIN morphed into Tom (Execute), Dick (Plans) and Harry (Command) tents. In came Battle Captains, a Military Stabilization Officer, Information Operations Officer, a Counter-IED Officer, plans officers and ISTAR officers. Our synch matrices developed from 24 – 48 hr in length to 30 and 90-day plans where success could be measured in new shops built in market places rather than the number of smoking enemy hulls.

After a brief respite to catch our breath over Summer Leave, Mission Specific Training (MST) for Op HERRICK 16 began in earnest at the start of September. The Int Cell went AWOL to the School of Oriental and Asian Studies for a week of student life, but missed Freshers’ Week much to their deep frustration; and following SOAS they hid in Chicksands until late October perfecting the art of repeating the phrase “vital intelligence” with a straight face.

Whilst the Squadrons were enjoying live firing in Lydd and became acquainted with the less glamorous aspects of dismounted life on Salisbury Plain and Sennybridge, the Ops Officer produced rainforests worth of exercise instructions which the Squadron 2ICs mistook for ‘info only’ and mostly deleted.
Next door the Regimental 2IC lost even more hair as Forecast of Events version 20 hit the press.

Study days were scheduled to prime us for CAST and CATT in November where the BC confused everyone about the Rules of Engagement, and the new F3EA (FIND, FIX, FINISH, EXPLOIT, ANALYSE) cycle was briefed by the 2IC, understood by some and then forgotten by all.

CAST and CATT came and went without too much of a sweat; SO2 Understand, Maj Simon Ward arrived from the Light Dragoons to fuse and understand what on earth the Int Cell were doing, and the Joint Operations Centre or JOC established its rhythm under Nick ‘Beat Box’ Beattie, the Battle Captain. The new Plans team convened for the first time with WO2 Barrow arriving from D Squadron to bring some order to Puzzle Palace and Capt Will Wythe officially ended 10 years as a Tp Leader in order to do some spelling revision prior to Selection.

This was a ferociously busy time for BGHQ with everyone working long hours to keep the MST show on the road. The QM voiced the concern of many in the G4 realm one morning at the CO’s Conference that the Ops Officer could do with some assistance and someone to do his work properly; in response, Sgt Donald was retrieved from the RAC Signals School to bring some order to the G3 chaos.

Throughout, Command Tp have enabled the above to happen in their own generally unflappable fashion, ensuring comms have been (mostly) maintained, setting up HQs, making brews and generally keeping staff officer egos in check!

Roll on 2012, roll on HERRICK 16 and the end of MST!

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“...So this is where we last had comms...” Capt Beattie briefs his signallers.
The freestyle cavorting of the 2010 training year was soon a fleeting memory to the Officers’ Mess whose programme for 2011 was tightly aligned to the Regiment’s commitments, centred on a summer deployment to Canada and subsequent training for Afghanistan. As the hub of Regimental hosting activity, the Mess proved central to much of the bonding done with new faces across the forces throughout this process. This must not be confused with the Officers looking for a smart dinner or a knees-up!

The first opportunity for this ‘bonding’ was the KRH Battlegroup dinner night in January, where the Officers that would join us in Canada sampled a little cavalry style thanks to an excellent menu from the chefs. Perhaps the day outdoors pretending to be armoured vehicles on a study day had tired the guests out a little for there was no repeat of the brash exuberance seen in the previous leg of this perennial favourite (where the young Officers of the 3rd Bn The Yorkshire Regiment had been dubiously beaten in traditional Mess pursuits). It was all rather restrained but no less enjoyable as friendships were cemented.

After developing our working relationships, the Mess attention then turned to those who traditionally support us so generously in various ways. The Salters’ Company once more proved outstanding hosts, treating ten Officers to a splendid supper in the City. We then welcomed our Fathers for their annual dinner night in the Mess, where their sage and frank advice was again heard by all in earshot. As a supposed final “Hussar” before our deployment to Canada, the Mess welcomed our ERE brethren – the great and the good of the Regiment who work in some of the more exotic corners of Defence.

The postponement of Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 to the unimaginatively named Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 3 left a gaping hole in the programme that offered both opportunity and disappointment. On the negative side, Captain James Hood’s...
wedding had its attendance decimated due its position in June but the splendid effort put on at his stag weekend meant he was at least given a fitting departure from bachelor status. Captain Tom Perrott, in July, fared a little better with attendance and we wish them both, along with Susie and Cara respectively all the best for the future. For the positives, a full attendance was possible at the annual Cavalry Memorial parade in Hyde Park and the subsequent lunch.

Given the enforced vacancy of May forecast, a KRH Crown Club lunch was also scheduled where the Field Officers could unleash themselves from the burdens of command for just an afternoon of spectacular dining and games. As usual, the inner subaltern was well and truly released; perhaps most clearly witnessed in a violent game of bicycle polo.

When it finally arrived, Canada was something of a relief. It allowed a fresh group of young Officers a sniff of the wide open spaces and it allowed the old sweats ample opportunity to bore them with tales of how it used to be better. The sweltering temperatures of the Prairie were tempered by the promise of smashing C Squadron’s feeble OPFOR (or vice versa) and the ever-popular post-exercise Cocktail Party. Naturally, all the Officers of the Regiment put in a flawless display of military acumen and there is not a single story of how to lose a bridgelayer (2Lt Wilson) or how to fend off kidnappers (Capt Moger) available for recall.

Of course, it was not all quiet on the home front with B Squadron able to continue the normal summer frolics in relative peace. The Rundle Cup was the highlight with the KRH tent once more proving the envy of all, in fine Regimental regalia and bedecked with silver thanks to the efforts of the Mess team. B Squadron were also able to represent the Regiment at the Royal Southern Yacht Club in Hamble, near Southampton for the twinning parade. B Squadron Ldr, Major Chris Badcock led troops through the streets prior to a fun evening in the club buildings.

The peace was soon shattered by the return of the remainder of the Regiment in August and the subsequent tumble into Mission Specific Training (MST) aimed at getting all to Afghanistan in best order for the summer of 2012. The KRH Appeal had been launched in the Spring and quickly developed a considerable...
momentum to which the Officers’ Mess aimed to contribute through several events in the Autumn programme. A clay pigeon fundraiser was organised through Jeremy Horton at the marvelous Widdington Farm Shooting Club, Upavon, and many of the Officers fancied their chances in the team competition. None however could match the outstanding shots of the CMO Captain Mark Witham’s team of ringers and they comfortably scooped the first prize. All, however, took comfort from comparison with the frankly abject efforts of “experienced shot” Captain George Tyson who worried just two clays out of a possible 80.

Hot on the heels of such hilarity was the annual Officers’ Mess party. The theme chosen for the event was 'The Great Gatsby,' evoking images of flappers, dandies and all things 1920s. The do was deliberately kept to a smaller scale than previous years due to the ever-increasing pace of MST but still proved to be an outrageous and enjoyable night. The dinner was once more a creative masterpiece from the full team of military chefs, consisting of the finest selections of meats and seafood arranged in opulent displays. The 1920s feel sat well with the décor of the mess as a whole and meant that money and time could be saved, allowing an enhanced budget for entertainments, ranging from a raucous live band to sumo suits and rodeo rides. A ‘photo booth’ experience provided a journal’s worth
of pictures most of which – due to the constraints of taste – cannot be released from a darkened storage vault.

As always, autumn saw the standing fixtures of the Southern and Northern Reunions, a Balaclava dinner night and the Officers’ Dinner in London, all of which provided their usual entertainment. The Commanding Officer, after several years of vociferous demands, finally saw a Crimean-flavoured menu brought to bear in honour of the Balaclava 300. This included amphorae of Ukrainian wine, mixed beetroot dishes and the surprisingly tender flambeed lambs testicles, cooked fresh in front of gawping guests. The Officers’ Dinner was unfortunately somewhat hit in RD attendance by the training schedule but a few made it, including an intrepid party from HQ who were rather tired due to technically being mid-exercise in Hampshire.

The over-charged schedule of MST eased just slightly prior to the Christmas break and allowed the Mess to thank more of those who aid the cause so thoroughly. The WAGs were perilously
close to losing their dinner night to a power cut in Tidworth but the chef and Mess staff worked tirelessly to rescue the affair before it reached the desperate measures of fish and chips by the gentle glow of a Cyalume. It is perhaps fortunate that they were not reliant on the earlier Mess boundary shoot for their supper as pickings were slim and unfortunately augmented by Lt Paul Cowell's atrocious bird recognition.

To round off the year we were glad once more to serve Christmas lunch to the junior ranks before welcoming the seniors to the Mess for the traditional festivity. Their Reindeer Warthogs were a magnificent start to the evening which followed its usual messy pattern via the normal offensive carols and rib poking. A rather classier finale, dare I say, was provided at the Regimental Carol Service held at Gloucester Cathedral, finishing just in time for the younger officers to dash off to the Alps for winter sports various.

2011 saw its fair share of personnel changes. We said fond farewells to those ending their Army careers: Colonel Ashbrooke, Majors Mark Collins and Les Lewis (all ERE) and Captains Phil Kaye, Rupert Reid, and the EME Seadhna Wilson from RD. As others have moved on in their careers, we have welcomed replacements from other pastures: Captains Pippa Lines (EME), Dave Barclay (Training Officer) and ‘Les’ Lester (Det. Commander). And we have seen plenty begin their commissioned careers: Joe Williamson (after a brief foray with the Air Corps), Ed Astley-Birtwhistle, Luke Sherbrooke, Ed Wicks, Nick Westlake-Toms, George Stephens and George Walker. In addition, we will soon be welcoming at least the following from ‘the factory’: Henry Foster, Jack Fleming, Chris Highton and Ed Mawby. They will join a Mess that feels in good form and chomping at the bit for the deployment to Afghanistan – hopefully Rear Party will have time to ensure the return home includes at the very least a stupendous Mess Party!

2011 has been a notable year for the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess for many reasons. The first event saw two of our senior members presented with the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) for outstanding service to the Army for over twenty years; WO1 Paul Bland and WO2 Mick Wood.

On 19 March we dined out Mr Bland, with the RSM describing his career in detail and giving advice on how to get the most out of his future employment “servicing old boilers.” The evening was attended by the wives and girlfriends. The night was enjoyed by all, so much so that PMC’s wife, Mrs Barrow, became the first Mess wife to be “Port fined” for several attempts to bang the gavel, touch the Mess silver and generally annoy her husband.

The Mess always looks forward to the Cavalry Memorial in May. It is an enjoyable day out in London and a chance for the young subalterns to show the seasoned old seniors where and “how it’s done,
old chap." This year was no exception and a good turnout ensured a late return home and a few sore heads on the Monday morning.

In mid May, the senior Cpls were invited for a Dinner Night in the Mess. With forty from each Mess present, everyone sat down to a great evening of telling tales and passing on many ‘great bits of advice’. There followed a disco and the odd toast or two before we finally managed to get them to leave. The evening has become a great addition to our calendar and hopefully we will see them return next year.

The majority of the Mess spent part of their Summer in BATUS on Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3, but we all managed to return in time for “Party in the Park” – our annual get together before Summer leave. Organised by Sgt Preston and his gang, the local hands ‘Permanent Send’ rocked the show again as many dubiously prepared cocktails were handed out by Sgt Grief and company.

The start of our MST phase gave us a chance to invite Lt Col Nick Perry DSO to speak to the Mess on targeting procedures and his experiences on Op HERRICK 13. Soon after, the incoming 12 Brigade Commander, Brigadier Chalmers OBE, gave us his thoughts on the up and coming deployment. Both were received very well and left the whole Mess wanting to get stuck into the training.

A hardy group of Mess members led by the RSM climbed Mount Snowdon in North Wales in September, in aide of St Dunstan’s. Despite the sore legs and blisters the group – which included Chris Nowell, brother of SSgt Nowell who was injured whilst deployed with the Regiment in 2007 – conquered the mountain in a respectable time and raised over £1000 for a very worthy cause.

For a second year the Mess hosted the Central Southern Reunion in October; this again saw a rise in attendees from days gone by. On the Sunday morning, the Guidon was presented at St Michael’s Church in Tidworth and all SNCO’s were in attendance. Lunch
in the Mess followed and was hosted by the Warrant Officers and SSgt. The food was as outstanding as ever and the wine flowed freely; war stories were told, assisted by numerous salvos of port and shouts of “Hussar”. Mr Sinclair and Richie Mogg eventually left, hopefully to return for the same event next year.

October also heralded the return of the now traditional and twisted version of Oktoberfest. SSgt Budd, the Entertainments member, created a great setting for our two village elders. The RSM and WO2 Ormond did their very best to ensure everyone took part in the challenges to win the coveted trophy. The evening was memorable for two reasons: firstly, the fantastic costumes worn by all our wives and girlfriends, and secondly who could forget the pugil battle between PMC and PEC – so hard fought, all their clothes fell off in the mêlée.

As ever the Northern Reunion in November is a greatly anticipated weekend and always well attended. Faces from the past and present share a jar and a story of SSMs past. It is always good to see previous Mess members that are doing well in their civilian careers, but who still have time to meet up and reminisce.

Ramnuggar is always the highlight of the calendar and the 163rd anniversary was as well planned and as much fun as ever. WO2 Lowe and his team did an awesome job of making the Mess look stunning and provided all the guests with a set of bronze cufflinks as a memento of the occasion. The girls looked great in their party frocks, Sgt Kennedy, Sgt Duxbury and Sgt Young performed the March of The Ramnuggar Cup splendidly, even in slow time.

The year was brought to a close with our annual pilgrimage up the road to the Officers’ Mess. This year all the stops were pulled with our transportation: four Warthogs were dressed with antlers, red noses and fairy lights; all seniors stood on top of the vehicles, and to the dulcet tones of Run DMC we gingerly crept up to see our hosts before attempting to stack up their Mess bills and drink all the champagne in the house. Sgt Clayton, on his return from ERE, did us proud with the fox’s mask, and ‘Permanent Send’ returned for their Farewell gig. It is fair to say the year was seen out with a bang. Everyone has done themselves and the Mess proud this year.

The Mess was very pleased to welcome the following Sgts on promotion throughout the year: Sgt Perry, Sgt Jolliffe, Sgt Wilson, Sgt Youn, Sgt Pollard, Sgt Kennedy and Sgt Duxbury.

The Mess also said goodbye to some great and dearly loved Mess members this year: WO1 Paul Bland, WO1 Tim Rogers, WO2 Mick Wood, SSgt Bren Weatherby, SSgt Steve Bushell and Sgt Dave Godfrey. All were avid supporters of the Mess and will be sorely missed. We wish them all the very best in their chosen careers and hope to see them return for an evening or two in the near future.

The Corporals’ Mess

It has been another highly successful and busy year for the Corporals’ Mess. The beginning of the year was full with training events so we combined the Medicina and Summer Ball together allowing us to create an Italian Festival which spanned the whole of the parade square with fair ground rides, disco, a band and fireworks. For those returning from BATUS it was a quick change into mess dress and one tried and tested way of getting over jet lag – stay up all night. The Colonel and his wife Anna thoroughly enjoyed showing off their moves on the dance floor and smashing into other Mess members on the bumper cars, showing why Officers are not allowed to drive military vehicles. The ride ‘Miami’ (sadly the party was not held there) had a few members of the Mess feeling rather sick especially Cpl Nugent who managed throw up all over himself. Everyone enjoyed the excellent Italian food and cocktail flayers from the show Britain’s Got Talent. A big thank you to Cpl Nugent and Cpl Rusty Saunders for all their hard work – a great night was enjoyed by all.

In September Cpl ‘H’ Holden, keen on his cheese and wine, was tasked with organising a Mess cheese and wine night, which went down a treat. There was an excellent selection of cheeses and more importantly wine, however a number of Mess members were slightly disappointed in the quality of the Rose on show so decided to create their own vintage by mixing red and white wine together but only achieved making vinegar. Interestingly Cpl (Wesel) Buckley managed not to strip to his underwear...
and conduct the fairy dance, which is somewhat of a regular occurrence.

At this point, the Mess Committee changed over and we’d all like to say a big thank you to the outgoing committee of Cpl Kendall PMC and Cpl Hope PEC for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year; in their place, we welcome the new team of Cpl John (Berlin) Farling PMC and Cpl (Nugget) Nugent PEC and hope that the Mess will support them in up and coming events.

October gave the Mess members the opportunity to get ugly for the Mess Halloween function. The Mess was expertly transformed into a creepy dungeon full of cobwebs and mummmified creatures and goblins. There was an excellent turn out of fancy dress, especially Cpl Leach, Cpl Brown and LCpl Gould who all designed their own outfits for the night but most realised that this was normal dress for a Recce Troop night out. The food was turned into creepy blood covered snacks which kept the ghouls and ghosts happy throughout the night and the entertainment got all the Mess members especially WO2 (Count Dracula) Calvert dancing throughout the night, many thought he was Cpl Buckley’s dad. A big thank you to Cpl Hocking, Cpl O’Donnell and WO2 Calvert Jnr for organising what was an excellent function.

It’s Christmas and time for plenty of festive entertainment, starting with the annual football match between the Cpls’ Mess and Troopers played for the Brackenbury Trophy. It was a cold, wet afternoon and like watching Arsenal play (it was 1–1, not champagne football) between the two teams but the Corporals’ Mess managed to gain their revenge from last year’s disappointing defeat by beating the Troopers in a penalty shoot out ably led by Cpl Bernie Winters. Everyone was a little concerned by the fact the referee Cpl Bob Hope never left the centre circle but more importantly; what was he wearing? Well done lads, same again next year. After the Christmas meal the Mess hosted the Troopers for a festive Christmas drink. The Mess was made into a winter wonderland and had a Christmas festive band providing the entertainment and rounded off the year nicely.

The Corporals’ Mess is as strong as it has ever been and looking forward to the challenges ahead. The Mess would like to extend a warm welcome to the Yeomanry Mess Members who will be joining us for the operational tour and we all look forward to the ‘Welcome Home’ party already being organised for the end of the year. CMN
This has been another busy year for the WAGs and one made all the more enjoyable because of our great team of ladies on the Wives Committee. They have been constantly organising and trying to get more people involved; the result has been that we have had some very memorable and happy times together.

It may be no surprise but baking seems to be something we can do well, and ‘Tea in the Tank Park’ has been a huge success this year with everyone really pulling together. It’s quite incredible how many cakes can be eaten in such a short amount of time; the KRH boys certainly like our home cooked cakes and pies. Our last bake off was for the Regimental Open Day in October when – thanks to some wonderful baking and some large appetites – we raised a record-breaking amount of money for SSAFA.

Despite coffee mornings continuing to get busier and busier, the demand for socialising continues to rise, so we now have great evenings in the local curry house. We ended the year on a high with a great Christmas party held in the Sergeants’ Mess by kind permission of the RSM. Elvis entered the building, nervous and shy at first, but soon realised that the KRH WAG was not to be feared! It was a fantastic evening with delicious food and a lot of fun.

The Wives have also been generating lots of fundraising ideas for the KRH Appeal. Tracey Downham and Louise Lee with
BAG4SPORT, have been collecting unwanted clothing, hats, shoes and toys for recycling and receiving cash for the Appeal in return. Donna Thompson has organised the KRH Sweatshirts for ladies and children, with all profits going to the Appeal. Olivia Smith had the idea of a Christmas Fair, which we held in St Michaels Hall, Tidworth and was a huge success.

We also had the children involved in Regimental events at Christmas, they were stars at the Gloucester Carol Service. Beverly Budd kindly stepped in at the last minute and led the Children through Silent Night along with a few ‘Older Children’!

It goes with out saying that we could not do a lot of this with out the help and support of our Welfare Team led by Capt Wayne Price; they have been a constant source of help and encouragement. We also rely on the participation and friendship offered by all the Regiment’s wives and girlfriends who get involved and help make all this possible.

AP

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The Royal Southern Yacht Club Twinning Ceremony
Friday 29 July

Whilst the KRH Battlegroup was returning to UK from Canada, B Squadron turned out to conduct the long-awaited twinning ceremony with the Royal Southern Yacht Club in Hamble near Southampton. This significant event formally recognised the historic links between the Regiment and the Club, who’s third Commodore was the Lord Cardigan. B Squadron marched immaculately in Blues through Hamble and provided an honour guard. The Guidon was also paraded and The Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons added pomp to the occasion. With B Squadron on parade outside the Club, the Commanding Officer made a short speech and made a presentation to the Commodore of the Club, Mr Mark Inkster. Following the formalities, the Regiment was treated to a tremendous reception laid on in exceptional surroundings.
B Squadron Sergeant Major, WO2 Ormond, calls the parade to order.
The Regimental Open Day – Saturday 8 October

Due to the busy programme a Regimental Open Day could not be held in the Summer, and we found ourselves betting on October weather. Fortuitously the weather remained fine and the event was a true success. On the day, over 600 members of the wider Regimental Family visited Aliwal Barracks to see the serving Regiment and gain an understanding of what they were up to.

A wide range of stands and displays were organised by Squadrons and Departments, which covered the core role of the Regiment and its Afghanistan operational role. The Commanding Officer started the day with a brief on the health of the Regiment and our likely roles in Afghanistan. C Squadron ran its Kabul or Bust sponsored PT session, in which members of the Squadron, Regimental Association and any one else they could find, ran, cycled, rowed or orienteered their way over 5826km (which is the distance from Tidworth to Kabul). A Squadron provided an Afghan cultural
stand in which visitors were treated to a cup of chai and were briefed on the difference between British and Afghanistan culture. B Squadron set up a weapon and equipment stand and conducted a house clearance demonstration. D Squadron put on a static vehicle demonstration of green and yellow vehicles. HQ Squadron provided a Ready-Steady-Cook competition, a Food from Around The World demonstration and an exciting paintball stand. Other attractions included Mess and RHQ Tours, WO2 Robinson’s amazing model display, the Wives’ Club ever-popular Tea and Cake Stand, Assault Course in the Gymnasium, Children’s Zone, REME Crane Challenge, the KRH ‘Flying Doctor’ Parachute Display Team, music from Castle Down Radio and much more. As afternoon became evening, we were treated to the final concert by the Regimental band, Permanent Send, after which the Regiment retreated to their respective messes to continue the fun. A big thank you must go out to all who helped on the day; by working, baking or pulling in favours, you really made it a memorable event. Although fundraising was not the primary aim of the day, we managed to raise over £4500 for SAAFA and the KRH Appeal.

CB
Exercise MONS HAWK

With the Command Troop programme for the early part of 2011 apparently filled with planning exercises, BOWMAN radios and tent erection drills, it is perhaps understandable that the BSM SSgt Tony Underwood was keen to find any excuse possible to get out of camp. Thus he hatched a plan to get as many of the troop as possible on a battlefield tour of the WWI sites in Belgium.

With the aim of providing a short, affordable and introductory period of studying WWI and our associated Regimental history, it did not take much to persuade the RSO, Captain Tom Gibbs, that the tour would be a good way to improve cohesion during a stressful period. Thus, nine intrepid members of Command Troop deployed early on Thursday 10th March to take the ferry to our budget lodgings in “Hotel Formule 1”, Roubaix. The trip would allow a full day each in Mons and Ypres, with the days either side for travelling to and from the continent.

The first day began in the rather grim industrial Belgian town of Mons. Having spent two months reading up on the conflict, the BSM and RSO acted as the main tour guides but each soldier prepared two individual presentations on a variety of topics associated to the visited locations. These ranged from the grand strategic overview, given by LCpl Daniels, to the individual heroism of those such as Pte Godley VC, given by Tpr Campbell. The first day as a whole traced the narrative of the two days of the battle for Mons and included plenty of detail regarding the involvement of our antecedent Regiments on horseback.

Mons gave ample opportunity to discuss the manoeuvre aspects of war but day two in Ypres was largely focussed on the brutal reality of WWI attrition. Topics included the scale of destruction achieved in
the craters at Hooge, the use of poison gas at Langemark, the living conditions in the trenches at the newly excavated Yorkshire Trench display and the provision of medical care at the Essex Farm dressing station. Several Commonwealth and German war graveyards were also visited, allowing an interesting comparison of their contrasting atmospheres and layouts. Importantly, we were also able to visit Zandvoorde where the well kept graves of four of the 10th Hussars rest beside a beautiful church featuring a stained glass window donated by the family of one of them, Lt Turner.

The highlight of the trip was probably the opportunity to attend the daily act of remembrance at the Menin Gate, Ypres. Having laid a wreath, the service proved a fitting way to contemplate the sacrifice made by those who have served before us before we headed home early the next morning with a renewed perspective on the real hardships of warfare.

*TJG*
Ex OFFA’s ACE

In late July, 12 Mechanised Brigade organised and ran a 3-day battlefield study to Shropshire for key members of the Headquarters staff, Commanding Officers and Sub-unit commanders. The aim of the study was to begin our conceptual preparation for the HERRICK 16 tour by identifying and examining whether there are similarities between Feudal England in the Middle Ages and the cultural, economic and tribal characteristics of Afghan society. Colonel Alex had dashed back on the first flight from BATUS to join the study and Majors Alex Michael and Charlie Smith travelled up from Bulford by coach with a selection of the other Brigade Officers.

Four hours after leaving an overcast Bulford on a Tuesday afternoon, we were deposited at a campsite in the small town of Bishop’s Castle, twenty miles north of Ludlow and very close to the Welsh border. The weather was somewhat better as we arrived and once unloaded, we were welcomed by the 228 Brigade Signals Squadron staff with a glass of Pimms, as we stood overlooking a fabulous country vista. Whilst we were living in the middle of a field, we were most certainly not roughing it: Equipped with camp cots and a Mess tent – complete with chef and silver – that the Mess Sergeant Major would have been proud of, we lorded over the other poor unfortunates sharing the field with us who were living in far more squalid conditions. What must they have thought of us.

During the opening brief, we were introduced to the academic support for the study, which consisted of a lecturer on medieval history from Corpus Christi, Cambridge, a PhD lecturer from the University of Zurich and two Hereford archaeologists. The concept of the study was to consider the history – ranging from the end of the Roman rule in England around 400AD to after the Norman Conquest in 1066 – understand the factors which influenced events, and then try to decide whether there were parallels with the situation in Helmand Province.

The format for the two days of study was straightforward: the academic horsepower took turns to lead on the historical perspective at each stand. The Brigade Commander, Brigadier Justin, then stressed themes which he wanted us to consider: how terrain shapes human development; the importance of powerbrokers, not the peasant farmer, and the importance of religion to society and people. The syndicates then set off along a pre-determined route along Offa’s Dyke to the next stand, discussing set questions as we went. On arrival, we summarised our discussions for the benefit of the other syndicates before hearing the next historical scene-setter.

Whilst the purpose of the study was not to dwell on the significance of the Dyke alone, it is worthy of comment. Offa’s Dyke is the largest archaeological monument in Britain and the most impressive structure of its kind in Europe. The ancient earthwork fortification built under the direction of King Offa around (757–796) runs for almost 130km from Chepstow in the south to Treuddyn (Flintshire) in the north. It is generally accepted that its purpose was to formalise the cultural and political border between Wales and the English Kingdom of Mercia. The legacy of the Dyke is that it exerted a lasting influence on the way the people living around it defined their cultural identity, contributing to a new sense of common unity among the British peoples living either side of it – the English and the Welsh. In this area of the Welsh Marches in Montgomeryshire, the Dyke is relatively well preserved and forms a linear spine which runs north-south across the landscape. In the surrounding countryside, there are lasting reminders of the influence of the Marcher barons and the Normans in the form of motte and bailey castles which dominate the landscape. Towns have grown up in the shadow of these ruins, as protected settlements would have done 1000 years ago.

The study was an interesting few days away from the regular distractions of regimental life, and allowed officers from different parts of the brigade to get to know one another a little better. The conclusions that different groups reached – on topics covering agriculture, trade, security, religion and governance – were not as important as beginning to appreciate the factors that influence the dynamics of a society; for what its worth, we decided that there are at least as many differences between feudal England and Helmand as there are similarities. Nevertheless, it was a useful trip for beginning our conceptual preparation for HERRICK 16, and provided an opportunity to forge important friendships just before the start of the hectic mission specific training season.

CDWS
Less than 12 hours after finishing our CFX in Norfolk, eight King’s Royal Hussars rose early on the morning of 3rd December to head to the Swiss Alps to take part in Exercise WHITE KNIGHT in its twenty-eighth year. We set off in earnest, keen to make up time as our Cavalry counterparts had already been out in the Alps for a week. In other years this may have given them an unfair advantage, but we were driving to a Verbier that had not had a single flake of snow thus far, with only one piste open at the very top of the slopes.

This year’s team consisted of four soldiers and four officers – Tpr Neary, the veteran of the trip back for his fifth season. Tpr Winchester was back for a second time after a season off. Tpr Lawrence was also returning for a second season in a row; finally there was our only novice, Tpr Rawlings. All four officers were new to the trip with varying degrees of skiing experience under their belts: Lt Williamson was the most experienced after having spent several ski seasons as an instructor before starting at RMAS.

Upon arriving in Verbier in the early hours of the 4th December, we found there to be no snow in the village at all, and so we settled in to our chalet and then went to source a local watering hole. That night saw the first major dump of snow for the season and whilst sorely needed did mean that we had a white out for our first week. The eight of us were given a run to find our ski legs before being graded and sent into various ability groups. The rest of the week was then spent under the careful eye of our instructors, skiing the same piste over and over again. Thankfully the snow did not let up and so we were able to see where we were going anyway. Moving into the second week initially saw the 95 soldiers of the RAC and AAC ski the same single piste yet again, before, one by one, other runs opened in the latter half. It meant that there was not enough of the mountain open to be able to dedicate anything towards race training. Most were probably happy with this situation as by this point the powder had started to build to a suitable level for off-piste skiing. Evening competitive activities included Ice Karring on the local ice rink – essentially go-karting on ice. The KRH team took pole position on 4 occasions (3 of which from the subalterns, otherwise much slated for their driving...) showing our Cavalry and Air Corps contemporaries how to drive in the increasingly wintery conditions.

Everybody’s skiing had begun to improve at a rapid rate, with Tpr Rawlings quickly taking to the powder and moguls as if it were quite normal for someone in only their second week on snow! The rest of us were making the most of the lack of race training by skiing powder by day and sampling the increasing night life of Verbier by night. The second Saturday saw the KRH team host their infamous ‘Warrior’ Party in Pub Mont Fort. One instructor noted the Warrior was the nicest he had tasted in 16 years, the credit for which must go to Tpr ‘Worm’ Neary, the only one who had a vague idea of the recipe!

The third week saw the weather finally start to turn, but not before several groups were able to ski from the top of Attelas right down past Verbier to Les Chables. Something that has not happened for several seasons, and a good measure to show just how much snow was falling by this point. Before the week was out we were able to squeeze in two days pole training dedicated to GS. After these two days the weather turned back to heavy snow, and so once again the various ski groups were sent out to make the most of the mountain whilst the poles sat untouched at the bottom of the mountain. The Exercise Director, Major Hay, was often found scratching his head trying to figure out how after arriving to no snow, we had only managed two days of race training despite more snow this season than in the previous two seasons combined. The...
heavy snow continued until Christmas eve, by which point we were on stand down. After an enjoyable carol service on the evening of the 23rd the sun then started to emerge for once allowing us to see where we were going – an interesting concept by this stage. Christmas day saw bright sunshine and not a cloud in the sky; drinks up on the pistes hosted by the Light Dragoons and a Christmas lunch in the ‘Furry Shovel’ that included garlic snails as an unexpected festive starter!  

Race training was set to start again in earnest on the 27th, however the weather conditions unsurprisingly did not allow this and so our instructors dutifully did what they could. The time was spent usefully in lessons on avalanche safety, how to use the various equipment one would expect to see on any serious off-piste skier, including transceivers, shovels and probes. This gave a welcome change to skiing in flat light, as well as increasing everyone's general awareness of the mountain and the dangers of off-piste skiing. The weather was now starting to impede on the racing schedule that was supposed to begin on the 28th. By the 29th we had finally got the poles back out to start slalom training. This meant that the first race would now have to take place on New Year’s Day, not an ideal situation with the RTR holding a party set to finish at 5am. Regardless, after an enjoyable evening at the HCR fireworks and the aforementioned NYE party, New Year’s Day saw 95 soldiers facing their first race, the individual Slalom. As a regiment we had a strong first run with Tpr Neary, Tpr Winchester and Lt Williamson finishing in the top 15. Tpr Rawlings started in 93rd and finished his first ever race in 32nd – almost the biggest improvement of the competition. However, the snow was deteriorating and we could not keep this success up with the vast majority of racers either falling or missing gates throughout the course. The next day saw the team Slalom event, but this had to be abandoned at midday due to a new weather front moving in. At this stage the A team was in 6th position but the B team was doing well in 2nd behind a strong LD team. It must be noted that before the racing was stopped Tpr Lawrence ensured he would not put the loss of a ski as an obstacle between him and the finish line, and for the good of the team leopard crawled across the line after a spectacular wipeout on the last gate.

The next couple of days saw bad weather prevent racing and most other types of skiing. The Super G race was turned into the Downhill for the small weather window we had on the 5th. After one practice run in the morning for our first time on Super G skis we threw ourselves into the competition, 2Lt Walker taking this a little more literally than most by throwing himself superman style across the finish. Here the regiment did much better with Lt Williamson coming 2nd, Tpr Neary 12th and altogether four in the top 25. Sadly Tpr Rawlings missed a gate, did not finish the course and so could not improve on his solid slalom performance. The Super G marked the end of our time racing in the Alps, and it was just the Descent de Flambeau with General Shirreff and the Sponsors and prize giving left to complete. The former took place on the evening of the 5th and the latter on the 6th. Overall Lt Williamson finished 3rd and the A team finished 5th in their competition. The B team finished 2nd. This is perhaps not as successful as previous seasons, however given the operational commitments, we felt we had done well and have set ourselves up for greater things next year’s Ex WHITE KNIGHT. With MST getting in the way, we were unable to send a team on to the Divisional competition in Serre Chevalier. So while not quite empty-handed but almost certainly with empty wallets, the KRH Ski team set off for the overnight drive back to Calais and on to Tidworth.

Nordic Skiing

Though the skiing season has suffered from a drastically shortened season this year due to MST commitments, the team deployed to Norway with a determined spirit and aspirations to achieve a podium finish at the RAC Championships. The drive from Tidworth to Kiel, Germany was done in torrential rain and was far from enjoyable. This was, however, countered by the ferry crossing from Kiel to Oslo, which provided a good chance for everyone to unwind after a hard exercise the week before. Upon arrival in Norway we were disappointed by the complete lack of snow, fearing that the already limited training time would be further shortened. These fears were soon quelled though when we arrived in the mountains to find a healthy amount of snow on the ground allowing us to commence training immediately. The town we stayed in for training had the benefit of an Olympic Nordic Ski stadium, which was empty during the week, meaning our training went largely uninterrupted.

It was soon clear that some strong natural skiers had volunteered for the team with everyone soon up on their feet and skiing to a good standard. The training days were far from easy, with ski sessions in the morning and afternoon, followed by a gym session in the
evening. Needless to say, the entire team was grateful to see their beds each evening. We were sharing the stadium with the 1 RTR team, who had been there for a month longer than us. Both teams got on well and we were able to gain some valuable knowledge from the wealth of experience possessed by their team. Towards the end of the training camp it was decided by the captains of both teams that we should hold a training race in the stadium in order to assess the progress of all team members. This also allowed the novices on the KRH team to develop their race etiquette and get a feel for how the races would be conducted at the competition in Austria. On Saturdays the team had a rest day, which allowed time to explore the local area and experience the Norwegian night life. Overall the training camp went very well and the team returned home on Christmas eve for a well deserved rest before driving out to Austria on the 27th for more training before the competition.

We returned to Tidworth having spent a quick Christmas at home ready to travel to Austria and take on the might of the RAC, RA and AAC. We arrived at our accommodation to be greeted by a very friendly landlord, who was keen to entertain us at every opportunity. Arriving before the other teams allowed us some vital extra training on quiet tracks. The teams hard work was rewarded on New Years Eve with a days Alpine Skiing followed by a truly outstanding dinner and party hosted by the family who owned our apartment. After three weeks of hard training and a very steep learning curve, it was finally time to put all that we had learnt to the test with the start of the RAC championship. We knew that the teams we would be facing had enjoyed the luxury of much longer training camps and more experienced skiers. This however was seen as merely another challenge to overcome and everyone entered the competition with that podium finish in their sights.

The first race was a 10 km classic race consisting of two laps around the Hochfilzen world cup track. On the morning of the race we realised that conditions were far from ideal and the race was going to be more about fitness and pure grit then perfect technique. There were 160 competitors in this race with the KRH entering eight members of the squad. Our predictions about the conditions were spot on and the track was more like a frozen river than a well maintained world cup circuit. Lt Astley-Birtwistle found this out when he decided to use his face as a snow plough at the bottom of one particularly steep slope. All of the team finished in a higher position to where they had started and scored some good times. As a team we finished third in the RAC, which was an encouraging start and meant we were on our way to achieving our goal.

The following day was a range day, giving us a much needed opportunity to re-zero the rifles before the 7.5 km Biathlon the next day. Conditions on the morning of the Biathlon were significantly better than they had been on the morning of the first race, and our team of five were in high spirits and ready to put in maximum effort. The race consisted of three 2.5 km laps of the track with a shoot after the first and second laps. The team got off to a good start, with LCpl Parker-Grater putting in a great effort and moving up through the positions at a rapid rate. The team shot well as a whole, allowing them to move up further through the field. Tprs Padee and Britton, two novices, put in a sterling effort and contributed well to the teams third place finish. The final day saw the worst weather we had experienced all season, with a metre of snow fall in just 12 hours.

This threatened to cancel the final race completely. Fortunately the snow held off for long enough and the 7.5 km skate relay was able to go ahead. The team knew the importance of doing well in this race and committed to it with the same high level of enthusiasm that had landed them the good results earlier in the week. After an excellent start from LCpl Vernon, we were in an encouraging position. This strong position only got better as the following participants took their turn around the track. Sgt Bell and LCpl Parker-Grater gave it everything they had for the last two laps, managing to overtake the Household Cavalry and 2 RTR, taking us to a second place finish. Our final place in the RAC competition was third, meaning we achieved our goal of a podium finish. Although short, this years Nordic Ski season was very successful and very enjoyable for all those involved.
After a number of years absence from the Army snowboarding world and in spite of a highly demanding pre-deployment schedule, the Regiment managed to send a four-man team to the Army Snowboarding Championships, Ex SNOWJACK 11, at the start of December. This is an enjoyable and wide ranging annual competition based on the Stubai Glacier in Austria, only a few miles from the Italian border. It consists of three events – the Parallel Giant Slalom (PGS), the Snowboarder Cross (SBX) and the Slope Style Competition (SS). However, not only did the KRH team lack current experience, but, because of MST, it also made it to the Alps only on the evening before the first event was to begin. This put us on the back foot, especially when compared to some of the other teams who had dedicated the previous five weeks to training for the championships; but it also made us very much the underdogs with everything to play for, and morale was sky high.

The PGS is a knock-out event in which two competitors race head-to-head down a pair of identical Giant Slalom courses. The winner of the two goes on to the next round to race against another winner. Because of its late arrival, the team was wholly unprepared for the event, but this merely boosted the Regiment’s image when it surprised everyone (including the team members) by coming fourth out of 18 in the event.

A few days after the PGS, the resort received its first and much needed snowfall of the season, amounting to some 70cm in 48 hours. This enabled the organisers to build a substantial SBX course while the teams enjoyed exploring the soft powder deposits that had covered the mountain. These were a surreal few days in which the team was able to speed down silently on untouched areas of the resort in the lonely wilderness of the mountains. We were also able to use some particularly large snow deposits to practise jumps into without the risk of injury in preparation for the SS competition. This practice period saw Cpl Irwin spinning for the first time and Cpl Duckworth (Cannonballs) combining flips and lateral rotations with spectacular landings.

The SBX course is a single long steep winding track that stretches about 500m down the mountain. It incorporates numerous banked corners and obstacles such as jumps, gaps, drops and rolling mounds and four riders must race down it as part of a knock-out competition. First or second place gets the competitor through to the next round and the tournament saw some spectacular runs with numerous collisions and crashes as 128 competitors fought through the many races in a bid to make the finals. However, despite fierce competition, some fast qualifying times enabled the KRH team to secure third place.

The weather for the SS competition was far from ideal, but being military, the competition went ahead as planned. The aim of this event is to perform tricks, moves and spins using a series of jumps, rails, boxes and any other hard or painful objects that the organisers can get their hands on. The bigger the trick and the better it is...
executed, the more points the competitor will earn overall. In the event, the best trick of the day was a ‘rodeo 720’ (a backflip combined with a 360 degree lateral rotation) performed by a member of the AAC team. With limited qualifying spots, only Capt Scott was able to represent the Regiment in this event, but his second place helped the team to achieve a very respectable overall score.

In total, the KRH came third in the competition and Cpls Duckworth and Irwin and Capt Scott were nearly always the top three contributors to the RAC score in the Inter-Corps Ladder. This was especially pleasing considering the lack of KRH attendance over recent years and the inexperience of the mixed team. LCpl Daffern had hardly touched a snowboard before arriving and yet despite only arriving on the day before the competition, she was able to achieve a position of 15th out of 21 in the overall female competition. Furthermore, the KRH were able to top the Overall Individual Men’s Board with Capt Scott scraping first place. So, despite the operationally enforced delayed arrival, the Regiment managed to achieve fantastic results this year and the hope must be to continue to build on this success in future years with bigger and better teams.
With Capt Philip Kaye (+1) returning from his travels with the Royal Gurkha Rifles and Capt Quentin Hicks (+1) taking over as Ops Officer, a successful year for the polo team was expected. As usual the KRH string of ponies were expertly maintained and administered by the unerring Cpl ‘Percy’ Pearson. The stables have been bolstered by the purchase of a new pony, Margarita. At nine years old and experience in 12 goal tournaments a spring was added to the step of the string. Having brought the ponies in from their winter residence in Colston, well fed, rested and with healthy-looking winter coats, the usual motley crew of Messer’s Cowell, Walker, Kaye and Garbutt braved the early starts and tumultuous weather conditions to help bring the ponies back to full fitness. With pre-season training rudely interrupted by BATUS, the team only managed the odd stick and ball and tactics session before the season got going.

As usual we entered a team into The Inter-Regimental Cup. Bolstered with the ponies and skill of Lt Col Nick Hunter (+2) and Capt (Retd) Robert Freedman–Kerr (+1) a good result was anticipated. Thanks to Cpl Pearson the ponies donned their usual attire of crimson and primrose bandages and numnars. For once the players were able to look as smart as their equestrian counterparts with a new shirt bought by the teams’ sponsors: PCA Associates. A confident team therefore trotted onto the pitch against the Honourable Artillery Company for the first round match of the Inter-Regimental. With a strong first chukka and all members mounted on the ponies of their choice the HAC were put on the back foot. The second chukka saw Col Nick and Capt Freedman–Kerr take the initiative. With two sterling individual efforts the KRH increased their lead and allowed the nerves to be calmed. The team managed to disrupt the advances of the HAC and run home outright winners 14 – 2 1/2. The second round draw gave the team the opportunity of making amends for last year’s defeat to the Household Cavalry Regiment. Once again we were due to meet them on the groomed pitch in front of New College at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Despite the good start in the first round there was a little apprehension. HCR mustered a strong team; Maj (Retd) Mark Dollar (+2) whose handicap once reached the lofty heights of +4, Capt (Retd) Jack Mann (+2) and Capt Rupert Lewis (+1), both of which play for the Army. After the formalities and introductions and with a game plan firmly in mind the KRH felt confident. Dollar and Mann broke free from the initial throw-in and scored two goals in quick succession. The team however were not disinterred. With Col Nick leading the charge we fought back. Capt Kaye playing at two forced Rupert Lewis into making a mistake and allowing the HCR to concede a 60 yard penalty. With bated breath Capt Kaye cantered to the ball, swung, but unfortunately pushed it to the right of the post. The rest of the chukka continued to entertain the 300 hundred strong crowd. With flowing moves and running plays the team began to feel more confident. The start of the second chukka came without pause. Dollar unfortunately was showing the reasons for why he once was handicapped at 4 goals and allowed us to concede a defended penalty from just plus of the 60 yd line. Lt Cowell (-1) drew the short straw and lined himself up between the posts and penalty spot. With more luck than skill he managed to pick the ball from out the air and prevent it from going into the goal. As we ran into the third chukka HCR were in front by 1 goal. After a rousing half time talk from Col Nick a rejuvenated team cantered onto the picturesque ground. As usual Col Nick led from...
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

The KRH team in full flow taking it back to the HCR in the dying moments of the Inter-Regimental semi-final

the front. He expertly picked the ball from out of the throw-in and charged forward cutting through the HCR defence. With great skill he guided the ball through the posts and brought the teams level. HCR however showed their quality. With both Mann and Dollar well mounted they dominated the third and fourth Chukka. Again, the KRH lost by the smallest margin and 4½–6.

The Captains’ and Subalterns’ Competition was again well supported with 20 teams coming together from Regiments across the Army. The competition is divided into 4 Divisions based upon handicap, with the best teams competing in Div 1. This year the KRH were in Div 2 where we were pitted against the AGC and the 9th/12th Lancers. We were able to call upon 2Lt George Walker (-1) and Capt James Hood (-2) to join Lt Cowell and Capt Kaye. Despite courageous and sometimes desperate efforts of the AGC to try and win this first round match they were convincingly beaten. Day two brought us away from Perham Down and onto the main ground at Tidworth. The second match brought stiffer competition in the form of our Formation Reconnaissance counterparts the 9th/12th Lancers. With a handy team including an Army player brought across from the QRH, 2Lt Doug White (+1) a tough match was anticipated. Although guilty of some elementary mistakes in the first chukka, the advances of the Lancers were halted and the chukka ended in a draw. The second chukka was however slightly more eventful. Obviously trying to show off, Lt Cowell tried to play an exuberant near side back hand. This resulted in injury and a subsequent trip to hospital. A replacement from the sideline, Miss Susie Richards, threw on a KRH top and jumped onto a pony and the umpire continued the rest of the chukka; but alas, the team could not recover from the unfortunate loss of Lt Cowell. The Lancers took advantage of the situation and ran home the victors.

With the closing of the season brought the end of an era. Cpl Pearson has left the stables for the final time. Percy has been helping run the KRH equitation program for the past 20 years; most of those single-handedly. Percy has worked tirelessly to ensure the ponies were fit, healthy and immaculately turned out. Cpl Pearson’s expertise in grooming along with his motivational mid-chukka pep talks were essential to the team’s successes over the years. Cpl Pearson’s professional ability and unwavering commitment will be greatly missed by all those who had the pleasure of playing Regimental polo. We wish him luck with his new career outside the Army and hope to see him marching around the Tidworth Polo Club offering his candid advice to the newest junior Officers.

PDRC

Football

The 2010/11 season started with the same aim as it has had for many years, to win the holy grail of RAC football, the Cavalry Cup. Early signs were promising as we still had some of our experienced players who had come close the previous year, but also a healthy amount of new talent arriving at the Regiment. Capt Dave Ford remained as Coach and the number of players on the books swelled to over 30.

With so many players wanting to play it was decided to enter A and B teams. Capt Geordie Kennedy was drafted in to coach the B Team aiming to bring them on and eventually compete for a place in the A team. With all Regiments heavily committed to Ops or BATUS actually finding teams to play against proved quite difficult; during the season the B team only managed to play 7 matches. Although they lost the first 5 games they were improving with every game. They won their next game 2–0 against 1 RHA B team and played a 4–4 draw in a thriller against 11 Sigs B team, Cpl Dyer and Tpr Judge scoring 2 goals each. Tpr Lomax, Judge and Grey also made it into the A Team Squad for the Cavalry Cup.

The A Team, playing in the 4 Div League also had difficulties arranging matches and like the B team only managed to play 7
games, winning 6 and only narrowly losing to 11 Sigs Regt. As the season moved into January, Capt Dave Ford became QM and handed over the coaching duties of the A Team to Capt Kennedy. It was at this time that the first round of the Cavalry Cup was announced; KRH were drawn against the HCR. The game was played on the 9 Feb and was an evening kick-off at the Tidworth Oval. The HCR came into the game full of confidence whereas the KRH were struggling for players due to injuries and courses. Fit players being scarce, the coach asked Dave Ford at the age of 43 to dust off his old boots and sit on the bench. The game could not have gone any better for the KRH. By half time we were 3–1 up. The second half was much the same: LCpl Freitag’s pace proved too much for the HCR defence as he notched up his hat-trick. Dave Ford came off the bench and nearly scored when he unleashed a venomous shot from nearly 30 yards which stung the keeper’s hands. The KRH team finally won the game 7–2; other scorers were Sgt O’Mara, Sgt Sumner, Cpl Winters and Tpr Lomax.

The second round was to be a more difficult game as it was against 1 RTR who had knocked out the KRH the previous year. Although the KRH had more possession of the ball in the first half they were down 1–0 at half time due to a fluke own-goal scored by Sgt Sumner. During the second half the team battled hard and was awarded a penalty that LCpl Freitag neatly buried into the back of the net. The game was decided by a wonder goal scored by Tpr Critchley, and booked the KRH a place in the UK Final of the Cavalry Cup.

We were drawn away to the Royal Dragoon Guards in Catterick for the UK final. We knew they had a very strong team. Although the KRH team was not at full strength we still had enough talent in the squad and were pretty confident. The game started well and the KRH team bombarded the RDG goal with shot after shot, but their keeper was in excellent form. Unfortunately two silly mistakes cost us dearly. The RDG took advantage and bagged 2 quick goals ending the first half 2–0 up. After a good half time team talk the KRH team started strongly and again put the RDG goal under immense pressure. Finally the pressure paid off and we were awarded a penalty which again Freitag coolly despatched into the back of the net. Still chasing the game we left ourselves open at the back and had it not been for the outstanding goalkeeping of Cpl Ricky Lee we would have found ourselves even further behind. However, we continued to push forward and finally Tpr Danny Hume managed to steer a shot away from their keeper to equalise. The game went into injury time but no further goals were scored and so the dreaded penalties would decide the game. Both sets of players had given their all, but luck ran out for the KRH team. The game was lost 4–3 on penalties. For another year the dream of Cavalry Cup glory was over; unfortunately we will not be competing for the Cup in 2012 due to H16 but rest assure players and staff will give their all again in 2013 to bring the silverware back to the KRH.

This was not quite the end for the football teams’ season and the search for acclaim on the sports field was still on. 4 Div ran a 6-a-Side competition and over 40 teams entered split into 4 leagues. The KRH team won 8 out of their 9 league games and qualified for the quarter-finals. We were drawn against one of the tournament favourites, 12 Regt RA but we outclassed them with a 4–1 victory. Our semi-final was more difficult and had to be settled by penalties. For once, luck was with us as we came away winners and progressed to the Final. By the time it came around our small team had played over 5 hours of football and had to fight off cramp to play the last game. The players had just enough energy to see off the opposition 2–0 and be crowned 4 Div 6-a-Side Champions. They then had to progress to the Army Championships where again we won all our league games and quarter-finals but narrowly lost out in the semi-finals.

The final Football fixture of the season was the annual Troopers vs Corporals Mess match played in the last week before the Christmas break. It was a good game played in cold but dry conditions and saw the Corporals Mess edge ahead before full time to win the Brackenbury Trophy.
The Regimental Journal of The King's Royal Hussars

Cricket

The 2011 season has been a bit of a non-event for the Regimental Cricket Team. The beginning of the season saw considerable interest that was to be stifled by a series of events that had the Regiment change its entire plans for the summer. Because the KRH battlegroup deployed on the later PRAIRIE THUNDER exercise, the Regimental team was unable to enter the Major Unit Cup for the first time in a number of years. Alas, since the return from Canada, the pace was similarly unrelenting as the Regiment entered MST and we were unable to take to the field.

In the margins of the chaos a number of individuals managed to represent the Corps including Lt Westlake-Toms who was on his Troop Leaders Course at the time. With Cpl McLean injured for the season, the Regiment could not even boast having one of our SPS Detachment representing the Army.

Hopes for a return to form are resting on the 2013 season. However, rumours abound that the ANA and ANP enjoy a good game of cricket. While our forward operating bases are unlikely to rival the setting of Lord’s – or even the Tidworth cricket pitch – we will do what we can to keep our collective eyes in.

One slither of cricketing good news: LCpl Carter will represent the Royal Armoured Corps cricket tour to India in 2012; we wish him the best of luck.

ASDB
Parachuting

Due to the busy nature of 2011 it has been a quiet season for parachuting, as the Regiment were away in BATUS during the Armed Forces Parachute Championships. However some KRH soldiers were able to go Parachuting in Canada for their post-PRAIRIE THUNDER adventure training package. After a day of ground school training they were throwing themselves out of a little plane over Canada; this was no mean feat and a great achievement by all who completed it. Maj Hicks, the Regimental Medical Officer, captained the Army 4-way Formation Skydive Team at the British Open Parachuting Championships where the team did very well to finish 6th after a season blighted with injury and short notice deployments. The Regimental Open Day in October also saw a Parachute display onto the Rugby pitches, organised by a rather nervous Major Hicks squeezing her way onto the small landing area in less than favourable conditions. We now look forward to Exercise FREEFALL HAWK after our return from Afghanistan – a two-week Adventure Training Freefall exercise in the USA, to teach KRH soldiers how to skydive.

AH

Maj Hicks training with the Army team over Netheravon

Maj Hicks (2nd from right) RMO wins Gold with the Army Team at a UK Skydiving League Competition
Sailing

Though sailing this year has suffered due to the Regimental commitments in Canada and during MST, the Regiment has had success both on and off the water. The annual Lagos Trophy Team Racing Championships, held at Hayling Island in July, saw three members of the KRH make up just under half of the combined Combat Arms Team. Having answered the call from Brigadier Miles Wade, Lt Astley Birtwistle and Tpr Leach were drafted in to crew the third boat in the squad at short notice.

Prior to the Championships a two-day training course was organised that enabled both novice crews and those with more experience to cover everything from the basics of dinghy racing to the intricacies of more developed team racing tactics. This was an invaluable course that enhanced the standard of sailing before the two days of competition. It also gave the opportunity for crews to receive talks from experts on-shore as well as on the water.

Unfortunately however, the late entry of the Combat Arms Team meant that in true Cavalry style and with an excellent combined arms approach, a last minute tactics and training programme was held the night before the first race! Having never raced in the Team Racing discipline before, the KRH boats received a three-hour rules and tactics lecture from a Team GB racer and then used the first race the following morning as a training session!

With the Combat Arms Team members only having met each other on the morning of the first race (the infantry crews of the other boats having travelled from Germany overnight) we appeared at a disadvantage. But our instant team cohesion helped to keep the boats having travelled from Germany overnight) we appeared at a disadvantage. But our instant team cohesion helped to keep the ambitions of the ever powerful Royal Signals and Army Air Corps teams in check.

Racing in a discipline where knowledge of the foibles and intricacies of the rules is almost as important as sailing ability meant that the eventual third place to the vastly experienced Signals and Air Corps teams was no mean feat. Indeed the look on the faces of the RLC, REME, Signals B and AGC teams as we quite literally left them in our wake, was priceless.

Whilst there may be a little sailing this next year, the conditions have been set this year to rekindle the sailing spark within all ranks in the Regiment on our return from Afghanistan. In particular, this will be assisted by our affiliation with the Royal Southern Yacht Club. The more nautically minded amongst us in the Regiment greatly anticipate good things for the 2013 season.

E A-B

Fishing

Unfortunately due to the Regiment being away for most of the summer in BATUS, and with the hectic tempo of training since returning, there has been little opportunity for members of the Regiment to enjoy fishing. However two members of the LAD managed to find time to attend the 'Fishing for Forces Day' at Avon Springs Lakes at Durrington, Wiltshire. ‘Fishing For Forces’ is an initiative set up by Bill Howell and Christopher Robinson (son in the QRL), that provides an opportunity for those who have recently returned from operations to unwind and forget previous stresses by spending a day fishing. LCpl Feeney and Cfn Van Der Hovan jumped at the opportunity and both proved to be naturals, catching their four fish limits before lunch. By the end of the day LCpl Feeney’s catch was still unbeaten as the heaviest bag, winning him first prize. Having both had a brilliant day they thoroughly recommend the scheme to those who like fishing, or who would just like the opportunity to try.

Golf

Amongst the ever increasing turbulence of the pre-MST training involving a pre-BATUS firing period, the programme was extremely busy across the board. The one day that we could get the opportunity in for the Regimental Golf Open was the 19th of May. After much deliberation and a lot of effort by Sgt Godwin, we sourced a venue and pleaded with the sub-units to allow the soldiers the day away from work. Initial interest was slow and it was probably the smallest turn out I have seen in my time as the Golf Secretary, however we had enough to go with and make the booking and prize fund viable. As luck would have it Rushmore Park Golf Club had a tee time to facilitate the open – it was on.

We had 15 players from the original 24 that had initially been interested. The venue was spectacular and the weather fantastic, with no wind and glorious sunshine throughout the day (we had used Rushmore for the previous years summer open and got drenched for the entirety of the round.) Rushmore Park offers something to golfers of all standards, allowing for mistakes as well as pin point accuracy for the show offs amongst us. The turn out, although limited, had the full range from beginners to experts (Mr D Bayne should really hang his clubs up now at our level but reveals in the chance to take us to the cleaners when the opportunity arises.) It was good to see the younger element coming into
the game, with some interest from the LAD, driven no doubt by the ASM, a keen golfer himself. It is nice to see the new players at these events as well as welcoming back the old comrades that turn up to these events, including Dave Bayne and Tony Whittaker.

Once we were suitably warmed up, with a bucket of balls on the driving range we were soon heading off from the first tee and the day got under way. Having had the usual thrash out of handicaps and people cheating, in particular the Marks from the LAD, it was plain to see that the slashing was deserved in most cases. There were some great shots played and the etiquette expected at these places was upheld throughout. It was great to see the guys enjoying a good day out and competing within their flights. The banter and barracking on the tee boxes is just an added bonus, none more than my flight where I had both Tony Whittaker and the QM giving me stick throughout. The added bonus of playing golf with Tony is that he has improved his equipment since his retirement. I didn't realise that a power caddy came complete with a bar! The bottle of bud at the half way point was fantastic.

The round over, it was then into the 19th hole for a well deserved and much needed pint. We had our chips and sandwiches while generally abusing each other about the round, before the prize giving. The prizes were provided by the players as part of the course fees. All in all, 9 prizes were awarded including the coveted Most Golf prize. This is for the individual who has just picked up a club and attempted to play. The prizes were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net:</th>
<th>Nearest the pin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cpl Kendall – 66</td>
<td>QM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. WO1 (ASM) Hoskins – 72</td>
<td>Longest Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cpl Wilson – 74</td>
<td>LCpl Kempton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Stableford Points:</th>
<th>Most Golf</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. LCpl Buchanan – 38</td>
<td>Tpr Massey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. WO2 Portwood – 37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mr D Bayne – 35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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All in all we had a great day with the guys taking a lot from it and just playing on a quality course gives people the bug to attend the next golf open. As I hand over the baton to Lt Williamson as the KRH Golf Officer all that is left to do is to thank everybody that has an interest and supports this sport in the Regiment. I have had some great days away from the office and we have the potential as a Regiment to forward a very good team into the Army competitions, time allowing……... …

Elephant Polo

In September the annual King’s Cup Elephant Polo Tournament was held in Thailand, with the Army entering a team. The British Army last entered a team in 2005, made up entirely of members from The King’s Royal Hussars; the team had acquitted itself well. This year Colonel Felix Gedney, (ex-KRH, now Royal Scots Dragoon Guards), Majors Cameron Humphries, (Highlanders) and Charlie Valdes-Scott competed against 11 other teams from all over the World.

Arriving in the royal seaside town of Hua Hin, the tournament was held in Suriyothai army base, with teams staying nearby at the 5-star Anantara Hotel. The team was seeded 10th of 12, based on their horse polo handicaps, so expectations were low at the start of the competition.

The following morning, the team had their first practice on elephants. A flat saddle has a Velcro lap strap to hold one in place, with a further fail-safe belt, if required. The technique, established fairly early on, was to loosely secure both straps, allowing full freedom of movement in order to be able to outstretch one’s opponent.

Each team is comprised of three players and each elephant has a ‘mahout’ sitting in front of them to guide the elephant. Handily, directions were written on the back of their T-shirts, which would have assisted if the mahouts hadn’t spoken in a different
The Regimental Journal of The King's Royal Hussars

dialect. Directions were ultimately achieved by placing a hand on the shoulder and pushing, pulling, yanking and shouting. The pitch is only 100x60 metres, there is a standard size polo ball, however the sticks are about twice the length of those used on ponies.

The game is divided into two 7-minute chukkas with an interval of 15 minutes. Elephants and ends are swapped between the teams at half time, to even out any advantage, though it became clear that the elephants moved more quickly when going towards their ‘lines’, so the choice of ends was crucial.

The ball is thrown in at the centre line at the start of play, with only two elephants in the middle. A semi-circle in front of the goals, with a radius of 20 metres, allows only one elephant from each team to be in at a time, leading to some serious tussles when approaching it.

The team was catchily known as the ‘American Express British Airways British Army team’ on account of the sponsors, and went on to storm through to the quarter-finals causing considerable upset to those that had ‘hired guns’ on their teams. Major Humphries held his ground well in the mid-field, supplying balls up field to Colonel Gedney, while doing his best to frustrate elephant charges down the field to Major V-S in defence.

As a result this year the British Army did well to beat 7 other teams, narrowly missing out on the semi-finals and finishing a well deserved 5th in the Tournament. Invited to return next year, hard top Land Rover Defenders are being fitted with a chair on the roof, as a UOR, to enable some practice over the coming months.

CAJV-S
LAD Sports and Adventurous Training 2011

Although the LAD has been extremely busy with a deployment to BATUS and preparing for Op HERRICK 16, the LAD has still found time to do both sport and Adventure Training. The LAD has had an individual selected for the GB development squad for Nordic skiing, an individual involved in international sailing and many members involved at Combined Service and Army level, as well as Regimental teams.

Following both the successful activation and then deployment to BATUS members of the LAD utilised the great Adventure training opportunities that Canada has to offer and took part in a variety of sports. From walking in the Rocky Mountains to horse riding and white water rafting, many of the LAD tried things for the first time (with varying success). One of the most popular was the chance to try Skiing or snowboarding. One LAD individual who got plenty of experience skiing was LCpl Parker-Grater. LCpl Parker-Grater performed extremely well at the Army skiing championship, winning his division. Following his success he was selected to join the GB Development squad. Despite having to give up his leave, LCpl Parker-Grater jumped at the opportunity to improve his skills and has since represented the Regiment at Nordic Skiing.

SSgt Olive has been away Offshore Sailing not only representing the Corps but also the Army and combined services. He won both the Inter Regimental Cup in the international Rolex Fastnet race and the Gold Cup in the SB3 Autumn championship. Both times SSgt Olive’s boat was the only military team in the top of the fleet. The Gold cup win was particularly sweet as the Army re-gained the title from the RAF.

Cpl Gaz Roberts has once again been playing Football for the Army Football team. This has involved several great wins over both the Navy & RAF. There were several members of the LAD who went for Corps trials in August, but due to the operational commitments have not been selected for the Corps team. Meanwhile, two members of the LAD, LCpl’s Goldsmith and Snitovsky, have been lucky enough to represent the Army and Corps at Rugby League and Union. Both have been members of the Army U23 side that have won matches against the RAF and the Navy.

As well as individual sporting success the LAD has run an LAD Golf day. This provided an opportunity for the LAD to dress in their best golfing jumpers, relax on the golf course and show off their vast skills on the golf course. Well, for some anyway! Others dug out an old polo shirt, tried not to take their frustrations out on the green and attempted to look like they knew what they were doing. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all, and whilst some found hidden skills on the course, others (WO2 (AQMS) Gear) found that no matter how hard you hit the ball it just wouldn’t go in the right direction.

The LAD also enjoyed a day at Milton Keynes Dry ski slope. This was organised by LCpl Lockyer who is a keen Snowboader. 20 eager individuals set off from the LAD for a day practising their skills on the slope. Whilst some took the opportunity to practise a few tricks others concentrated on the art of standing up, thankfully all managed to get through the day with little more than a few bruises to show for it. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all those that took part and can hopefully be followed up post tour with some time on the real snow.
Regimental Adventure Training

The Regiment’s deployment on Ex Prairie Thunder 2 and 3 allowed the Squadrons to seize the fantastic opportunity the Rocky Mountains had to offer, in the form of Trail’s End Camp. All three Squadrons, accompanied by elements of HQ Squadron, and ably hosted by the Chief Gym Queen himself…also know as Sgt Bell…embarked on a 5 day package of either Horse Trekking, Kayaking, Mountaineering, Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, or multi activity.

B Squadron who had completed Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 2 with 3 Yorks BG, and C Squadron who had played the undefeated enemy, opened the batting with Hussars conducting all four activities. They were then followed in hot pursuit by the KRH BG (D and HQ Squadron), and the still undefeated C Squadron (again, it was a little embarrassing…). The mountain biking, despite being very physically demanding, allowed access to some of Canada’s most treasured views. Enjoyed with varying degrees of success, the first sections of both routes were more akin to the
Tour de France, leaving Sgt Bell in no doubt as to the physical prowess of KRH soldiers...especially when, in true PTI fashion, a wrong turn became an opportune moment to cover a gruelling 48km! The less glamorous and action packed mountaineering, also commonly referred to as 'Selection', was a huge success for the few who took part and, if nothing else, generated an enormous sense of achievement once the participants had reached the top. Kayaking for a few unlucky individuals proved a very chilly way to dislocate various limbs and the Multi Activity adventure was punctuated by fleeing from bears! Horse Trekking allowed all involved to live out their boyhood Cowboy dreams for the week – tassles, Stetsons and all! ‘Trail’s End Camp provided two gnarled Wranglers (ueur the Canadian accent) ‘Colman and Gordy’ to look after the Horse Trekkers, each with their own 6-shooter rifle to keep the bears away...much to Sgt Boyd's delight this proved the perfect prop for his holiday snaps!

The 'Cowboys' were split into two groups; a fast group and a not-so-fast group, with the junior end of the adventure choosing the fast group and the sensible (most would call it boring) senior members the not-so-fast group. Once riders had been married up with their fine steeds, and once Tpr Halshaw had decided which way round the horse went, the KRH Lone Rangers were off – displaying all the fine horsemanship qualities of their Hussar forebears...or not as the case may be! The first day consisted of a mammoth 24 mile ride to Base Camp during which fast-flowing rivers were crossed, precipitous drops traversed and riders’ rumps well and truly saddle sored. Most-likely-to-be-the-Milky Bar Kid award went to SSgt Warren for the quality of his Cowboy impersonations, and least-likely-to-be-the-Milky Bar Kid award went to Tpr Hughes for having his steed depart for horsey heaven beneath him!

Elements of the KRH were deployed to BATUS Trail’s End Camp over a two month period. The camp played host to nearly 300 soldiers, every single one of whom had a thoroughly rewarding time. The opportunity to take part in the activities on offer was hugely appreciated by all and a special thanks must go to the staff who worked tirelessly to ensure its success.

A Trip to Wembley

On the 12 November, 32 King’s Royal Hussars were given the privilege to bear flags at Wembley Stadium for the England vs Spain football match. Although a friendly match, it was the day after Remembrance Day, which made the event a little more special, as the whole stadium stood silent for a period to remember those who had fallen in conflict.

Having arrived early to rehearse the flag drills, the squad also took the opportunity to take a sneaky look around Wembley before it was crammed with 90,000 football fans. This time was also used to decide who would carry each nation’s flag! As could be expected everyone wanted to be on the England flag so some hard bargaining amongst the flag teams had to be done to ensure the Spanish were equally represented!

Though we had been given strict instructions to stay out of sight until the game, the excitement of being at Wembley as it slowly filled up with ex-footballers and football pundits meant that the curfew didn’t last long. The highlight was meeting Liverpool’s Jamie Carragher shortly before the match. With kick-off time drawing closer, the flag bearers nervously rehearsed their final flag drills, as well as ensuring that they were in place in separate tunnels. As the stadium filled to its capacity a tangible atmosphere of excitement and nervousness was growing in the tunnels.

When the order “Get ready!” was shouted by our choreographer, everyone jumped to their positions like they had been given a fire order! As the chosen few walked out of the tunnels to a thousand camera flashes and the roar of the crowd, every man temporarly felt like an international sportsman, before being told to move on as the real deal was piling up behind them!

The flag drill was carried out to perfection; no-one tripped over and after the explosion of noise when the team exited the tunnels, the national anthems and minute of silence were a surreal experience. You could here a pin drop in the stadium and every soldier felt that it was a very special and proud moment, especially when they were all clapped off the pitch by 90,000 football fans.

Having returned to the bowels of Wembley Stadium after a moment of glory, each man was given his tickets and directions to his seats. Thankfully the game was won by England, with a Frank Lampard header early in the second half.
EERE Officers

Selling ‘Guns and Knives’ for Her Majesty: A Tour with UKTI-DSO

Lieutenant Colonel JDS Moir MBE

The King’s Royal Hussars have had a regular and successful relationship with the United Kingdom Trade and Investment, Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO – the former Defence Export Sales Organisation) going back many years. I personally inherited my job from Lt Col Al Wicks and joined Lt Col Henry Joynson, who at the time was running the two dedicated Export Support Teams (EST) in Bovington and Larkhill. It was a great pleasure to find WO2 Mark Spyers as the gunnery instructor at Bovington. He has recently been replaced by Sgt Yeo.

Having had a thoroughly enjoyable tour in Afghanistan working for Gen McChrystal as part of his Strategic Advisory Group, it came as an enormous culture shock to return to the UK, to a job that was poles apart from operations and so very unmilitary. The three previous incumbants had all PVR’d and both Henry’s and Al’s advice on what the job entailed left me with a sinking “what have I let myself in for” feeling. Eighteen months later, I understand why my predecessors left!

You are the face of the British Army at Defence exhibitions and shows both at home and abroad. You have considerable latitude to deal with all the relevant defence contractors in your field and freedom to act. You are listened to because of your experience and your views are actively sought. You are expected to have an intimate knowledge of your subject and be able to speak authoritatively on a wide range of issues from doctrine, operational policy to obscure procurement processes. In many cases you are the interface between Government (MoD, BIS and FCO) and industry; in effect you are the friend of the exporter and the “Ask Jeeves” of the Department on all matters kinetic and direct fire. What you are not, is a ‘salesman in uniform’, although many perceive you as such.

At first I dreaded the thought of working outside the military construct in a civil service heavy organisation. Some of these fears were real, some imaginary. Overall the experience has been hugely positive and fulfilling, not least as it opens one’s eyes to the opportunities outside the military in the defence and security sector. Yes, the sector is shrinking, yes jobs are harder to come by, but they are still there and in the end you are better informed and in a far better position to pick and choose. In terms of a transitional posting, it is second-to-none – in effect, a 3-year apprenticeship in the ways of the Defence Industry.

My focus has been in the Middle East, historically the UK’s major market place for Defence products and services. I look at current UK land programmes and ask the tricky question of what can we export and how interoperable is it. It appears that neither criteria feature fully in the initial requirement setting exercise when the UK looks to procure new equipment. Our habit of gilt-edging requirements and over-engineering solutions means that we are less competitive in the export market. In addition, the checks and balances in place to regulate defence exports have evolved to a point where it is easier to deny a license than to grant it in technologies that are novel and attractive. The policy/process time lag shows no sign of compressing irrespective of a plethora of fine words and we are still closely held by ethical foreign policy guidelines. Some frustrated industrialist described the approval process as trying to get a reluctant child to eat brussel sprouts.

Frustrations aside, the opportunities to do good by supporting export campaigns are immense. I have spoken at seminars in India and been invited to address gatherings and focus groups in the UK. One’s profile and exposure to Defence contractors is on show all the time, and sometimes one is able to see the fruits of your labours mature in the award of defence contracts. What we in the Royal Armoured Corps, and the Regiment in particular, take for granted in terms of approachability, good manners, enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and work hard are the very qualities defence industry is looking for; having erroneously spent the first few weeks of the job thinking that this is a graveyard posting, I suddenly realised that the after-life is dazzling! Message to HCav and RAC Manning and Records – don’t lose this post!

Perhaps the most exciting part of the job so far has been to support a small UK firm that manufactures remote turrets. The technology is everyday, but the way it is employed is truly cutting edge. It seriously questions the received wisdom of a part of the vehicle the majority of us have grown up and worked in. It raises uncomfortable views of complacency in the way we make...
assumptions over the manned/unmanned turret debate; the way we fight, and administer ourselves in our vehicles; the collection and transmission of evidential quality data and the way we harness the best of technology to assist us in doing our jobs. The use of everyday electronics makes managing the crew and fighting the vehicle much easier. The engagement sequences are so intuitive and easy to master and more importantly, remotely auditable by a third party. Supporting this firm in the Middle East and in America has been not only a privilege, but an eye-opening experience. I believe that this will be the success story in 2012 for the ‘rump’ of a once proud British armour manufacturing sector.

In summary, despite the challenges and frustrations, my role in UKTI DSO remains worthwhile, both on an every day basis and in terms of the future. It took a Royal Marine, about to take a DA’s post in the Middle East, to ask the innocent question in a pre-deployment brief: “Now I know what is expected of us, where do I get the guns and knives catalogue?” I thought his remark encapsulated this role beautifully – Seller of Guns and Knives for Her Majesty.

A Hawk in Rheindahlen

Lieutenant Colonel D Wild MBE BEM

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be given the opportunity to write in this edition of the Journal. Although a Warrior of Germany for over 24 years in various posts this is the first time I find myself assigned to HQ British Forces Germany in the Rheindahlen area in a career spanning 37 years. I am filling the post of Garrison Quartermaster.

I arrived at JHQ Germany on the back of an 18-month posting as the QM Forward of HQ ARRC working for General Richard Shirreff KRH in Imjin Barracks, Gloucestershire. I was responsible for the rebuild of the old RAF Innsworth Station into the modern, totally refurbished HQ ARRC; a job I really enjoyed, not only because of the people I worked with but it also gave me the opportunity to visit the Regiment on many occasions both in a work capacity and to catch up socially.

On arrival at the JHQ Military Complex in Rheindahlen for the very first time in Feb 2011 my initial impression of the place was exactly what I had imagined; a small English village situated in the middle of the German countryside. JHQ finds itself at present at the forefront of the drawdown from Germany as this will be the next Major British Army Station to closedown here. Many of you will remember this as the home of HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and HQ UK Support Services with only the latter now left. Despite drawdown JHQ still has a lot to offer with some of the best facilities to support the community that I have seen within any garrison in Germany; most of these facilities are still able to be used free of charge which isn’t bad in the present financial situation. On present planning we are about to move 1 Military Intelligence Battalion to Elmpt Station which was formerly RAF Bruggen Station situated on the Dutch Border. The remainder of the Units and Formations within JHQ are scheduled to move up to Bielefeld area in the Spring of 2013 to form HQ BFG. HQ BFG will then be the Infrastructure Firm Base Supporting Headquarters to the 1st UK Armoured Division, currently located in Herford.

The key issue – within not only my own area of responsibility as the Garrison Quartermaster, but everyone in JHQ whether military or civilian and their families – is redundancy. This continues to be the most discussed topic on a daily basis: the pain and sorrow I see on peoples faces, especially German civil workers who have served the Army for over 40 years, is not the nicest of things; however it should be noted that even in these uncertain times, Germany is still a great place to serve and live, especially with the Adventure Training Centres still unscathed by drawdown.

As the spring approaches, the swimming pools will be opening on or around the first week of May and for many the BBQ’s will be getting dusted off in preparation for the warmer weather. Bearing this in mind, if any members of the Regimental Family are ever planning a trip to Germany you will always find a warm bed and good food here and all you need to do is contact me if I can assist.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to wish Colonel Alex and all the men of the Regiment the very best of luck on your forthcoming tour in Afghanistan. I also ask that you all continue our Regiment’s great reputation of looking out for each other; and finally a plea for you all to come safely home to your families.
SO1 Transition in HQ ISAF Joint Command

Lieutenant Colonel CS MacGregor

I left the headquarters of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) as it moved from Rheindahlen to Innsworth after a fascinating tour of duty constructing its comprehensive and multi-national training as the NATO Reaction Force (NRF) and then for its pre-deployment training for its role in the International and Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The ARRC augmented HQ ISAF Joint Command (IJC) in January 2010. As it arrived in Kabul, I was in the middle of my studies at the University of Reading, having been selected to read International Relations and Strategic Studies for a year under the tutelage of Professors Colin Gray and Beatrice Heuser. With the course near completion, I conducted my own pre-deployment training in Warminster, Chilwell and Stavanger, Norway. I was posted to Afghanistan and once again joined many familiar faces, from all NATO nations, in the ARRC. For me, the path from Company level command to Kabul had been via Corps and College – all the while learning about the Comprehensive Approach and the pursuit of complex strategy.

When I arrived in the predominately US staffed HQ IJC in August, the story of transition was only just beginning. The Combined Transition and Assessment Group (CTAG) had only existed since the beginning of the year. Amongst a team of US and DSTL research analysts and military officers there are currently four British SO1s in CTAG, from across all Services, working directly to Brig Richard Spencer RM. CTAG regularly interacts with all Regional Commands and the Afghan security and non-security ministries at IJC, HQ ISAF and in the centre of Kabul.

Transferring lead security responsibility to the Afghan National Army and Afghanistan National Police only formally started in July, with 7 municipalities entering Tranche 1 of the process. Inteqal is the Dari for ‘transition’ and rather than being a sub-set of the operational and campaign plans, it has become central to them – indeed the current Operation Plan was conceived in conjunction with the Afghanistan Ministries of Defence and Interior and is called, by them, Op NAWEED (Good News). Transition is the culmination of the progress that has been achieved across the country over the last decade to develop the capability and capacity of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF). Its commencement signifies an increase the ability and willingness of the ANSF to take the lead. Transition is not only a product of the security line of operation, however, and is dependent on good governance and development. For security to be sustainable, governance, rule of law, and basic service delivery also need to be in place and as the ‘conscience of transition’ in the HQ, CTAG has a role in ensuring that critical gaps are understood and covered. Although it will take some time to fully establish good governance and an energized civil society the military can...
contribute. Together with the Government of Afghanistan and the International Community, are working towards the goal.

The task of coordinating transition with the five Regional Commands has meant a fair amount of time out of the capital. Flying across the snow-capped peaks of the mountains to the north of Kabul or the deserts of western Afghanistan have been extraordinarily beautiful experiences. Despite all the frustrations of working in Afghanistan, in process-driven bureaucracies and with people of difference work ethics, cultures and languages, working in the IJC has been fascinating—but not half as much fun as interacting with Afghans across the country. One of the most professionally rewarding visits was to the HQ of 209 Corps ANA in a small village to the west of Mazar-e Sharif in Balkh Province. Their Norwegian and German mentors were on hand, but it was the officers of the Afghan army, police and intelligence services that led the combined Integral Tranche 2 planning. They demonstrated their desire to take the lead, despite the constraints, and the younger officers were extremely positive about their future. At the end of the day the actual output was limited, but the outcomes for their confidence and collaboration were great. There are many challenges that remain, but there is also much hope. It is clear that the international community is not interested in soldiering in Afghanistan for ever, but there have also been clear demonstrations of longer-term commitment from international donors as both governance and the ANSF improve. The outlook for 2012 remains one of ‘cautious optimism’.

Hawks at APC, Glasgow

Lieutenant Colonel JNJ Kingsford and Major TM Holloway

The KRH near continuous presence at the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow of recent years goes on. Maj James Senior has only recently left the building to do something in Kabul, whilst Lt Col Justin Kingsford and Maj Tom Holloway arrived in Summer 11 to keep the flame alive. Maj Senior was most appropriately employed managing the careers of Senior Officers (Cols & Brigts), something he has taken a keen interest in for most of his career. Lt Col Kingsford looks after RAC Direct Entry Lt Cols and Maj Holloway Direct Entry Majs to 2Lt.

The pace of work varies, but generally speaking allows a pretty normal life based around working office hours Mon – Fri (a welcome relief). The focus of effort recently has been redundancy, though we continue to manage the careers of those who remain in the margins. The workload is predictable with the annual cycle of boarding known well in advance. Around this work the APC Roadshow team endeavour to visit Regts and other RAC hotspots on an annual to 18 month basis. It is a real privilege to have the opportunity to work at the APC, managing the careers of RAC Officers. It is a very hands-on business with much of the day spent talking on the phone, meeting members of the cohort. The military staff at the APC are superbly supported by the civilian staff who provide the continuity. They are invariably locals – Weegies as they are affectionately known – and are a unique bunch. They are fiercely independent, in so far that as and when Scotland gains independence from the UK, expect a Glaswegian break away attempt shortly after. The weather up here is also fairly special, with biblical floods the norm (it rained 158 days out of 175 in the 2nd half of last year). I (JK) certainly learnt the hard way not to take your chances on river crossings in a 4x4, no matter how much of a rush you are in – when it looks long and deep, that is probably because it is.

A key takeaway for readers of this article (particularly those at ERE) is to note that following an APC restructuring, desks have moved but most importantly email addresses and phone numbers have changed. For your records: SO1 DE Offrs 94561 3205, SO1 Sldrs & LE Offrs ext 3170 and SO2 DE Officers ext 2849. Both of us have found our time up here hugely enjoyable. Lest we be accused of working on our escape plans, we both encourage anyone interested to take the plunge. The Crimson APC continuity plan demands it!
Another Hawk in Kabul

Major MN Wilkinson

After two halcyon years commanding the Senior Squadron, it was with a marked reluctance and shuffling of feet that I骷髅ed my way to Gloucester for my posting to HQ ARRC in June. The only bright spark on the horizon was the prospect of deploying to Afghanistan with the HQ in its task supporting the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) 3* HQ.

And thus, just six weeks after leaving Tidworth, I found myself at Brize Norton heading out to Kabul for 6 months as a Corps-level operational planner.

There was a definite crimson flavour in and around Kabul with Messrs Joynson, MacGregor, Senior and Caulfield all present, later joined by Lt Gen Bradshaw and his ADC, Capt Hood. With Gen Shirreff and Capt Welford regular visitors, there was no shortage of Cherrypickers in town. In fact, if the Regiment needs an extra Troop for Op HERRICK 16, I’m sure there would be no shortage of volunteers...

The contrast between the close-knit (and, dare I say, elite!) team at C Squadron and an amorphous HQ of over 1500 Staff Officers and support staff could not have been greater and the post-Squadron command blues were definitely bubbling away when I first arrived. However, there was little time for reminiscing and I was quickly in at the deep end. IJC was formed in 2009 to look ‘down and in’ towards the Divisional-level Regional Commands (RCs) in order to direct and control operations, thus allowing HQ ISAF to look ‘up and out’ towards NATO, the Afghanistan Government and the troop contributing nations. About two thirds of the staff were American, with the majority being drawn from the US 1st Corps – including the Commander. The remainder were made up of most of the 49 nations within the coalition, with ARRC providing about 100 staff – including the Chief of Staff.

I found myself working as an operational planner in the Future Operations Cross Functional Team (CJ35 in old money). Thus we were responsible for the planning of all operations in theatre between 7 and 180 days ahead. My remit was pretty broad but principally involved contributing towards the operational (bordering on strategic) level. I look forward to returning to the UK at the end of the season, Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 6 fell victim to the accountant’s pen; Combined Arms Manoeuvre (in the true, tanks-included sense) suffers from being both expensive and unfashionable, making it difficult to justify a third exercise for one brigade when another has made do with two.

The most significant development in terms of training was the introduction of an extra dimension to TESEX designed to prepare the Brigade Recce Regiment (Formation Recce in old money) and the Bde ISTAR Branch (responsible for the complete Information and Intelligence function) for Mission Specific Training before deploying on operations in Afghanistan. This was a cost-neutral project, but opened up some new territory for BATUS. It identified a few important lessons about how we think we might operate one brigade when another has made do with two.

A Hawk in BATUS

Major AE Sharman

What should have been a relatively straightforward season at BATUS turned out to be anything but, as the King’s Royal Hussars experienced first hand. The first of six PRAIRIE THUNDER exercises was cancelled at short notice, a victim of the worst winter in Southern Alberta in the last 40 years. Heavy snowfalls into the spring left the ground so wet that getting out to dig target pits was impractical; trying to mark Armoured Fighting Vehicles with our wheeled Training Support fleet would have been impossible. The subsequent re-planning and friction is surely documented elsewhere in this publication! At the opposite end of the season, Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 6 fell victim to the accountant’s pen; Combined Arms Maneuver (in the true, tanks-included sense) suffers from being both expensive and
A Hawk on the General Staff in MOD

Major WD Hodgkinson

The first exam question that I received at Staff College told me to imagine that I was the newly arrived SO2 Army Policy in CGS’s office and ACGS urgently needed a decision brief...I most definitely passed this off as slightly ridiculous until on my first morning I was greeted by my boss with the news that my post was being cut and that he was off on summer leave for 3 weeks. Thankfully most of the grown ups were also on leave and there wasn’t anything even resembling urgency in sight. Now that CGS has been given full command of the Army and is moving to Andover, half of his staff have been cut and will be ‘re-distributed’ at the end of their posting tenure. Fortunately this will guarantee me a full tour without the requirement to go job hunting in the meantime.

The winter so far has been busy: after years of tweaking and cumulative annual development, the Live Fire programme is being completely re-written to make it leaner and more applicable to modern requirements, much like TESEX was re-designed in 2009. The element of the re-design which will appeal most to the training audience is the removal all the wasted track mileage and time which were previously expended between ranges; the new exercise will leave more room for Battle Procedure and proper administration, allowing crews to get the most out of each day’s training. The new exercise will also incorporate low-level training previously left to BGs; delivering this in BATUS as part of the exercise will reduce the pressure on UK Training Areas and make it far more straightforward for units to meet the required start state.

Longer term, the future of BATUS remains somewhat opaque; financially expensive and understandably unfashionable, explaining exactly what we do and why it is still relevant is a continual struggle. However, in an army after Afghanistan, the detailed orchestration of Infantry, Armour, Artillery and Engineers in the defeat of a thinking enemy must surely become a priority again. Wherever in the world we decide to rehearse, an organisation will always be required to focus on the tactics and doctrine (and, more importantly, their application) required to exploit the full Combat Power of a modern Battle Group.

The work is fascinating and I am hugely appreciative of the professional atmosphere that encourages free thought, empowerment and individuality. Unlike some of my previous jobs the complexity is not a derivative of volume or velocity but more a reflection of the uniquely testing circumstances and the sheer wickedness of the challenges we face. Proximity to our political masters has uncovered a dynamic to military business that is striking in its contrast to the clearer lines of the decision – action cycle of tactical and operational level activity. This contrast is particularly stark as the new Secretary of State for Defence gets to grips with his new portfolio. Beyond the cattle truck trains, working in London represents some form of enlightenment as I feel more connected to society and my role within it. I do dream of returning to the Regimental family but for now my morning latte in the depths of the MOD and after work drinks on the embankment are keeping me entertained.
A Hawk in Kansas

Major AMA Tilney

The U.S. Command and General Staff College (CGSC) is located in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Kansas, for those who don’t know – and I didn’t – is in the very middle of the United States of America. I have been the British Officer on a course of 330, of whom 48 were international Officers, 50 were from other U.S. services and agencies and the remainder were U.S. Army. For me, the course replaced ICSC(L), the 7-month career course taken by all British Majors on promotion. As the British representative on the course, this was an opportunity to learn about the U.S. Army, engross myself in Mid-Western culture and make some fascinating friends amongst fellow American and international Officers.

Kansas is around the same size as England and landlocked in the very centre of the United States. It triggers mental associations to the Wizard of Oz and tornados, but little else. Leavenworth is on the Eastern edge of Kansas, bordering the state of Missouri, and features rolling hills and thick forests, together with expansive agricultural land. Kansas City is nearby: a cosmopolitan and modern city boasting numerous sporting, cultural and social opportunities, with a well-connected international airport. Kansas has, therefore, allowed us to engross ourselves in American culture, from baseball, American football, ice hockey and NASCAR, to rodeos, music concerts and country festivals. Additionally, I have taken up the ‘sport’ of bow hunting, which consists of lurking up a tree, wearing Realtree® camouflage, with a phenomenally powerful compound bow, waiting for whitetail deer. During the year we have made many great friends amongst the local community, who have welcomed us wholeheartedly and sucked us into the Mid-Western culture.

During our year in Kansas, our American hosts have looked after us like royalty. There have been no expenses spared in gold plating our experience. As international Officers we have been taken on trips to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg, Wichita and Topeka, have met the Governor of Kansas, a senator and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, enjoyed numerous organised parties and dinners and been welcomed into a private box to support a National Football League match. We have visited universities, prisons and even enjoyed a private concert from a world famous country band.

Another highlight of the year has been the other 47 international officers on the course. They have come from countries across the world, from Southern Sudan to Mongolia, Yemen to Honduras. It is worth noting the history of international CGSC alumni progressing to prestigious heights (the British aside). On average, 3 officers a year go on to become head of state or head of their respective armies. With such broad ranging and well informed
friends come fascinating perspectives that have stretched and bent my own myopic paradigms. As fortune has had it, our closest friends hail from all six continents, leaving us with not only a varied cultural impression, but also a rich selection of holiday destinations for the future.

We have been privileged to live in Mid-West America and to engross ourselves in so different a lifestyle. Professionally, it has been fascinating to study alongside the U.S. Army and to comprehend the sheer scales of their military capacity. Personally, it has been an amazing year of family activities, roads trips, and unique opportunities. Culturally, we have lived amongst incredible friends, whose humbling insights have left deep impressions and inspired broad philosophical reflection. I look forward to spending an additional year in Leavenworth at the U.S. School of Advanced Military Studies, and unreservedly recommend others to apply for a place at CGSC when the time arises.

A Hawk in Pakistan

Captain Richard Crofton deployed to Pakistan in June 2011, in support of Op HERRICK. 2011 was a difficult year for Pakistan, and its relationship with the West was tested to the extreme.

Preceding my arrival, relations between the West and Pakistan were initially soured when a US diplomat was arrested, charged with double murder and possession of an illegal firearm. Despite his diplomatic immunity being in doubt, he was released following US pressure, which resulted in uproar in Pakistan. The issue was that his position and activities had not been declared to the Pakistani authorities. Subsequently, the US raid against Bin Laden embarrassed the Pakistan Military and undermined Pakistan’s Sovereignty. During my deployment, there were numerous accusations that the Pakistan State was supporting organisations such as the Haqqani Militant Group in Afghanistan, most recently in a BBC documentary. Furthermore, a series of cross border incidents such as that on 26 November in which 24 Pakistan soldiers were killed by American and Afghan troops compounded the issue, ensuring that the UK Military would face several challenges when working alongside their counterparts in Pakistan. Most critically, Pakistan closed the Ground Lines of Communication to Afghanistan, meaning that ISAF troops could not be properly supplied.

Despite the gloomy backdrop, the UK made some good headway in Pakistan over the course of the year. The British High Commission in Islamabad provided a fantastic setting for seeing first hand how other governmental departments operate; most
importantly how the departments interact when implementing British foreign policy and how the military forms just one small part of the far larger jigsaw puzzle.

Pakistan is of enormous importance to the UK. It is important because of its border with Afghanistan, and because it is a nuclear power whose relationship with India has always been problematic. Most critically, Pakistan matters to the UK because Pakistanis make up our second largest ethnic minority at 1.2 million people. The UK matters to Pakistan because of our shared history, and because the UK is the home to the largest overseas Pakistani community. For these reasons the Prime Minister declared that “The relations are here to stay” and “what happens to Pakistan matters to UK”. In contrast to the US who suspended $800million of military aid, the UK has increased investment. The British taxpayer will give £650million to get an additional 4 million children into the classroom, making Pakistan the biggest recipient of UK overseas aid.

In the midst of all the difficulties that the Pakistan Military faces, it was pleasing that the King’s Royal Hussars maintain relations through our affiliation to the Guides Cavalry. Lt Luke Sherbrooke spent two weeks in Lahore on an exchange, and whilst I was only able to visit for one day, it was great to compare views with young Guides Cavalry officers. Visits such as this and Capt Harris Khan Jadoon’s visit to Tidworth will allow the affiliation to be maintained and give our future senior officers good contacts in the Pakistan Military.

Perhaps the highlight of my tour was the time I spent in the mountainous northern areas of Pakistan. Instead of returning home for my mid-tour rest and recuperation, I was fortunate enough to be granted authority to travel in Pakistan and I managed to obtain a visa for my girlfriend, Lucy, to join me. With some clear weather we were able to fly from Islamabad to Skardu, getting a fantastic view of K2 on the way. With a guide, a porter, a tent and two horses, we rode across the Deosai Plateau trying to search out a Himalayan brown bear, with no great success. It was remarkable to be on a grassy plain at 4000 metres, yet to still be dwarfed by the surrounding mountains. At night, we sat out playing cards whilst trying to improve our Urdu with the guides. Afterwards, we moved to Shigar Valley where we spent a few nights relaxing in an old fort before finding a clear window of weather to return to Islamabad.

Armed with Rudyard Kipling’s ‘Kim’, we then drove to Lahore to see the sights and to watch the border ceremony with India. The ceremony takes place every evening and involves identical drill movements carried out by soldiers on both sides of the border. The animosity between the two countries is certainly not lost; the soldiers put as much aggression into their drill movements as they can muster whilst crowds dance, sing and generally egg them on. We were two white faces amongst the male Pakistan crowd, pitched against thousands of tourists cheering on the Indian side of the border. Truly mesmerising.

RHC
An Aerie of Hawks in the Intelligence Exploitation Force

Captain THM Perrott and Captain AJ Rutter

As a mainstream Armoured Corps Officer the opportunity rarely arises where one is able to test the more obscure facets of one’s abilities; the Intelligence Exploitation Force (IEF) is an organisation that offers just such an opportunity.

Two KRH Officers found themselves working on consecutive operational tours with the IEF. Capt Tom Perrott deployed between October 2010 and April 2011 as Operations Officer and Capt Alex Rutter was in theatre from April to October 2011 as the Liaison Officer (LO).

The Intelligence Exploitation Force (IEF) work to support the brigade deployed to Helmand Province, also known as Task Force Helmand (TFH). The IEF supports TFH by developing the understanding of the insurgency network within the UK’s area of operations, enabling further network development for future targeting.

Between October 2010 and April 2011 the IEF developed significantly, both in refining the exploitation process and developing capabilities. As Operations Officer over this period Capt Perrott was responsible for the conduct of the exploitation and reporting the value of the intelligence being gained to the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) in the UK. It was a fascinating time and saw an increase in the effectiveness of the information gathering and intelligence production.

As the IEF LO to TFH, Capt Rutter found himself based in the Main Operating Base (MOB) Lashkar Gah between April and October 2011. Located in a small portakabin adjacent to TFH, his primary role was to liaise with the ground holding forces, keeping them abreast of all exploitation and developments within the IEF.

In addition to his daily tasks at TFH, he visited the Combined Forces (CF) headquarters locations in order to provide feedback to the soldiers and update them on the intelligence being provided by their operations. A weekly visit to the Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Lashkar Gah allowed a break from the daily routine. During these visits Capt Rutter met with the Helmand judicial officers who, working in partnership with the IEF, aim to prosecute insurgents through the Afghanistan Judicial System in an attempt to ensure they are removed from the battlefield.

So what of the Cavalry’s foray in to the world of exploitation? It is a very interesting field and over the 12 months that Capts Perrott and Rutter were involved the UK’s capabilities developed significantly and continue to do so. For anyone that would like to see a different side of counter-insurgency and stabilisation operations this it certainly worth consideration.
A Posting to the AFV Gunnery School

Sgt T Holland

In April 2009 I attended the Annual Staff Cadre at the AFV Gunnery School, Lulworth. Although a very daunting time, I tackled it head on striving for success. Not only did I want to achieve recognition as a Schools Instructor but also I wanted to experience time away from Regimental Duty. Consequently, passing the Cadre became my life for 14 weeks.

After passing, I was quickly thrown onto the shop floor to begin teaching, but it was nothing like teaching on the Cadre. However things soon settled down into a routine; I found myself teaching the same lectures over and over again, and in no time my first Christmas at the School was suddenly upon me. Following a brief leave period we were into January 2010 which is memorable for the experience of my first Burns Night in the Mess. What a fantastic evening; loads of crazy Scotsmen wearing skirts and waving swords around, shouting in silly accents and going to town on a Haggis with a knife. And then there is the crazy alcoholic porridge! In all seriousness it was probably one of the best functions I have ever had the pleasure of attending.

When not being fantastically entertained, there was a string of JCC courses to instruct on. An opportunity to cross the Channel and act as Assistant Instructor Gunnery (AIG) for A Squadron QRH arose, and I found my way to Hohne in Germany. The range package was their first for 2 years, but in true Hussar fashion, the Squadron departed with all crews having successfully passed their ACT, regardless of the fact that crew turbulence was nearly 90%.

The year flew by, then in September I was then given the honour of running a Regimental Instructors course. This allowed me to help develop a number JNCOs into instructors (Sgt Sumner being one of them). There is a lot of personal satisfaction to be taken from helping develop people, which was probably the best part of working in Lulworth. Whilst that was going on, I managed to fit in some drill practice in preparation for the Freedom of Purbeck This was a fabulous occasion and well supported by the people of Dorset. Soon after, I suddenly found myself instructing on the Annual Staff Cadre. This was a surreal experience as I was preparing the next generation of instructors to replace me. The cadre was slightly larger than previous years with a good helping of brown berets thrown in; unfortunately I didn’t get to see it through to the end as I was whipped off to Castlemartin Ranges to assist with the RDG’s annual firing as their AIG.

During my tenure I also took part in many sporting events held in ARMacen, such as the Commander’s March and Shoot Competition and Race the Sun. I also ran Ex Galloping Hussar, a long weekend in north Wales at Coed y Brenin where we did mountain biking on some of the UK’s best trails.

After what seemed to be two short years, I found myself Tidworth-bound in August 2011 and preparing to deploy as a Training and Advisory Team Commander with A Squadron. I would highly recommend the AFV Gunnery School to anybody who is considering an ERE posting. A key benefit is the stability it gives you as you have a chance to plan 12 months ahead; you can choose to spend every weekend drunk in the Mess or enjoy quality time with the family. There is also career value in exposure to other RAC units and the wider Army which helps to make us all more rounded people.

A Posting to the Army Foundation College, Harrogate

Sgt JJ Bain

I have just returned from a posting as a Platoon Sergeant in Cambrai Company at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. AFC Harrogate is located in the picturesque region on the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales. The College comprises of roughly 1500 Junior Soldiers (JS) and 250 permanent staff. For those that remember the old system of Junior Leaders, each year AFC Harrogate takes school leavers from the age of 16, in two intakes of up to 850 recruits. This in turn is broken down in to three Companies each of six Platoons. The RAC usually takes 250 to 350 recruits a year.

Whilst at the College the JS take part in various exercises and activities on a number of training areas around the UK including Catterick, Otterburn and Garelochhead in Scotland – always a laugh when someone forgets their warm kit! A regular favourite is the re-enactment the D-Day beach landings in Normandy.
The culminaton of the JSs' training comes when they deploy to Dundee to complete a challenging but enjoyable battle camp comprising of PT, ranges, bayonet fighting and assault courses. On completion of Battle Camp the intake return to Harrogate to prepare for Phase 2 training, mainly spending hours on end for the pass off parade.

Cambray Company were in for a shock with the arrival of WO2 Durrant, immediately putting his stamp on things. At this time I was employed in 17 Platoon Peninsula Company as a Platoon Sergeant, responsible for the daily running and administration of the Platoon. The Platoon comprised of 4 Section Commanders and 48 Junior Soldiers. I was given the unexpected task from the CSM to form a Company Pace-Sticking team. This involved 48 Junior Soldiers. I was given the unexpected task from the CSM to form a Company Pace-Sticking team. This involved Pace-Sticking and we finished a respectable 4th despite the majority of the square. Heads turned as the crimson trousers and pace stick of the CSM to form a Company Pace-Sticking team. This involved and 48 Junior Soldiers. I was given the unexpected task from the CSM to form a Company Pace-Sticking team. This involved were an unusual combination. 9 teams entered into the competition and we finished a respectable 4th despite the majority of

The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

A Posting to FTU

Sgt P Duxbury

Between October 2009 to September 2011 I was employed at Field Training Unit (FTU) at Westdown Camp as the Armd/ISTAR Cpl. During my two years there I was to assist in the running and upkeep of the Tactical Engagement System (The dreaded TES!). Also, I assisted the Armd/ISTAR SO2 in low level skills and drills of soldiers coming through Hybrid or Mission Specific training; finally I taught on the JNCO Urban Operations course.

During my posting, I had the opportunity to travel to Bahrain to teach the Bahrain National Army (BNA) and their Special Forces in urban operation for 6 weeks. Whilst we were there we did not work too hard: the BNA only worked from 0600 until 1300hrs and they did not work Thursday and Fridays so there were plenty of time to relax in the King of Bahrain’s complex, with our own pool and a 4-star restaurant and bar (which we could made good use of) right on the coast. The thing that struck me was how modern Bahrain was in comparison to other Middle Eastern countries I have been to; it had massive shopping complexes and leisure parks. The standard of soldier was also higher than I had expected.

Whilst back in the UK (back to reality) the general day-to-day life of FTU was great. When there were no exercises on, there was time to see family and get away for other events. However, when the exercises were underway, we worked long hours, were very busy and had very little time off. But I was in my own bed most nights and hardly ever stayed out on Salisbury Plain.

I thought the job itself was really interesting because we worked with all the other Arms within the Army – from the Infantry to the RLC. I found I learnt many different ways of dealing with tactical problems: whether on low level skills and drills during Op HERRICK training or sitting in on the planning conferences in Infantry Company ops rooms. I would then return to Westdown Camp to backbrief my SO2 on the good points and bad points. The other thing of benefit for a CR2 crew commander is that I was able to really understand how a battle-group operates in the field. I thought I understood it already, but this post gave me a whole new perspective.

The two years I spent at FTU were good fun; professionally I learnt a lot about my job and also how other Regiments like to do things. I also was able to enjoy some really good family time when the Plain fell quiet.
The Royal Gurkha Rifles – Reflections from Nad-e-Ali (South)

Major Jamie Murray, OC B Company, 2 RGR writes from Patrol Base Chilli at Nad-e-Ali South. A full version of this article appeared in the October 2011 RGR Newsletter.

Afghanistan remains at the centre of current military thinking, the stark reality is that there is unfinished business which must be completed. This article reflects on Afghanistan in the round, from a perspective of multiple deployments and my stint as an Afghanistan analyst in MOD. Perhaps more importantly, it is written from Afghanistan – where the Gurkhas have been a force multiplier. I am unashamedly biased. It is absolutely clear that our men, in some shape or form, have much to offer here, both now and in the future.

2 RGR’s, recent involvement in this country dates back to late 2001. Over 50% of B Company, 2 RGR are on their fourth tour of duty. Thus our recent Regimental history is crammed full of anecdotes, tour updates and high-octane tales from the front. And rightly so, given the human price the Gurkhas and others have paid in this part of the world.

Generally the volume of articles and papers on Afghanistan has increased since Helmand became the focus of the UK’s contribution to NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and I thought I would share with you what I consider to be one of the benefits of this wealth of material. In academic terms, our knowledge of the Afghanistan hinterland has deepened. A bold statement for sure, but one that I believe gives hope for the future and also recognises the human cost of this knowledge. The Armed Forces have chastised themselves for not understanding Afghanistan, and they now know more about this country than they have ever done in UK’s modern history.

This reflection concerns an immensely challenging yet rewarding operation for the Gurkhas of B Company, 2 RGR who have soldiered superbly in what is called ‘Full Spectrum Counter-Insurgency (COIN)’ and is designed to publicize our endeavours, hopefully to counter the tidal wave of bad news emanating from Afghanistan. Senior officers and politicians increasingly compare Afghanistan to Northern Ireland. This leads to a conclusion that this insurgency, just as was the case in Ulster, will end with a negotiated peace settlement of some sort.

A typical week in the office for B Company in Afghanistan describes Full Spectrum COIN, which is a combination of all of the following events; framework patrolling (in previous language we called this ‘standing patrols’); attending shuras with village elders; the facilitation of an ‘Influence’ event such as a Veterinary Engagement or a Female Health Initiative; religious outreach events; Afghanistan Security Force training events; deliberate night ambushes; deliberate Company-level operations to clear insurgents from areas of interest; short-notice intelligence-triggered searches of suspected compounds; violent engagements at fixed ISAF locations; the delivery of Government aid to the people; the finding and destruction of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED); embedding with local police forces; and the identification and handling of Taliban fighters who wish to reintegrate into mainstream society. This, in a nutshell, is Full Spectrum COIN. What it means is that we, the Ground Holding Sub-Unit are right at the decisive level, constantly wrestling with competing priorities, but limited by resources and challenging logistics. In other words, it is the men of a Rifle Company Group who are the tip of the spear, delivering everything from humanitarian assistance to combat, alongside the Afghanistan Government and the Afghanistan Security Forces. This complexity needs an agile, intelligent application of the forces at our disposal. Each man is a sensor and a “Strategic Corporal”. Each must understand his role in the command, to cope with the Afghan psychosis that a summer’s fighting is inevitable, but not to exacerbate violence or to give an inch to the malign actors. Collectively we have to shift our position to the mood of the locals and remember that outside a seemingly benign shura meeting, danger lurks; above all to apply the most remarkable amounts of tactical patience, not to over-react to an event. These challenges stretch the most capable Officers, yet each day they also confront the young Riflemen straight from the hills. This constant tempo of challenging and high-pressure tasks makes this tour is unlike the tours of Afghanistan that have gone before (six of them, in the case of the indomitable B Company CSM).

B Company are responsible for a sizeable 9 by 8 kilometre chunk of Afghanistan real estate, this includes swathes of the infamous...
Green Zone, innumerable canals and ditches, the longest stretch of the NEB Canal and the desert, which is where the Taliban coalesce. Our operational responsibilities include the largest centres of population in the district, the District Centre (the ‘Capital’) and four separate groupings of Afghanistan Security Forces, each of which are ‘partnered’ by B Company. We expect an estimated 25,000 people, tribally heterogeneous but bound together as Pashtuns, many of them xenophobes. Meanwhile, B Company have to cope with the elected Government representatives as well as the insurgent who seeks to reverse his decline. Add a terrible climate, excessive heat, endemic corruption, opiates, smuggling, and the UK’s force reduction and the exam questions get tougher.

The good news is that our training has unquestionably prepared us for these challenges, and with high confidence we departed Brunei, after nearly four months away from home, in the right physical and conceptual frame of mind.

During our operational tour, B Company conducted over 1000 patrols, 33 Company-level deliberate operations and an uncountable number of meetings and casual engagements with the people amongst whom we lived. We searched nearly 2300 compounds and enrolled, bio-metrically, 1000 fighting-age males. We arrested 31 of those suspicious individuals including some high-value targets, courtesy of the wizardry of our colleagues in the Special Forces. We worked alongside the United States Marine Corps on a deliberate operation deep into the desert to clear an area of insurgents – Texans and Gurkhas on the same wave-length, if not the same altitude. We were shot at and had mines lain in our paths. But we persevered and the Gurkha rose to every challenge with a professional panache that was remarkable. The fears that some of our younger generation are not up to it were well and truly put to bed. Well lead, trained and resourced the Gurkha soldier today is as potent and professional as ever before.

Less than two years ago Nad-e-Ali was a contested space, the most violent in Helmand and a virtual war-zone. Today the bazaars are open, the schools are functioning and the tentacles of Government authority reach further and deeper than they ever have done before. Interestingly, many of the attached ranks in my Company group and I served in Ulster and, along with almost everyone of our generation, from senior visiting officers to 45 Commando who served with us in the Province; we compare current operations to those Northern Ireland days. What inspires us for these challenges, and with high confidence we departed Brunei, after nearly four months away from home, in the right physical and conceptual frame of mind.

The comparison works at soldier level; the relentless, monotonous patrols, the effects we aspire to achieve, the need to understand the human terrain, these are as important here as they were in Northern Ireland. Also the presence of corrupt, near mafia-type organisations, whose tenets for success are violence and intimidation. The need to police, and to be seen to be policing, the partnership with incumbent security actors, our subordination to local forces, to win local support amongst the population and to be acting on behalf of legitimate authorities, these also are the comparative factors. An ideologue is an ideologue, dealing with him in either country requires the same application of the same principles. The people have primacy. This mantra is succeeding in Nad-e-Ali. The people have tasted peace and security and they like it. And just like it was in NI, it is those people who are central to the country’s future. It has been increasingly obvious to me and others that it is their role that ensures security. Today, those same people have nearly rejected the insurgent; they tell us where the IEDs are and they indicate when things are not right. In short, they are the true counter-insurgents – not us. If this is sustained and crucially, if nascent Afghanistan Government structures can shake off the crippling inertia then a turning point in this campaign is truly upon us.

There are two obvious contrasts with Northern Ireland that to some extent invalidate comparison. First, the Government of Afghanistan is crippled by inertia and multiple weaknesses, which include corruption and open perfidy; unfortunately the further up you go, the bleaker the outlook. The second is that time is well and truly against us. The draw-down is real and happening. In my previous life as an Afghanistan analyst, we commissioned a study from King’s College to work out – ‘how long does it take to defeat an insurgency in a failed state’. Their answer came back – 15 years. Taking 2006 as the start of our involvement with the insurgency in Helmand, we risk ending our engagement five years early.

However these are to some extent offset by a stronger and more valid comparison, which is the prospect of a negotiated peace settlement and the reintegration and reconciliation of opposing actors. Since my previous visits (as a Staff Officer) to Washington and Tampa to discuss this very subject, there has been a near volte face. It turns out that the US will after all support and perhaps even lead negotiations through what is going to be a political minefield. Whether their overtures are met with equal enthusiasm by the adversary remains to be seen. But what is sure is that the insurgent is not the same beast as he was in the past. The patina of ideological credibility is eroding faster than the insurgent leadership can restore it, and the further removed the ideologues become, the more exposed are the part-time fighters to external pressures. If they have the time and continued support, there is a prospect that the Afghanistan forces are becoming more capable and the Government is emerging from its inertia. Perhaps the international community can now accept that international terrorists which sought to threaten us in the past will find (even with the help of a Taliban-aligned government) that it is much, much more difficult to take root once again in this troubled country.
HMS Dauntless

HMS Dauntless began the long voyage to full operational readiness with a 6 week Basic Operational Sea Training (BOST) off Plymouth in February. BOST ensures that all members of the Ship’s Company are trained to carry out their duties in a peace time and a war environment and proves that the Ship as a whole is safe to deploy. The challenges of BOST varied from Thursday Wars to asymmetric attacks and from tackling major fires on board to providing humanitarian relief ashore.

After completing a successful BOST, the Ship visited our affiliated town of Newcastle before returning to Portsmouth for a well-deserved leave and maintenance period. Next up was SAXON WARRIOR 11; a UK-sponsored, planned and supervised exercise scheduled by Navy Command to provide training to the Carrier Strike Group, which included assets from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, British Army and invited NATO forces. Throughout the exercise, HMS Dauntless conducted Area Capability Training (Anti Air Warfare). This provides tailored training in area air defence to destroyers in multi-threat scenarios so that they can assume their full duties in a joint, combined or multi-national force. With our new gadgets fitted and SEA VIPER missile defence system at the ready, we set sail to catch up with the USS George H W Bush Carrier Strike Group positioned between the Mid-Atlantic and the Scilly Isles. HMS Dauntless’s main weapon, SEA VIPER, delivered an exceptional performance, yet again. The Ship was able to successfully track and engage all fighter jets and other air threats to the task group throughout the exercise. At one point the Icelandic ash cloud looked set to cut SAXON WARRIOR 11 short but the winds over the UK proved favourable, giving enough safety between the ash cloud and practice areas, allowing the exercise to continue.

Heading across the Atlantic to the USA for a French, Russian, UK and US exercise (imaginatively named FRUKUS!), Dauntless met up with a Russian Udaloy, the Admiral Chabanenko. From here, the tempo increased dramatically with CROSSPOLs, Boat Transfers and aviation operations; all of which allowed an increase in capacity and a better understanding of combined operations. The FRUKUS exercise involved a very familiar scenario with the errant Gingers threatening an Exclusion Zone and Brownia thus creating havoc off the East Coast of the USA. What was unfamiliar to some on board was trying to negotiate with a Russian ship with only one (declared) English speaker on board; it was as much a lesson in humility as tactics!

HMS Dauntless then headed south to Norfolk, Virginia for a brief period alongside for some R&R, before heading onto Jacksonville in Florida. This provided the Ship’s Company with a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the area with trips to all things Florida; the Kennedy Space Centre, Water parks and, the highlight for many, the new Harry Potter area of Universal Studios.

Not off the pace for long, Dauntless was back at sea to conduct hot weather trials. Whilst this may sound like a matelot’s dream trip, there was a lot of work to be done. This trial period was essential before our deployment to the South Atlantic this year as well as other Type 45 deployments east of Suez. The Ship’s power, propulsion, weapons systems and habitability were all put to the test. The Ship’s Company spent a sticky couple of weeks as the air conditioning was tweaked to provide a working environment for both the people and the vast number of electronic systems on board. Whilst testing the Ship, we developed a much deeper understanding of the characteristics of the propulsion system in hot weather.

Our Commanding Officer since launch, Captain Richard Powell, left us in our last stop in Miami to be replaced by Captain Will Warrender. Miami again provided us with the opportunity to engage with some local customs in a very British way. At one point, the trendy hang out of South Beach had groups of noticeably paler people in the sea at twenty yard intervals remarking how hot the water was! Pompey revs saw us back across the Atlantic.
in 12 days with a very brief stop in Halifax to pick up some stores. In all, the deployment to the States was a very large step for both the Ship and the Type 45 class as a whole.

After returning to the UK and enjoying some well-deserved summer leave, HMS Dauntless became the first Type 45 to sail up the Thames, berthing outside the Excel Centre in London, to participate in the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition. A high-profile visit, Dauntless was at the forefront of the media eye as the Royal Navy showed off the capabilities of the Type 45 Destroyer to the 25,000 visitors from around the globe.

Thereafter, the Ship returned to Portsmouth in the middle of September and endured a significant engineering maintenance period, preparing DAUNTLESS for our deployment this year. This period alongside allowed us to rekindle some of our affiliations and several of the Officers enjoyed a round of golf in Tidworth with the KRH followed by a Flashman Lecture. It is hoped that, on return from our respective deployments later this year, that there will be further opportunities to consolidate our special relationship with the Regiment.

In the New Year, the tempo of the Ship’s programme saw a marked shift, with considerable periods at sea undergoing another period of Operational Sea Training in Plymouth in order to prepare us for our deployment. HMS Dauntless will sail for the AURIGA 12 deployment at Easter, which will take us out of UK waters for 7 months. The Ship is bound for the South Atlantic Ocean in order to focus efforts on conducting Capability Building with host nations, Counter-Narcotics and Counter-Piracy operations. In an area that is suffering increasing piracy attacks, it is likely that the Ship will spend her time engaging with host nations in an attempt to deter, detect and disrupt piracy, human trafficking and drug-running from the high seas. Exactly where the deployment will take us is not yet clear but we will be sure to keep in touch with the King’s Royal Hussars. On behalf of Captain Warrender and all the Officers in Dauntless, we wish you all the best with your forthcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

EFS

The Royal Wessex Yeomanry

The year began with members of the Regiment deployed in Afghanistan providing Detachment Commanders and operators for the CORTEZ (Heavy Base ISTAR) assets that provided force protection and targeting for the FOBs across the TFH Area of Operations. As I write the Regiment is again preparing soldiers to deploy to Afghanistan. We have 35 yeomen deploying on Operation HERRICK 16; of which, 25 yeomen will support the KRH BG the remaining 10 will support other BGs in 12 Mech Brigade as Individual Replacements and also as mentors to the Afghanistan National Army training organisation.

Our training programme this year has been specifically tailored to develop soldiering skills that have prepared our mobilisers. Our training mantra has not changed; it must be: challenging, relevant and fun. Thus we began the year by building a knowledge base through a Commanders’ Study Weekend and an Officers’ Study Weekend; these laid down key principles and SOPs for the year’s training events. Then followed two mounted manoeuvre exercises on Salisbury Plain; run over two consecutive weekends, where Squadrons were deployed as composite sub-units. This ensured that each Squadron Leader had a decent critical mass of training troops to exercise; the soldiers themselves gained experience of being part of a 3 or 4 Troop Squadron. All exercising troops were able to develop a true understanding of the friction that can occur when operating above the Troop level; all in the mounted environment.

As we moved into the summer season the Regiment conducted its live fire training; initially at Pirbright to attain the basic levels required to then progress to Lydd and Hythe for field firing. This field firing is essential for our deploying soldiers and has further raised the marksmanship and LF spatial awareness skills of the greater part of the Regiment. It included the new paint marker range which proved a real hit for all.

The autumn season saw the Regiment prepare for and deploy on its Annual Camp. This was split between Sennebridge and Longmoor. Our soldiers were in the field for the full two-week period training both mounted and dismounted skills in the rural, urban and urban/rural interface environments. There is now
doubt that the training was testing and much was learnt. The culmi-
nation of the fortnight was a 48 hours troop test exercise.

A highlight of the year was the Celebration of the Regiment’s Fortieth Birthday. We were blest by tremendous weather and it was a huge success. Our Royal Honorary Colonel, HRH The Earl of Wessex, met a huge number of the 640 families, friends and members of the Regiment serving and retired. The Regiment was also able to fit in an AT Diving Expedition to Gozo, Cresta, Skiing and sailing exercises. So even in these straitened times the Yeomanry can still achieve a good balance.

These thoughts are a snap shot of the achievements from across the RWxY this year. As a plea from the Yeomanry to the Regular Army – service with a Yeomanry Regiment is the most tremendous fun; it is professionally fulfilling and offers a chance to regain some work life balance away from the operational churn at RD. The TA is a growth industry with much to look forward to. We are always on the look out for sharp, motivated and dynamic SNCOs as PSIs. Do consider it if you are looking for something with a difference.

RBT
1st Hussars

Over the past training year, the 1st Hussars have experienced a period of intense activity focused on celebrating our past, executing our assigned tasks, and continuing to build for the future.

Our activities this year have covered a wide range of training, operational and Regimental activities that span the spectrum of life in the Canadian Army. Perhaps one of the biggest challenges of the year occurred when the Regiment was selected to command our Brigade’s Consolidated Combined Arms Battlegroup, referred to as the 31 Territorial Battlegroup (“31 TBG”). 31 TBG is a composite unit, formed as a Light Infantry Battlegroup, and comprised of sub-units from the 13 Units in Southern Ontario’s 31 Canadian Brigade Group. 31 TBG was initially formed to respond effectively to domestic operations tasks within the Brigade’s Area of Responsibility, but its role expanded recently to include taking the lead in planning and executing the collective training of the Brigade’s units in full spectrum operations.

The selection of the 1st Hussars to take the lead role in the command of this Light Infantry Battlegroup was both an honour and a challenge. It took immense effort from all members of the 1st Hussars who, as always, rose to the occasion and provided a solid core of leadership and soldiers for an exceptional year of training. Throughout the year, the Hussars and their counterparts throughout 31 Canadian Brigade Group were tested mentally and physically in a number of exercises that culminated in a week long Battlegroup level exercise in August 2011 in CFB Petawawa where the Hussars fielded over 80 percent of the strength of the Regiment. Ex Arrowhead Storm 11 combined elements that tested to the limit every soldier, from all branches and trades within the Brigade. With over 600 soldiers under command, the 1st Hussars-led 31 TBG exercise featured significant all arms tasks associated with screening and securing a 25km dismounted infantry advance to contact which culminated in a Battlegroup attack on enemy positions in an urban area. Despite unique weather conditions which resulted in a flash flood that deposited more than two feet of water into our FOB, this exercise was one of the best attended in recent memory. In the words of a Senior NCO in the Brigade, Ex Arrowhead Storm 11 was, “…[O]ne of the best exercises we’ve had in years.”

In addition to our busy TBG schedule, the Regiment has continued to place significant emphasis on individual and collective soldier skills necessary to sustain the core training that is expected of an Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment in the Canadian Army. Of course, the favourite of all soldiers, the annual Gun Camp, was held in mid-October 2011, with the soldiers competing to receive top shot and top patrol during their battle runs. Our focus during this training, as with all our collective training activities, was to sustain and improve the important Recce tenants of ‘Move-Shoot-Communicate.’

No training year in the Canadian Army would be complete without a healthy dose of winter warfare training. Seeking to position the Regiment to effectively operate in Arctic conditions during the next training cycle, Lieutenant-Colonel Brown elected to emphasize enhanced winter training during the winter of 11/12. The approach to this has had two thrusts. First, officers and soldiers have been put through a formal course in Basic Winter Warfare. Learning and re-learning skills from skiing and snowshoeing, to the creation of winter defensive works, and how to survive in sub zero temperatures, the Hussars went back to the core skills required to conduct winter operations. The second part of our winter warfare training will see the Regiment focus on the conduct of a “Light Over Snow vehicle” (more commonly known as a “snowmobile”) course in order to train a solid cadre of qualified snowmobile operators. To accomplish this, a select group of officers and soldiers will travel to Northern Ontario in order to gain the skills needed to employ the snowmobile in the conduct of reconnaissance tasks during Arctic operations. With this training well in hand, the 1st Hussars look forward to our most recent task, which will see the Regiment augment the formation level Arctic Company Response Group in Canada’s north next year.

Equally busy on our social front, the 1st Hussars celebrated our annual Regimental Ball in beautiful Oakwood Resort in Grand Bend, located close to the picturesque shores of Lake Huron. Well attended and enjoyed by all, including our new Honorary Colonel Andre Maas and his wife Linda, the members of the Regiment paid tribute to our heritage and traditions while taking pleasure in the company of the extended members of our Regimental family. A few months later, we once again honoured our veterans with our annual D-Day celebrations in London, which we coupled with a
Family Day event that, assisted by a glorious warm and sunny day, was well attended, and much enjoyed by the children, spouses and other family members of the Regiment and our Association.

Notwithstanding the pace of our training and other activities, perhaps our most significant event this year was our trip to France which included participation in the D-Day commemorations at Juno Beach in June 2011. A 13 member delegation of officers and soldiers were joined by a contingent of more than 30 Association and other supporters who were honoured to escort two of our Second World War veterans back to France and to the battlefields that they drove across over 60 years ago. Of particular note was the recognition given to C Squadron, 1st Hussars, and to our much loved Troop Leader Lt (Ret) Bill McCormick. Bill and his troop were the lads responsible for earning the 1st Hussars the title of being the only Allied Unit to reach its objective on D-Day, as these brave Hussars made a daring dash inland after being put ashore in their Sherman tanks on June 6, 1944. En route to his objective, Lt McCormick and his Troop liberated the Norman village of Cruelly, when he chased the last of the Germans out of the town after firing a shell at the steeple of the church. Bill and his crew were met that day by a 10 year old boy named Renee Lemars, who was hoisted aboard Lt. McCormick’s tank, with a gift of a bottle of wine for the crew. It was only fitting then, that on June 7, 2011, Mr. Lemars presented 92 year old Lt McCormick with a bottle of wine, and a greeting that was every bit as warm as their first encounter. It was an incredibly moving experience for all members who attended and truly brought home the sacrifices and incredible traditions that all members of this Regiment are honoured to hold.

In all, 2011 was a banner year for the 1st Hussars. With the ongoing and tremendous support of Honorary Colonel Maas, and with the energies of Lieutenant Colonel Brown, RSM Jonathan Kisslinger, and the command teams at all levels focused on continued engagement in realistic training and new experiences, the 1st Hussars look forward with much enthusiasm to the challenges of 2012. We also look forward to seizing the first available opportunity to renew our connections with our friends at the KRH who remain, as always, in our thoughts and prayers.

Hodi Non Cras!

CB

A Squadron 10th Light Horse

2011 has seen A Squadron 10LH at its busiest in recent times, not only in terms of the range of activities in which members have been involved, but also the high numbers of personnel participating in exercises and training courses.

EX COSSACK POST, our initial training activity for this year was a Command Post Exercise, which was designed as a pre-cursar to other activities and enabled SHQ the opportunity to deploy under field conditions. Accordingly, by deploying the three Sabre Troops in a field environment, Officers and NCOs were exercised in the critical components of Cavalry operations of planning at the tactical level as well as Command, Control and Communications whilst deployed in a conventional battlespace.

During EX SARI BAIR, the LFX situated at Bindoon in March, soldiers for the first time experienced conducting engagements and firing from a static vehicle platform. As well we practiced firing F88 and then transitioning to our secondary weapon system in the 9mm pistol.

The Cavalry soldiers have also been involved in the usual range of ceremonial activities, namely our annual Old Boys parade at the 10th Light Horse Memorial in Kings Park where, for the first time our Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association members were invited to participate in the parade and wreath laying ceremony.

This year we commemorated the Anzac Day Dawn Service in conjunction with 13 Fd Squadron. The service was followed by the March through the streets of Perth. As in every year, the after-March function at Es Salt Lines proved to be a terrific event with many Olds and Bold, family and friends participating in the celebrations.

During the period 14 – 16 May, under the direction of the OPSO Capt Beagley and supported by the Squadron Ops Cell and RSMs from across the Bde, the Squadron ran the annual Cambrian Patrol Selection activity. If successful in the WA competition the team would be able to compete in Wales representing the Australian Army. This proved to be a tough weekend and tested the Cav Scouts in a range of patrolling activities, including a water obstacle crossing (the Collie River). The team commanded by Lt Williamson put in an excellent performance winning the best team in WA and coming fourth in Australia.

In May the Squadron deployed to the Lancelin training area for a week as part of the Brigade Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA). EX URUZGAN, led by the Adjt, Capt Hurley, focused
on troop level mounted manoeuvre and encompassed the spectrum of Light Cavalry operations. The exercise involved a situation based around a complex insurgency in the area of Lancelin, and 2 Tp (Lt Williamson) was tasked to interdict insurgents moving between Wedge Island and the township of Lancelin. Over five days, the Troop conducted OPs, a route reconnaissance, advance to contact, ambushung and VCP’s, culminating with a CTR and deliberate dawn attack on a central insurgent node. The Troop then conducted a live fire activity with 9mm long range shooting, F89 pair shooting using enhanced optics, and a M2 .50cal MG shoot at various soft-skinned and AFV targets. The exercise was highly successful, and allowed A Squadron 10 LH to once again deploy troops into a mounted-centric activity, and rediscover the art of Cavalry operations. The organization of the activity was a credit to the Regular Army staff that was instrumental in producing one of the finest training activities the Squadron has conducted in a number of years.

In July, 1 and 2 Tp competed for the Royal Hussars Cup, a trophy first presented by the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales’s Own) in the early 1930s. The exercise tested orders, mine incident drill, close target reconnaissance and a quick attack. The exercise was well attended and hotly contested with 2 Tp taking out the honors.

The Squadron conducted an excellent live-fire ambush practice in August, organised primarily by the TROGWO WO2 Smith, which was deemed yet another fine example of ARe’s training within 2 Div. The ambush utilised all organic Light Cavalry weapons systems, including the 84mm firing illumination. The exercise received excellent accord from 13 Bde HQ, who consistently view A Squadron 10 LH as the premier unit within the Brigade.

During August, A Squadron conducted a PMV course for SASR, which demonstrated the unit’s ability to operate with the vehicles. Sgt McDonald conducted the course over a number of weeks, qualifying a number of members of Special Operations Command.

2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI)

The Regiment began 2011 with a rush due to the deployment of C Squadron to Afghanistan and the disastrous Queensland floods which saw 7 Brigade deployed in support of the region. This did not provide much time for the Regiment, which had undergone significant personnel change across all sub-units and HQ, to prepare for a very busy year which included two Squadron-level deployments to Afghanistan and a third in 2012.

2011 was capped off with the unit members being heavily involved in 2011 CHOGM preparations throughout August, September and October. The unit provided a Low Risk Search Platoon for the operation, as well as individual roundouts, including the OC, MAJ Craggs, who operated as an LO on the JTF headquarters.

The final exercise for 2011, EX STRIKE, was conducted in conjunction with 16 RWAR at Lancelin comprising of a Combat Team advance to contact. The Squadron provided a friendly Cav troop as well as OPFOR and EXCON for the activity. The intense training conducted during 2011 paid dividends on EX STRIKE in the form of high attendance and a greater level of technical competence.

In closing, 2011 has been a highly successful year for the Squadron, which has been a result of an injection of a fresh, motivated and highly capable Regular Army staff, a well-manned SHQ, Ops Cell and capable Troop Commanders and Light Cav Scouts – well done to all and Percute et Percute Velociter.
themes has enabled the Regiment to demonstrate its responsive, adaptive and effective characteristics utilising computer-based simulations through to complex field exercises.

The Regiment’s general training model to achieve its directed performance levels has sought to expose soldiers to the common elements found in combat environments—violent, unnerving sights and sounds; casualties; confusion and lack of information (fog of war and friction); feelings of isolation; communications breakdown; individual discomfort and physical fatigue; fear, stress and mental fatigue; continuous operations; and, home sickness. Some of these were engineered, some imposed (for example, the challenging effects of weather), and others the results of our own mistakes.

The eight-week Exercise KOSTER RIVER II held at Shoalwater Bay over May-Jun provided many opportunities to test the effectiveness of the Regiment, its ability to conduct and sustain combined arms operations, and, learn from its mistakes. One of the major activities conducted was a demanding sub-unit-level 40 hour combined arms live fire tactical scenario which covered 50km. The Combat Teams comprised a Cavalry Squadron, a M1A1 tank troop, a motorised infantry platoon, a Joint Fires Team, a M777 155mm Howitzer Battery and a motorised engineer platoon.

The Combat Teams were required to conduct an advance to and in contact; multiple quick attacks; a deliberate multi-phased combat team attack; in-stride and deliberate explosive breaching of complex obstacles; a night advance in contact; a hasty defence at night; and, the deliberate seizure of a battle position to enable the conduct of an aerial attack by fire—all requiring the conduct of post-contact reorganisation including the security / management of role-played PWs, casualties (enemy and friendly); civilians; and, day and night replenishments of the F, A1 and A2 echelons.

The observed improvements throughout the training year in individual and collective performance from patrol to regimental-level are a credit to the efforts and professionalism of all. The Regiment's strong performance during the Brigade-level exercises of TALISMAN SABRE 11 and HAMEL in July is testimony to the efforts of many to learn, adapt and demonstrate that improvement in complex and testing conditions.

Cavalry is asked to do many things—enabled by the quality of its people, their experiences gained through both training and operations, and, detailed understanding of the employment and sustainment of fighting vehicles as part of a combined arms team. The Regiment’s constant and most recent 18-month commitment to operations in Afghanistan will test our abilities. To date, our preparation and performance has enabled us to operate successfully in combat.

The soldiers of 2/14 LHR (QMI), the Regimental Sergeant Major and I offer our sincere best wishes for your operational deployment and note the similarities in training which we both find ourselves required to conduct as units within our respective Armoured Corps. We look forward to following your exploits and to a safe and successful 2012 for the King’s Royal Hussars.

Forward!

MCJW

A Squadron 2011 – Controlled Violence

The start of 2011 saw the Squadron commence the year confronted by disaster, both in terms of the battering the Australian East Coast received from La Nina and the prospect of being Cavalrymen without vehicles. The allocation of vehicles within the Australian Army had become a critically managed issue as competing priorities between the two ASLAV-based Cavalry Regiments arose from Squadron groups preparing for deployment to Afghanistan, the need to maintain directed preparedness levels, and, the perennial support to training establishments. Whilst no-one enjoys being the Supporting Effort when it comes to resource allocation, the necessary redistribution of vehicles put the Squadron’s professionalism and ingenuity to the test. With pride, I can say that the men and women of A Squadron rose to the challenge and seized the opportunities that were presented to them.
As a Squadron we resolved to work hard on our foundation skills so that when the time came to receive our vehicles we would be able to rapidly develop our mounted expertise. We hit PT quite hard, refined our weapon handling, developed our JNCO, SNCO and LT decision-making skills and tested tactical and technical acumen in the crucible of simulation. Without a doubt, the most valuable training early in the year came through the simulation activities. Those that have embraced the value of simulation (particularly those tools that accurately replicate technical expertise such as gunnery) will understand the immense value inherent in the forming of simulated Combat Teams and Battle Groups and the ease with which a commander can generate repetition of learning experiences for his subordinates.

As a result of the approach the Squadron took, the soldiers were extremely enthusiastic and well-prepared when we received the vehicles. As we transitioned to field training in Shoulwater Bay Training Area, we immediately saw the return on our investment in foundation skills as the Squadron hummed. Solid JNCO and LT were making good decisions (tactically and in general) and running the Squadron was easy. Although we participated in the Australian Army’s capstone training event for 2011 – Exercise Talisman Sabre – the most valuable training came during our Regimental exercise – Koster River II. During KR II, the Squadron grew to include a Troop of Engineers, a Motorised Infantry Platoon, a Troop of M777 guns, and a Troop of M1A1 tanks as we set about our annual Live Fire Manoeuvre Exercise. The activity ran for 41 hours straight in some of the worst weather we had ever seen in the training area. Despite regular bogging and the incessant rain, the Combat Team persevered and enjoyed a successful exercise. Opportunities to train with these assets are a rarity in our Army and it was a career highlight for many members of the Squadron.

Exercise KR II also served as the certification of the Squadron as ready to Battle Group for operational deployment to Afghanistan in 2012 and I could not have been happier with the efforts and performance of the men and women of A Squadron. As we now transition into our specific to theatre training, we pause to acknowledge our affiliations with like-minded and similarly challenged comrades in the UK and wish you good soldiering and good luck from your antipodean mates.

PD

IX (Bomber) Squadron RAF

After a well earned Christmas break, 2011 started with the final phase of preparation for Exercise RED FLAG operating from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, USA. This exercise utilises the Nevada Test and Training Range, which covers over 3 million acres and has 12,000 square miles of airspace. The range, roughly the same size as Wales, has the infamous Area 51 at its centre – understandably out of bounds in the most extreme sense. Of more interest to the deploying personnel is the fact that Las Vegas is next to the Air Base!!

The exercise commenced with the trail to move ten Tornado GR4 jets from RAF Marham to Lajes in the Azores and then eight jets onwards to Nevada via Bermuda and New Orleans. Due to refuelling issues en route, an extra leg to St Johns in Canada was inserted. After a week of administrations and briefs, along with some “familiarisation” in Las Vegas, the three week exercise started. This was a fantastic opportunity to plan and fly both Air Interdiction (AI) and Close Air Support (CAS) with foreign Air Forces and to drop live munitions on the Nellis range complex. The aircrew were able to learn a lot about the working practises of
other nationalities and to pass on lessons from their own operational experiences. Given the significant restrictions that training in the UK incurs, it was a great opportunity that significantly enhanced the abilities of all involved.

Whilst there is a huge amount to do in Las Vegas, members of the Squadron also took part in trekking expeditions into the Grand Canyon, travelling via the Hoover Dam, and a large group hired Harley Davidson motorcycles and cruised Route 66 through Nevada, Arizona and California. Some fantastic and memorable experiences were had by all those who ventured beyond the bright lights of Las Vegas to see something else of what the USA has to offer.

The return from USA was short-lived with the rapidly escalating situation in Libya becoming the Squadron main effort. A 12-hour shift pattern was commenced to ensure 24/7 coverage and aircraft loading began with Storm Shadow missiles. On the evening of 19th March, IX (B) Squadron crews walked for their aircraft for the first Storm Shadow mission to Libya. The 3,000 mile return trip was completed by a 4 ship, all of whom hit their designated targets in Libya and landed safely at Marham in the early hours of 20th March. The key decision for IX (B) Squadron to deploy to Gioia Del Colle (GDC) airbase in Southern Italy was made, with the first personnel arriving on 22nd March and the aircraft arriving in the same afternoon via a sortie over Libya. The activation party had already started to prepare the space which IX (B) Squadron was allocated – it looked as if the Italians had just walked out of the door many years previously and locked it behind them!

Despite the many issues the deployment brought to the fore and the subsequent management challenges, morale remained high. To go into a bare base environment, set up aircraft operations and to subsequently fly missions over enemy territory without dropping a sortie, was incredibly impressive and extremely rewarding for all on IX (B) Squadron. CPL Mark World found a large wooden board and divided it into a weapons score sheet so that all personnel could see the number and type of weapons dropped. This board gave IX (B) Squadron personnel a sense of pride in their achievements and became the centre of banter between the Tornado and Typhoon Squadrons. This continued with the tally board displaying the ever increasing number of weapons and aircraft arriving in the same afternoon via a sortie over Libya. The activation party had already started to prepare the space which IX (B) Squadron was allocated – it looked as if the Italians had just walked out of the door many years previously and locked it behind them!

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The rumours began to filter through that a sister Squadron from RAF Marham was to take over from us. This was followed the
2011 has been another great year for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Army Cadets. The normal training weekends were supplemented with extra Community Engagements as well as charity events. With over 80 KRH cap-badged Cadets parading on a regular basis, the 3 Troops in the New Forest continue to go from strength to strength. The Troop in Fordingbridge has not only seen an increase in cadets (now averaging over 30 cadets and 4 adults) but the building has undergone a massive face lift too. The Lymington Troop is steady with 20 cadets and 3 Adult instructors; and last but not least the New Milton Troop parades with approx 25 Cadets and 5 adults.

The year started well with all 3 Troops producing solid results from their Annual Inspections which this year were carried out by Officers and SNCOs from A, C and Headquarters Squadrons KRH.

Cadet training
For the first time in over 15 years the Company won the Royal Hampshire Cup; this competition is held over two days and comprises of both military and leadership skills at all levels of the APC syllabus. This was an outstanding achievement given the size and experience of the team.

In June over 100 cadets and adults participated in a weekend battle camp at Longmoor training area. The cadets started training late on Friday night and continued in a field environment until Sunday afternoon. This was the final test period to qualify them for Annual Camp.

Annual Camp
The highlight of the cadet year is Annual Camp. This year once again we were training and testing on the STANTA training area in Thetford, Norfolk. Attendance was slightly down on last year with approx 800 cadets and 200 adults participating in both Military and Adventurous Training. The highlight of camp was clearly the ‘Bocart’ racing – the cadets loved the high-speed experience. Six Bocarts have been purchased to replace the ageing go-karts that could only be used on a flat track. The youngsters are impressed with their new transport, which can be driven across...
fields and, best of all, through water. The grinning faces of the cadets as they finished their circuit said it all, together with comments like “awesome”, “wicked” and “cool”, they were all looking forward to their next ‘off road’ experience.

Although the Bocarts were a great success other activities such as the 2-day field exercise and the day on Adventure Training ensured the cadets had a great fun and variety, and they are looking forward to next year’s camp to be held in July or August.

Sport
In April we took over 40 senior cadets and adult instructors to Longmoor Training Area to participate in Advanced APC training. The weekend was very successful and we plan to increase the numbers next year. Also in April we participated in the County Athletics meeting in which X Company came second and 10 cadets went forward to represent the County at the Regional Athletics competition in Aldershot. 8 out of the 10 then went forward to represent the South-East region at the National Athletics Championships.

In June, 6 cadets participated in the National Clay Target competition held at Catterick Garrison where our cadets held their own and were placed second overall.

In July we entered in both the County and Regional Swimming competitions; a special mention should go to Cadets Roberts and Hayward who won gold in Breaststroke and Backstroke respectively.

Charity Events
We continue to participate in lots of local community events including high profile charity events across the region.

In July we entered a team in the Commandant 100km Charity Row in which a team of 10 cadets – using an indoor rowing machine – had to complete 100Km in less than 6 hours. We did complete the distance in just over 6 hours but the cadets were magnificent and the County raised £6000 to be shared with 2 local Charities (Naomi House and St Dunstan’s) and the ACE.

One of the highlights was a Help for Heroes 2-day 20-mile walk from Winchester to Salisbury via Fordingbridge. More than 20 cadets and 5 adults raised over £1100 for Help for Heroes and all had a great time.

In November the County helped the RBL collect over £42,000 selling poppies and a staggering £10,000 from across the New Forest Area alone. Cadets participated in Remembrance parades across the county, and in particular the parade through Fordingbridge and New Milton.

Over the last 12 months some 1500 Army cadets and 250 adults parading in 50 locations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have participated in over 60 day or weekend activities, ranging from community events, Adventure Training, Duke of Edinburgh Award, educational awards, as well as military events – all in order to continue to “Aspire to Achieve” the cadets from across all walks of life. As a county we continue to look for adult instructors, and anybody wishing to enrol their child or assist the Army cadets in Hampshire should look at our County Website for more information www.hantsandiowacf.org.uk

TM

Cadets having a break during the charity walk for Help 4 Heroes

Cadets march through Fordingbridge during Remembrance Sunday
Regimental Association

Chairman’s Notes

Colonel Tony Singer OBE

The Association has enjoyed a busy year, holding a number of events in direct support of the serving Regiment, and assisting with the KRH Appeal, which contributed much to our usual round of activities. I hope that you are all aware of the Appeal, but perhaps you haven’t been following its success on the Association’s website; www.krh.org.uk. A number of our Association members have exerted themselves on behalf of the Appeal, and raised significant amounts, the sums of which have been well advertised. However, as a well-known supermarket advertises, “every little helps”, so please continue to wave the Bucket, and raise money for the KRH Appeal.

Reunions have as ever been organized around the Kingdom, and I should like to take this opportunity to thank on your behalf the Area representatives for all of their hard work to facilitate the coming together of our Regimental family and friends, and for arranging a successful reunion; they all do an excellent job. Numbers fluctuate, and in the main are dropping, but those who do attend a reunion thoroughly enjoy themselves. I have attended a number of reunions, both in the North and in the South, and can vouch for that fact; there is nothing “old” about the Association’s drinking habits. A highlight for me was the Regimental Carol Service held in Gloucester Cathedral, where the serving Regiment was joined by our wider-family and many friends in Gloucestershire for a joyful exposition of the Christmas story. We were particularly impressed by the children’s choir, and also by the two solos for a joyful exposition of the Christmas story. We were particularly impressed by the children’s choir, and also by the two solos sung by Lt Col Jeremy Moger, who raised a significant sum for the Appeal.

The Regimental Association was formed for the good of former members of The King’s Royal Hussars and its predecessor Regiments, and to support the serving Regiment. It costs nothing to join and it keeps you in touch with like-minded friends and mates. Area reunions are held throughout the Kingdom in the hope that members will gather annually to meet old friends, renew friendships, network in this modern age, and generally have a good time. The dates and locations of all reunions, both KRH and the predecessor Regiments, are advertised on the Website, www.krh.org.uk/association-events.html. In particular, I would point-out the South-West Reunion, which is being held on Saturday 2nd June 2012. If you have not arranged for anywhere to celebrate Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee, I can think of nowhere better than to be with fellows of the KRH Association at Manor Farm in Hazlebury Bryan on that day.

The Association has a membership of 2,340 old comrades, but we are not growing as we should, since a number of those retiring from the Regiment are not signing-on, particularly the young; please get your Regimental chums to join. Importantly, we don’t have an email address for many of you, and we can only inform you of what is happening, and provide you with assistance, if our records are kept up-to-date. Please help us to help you. Do let HHQ (North) have your details if you move, or even just change your email address.

The Cavalry Memorial Parade, held this year on Sunday 20th May 2012, please note the change in date, is an important day in our Annual Calendar, and I would ask that all members of the Association try to attend on a regular basis, say every couple of years. While we each of us during the Parade personally remember those chums who we have lost, what is now more poignant is the reading-out of the names of those members of the Cavalry and attached arms who have died during the past twelve months. This keeps the Bandstand Service relevant to the serving, as well as us old comrades, while allowing for our personal remembrances about former, if forgotten, conflicts; the past is an important part of our future.

South West

Secretary: Lt Col Jeremy Moger

When you review the picture you are looking at the ‘Defence of the Realm’ from as far back as 1939 and perhaps beyond. The picture is truly historic as far as our Regimental history is concerned. To the left Martin Davis a Cold War soldier of the 60’s and 70’s keeping back the Russian hordes. In the centre Godfrey Tilney, also of the same era but served on into the naughties (00’s). Godfrey, the son of Freckles Tilney who commanded the Regiment from 1943 and was in command during the Battle of Medicina. Then on the right perhaps our last surviving member who took part in that very battle; Ken Dowding. Ken was commanding a Sherman ‘Firefly’ and is perhaps the last person remaining to have engaged and knocked out the well know German Tiger tank. Ken (now in his 90’s) and still looking lean, mean and fit gave an impromptu talk standing beside a Firefly similar to the one he commanded.

Thus Bovington Tank museum was the setting for this years gathering of the KRH South West Association and what a pleasure it was to see so many enjoy the day. The weekend started with golf on the Friday for those who chose to join us and eight of us (including Henry Joynson (Snr), Jeremy Moger, Peter Garbutt, Godfrey Tilney, Phil Midgley, John Rushion, Ian Leaming and...
May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported me throughout 2011, to thank all who have so generously made donations for the Regimental Appeal both through the SW Association or my sponsorship bid for singing at the Carol Service. Members of the SW Association raised a total of £663 and sponsorship as I write for my singing at the Carol Service on 17 Dec is (with gift aid) just short of £3,000.

North East Secretary: Mick Taylor

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came and supported the North East Reunion this year which was held in Darlington on the 24th September. Numbers were up on last year which is always a good sign. We were lucky to have the Chairman, Colonel Tony Singer and his wife Linny attending. Sgt “Tabs” Clayton a serving member of the regiment, who is an instructor at the Defence School of Transport, Leconfield also attended. Each gave an informative and up to date account of Association and Regimental news. A wonderful evening and dinner was had by all, followed by a raffle which raised £104.00 for the North East funds. Thank you to all the new faces including Geordie Stobbart, Andy Bevis and Neil and Tracy Gaskell. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again next year. A special thanks to my wife Kim and her partner in crime Kath Lane for organizing and selling the raffle, also Sue and Ricky Rees for the use of the Coachman Hotel.

Gloucestershire Chairman: Col Tony Singer OBE

The Gloucestershire Branch Reunion Luncheon was held at the Victory Club, Cheltenham, on Sunday 13th March 2011, this was a move from our usual November date. There were some new faces. Personally, I found it easier in March, for not only is the weather more clement, but November is a rather busy month, regimentally, and thus we shall keep the March format for the foreseeable future. We were very pleased to be able to support the Regimental Carol Service in our Cathedral, and to encourage many friends to support what was a highly successful regimental family occasion. Information on this year’s Reunion has been circulated, and if you would like to attend but have not received my letter, please get in touch. There will again be free drinks for those wearing a Regimental Tie. Do try to support.

Scotland Secretary: John Greenwell

It was once again a great pleasure to welcome old friends to the Scottish OCA reunion lunch held at the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh, and a very healthy turnout made sure we had an enjoyable day. Although we had no representative from the Regiment due to operational commitments, it was great to listen to some of our older members reliving their experiences of national service.

Peter Smith) enjoyed a nine hole Stapleford before lunch and a nine hole Texas Scrabble after. There was much hilarity throughout but surpassed on the penultimate hole when three players reached just short of the green, deep in conversation and old war stories only to realise that they had omitted to drive off from the tee!!!

Saturday dawned sunny and remained so throughout. The Tank Museum was the venue and as well as laying the museum open to us all they provided a very acceptable buffet lunch and cash bar over looking the display area. It was a pleasure to welcome some new faces, not least ex members of the 10th and 11th, namely Richard Fearnehough, Bruce Whittit, Phillip Bishop and one or two others who I apologise to for already having short term memory loss! Nevertheless it was so nice to see them. It was also a pleasure to have Singe Powell and his wife back into the fold now they are home in England and also to have Mick and Marion Burgess able to attend; Mick having had a serious accident last year in a losing fight with a ladder and gravity. Both Mick and Marion once again had a spring in their step and that old sparkle had returned. Finally my thanks to Lt Col Alex Potts and LCol Payne, his driver, for joining us on a precious Sunday when they deserved to be with their families. Their attendance was deeply appreciated.

The South West Association met at the King’s Arms Hotel, Dorchester on 19th November for their annual Ramnuggur Dinner. The dinner call was played on trumpet by Adrian Harris ex-Royal Hussar bandsman and 36 old comrades and their wives/partners & girlfriends sat down to a very good dinner of Crayfish, Pork fillet and Dorset Apple cake. It was a very happy, relaxed and enjoyable evening and dinner culminated in all ex-serving members and one honorary member forming the traditional horseshoe to drink the health of “The Heroes of Ramnuggur”. I was greatly indebted to those who travelled from as far afield as Lancashire, Nottingham and Essex for this gathering and would welcome any old comrades from anywhere in the country to join us on such occasions.

We shall be meeting next year for our summer lunchtime gathering at Manor Farm, Hazelbury Bryan on Sat 2 Jun 12 (this preceded by golf for those that want it on Fri 1 Jun) and then again on 24 Nov 12 for our next Ramnuggur dinner.
etc. Once again the Club provided us with a really wonderful lunch and the staff looked after us very well indeed.

We look forward to seeing you all again this year in the Royal Scots Club on Wed 11th July, and please remember that we always welcome wives family and friends to our yearly gathering.

Central Southern Chairman: Lt Col Richard East

The Central Southern reunion was held for the second year in succession at Tidworth on Sunday 9th October. The WOs' and Sgts' Mess very kindly hosted the event, which followed on from the Regimental Open Day on the Saturday. 25 officers and SNCOs and wives from the serving Regiment joined about 90 Old Comrades and their wives and other guests.

There was an initial gathering in the bar to meet up with old friends after which the regimental chefs provided an excellent silver service meal. The Colonel of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer gave us an up date on regimental issues and the future training programme. This will all lead to the deployment of the regiment to Afghanistan in the spring of 2012.

After lunch the gathering in the bar continued well into the afternoon. This allowed for many old war stories to be repeated, much to the amusement of those in the serving regiment.

We are very grateful to the RSM and members of his Mess for allowing us to have such a successful gathering in Aliwal Barracks and we hope we shall be able to continue this in 2012 although it may fall to the Rear Party to help us organise it all. The date for 2012 will be decided once the Regiment’s operational dates become clearer.

Northern Reunion

John Cornish

Saturday evening started relatively slowly with 53 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, the success of the KRH Appeal and what the current plans were for the future. The Chairman then gave a short speech on the Association. The dance floor was then cleared of diners so that the younger and more energetic members could enjoy the Disco. There were 123 members, which included 35 serving personnel their wives and girlfriends, who had chosen not to sit down for dinner. It was a pleasure to see so many young, local, serving members attending and this certainly made for a more upbeat atmosphere. The Barton Grange Hotel did us proud and thanks to their efforts an extremely enjoyable and memorable evening was had by all.

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 Singer commanding the parade; Colonel David Woodd took the salute. During the service Brian Lythgoe laid a wreath on behalf of the Association and Darryl Cartwright played Last Post and Reveille. After the service the Regimental Association members gathered at the Columbarium for the service for the interment of Richard Hession’s ashes conducted by Reverend Ron Greenall.

A useful contributor to Association funds is the KRH Club. Feeling lucky, then why not have a flutter with the KRH Club, it costs £12 a year to join, and there is a monthly draw for five cash prizes; “every little bit helps”, both you and us.
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

Regimental Association Dates for your Diary 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gloucestershire Reunion</td>
<td>11 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah’s Arc</td>
<td>20-21 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiners Club</td>
<td>13 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry Memorial Parade &amp; Lunch</td>
<td>20 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherrypickers’ Reunion</td>
<td>18–20 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Reunion</td>
<td>1/2 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor’s Review</td>
<td>6 Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Founders Day</td>
<td>7 Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scottish Reunion</td>
<td>29 Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Southern</td>
<td>21 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiners Club</td>
<td>19-20 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field of Remembrance Service</td>
<td>8 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Reunion and Remembrance Sunday</td>
<td>10 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers’ Dinner</td>
<td>13 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramnuggur and Cambrai Dinner</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>East Anglia Reunion</td>
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The King’s Royal Hussars Regimental Trust (Welfare Fund)

Accounts Summary 2010-2011
Balance sheet as at 31st March 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 March 2011</th>
<th>31 March 2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>£672,761</td>
<td>£623,057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Current Assets</td>
<td>£84,579</td>
<td>£71,746</td>
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<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>£757,340</td>
<td>£694,803</td>
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY FOR THE ABOVE PERIOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>31 March 2011</th>
<th>31 March 2010</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary Income</td>
<td>£63,066</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>Charitable Income</td>
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<td>£20,534</td>
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<td>Total incoming resources</td>
<td>£102,260</td>
<td>£78,957</td>
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<td>Resources Expended:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Furtherance</td>
<td>£7,259</td>
<td>£6,783</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable Activities</td>
<td>£55,296</td>
<td>£52,365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance Costs</td>
<td>£1,668</td>
<td>£1,679</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Resources Expended</td>
<td>£64,223</td>
<td>£60,828</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net incoming resources before revaluation of investments:</td>
<td>£38,037</td>
<td>£18,129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Losses on revaluations of investments for the charity’s own use:</td>
<td>£24,500</td>
<td>£128,713</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Net movement in fund         | £62,537       | £146,842      |
Total funds brought forward  | £694,803      | £547,961      |
Total funds carried forward  | £757,340      | £694,803      |

Of the Charitable Activities the Fund assisted a total of 45 individuals who were serving with or had served with The King’s Royal Hussars or its predecessor regiments.
Giles Harrison commissioned into the 17th/21st Lancers in the summer of 1989. His infectious enthusiasm quickly made an impression on the Regiment and he showed uncommon talent for public speaking. He cut his teeth Troop Leading on both CHIEFTAIN and CHALLENGER 1, before deploying to Belize as Recce Troop 2IC. He attended the Regimental Gunnery Officers’ (ROGs) course in 1992-3, achieving a School Instructor’s recommendation. His colleagues recall that he found it difficult to stop talking about gunnery; an affliction that persisted throughout his career. No one alive knows more about the gunnery components and oils and lubricants of CHALLENGER 1! Away from the tank park, he briefly tried his hand on the polo field. His Commanding Officer commented that so entertaining was the spectacle of Giles on a pony, that he would readily travel miles just to watch him in action.

On amalgamation his rapier repartee and sense of humour soon made him an influential figure in Mess life. After a stint as Range Safety 2A in BATUS he attended the Combined Arms Fighting Systems (CAFS) course, followed by the Junior Command and Staff Course (JSCC), where his excellence in War Studies was only matched by the quality of his impersonations of directing staff and fellow students in the course review. In 1996 he was appointed Ops Officer QRL and set about re-writing the Standard Operating Instructions (SOIs) and improving the fitness standards in his Regiment. He demonstrated an excellent feel for doctrine and tactics which he put to great effect as the principal staff officer of the BATUS OPFOR in 1997. In November 1997 he deployed to Bosnia as AMA to COMSFOR – General Eric K. Shinseki who impressed him, somewhat intriguingly described him as ‘of average height and powerful build, he is a thoroughly good soldier’. Away from the tank park, he briefly tried his hand on the polo field. His Commanding Officer commented that so entertaining was the spectacle of Giles on a pony, that he would readily travel miles just to watch him in action.

Giles Harrison is currently Director of Operations at Aegis Defence Services Limited. He was fondly remembered for his devotion to the Regiments which they have served. They have set up home in Thruxton with their beloved dogs and will no doubt remain closely involved with Regimental life in the years to come.

Major Mark Collins

Mark joined the 14th/20th King’s Hussars in 1984 having spent his early years as a factory worker and shop steward in Manchester, a role that some may say laid the foundations for his “militant” early years as a soldier in West Germany. He began his new career as a Chieftain driver with C Squadron in Hohne and returned to Catterick with the Regiment in 1985, however was immediately posted to B Squadron, The Berlin Armoured Squadron, where both he and his Wife Amanda enjoyed the privileges, and indulgences, of a Cold War posting behind the Iron Curtain. Trooper Collins spent many a night sipping Champagne Cocktails in the Hotel Moscow, often followed closely by the easily recognisable Stasi officer in a trench coat smoking Russian cigarettes. Military life in Berlin was very different to that of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR), tanks were poised and ready to deploy with personal kit and a complete bomb load of ammunition at all times. The ‘crash out’ was a weekly occurrence as the Troops rotated through an Alert Troop duty on 40 minutes notice to move. With the Russian’s 3rd Shock Army housed only a matter of kilometres from Smuts Barracks the Cold War was a little warmer there.

Mark moved on to Munster in 1988 where LCpl Collins took the first step on the promotion ladder and after only a year was again promoted to Cpl. He rejoined B Squadron, a move that also saw
the first of many operational tours as the Squadron re-roled to infantry for an OP BANNER tour of Northern Ireland. At this stage Mark had already been identified as a “flyer” and having been given the opportunity to Command a Challenger on a key exercise by the new Sqn Ldr, Maj Richard Shirreff, he cemented his position as both a Section Commander and a Challenger Tank Commander. His skills in both those roles were to be fully tested over the following years as he moved almost immediately from the bricks and bottles of Northern Ireland to major combat operations in the deserts of Saudi, Iraq and Kuwait on OP GRANBY (the first Gulf War). The laughter of reacting to an IRA “shoot” in Belfast’s Ardoyne, only to find his vehicle had run over a crisp packet, had hardly subsided before he found himself commanding C/S 32 taking incoming fire from T55 tanks and doing a fine job at destroying them.

Mark took his skills and experience to the Gunner School at Lulworth where he was both a shop floor instructor and Course Warrant Officer, separated only by a spell as Recce Troop Staff Sergeant, no one could accuse him of taking things easy. His appointment as Squadron Sergeant Major of C Squadron in 2002 remains one of his proudest moments and anyone who worked with him over that period will agree that the respect and depth of feeling the soldiers had for him was unrivalled. With further operational experience in Bosnia and yet another tour of Northern Ireland behind him he commissioned as Captain Collins in 2003. The champagne was again flowing but this time a little more expensive than that in the Moscow! In fact Mark was well known in the Officers’ Mess for buying the bubbly and leading young subalterns astray! Once again, as he did through the ranks, he never looked for the easy path, taking on the roles of Welfare, Career Management Officer and Quartermaster before going to staff college and taking up a high profile training post at Headquarters Land Forces.

After 28 years of loyal service to the Regiment and the wider Army, Mark leaves us for a new career in the defence industry, we wish him, Amanda and his daughter Jordan the very best of luck for the future. Knowing of course that it will not be too long before we

Major Les Lewis


Maj Les Lewis joined the Army as an adult recruit at The RAC Training Regiment in July 1979. At the time, The Royal Hussars (PWO) were the resident Training Regiment and after completion of initial training Les joined them as a Tpr and was employed in FFR Troop. FFR Troop consisted of a fleet of Land Rovers, fitted with radios that were used to support the signals training of the trainees. Les spent the next 18 months swanning around Northern England and providing communications to about every horse show in the UK.

Les moved to Fallingbostel with the rest of the Regiment in April 1981 and spent the next 8 years as a BAOR soldier. Posted to B Squadron as a Chieftain crewman he was involved in a series of embarrassing incidents, in which he was entirely blameless. These included an incident on the Inner-German Border – whilst on border patrol and as an operator to his Troop Sergeant, Roger Williams led the whole Battlegroup passed the Brigade headquarters as a member of the Prison Guard Force at the Maze. He has deployed to the Balkans and as QM(T) to Iraq on Op TELIC 6 where he provided vital support to the Battlegroup headquarters element at the Iraqi Army Training Centre, Talil. Since commissioning Les has been employed in a number of roles both at RD and at ERE, including 2 tours at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, an S03 post at the Recce Brigade and as part of the ISTAR Training Team.

Les has completed several operational tours of Northern Ireland, one as a member of the Prison Guard Force at the Maze. He has deployed to the Balkans and as QM(T) to Iraq on Op TELIC 6 where he provided vital support to the Battlegroup headquarters element at the Iraqi Army Training Centre, Talil. Since commissioning Les has been employed in a number of roles both at RD and at ERE, including 2 tours at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, an S03 post at the Recce Brigade and as part of the ISTAR Training Team.

Maj Lewis completes his service with the sound knowledge that he has contributed to the good name of the Regiment, especially in the G4 field. We wish him, Alyson and his family all the best in the future.

Captain Philip Kaye

KRH 2005–2011

‘PK’ as he was known to all, arrived at the Regiment in August 2005 although as the photograph of the toddler Cherrypicker that adorns his mother’s mantle piece suggests, his military life started a lot earlier.

A childhood spent largely in barracks might explain why, upon commissioning, his focus was so quickly taken with the glamour and delights of West Virginia on the first of many Army Polo trips. PK was ever the gallant ambassador scoring with ease both on and off the polo field although a late night car crash with a deer betrayed this keen hunter’s eye. Upon staggering from the tour van, a finger was run through the dark smear on the bonnet and savoured, “blood,” he uttered, “it tastes like arterial blood, we must have killed it.” A few hours later the sun rose to reveal the stain was a somewhat darker bodily effluent.

Further polo tours to Argentina, Washington and Dubai followed along with the Rundle Cup victory in 2009 and 4 Inter-Regimental campaigns where man-of-the-match awards were plenty but final victory elusive to lasting regret.

Off the polo field this cavalryman was in fact paddling hard and quickly proving a first rate Officer, as seen in BATUS with OPFOR in ‘06 and in the deserts of Maysan with C Squadron on Op TELIC 10. But it was his move to Recce Troop that would confirm his talent if not his taste in uniform as his South African Defence Force pattern clothing landed his 2IC in frequent hot water with the RSM. Poachers on the River Avon were tracked and identified; 3 YORKS Companies were spotted and routinely destroyed in BATUS ‘08; Haverfordwest locals were soundly defeated by Recce’s baseline whilst on Ranges and the Troop’s reputation was restored, attracting the fittest and keenest soldiers in the Regiment. Despite struggling to complete a CFT with an additional 10kgs helpfully added by his 2IC, he led the Troop into the 12 Bde Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF) for Op TELIC 14. Beating the Infantry at their own game the Troop were the strongest in the BRF and PK was invited, Maverick-style, to return to the Surveillance Reconnaissance Wing at Lydd as an instructor. Sadly for them the appeal of long side burns, North Face jackets and being called ‘mate’ by SNCOs was not too appealing. Whilst never deploying, the Troop’s reputation reached stellar heights within the Bde. For his excellent leadership

the sound knowledge that he has contributed to the good name of the Regiment, especially in the G4 field. We wish him, Alyson and his family all the best in the future.

DO
of Recce Troop and exemplary performances on the polo field he was deservedly awarded the Regimental Medal.

Our friends in 1RGR then called for his services and he moved to Folkestone to train and deploy on Op HERRICK 12 in 2010. This was to prove a seriously demanding tour involving much close-quarter fighting and complex daily liaison with the local Afghan Police Commander by the name of Muhammad Wali. He struck up an excellent – some might say too excellent – rapport with Wali who perhaps saw something of himself in this young Englishman: a man true to his word and hungry for a scrap. This tour was a fitting military finale for PK featuring both excitement and much tragedy. He has now left the Regiment and is working in the security business based in London; look out for him in the years to come climbing out of a muddy pick-up truck in St James’ Square probably with a deer carcass in the boot and perhaps a swarthy Afghan carrying his bags. The Officers’ Mess, Army Polo and above all the lives of his soldiers are poorer for his departure.

Captain Rupert Reid
KRH 2008–2011

After commissioning in April 2008, Rupert did the five-month Troop Leaders Course and then took command of a Troop in C (Medium Armour) Squadron in October of that year.

In 2009 his passion for soldiering saw him attached to 1 RGR and after six months of PDT, he deployed on Op HERRICK 12 as IO for C Company. Originally the BG Ops Coy, it was subsequently switched to the ground holding role and for the second half of the tour, Rupert broadened his horizons still further by becoming Second-in-Command of the Estonian Company. The Afghan elections took place in the final month of the tour and Rupert changed roles yet again, becoming the LKG Liaison Officer to Brigade.

However, it is seldom one’s talents for which one is remembered but rather one’s mishaps; and an incident in Wales catapulted Rupert (and accomplices) to fame within six weeks of his arrival. The Squadron and its Warrior AFVs were moving from the railway station to Castlemartin for a firing package. After a wrong turn and a dramatic entry into a quiet local village, Rupert was selected to lead the way back onto the planned route – a recovery plan that ended almost as soon as it had begun when he parked his vehicle neatly in the back of a minibus. The consequent arrival of a detachment from the Welsh constabulary and an accompanying BBC camera crew ensured that anyone who might not have noticed the arrival of the Squadron in the Principality now had it brought firmly to their attention.

Despite this, Rupert was fully recognised by all as a competent Officer, having proved himself in the field as well as in camp. Although his total commitment to his duties as Mess Scrap Book member was not as obvious as had been anticipated, his mischievous nature and enthusiasm for the social scene ensured fond memories of mess life for all – even if they were not recorded!

Rupert will be remembered both for his enthusiasm for the social aspects of life and for his penchant for buying smart cars. So it is unsurprising that he should leave the Army for the gold plated life of an investment banker.

Mrs Angie Wallace’s Retirement from Home Headquarters (South) at Winchester

Mrs Angie Wallace has retired from Home Headquarters at Winchester after 22 years of loyal service. In 1989, Angie was recruited for the post of Administrative Officer at Home Headquarters of The Royal Hussars (PWO) by Lieutenant Colonel Robin Merton who was the Regimental Secretary at the time. While at Home Headquarters, she was the lynchpin for three Colonels of The Royal Hussars, three Colonels of The King’s Royal Hussars and three Regimental Secretaries. She also loyally supported many Regimental Trustees, Museum Trustees and Trustees of the CB Wilson Bequest.

Angie saw many changes and reorganisation at Home Headquarters which included the introduction of computers and a Regimental amalgamation resulting in a new Home Headquarters being set up and split into two locations at Winchester and Preston. She never failed to keep on top of things in spite of all these upheavals. She was always there for all the retired Officers, widows,
The 8th Earl Bathurst
10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1946-1948

Colourful countryman and equestrian who gave chase after Prince William cut him up at 50 mph

The 8th Earl Bathurst, who died on October 16 aged 84, was a junior Conservative minister at the Home Office and Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen, but his public offices never matched his private antics for originality and spice.

‘Barmy’ Bathurst, as he was known, inherited the earldom and Cirencester Park in Gloucestershire from his grandfather, the 7th Earl, in 1943, the year after his father, Lord Apsley, DSO, MC, MP, had been killed, and was a keen countryman who rode hard to hounds, as well as a just and jovial landlord.

He followed in the footsteps of the 1st Earl – a former Tory MP for Cirencester and friend of Pope, Swift and Congreve who afforded 3,000 acres of the estate in 1720 – by becoming a keen forester himself and President of the Royal Forestry Society as well as Councillor for the Timber Growers’ Association.

An apiarist and an able farmer, Bathurst was also the owner of ‘Jim’ and ‘Joe’, the last working oxen in this country. He ran Cirencester Park Polo Club and was active in local affairs – it was his job, among others, to hand out the Bledisloe Trophies to well-kept Cotswold villages. He was also a governor at the Royal Agricultural College for many years.

Henry Allen John Bathurst was born on May 1 1927 the eldest son of Allen Bathurst, Lord Apsley, and his wife Violet. He was educated at Eton College and Christ Church, Oxford. In 1948 he joined the military and served as a lieutenant in the 10th Royal Hussars and as a captain in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars (TA).

In 1957 Bathurst became honorary secretary of the Agricultural Committee in the House of Lords and a Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen. He was Chancellor of the Primrose League from 1959 to 1961 as well, and during this time, was President of the Gloucestershire Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

His political career was short-lived, however, and reached its peak when he was appointed Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office in 1961, only to be discharged the following year by Harold Macmillan in the ‘night of the long knives’.

Thereafter, Bathurst retired to the family seat, though his work for the Tory Party continued under other guises: in 1968, to raise funds for the Party, he sold a 2nd Century Samian cup that had been found among Roman ruins on the estate in 1891.

Bathurst’s duties at Cirencester Park included riding as Master of the Valley of the White Horse Hounds, the Gloucestershire pack kept by his family since the 1830s. He cut a dashing figure on a horse, and became the first English peer to ride a Russian horse to hounds, so keen was he to introduce Russian-bred horses to the local hunting fraternity.
In 1965, however, in order to reduce costs for both hunts, he merged his own twenty couple with the local Vale of the White Horse pack. But he diversified into other equestrian pursuits, founding Cirencester Park Polo Club – venue of the famous chukka which saw the Prince of Wales come a cropper mid-swing and break his arm.

Scandal struck in the Eighties when, twice, (in 1982 and 1988), plantations of cannabis and opium poppies were found to be growing within the Park walls, tended by local opportunists who were later jailed. Bathurst weathered the ensuing press attention with the same grace as he employed in 1989, when he lost his driving licence for 15 months after a four-hour lunchtime ‘jolly’ with friends.

In 1988 Bathurst had moved to a farmhouse on the estate to make way for Lord Apsley, his son and heir, yet he remained involved with the running of things. In 2003, driving through the Park on his way home from a polo match, his Landrover was overtaken on the grass verge by a Volkswagen Golf travelling at 40 to 50mph. Roused to heights of fury by this flagrant breach of the estate’s 20mph speed limit, the 76-year-old Earl gave chase, flashing his lights, sounding his horn and engaging in off-road manoeuvres to try and get the offender to stop. But it was the Earl himself who was forced to stop – by the security team protecting Prince William, the car’s driver.

Although Clarence House issued an apology, the Earl remained unrepentant: “There are rules in the polo club about driving on the estate, and people have to stick to them”, he told an interviewer. “I don’t care who it is, royalty or not – speeding is not allowed on my estate. If I was to drive like that in Windsor Park, I’d end up in the Tower.” He did not recognize the Prince, he explained, observing that he “thought he was some young yob in a beat-up car”.

Bathurst was Chairman of the Gloucestershire branch of the Country Landowners’ Association from 1968 to 1971 and a Deputy Lieutenant for Gloucestershire from 1960 to 1986.

He married first, in 1959, Judith Nelson; they had two sons and one daughter. The marriage was dissolved in 1977 and the following year he married, secondly, Gloria, widow of David Rutherston.

His son Allen Christopher Bertram Bathurst, Lord Apsley, born 1961, succeeds to the Earldom.

The 8th Earl Bathurst, born 1 May 1927, died October 16 2011.

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**Major General PB Cavendish CB OBE DL**

*1st Royal Dragoon Guards 1943-1946*

*3rd King's Own Hussars 1946-1958*

*Queen's Own Hussars 1958-1964*

*14th/20th King's Hussars 1964-1981*

Peter Boucher Cavendish was born in Kashmir on 26 August 1925. His father was a Sherwood Forester for the bulk of his service until transferred into command of the 8th Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment in 1941. His son therefore has associations with both of these famous Infantry Regiments, who were amalgamated to form the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (now known as 2 MERCIAN), with whom we share the Princess Royal as Colonel-in-Chief.

Peter attended Abberley Hall then Winchester. Here he learnt that his father had been killed in ‘The Arakan’ in Burma commanding the 6th Independent Brigade Group. Unsurprisingly, when eighteen he joined the Army straight from school. After spending three days kitting out as a soldier he spent the next six months on a special course at New College, Oxford before being commissioned on 1 July 1945, initially into the ‘Royals’. He transferred to the 3rd Hussars the following year when the latter took over the role of Airborne Divisional Reconnaissance. With the 3rd Hussars on operations in Palestine he was parachute trained, promoted Captain as RSO early in 1947 and at the end of that year as Squadron Leader at the age of twenty-two. He then became the ADC to Maj-Gen Sir Hugh Stockwell, the GOC of 6 Airborne Division, moving with his General when the latter became the Commandant of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in 1948.

Returning in 1950 to the 3rd Hussars in BAOR, he became their Adjutant for 3 years before taking up his first staff appointment with HQ 6 Armoured Division. After Staff College in 1955, he returned once more to the 3rd Hussars in Germany, this time as their Training Officer, thence a short tour at the D&M School, Bovington, before going to Canada in 1958 to be the DAQMGS of HQ Eastern Command for 2 1/2 years in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In his absence, the 3rd Hussars amalgamated with the 7th Hussars to become the Queen’s Own Hussars and in 1961 he returned to them for 2 years as Squadron Leader and Second-in-Command. Posted to the War Office as GSO 2 (RAC Training), it took him a year to escape from Whitehall and move to Bovington to set up HQ DRAC. He was transferred to the The 14th/20th King’s Hussars as Second-in-Command in June 1965 and joined in Benghazi.

He assumed command of the Regiment on 1 November 1966 and handed over to Michael Palmer on 1 July 1969. He was awarded the OBE in June 1969 at the same time as Princess Anne became our Colonel-in-Chief. His next appointment was at HQ 1 British Corps in BAOR, where he was the Colonel GS before being promoted Brigadier in December 1971 on assuming command of the RAC Centre. From August 1974 to August 1975 he attended the National Defence College of Canada (the equivalent of the Royal College of Defence Studies) and from September 1975 was posted to Brussels where he was Secretary to the International Military Staff and of the Military Committee, the highest military authority in NATO. He was appointed Colonel of the Regiment on 16 August 1976 in succession to Forty Allen. He subsequently handed over Colonel of the Regiment to Maj Gen Mike Palmer on 15th February 1981, having been regarded as a tower of strength and great ambassador for the Regiment.

In retirement he worked for a number of organisations. Chiefly amongst these were the Soldiers’, Sailors’ and Airmens’ Family Association and Forces Help Society. He raised £500,000 for the Derby War Memorial Village. He founded Forces Link which assists military people on financial, medical and social issues. He was also High Sheriff of Derbyshire and a Deputy Lieutenant and ran the Derby and Derbyshire Disabled Soldiers’ Settlement charity.

He married Marion Constantine and they had three boys. His eldest son, Simon, served with the Regiment for 9 happy months as an SSLC 2Lt at Tidworth.

Peter was a man of integrity, loyal, professional and a true egalitarian, a great believer that respect had to be earned and was not a right. As a result he was almost universally respected. He was a countryman. He loved all aspects of the countryside and always had at least two dogs at his side in retirement. He was a man of principle, duty and very high demands — actually the highest demands were usually self-imposed. He was a true gentleman in all ways. He died on 24 October 2011.
Colonel JR Clifton Bligh
14th/20th King’s Hussars 1962-1992

John Clifton-Bligh died suddenly at home on 14th September 2011.

JCB, as he was universally known, joined the Regiment on the 3rd November 1962 as a Short Service Commission Officer following a period at university where he obtained his BA.

On arriving in the Regiment, he was posted to B Squadron in Tripoli, Libya and moved with the Squadron to Benghazi in 1964 and at the same time converted to a Regular Commission.

He was appointed Regimental Signals Officer in 1965, just in time to join the Regimental Headquarters Troop for their epic journey to Kufra Oasis. John moved back to England at the end of 1965 with the Regiment which was then based at Perham Down, Tidworth where the Regiment converted to tanks.

In October 1966 whilst still in England he married Jane Flavel, whom he had met when stationed in Benghazi, and they moved together with the Regiment, which was then posted to Barker Barracks, Paderborn Germany, as part of the 4th Division.

From this period on JCB majored in sailing and skiing until a serious accident in a downhill race brought his skiing activities to an abrupt halt. Nevertheless, he, Mark Goodhart and Peter Hoare, spent many happy hours in the Baltic introducing a large number of soldiers in the Regiment to the pleasures of sailing.

In addition to sailing in the Baltic he formed the backbone of the Regimental Team which competed very successfully over a number of years in the various Royal Armoured Corps Regattas in Germany and in England, successfully winning the Royal Armoured Corps Gold Cup on a number of occasions.

With a keen interest in all things technical JCB managed to obtain a place on the Long Armour/Infantry Course at Bovington and he and Jane spent 1967 there before returning to B Squadron as 2IC.

JCB remained at Regimental Duty until 1972 continuing to participate and organise much Regimental sailing in addition to the normal routine of life with the British Army of the Rhine.

Due to his considerable interest in all things technical and a glowing report from his Long Armour Course, he was selected to attend the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham on promotion to Major.

On completion of the Technical Staff Course, JCB was posted to Washington as a member of the British Defence Staff where he and Jane spent two happy years, particularly as it enabled them to catch up with family living in America.

On return from the USA in 1975, JCB was posted to A Squadron which not only allowed him to continue his sailing adventures but also allowed him a certain degree of freedom as the Squadron deployed to Cyprus away from the all-seeing eye of Regimental Headquarters.

1977 saw him again in a technical staff appointment at the Royal School of Artillery. During this period he became active in the Services Branch of the British Deer Society taking a keen interest in the control and welfare of deer on the Defence Estate, an interest which he maintained for the rest of his life.

1981 saw him return on promotion to the Royal Military College of Science as an SO1, where he remained as an Instructor until taking command of the Royal Yeomanry for a most successful tour, which he always regarded as the highlight of his career.

During this period JCB also became the Commodore of the Royal Armoured Corps Yacht Club and spent a very considerable amount of time re-directing the Club to ensure it addressed the interests of the soldiers as well as the officers, while also playing a major role on the duties of Chief Race Officer to ensure the success of the Royal Armoured Corps Seaview Regatta.

Following his tour in command of the Royal Yeomanry he was posted as an SO1 to the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment where he remained until his promotion to Colonel in 1989 as Deputy Commander of the Royal Armoured Corps Centre.

In 1989 JCB was elected to the Royal Yacht Squadron where, in addition to the considerable support he gave to the Royal Armoured Corps Yacht Club, he – together with Jane – played a significant part in organising and running the various National and International Regattas run by the Squadron.

JCB retired from the Army on 1st December 1992 and, although concentrating primarily on his family, devoted much time to deer management as well as sail training and racing on behalf of both the Squadron and the Royal Armoured Corps Yacht Club.

JCB was a keen and active supporter of the Regiment and of the Royal Yeomanry in all things, who, while seriously competent and technically aware, had a wicked dry sense of humour which diffused many a crisis whilst still being able to offer helpful and constructive support. His calm and common sense approach allied to his technical knowledge and sound advice will be much missed. We offer our deepest sympathy to Jane and to Gervase and Olivia.

Lieutenant Colonel NCP Winter
Commanding Officer The Royal Hussars (PW0) 1973 -1975

Nigel Winter, who died aged 79 on 26 February 2011, joined the 11th Hussars from Sandhurst in August 1952 at Wesendorf in Germany. He was posted to C Squadron and was well settled in by the time the Regiment moved to Malaya in June 1953 for a three-year tour of duty.

The son of Charles Edward Winter, who was Master of the Westmeath Hunt 1927-39 and Secretary of the Irish Master of Foxhounds Association, Nigel Charles Purdon Winter was born on 8th December 1931 in Westmeath. He was educated at Castle Park School Dublin and Winchester College.

In Malaya, C Squadron, with Nigel as a Troop Leader and the Technical Officer, was stationed in Kuala Lumpur, where the Squadron was responsible for escorting the High Commissioner, General Sir Gerald Templar, around the country on his many visits. This was a busy time but Nigel also found time to play polo and to race.

On return to England in 1956 the 11th Hussars carried out the Training Regiment role in Carlisle, where Nigel made the most of the point to pointing in Cumberland and Dumfries as well as playing hockey and shooting at Bisley. His next job was in Dorset where he was with the Driving and Maintenance School at Bovington. He hunted with the Blackmore Vale, the South...
Dorset and the Cattistock and here he also met, and married, Jane Wingfield Digby.

After a short tour in Northern Ireland the Regiment moved to Aden in 1961 where polo was the main recreation. Nigel was 2i/c of A Squadron, who had to move to Kuwait on an emergency operation for three months, deployed on the Iraq border. In England again in 1962 the Regiment converted from armoured cars to Centurion tanks in Tidworth before returning to BAOR at Hohne. Nigel passed the Staff College exam and attended the 1963-4 courses at Shrivenham and Camberley. Whilst at Staff College he was Secretary of the Camberley Hunter Trials and played in the polo team. After the course he was posted as G2 at the Joint Welfare Establishment at Old Sarum where he visited the USA, Holland, Norway and the Middle East. In 1967 he returned to the 11th Hussars in Hohne to be the last Squadron Leader of C Squadron before the amalgamation. This took place in Tidworth in October 1969 when The Royal Hussars were formed. Nigel, however, was appointed Brigade Major of 7th Armoured Brigade in Soltau under Brigadier Robert Ford. In 1971 he attended the National Defence College at Lattimer.

However, the main ambition of his career was fulfilled in April 1973 when he took command of The Royal Hussars from Piers Bengough. He had a most exacting tour, having to convert the Regiment from the varied roles in England to a front line Chieftain tank regiment in Sennelager followed by a four month unaccompanied tour in Northern Ireland in the infantry role. During this time he had to deal with the difficult days of the mass riot in the Maze Prison. Finally he had to lead the Regiment back to face the intensive training round in BAOR and in Canada on the Suffield Training Area. In all these tasks he had been greatly helped by Jane who cared for all the families so often left behind in Sennelager.

After command, Nigel went to Old Sarum again as GSO1 Joint Warfare where he visited all the NATO Headquarters in Europe. He left the Army in 1982 but had a convenient job in Bovington with the hassle of events. He found this a great help, especially, useful in assisting with the horses, the grandchildren and coping for many years and Nigel, in his retirement, made himself very much else to be remembered by so many, not only an able soldier and a great gentleman but a truly loyal and splendid person, and so much else. A letter received by the family said: “He will be missed by Mimi, James and Amanda and all his many friends in and out of the Army. A large congregation, standing room only, gathered in Winsham Church on 16th March 2007 to be near Amanda and her family in Cricket St Thomas. Nigel will be much missed by Mimi, James and Amanda and all his many friends in and out of the Army. A large congregation, standing room only, gathered in Winsham Church on 16th March 2007 to be near Amanda and her family in Cricket St Thomas.

His daughter, Amanda, has run a most successful eventing stable for many years and Nigel, in his retirement, made himself very useful in assisting with the horses, the grandchildren and coping with the hassle of events. He found this a great help, especially, after Jane died in 2003. He moved to Winsham in Somerset in 2007 to be near Amanda and her family in Cricket St Thomas.

Nigel will be much missed by Mimi, James and Amanda and all his many friends in and out of the Army. A large congregation, standing room only, gathered in Winsham Church on 16th March 2011 to bid farewell.

He was a very special person, thinking of everyone before himself at all times and always fun and amusing, with a quiet competence in everything. A letter received by the family said: “He will be remembered by so many, not only an able soldier and a great horseman but a truly loyal and splendid person, and so much else that is good and right.”
He then joined the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars who were closely affiliated with the 11th Hussars. During his time in the Yeomanry he married Edith (Bunty) and started a family. He left the Regiment in 1962 after 14 years service.

He emigrated to Australia in 1968 together with his wife and three sons and he started a thoroughbred horse stud farm at Yarraman Park, Scone, New South Wales. With the help of his sons, it grew to become a large and successful business. The property which covered 3800 acres also contained a herd of cattle and the farm continues to flourish under the management of his sons Arthur and Harry

During his years in Australia, ‘Slip’ kept in touch with his friends in England and met several of them for the last time at the launch of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Upton's book 'The Cherrypickers' which took place at the home of Colonel David Lowsley-Williams in 1997.

It was very natural that he should join the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars as his father had been a very notable CO and a great character, living near Tetbury. He was squadron leader of the Stroud Squadron (G) which he led in his unique, inimitable way, with Malcolm St Clair as his second-in-command. On moving to East Anglia, he went to RHQ and was second-in-command to Anthony Kershaw. He ran the Officers Mess for camps but did little militarily as he was too far away. He was a grand friend to all, whom people remember fondly as a true yeoman. He supported the regiment loyally even when he moved to Australia and would have been a grand CO if he had stayed in the country.

Major TR Morley
10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1942-1960

Tim Morley was born in Biddestone, Wiltshire on 23 May 1920 and died there 91 years later on the 3 December 2011. He was the youngest of three children and his brother Brigadier Mike Morley 10th Royal Hussars (PWO) was nine years older.

Tim went to prep school at Selwyn House, Broadstairs in Kent and then on to Eton, which he left in 1938. He always said he was not the most academically gifted pupil at school but he did like languages. He went on several French exchanges to Brittany and Biarritz and his love of France and French food stemmed from these visits.

Having left school he joined the Wiltshire Police Force in 1939, but with the outbreak of war he volunteered to join the Army in 1940. He was posted as a Trooper to 57 Training Regiment and then to 102 OCTU as an Officer Cadet. On 1 March 1941 he was commissioned in the 23rd Hussars.

In 1942 he was posted to the Tenth Hussars in North Africa and as a Troop Leader was badly wounded in the Western Desert. He spent several months convalescing in South Africa. He rejoined the Regiment during the Italian campaign.

After the war he was granted a regular commission in 1948 and served continuously with the Regiment in BAOR and UK, which would be unusual in today’s Army. Tim was an excellent horseman and during his time in Iserlohn he was whipper-in to the pack of hounds the Regiment had. He also was a good show jumper and participated in a number of events in BAOR. His other great passion was large motor cars, preferably American, which would be equipped with a flashing blue light. For his last three years in the Regiment he commanded C Squadron.

In 1955 Tim was posted to the 65th Training Regiment in Catterick, which was not much to his liking. However, in 1956 he became Training Major, Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and was able to live at home in Biddestone until retiring from the Army in 1960.

During his retirement he bought a farmhouse in the Lot which he lovingly restored and started a market gardening business in Biddestone. However, he began to spend an increasing amount of time working with the Beaufort Hunt to combat the threat to hunting from the hunt saboteurs. His previous service with the Wiltshire Police provided him with valuable experience in doing this covert work and liaising with three police forces.

Tim lived his life on his terms and according to his values. He was born, lived (not counting his military service) and died in the same village, which was no mean achievement.

Captain INE Bruce
11th Hussars (PAO) 1948-1958

I first knew Ian when we were at the same Prep school, Heatherdown at Ascot. Even then he was never one for over exerting himself: in the under-ten cricket, he claimed Twelfth Man and Scorer by deed of right and at football seldom played out of goal. I remember, one away cricket match, sitting in a taxi waiting to leave when the headmaster (a notable cricketer) put his head through the window and said: “Have a good game and make certain you win.” A little voice piped up from the back of the taxi: “don’t worry, sir, we will gouge their eyes out.” A rather shocked Headmaster replied: “Bruce, I don’t think that will be necessary.”

Ian went on to Wellington where he was Head of House and School Prefect and, although he gained an entry to Clare College, Cambridge to read History, he turned this down on gaining an entry to Sandhurst in Intake One in 1947. Ian was commissioned into the 11th Hussars in July 1948 and posted to C Squadron, then in blockaded Berlin. He was always very keen on the social side of life so it was not long before he befriended a very glamorous American, Nicola McCluskie. One day, when C Squadron Officers had organised a picnic in the Grunewald, the proceedings were interrupted by shots of mirth which discovered that Ian, in trying to get closer to Nicola, had accidentally put his foot in the trifle.

On C Squadron’s return to the Regiment, then stationed at Osnabruck, Ian became a Troop Leader but with his quick wit and leadership soon became Assistant Adjutant to the irascible John Ballingal; here he survived where many others had failed. While at Osnabruck, Ian was sent on a BAOR equitation course at Herford, run by the redoubtable Colonel Paul Rodzienko a former Czar Guard Hussar Officer, who had won the King George V Cup twice in pre-war days at Olympia. Ian returned from this course a very accomplished horseman. While on leave in England, Ian bought a very nice 16 hand liver chestnut whom he called Merryweather, after the Regimental shirtmaker, and twice won the coveted Inter-Regimental steepleschase at Hanover. With Merryweather, Ian was the first 11th Hussar to compete at Badminton. All went well until they arrived at the fearsome coffin foot in the trifle.
Commonwealth and a very smart picture of Ian acting as Usher at an Investiture at Wellington appeared in the Illustrated London News. One of Ian’s great boasts was that he went to bed with Annie Ashton, Lady Norrie’s Lady-in-Waiting. This incident was not as you might think but had occurred on the morning of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, when Ian and the Lady-in-Waiting had been invited to the Governor General’s bedroom to listen to the wireless commentary of the Coronation in the early hours of the morning.

Ian returned to the Regiment in Malaya and was posted to C Squadron in Kuala Lumpur as Second Captain, which suited Ian down to the ground: not a lot of work, polo three times a week and Kuala Lumpur was the centre of Malaya’s social circle. However, the very humid climate of Malaya did not suit Ian and he suffered terribly from Prickly Heat. Being the resourceful officer he was, he soon discovered that his girlfriend’s parents’ house had a spare bedroom which was air-conditioned. With a nod and a wink from Ian, it was not long before the parents offered him the use of the bedroom whenever he suffered one of his attacks.

On the Regiment’s return to Carlisle, Ian became HQ Squadron Leader. Like many of the officers, he made full use of the sporting facilities available: hunting with the Dumfries, fishing on the Regimental beat on the Eden and shooting on an area of rough ground at Cumbolndgen. It was at Carlisle that Ian perfected his characteristic drawings of mounted officers in full dress, many of which were made into tablemats and given away as wedding presents. Ian’s favourite was the rear view of an obviously pretty girl on the arm of an 11th Hussar in full dress who, by pressing down on his sword hilt, had raised the girl’s dress, exposing a very delectable bottom of which, I am sure, even Pippa Middleton would have been proud!

It was at this time that Ian was given the task of converting the Regimental horsebox (an ex-Liverpool dustcart that could carry six horses) into a mobile recruiting tour to show the country in the summer months. One of its ports of call was the Harewood Three Day Event where Ian hoped to influence young potential officers whose interests were in equitation. Rumours soon got back to the Officers Mess that Ian was escorting an extremely attractive ‘bird’ around the event course. This turned out to be Liz Lyon-Smith whom Ian was ultimately to marry in 1959.

Ian sadly left the Regiment in 1958 and joined J Walter Thompson Co Ltd. During this period Ian held the position of Horlicks, National Westminster Bank, Campbell’s Soup and Gillette, among others. In 1970 Ian founded Lexington International PR Ltd, a major JWT subsidiary, and became its first Chief Executive and Managing Director. He took early retirement from JWT in 1980.

Ian and Liz were generous entertainers; their first home after their marriage in Courtfield Gardens was the scene of many luncheon parties after the annual Cavalry Memorial Parades. When they moved to the Manor House near Slough, the entertainment changed to the Wednesday of Ascot week and their informal dance became one of the highlights of the race week. On retirement from JWT Ian bought Netherwood House just outside Dumfries to renew the happy days that he had so enjoyed when the 11th Hussars were stationed at Carlisle. Earlier, Ian had bought a shepherd’s hut on Bankburn Foot, a two thousand acre estate belonging to Mr Pulgrave-Brown. In turn Till Hill Forestry had leased the estate and planted it with trees and Ian persuaded Till Hill to employ him as the official roe deer culler. Not only did this give Ian a lot of fun but Liz also discovered that there were a considerable number of pheasants among the young plantlings. Liz became the gamekeeper and by persuading her farmer friends to give her corn, she built up a very enjoyable shoot so that once again they were able to entertain many of their friends. It was damn hard work walking across the young plantlings as they were planted on ridges with irrigation ditches between each row. It was very noticeable that, true to his character, Ian always contrived along the bottom of the hill, where the going was easiest, while Liz and their guests were made to plough through the harder ground up the hill.

The shooting weekends ended when the trees became too tall but the thick forest only encouraged the roe. One weekend Ivan Straker and a friend of Liz’s called Lavinia Beard were staying for the stalking. After the first day the girls considered that they had seen more roe deer than the boys, who in turn wanted to know what they were doing to attract the roe. After lunch Liz announced they were going to a certain area which she knew could be overlooked from the road on the far side of the Esk River. The boys took the bait, as Liz guessed they would. Once the girls had left, they drove round to the high ground which overlooked the plot where the girls were. They did not have long a wait before, to their amazement, two stark-naked nymphs in gumboots appeared for a fleeting instant, before disappearing back into the cover of the trees. Ian’s comment was “I simply don’t believe it!”

In 1982 Ian became Senior Steward to the British Horse Society for Scotland. He was responsible for finding venues for one and three day events and for the conduct of all events within the area. His ‘pièce de résistance’ was the introduction of the Blair Athol Three Day Event, the first to be run in Scotland, where Ian insisted that all officials wore kilts. Ian retired in 1994 as the driving, walking and standing about had, at the age of nearly seventy, all become too much for him. Ian was still painting and this included model soldiers: He had built up a wonderful collection, all painted with great accuracy by himself and displayed in beautifully illuminated cabinets. His favourite was a Napoleonic Grenadier of the Old Guard relieving himself into his drawers.

In later years Ian suffered from either a mild heart attack or a minor stroke, the doctors could never decide which, but the pills prescribed slowed him down even more and he became increasingly withdrawn. He will be remembered by many friends for his carefully worded speech and his original choice of phrase, often preceded by a long ‘errr’ before he spoke. He was a lively companion with a wide knowledge on a variety of subjects, which made his company both stimulating and amusing. He was a true friend whose advice was often sought and a very loyal 11th Hussar.

Ian received his “Final Posting” very unexpectedly on 24th August 2011 when he was in Dumfries Hospital. He was laid to rest in a lovely small cemetery in the hills above Bankburn Foot, an area which had given him so much pleasure in the past. Our sympathy goes to Liz and their two sons, Andrew and Rupert. WKT

Captain PF Chapman MC
11th Hussars (PAO) 1944-1946

Peter Chapman has died aged 90. He was educated at various establishments in England and Venezuela and finally at Wellington School, Somerset, from 1932 until 1940. He then entered the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall. His studies there were cut short by the war and after initial training at Catterick Camp, he went to Sandhurst and was commissioned from there to the Sherwood Foresters (The Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment) in the autumn of 1942. In the early days of January 1944 he joined the 11th Hussars, newly returned from Italy, at Ashridge Park, now a National Trust property, near...
Berkhamsted, in Hertfordshire. Here he joined ‘B’ Squadron. The Regiment were here to re-equip and reorganize for the forthcoming invasion of Europe.

After D-Day, ‘B’ Squadron did not join the bulk of the Regiment at Guéron in Normandy, two miles south of Bayeux, until about 18th June 1944. They then moved to an attractive camp site in the wooded park of the Château St. André. Here they remained for four weeks in 30th Corps reserve, carrying out intensive training for the fighting to come in the bocage country they would encounter in the forthcoming breakout battle.

The 11th were in action at the start of this decisive battle from 1st August. ‘B’ Squadron were tasked with probing towards Mont Pincon, a dominating feature. Peter moved his Troop to the southern flank of the feature and found a way up the long wooded ridge leading to the summit. They were about halfway up when they were fired on by a well concealed German armoured car. Peter dismounted and with his Troop Sergeant, Sergeant McGuire, tried to stalk it on foot, only to discover it was protected by a screen of infantry. They were spotted and managed to escape under heavy fire, but the alarm was raised, and that route to the summit closed. The next day Peter distinguished himself by repeatedly probing forward in his Dingo scout car in order to draw the enemy’s fire and make them reveal their positions. For this action he was awarded the MC.

Peter was in action again on 17th August. While patrolling forward he found a small bridge over the River Vie that was intact. This was immediately reported to Divisional Headquarters and 22nd Armoured Brigade’s centre line was switched towards him. As a result 7th Armoured Division was able to establish a secure bridgehead over that river. It later transpired that Peter had found a gap between two German regiments, each of which thought the other was responsible for blowing the bridge!

On 27th August the advance was held up in the area of the road connecting Pont-Audemer and Rouen. Peter found a way round to the left in the area of Bourneville. Targets for the Troop’s guns were plentiful and were engaged with some effect. Suddenly a company of German infantry appeared charging towards the Troop position. Peter’s machine gun jammed, Corporal Purkiss was unable to engage with his weapons at such close range, and Sergeant McGuire’s car received three bullets though the radiator. The holes were plugged with porridge, and led by Peter, the Troop fled across the fields to safety.

By 6th September the Regiment was closing up to the city of Lille. Peter’s Troop was making a reconnaissance of an important bridge on the south-west outskirts of the city, and nothing had been heard of him since his departure for this task. He found that he could only reach his objective by cutting through Lille itself. This he succeeded in doing in spite of the city still being in German hands. Emerging on the far side they found there were enemy tanks there. These they managed to avoid by taking to the maze of urban roads around the city, until they were within radio contact again. 3 Troop had had an exciting circular tour and the honour of being the first allied troops to enter the city.

Shortly after entering Belgium, a young Belgian girl joined Peter’s Troop. She said she was a member of the local resistance and was trying to get to Brussels. He gave her a captured Volkswagen staff car and she remained with the Troop for several days. Eventually the Commanding Officer told him that she must leave, so he drove her to Brussels from where she made her own way home. After the war she became an air hostess with Sabena.

On 25th October ‘B’ Squadron were involved in fierce fighting on the way to Udenhout in Holland. Two Sherman tanks of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry were knocked out. Peter, who was close at hand with his troop, went to the aid of the crews and helped to rescue some of them under heavy fire. As he attended to their wounds one of the Shermans exploded, wounding Peter in one hand and leg. Both the Commanding Officer and ‘B’ Squadron leader wrote to Peter’s father to tell him that he was in hospital but not seriously wounded. The CO also said that he was the best Troop Leader he had ever seen: carrying out the most magnificent patrols day after day, entirely unmoved by anything. He was evacuated to England and rejoined the Regiment on 25th May 1945.

After he was demobilised at Jever in 1946, he went to continue his training at Camborne, graduating in 1948. He joined Shell in Texas and remained with the company for 35 years. He held various posts as a petroleum engineer, engineering manager and engineering instructor in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Illinois, New York and Holland.

In 1951 he married Pat Kell, who survives him, together with their four children and eight grandchildren.

Captain TGC Holcroft

Tim’s sudden death just before Christmas saddened his many regimental friends as it was so unexpected. Tim was a born soldier and George Hodgkinson, Tim’s Squadron leader in Sharjah, said that he was one of the best officers he ever had.

Tim with a strong physique, a quick and decisive mind and a wonderful eye hand co-ordination had a wicked sense of humour and could, I feel, have gone a long way in the army. But having promised his mother he would always leave the army when she wanted to give up farming, he kept his word and sadly left the Regiment in 1962.

Tim was a great athlete. At Radley he was a member of the school Eight that won the prestigious “Princess Elizabeth Cup” for school eights at Henley in 1952. At racquets he paired up with his great friend, Ted Dexter, to make a very formidable pair. Tim with his wonderful eye for a ball was a master of this very fast game.

From Radley Tim passed through Sandhurst to join the 11th Hussars in Malaya in 1954 and was posted to B Squadron in Johore Bahru. Being the efficient officer that he was, he was able to acquire a troop of his own, spending much of his time on detachment at Malaluang, a small village on the East Coast, some seventy miles from Squadron Headquarters. On the Regiment’s return to Carlisle in the role of an RAC Training Regiment, Tim became one of my subalterns on the Wireless Wing, the others being Tim Forster and Richard Curtis. Just after we had taken over Tim came to me with a proposition. He and Tim Forster would do the many duties during the summer months and Richard Curtis the duties during the winter months which would allow the two Tim’s to fully indulge in their respective sports of shooting and hunting. To me it seemed an excellent proposition in view of the current regimental policy at Carlisle on sport.

Two years after the Regiment’s return from Malaya Tim was to marry his long term girlfriend, Joanna Bonham-Carter in June 1958.

Tim with his quick eye was a wonderful shot, certainly within the hundred best in England and probably in the top twenty. He received many invitations from the local estate owners of Cumberland. One day while shooting with the Torbocks at Cliburn, he shot one of the highest pheasants ever seen and after the drive Dick Torbock asked him how he had managed it. Tim
told him that he always kept a four gauge cartridge in his pocket for just such an occasion. “What” said Dick Turlock, “you shot one of my pheasants with a four, tut tut that pheasant will not be worth eating.” Tim was rather put out!

Tim was one of the guns at Philip Payne-Gallwey’s 12th August grousedrive over the mess roof at Carlisle. After we had shot hell out of George Norrie’s tournament tennis balls, hit by the mess staff over the roof, with Philip dressed as the keeper, tapping the wire fence and shouting to his line of beaters to keep them up, we repaired to the mess for lunch. There was a knock on the dining room door and in came Philip still dressed in his keeper’s outfit. Up he went to the Senior Officer, who happened to be Dick Sutton, who for this exercise had been christened “Lord Spitton” and said, “I have the lunchtime bag, My Lord”. He then read out the list of guns and what they had supposedly shot. When he came to Tim, whom he called “Sir Timothy Crafty-Hole”, he announced that he had yet to open his score. Philip had to beat a hasty retreat from the dining room with an irate Tim in hot pursuit.

Tim’s next posting was as an instructor to the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment at Ryth in North Wales. During his time at Ryth Tim was to do me a great favour, I was in the process of seeking the hand of Ginnie Holcroft in marriage. Unfortunately Ginnie’s parents had been on a long visit to New Zealand and had only met me once for a very short time. Ginnie’s mother, Tim’s aunt, rang him to ask his opinion as to my suitability as a future son-in-law. Here was a wonderful chance for Tim to let his sense of fun run riot. Thank God on this occasion Tim resisted the temptation to pull my leg. I have often wondered what would have happened if his report had been that I was an absolute bounder!

Tim returned as second in command to George Hodgkinson in A Squadron shortly before the Regiment moved to Aden. His first six months were spent in Sharjah and the Trucial Oman States. Later with Dick Sutton as Squadron Leader he did a wonderful job in getting the Squadron to Kuwait in the 1961 Crisis and achieving some semblance of order on that first chaotic day in Kuwait. I well remember coming across Tim with a motley collection of clapped out civilian vehicles which constituted A Squadron’s transport parked just off the Basra road in a monumental sand storm. I asked him if he knew what was happening and where anyone was. “Haven’t a clue” he replied, “and there is no wireless communication in this damn storm, so I am sitting still until it settles down and I can see further than ten yards.”

His last job in the army was as OC Advance Party for the move from Aden to Tidworth. Here he had to organise the reception of the Regiment and to acquire all the bits and pieces of equipment required for the Regiment’s conversion to the armoured role. A thankless task and one of which he made an excellent job.

Tim was to retire to his family farm at Northbrook in Hampshire and typical of Tim, he threw himself into learning all aspects of farming life and the running of a milk herd. He soon became a pillar of Hampshire Society. He became a JP and it was not long before he was made Deputy Chairman of the Bench and a General Commissioner of the Inland Revenue. In 1982 he became President of the North East Hampshire Agricultural Society. Sadly Tim’s marriage to Joanna had broken down and in 1982 he was to marry for a second time to Charmian Gold. Before he left Northbrook Tim was to play another wicked trick on me. I had stayed a weekend with him and carelessly left my razor behind.

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One day when his granddaughter, Natasha, was staying at Glenbeich she had been particularly annoying about going to bed the night before. The next day she was watching her grandfather Glenbeich she had been particularly annoying about going to bed the night before. The next day she was watching her grandfather

At Glenbeich Tim was his own stalker and there was nothing he enjoyed more than stalking with his daughters, Alexandra and Caroline, both who were as proficient with the rifle as their father.

One day when his granddaughter, Natasha, was staying at Glenbeich she had been particularly annoying about going to bed the night before. The next day she was watching her grandfather

When Glenbeich came on the market Tim sold Northbrook and he and Charmian moved north. At Glenbeich his mode of farming had to change from milk to sheep. Tim and Charmian now became very ‘hands on’ shepherds and to learn their trade thoroughly they took themselves off to attend a course run by the local vet in sheep husbandry. They also learnt how to control a sheep dog, so necessary on the open spaces of the moor. In all there were eleven hundred ewes to look after. Tim and Charmian looked after one hill which held three hundred ewes while the shepherd looked after the rest on the other two hills.

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Based in Acapulco for the Mexico City Games; Pepe was his assistant manager. Together they brought a new professionalism to the British effort, instituting a dietary programme and providing a team doctor as well as a meteorologist, David Houghton.

“No one had ever raced at Acapulco before, so we checked the weather and current for the team well before the start each day,” Stratton recalled. “No one had done that kind of thing before.”

One of his advertising clients, Simpsons of Piccadilly, supplied team clothing. Britain’s sailors finished second overall in the Games.

Stratton also managed the team at Kiel for the Munich Games in 1972 (Britain won a gold and a silver), and was due to return to the role at Tallinn (for the 1980 Moscow Games). But the Games that year were highly controversial, owing to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. While America imposed a boycott, the British government left competitors free to make their own decisions. In the event, most British athletes travelled to Moscow. But the Royal Yachting Association decided to withdraw the sailing team en bloc, to Stratton’s dismay. He argued that this had a deleterious effect on British Olympic sailing for years to come.

In 1977, at the Weymouth Olympic Week, Stratton had capsized his Finn in heavy weather and decided that, at 50, he was too old to sail the Olympic single-handed dinghy. As a retirement present, his wife gave him a Star, the 22ft Olympic two-man keelboat.

Stratton and his wife lived in an old railway station near Bembridge Harbour. An inspirational mentor to young sailors, he was still out in his 12ft Illusion class boat until last year. Vernon Stratton was a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, and had been a member of the Royal Thames Yacht Club since 1951. In 2010 the Princess Royal presented him with a RYA Lifetime Achievement Award.

He is survived by his wife and their three sons and one daughter.

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John William Abel Smith Esq
10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1952-1954

John William Abel Smith was born on 14 December 1933, the son of Jocelyn Abel Smith and the Hon. Mrs William Rollo and he was the nephew of Anthony Abel Smith who commanded the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO) from 1948 to 1951.

Billy, as he was known to his friends, was appointed to a National Service Commission in the Tenth Hussars in the autumn of 1952 and joined the Regiment in Iserlohn in Germany.

The Regiment returned to England (Tidworth) in July 1953 and Billy was then appointed to be ADC to the GOC Salisbury Plain District, Major General JKW Martin, at Bulford.

At the conclusion of his National Service Commission in 1954, he then transferred to the Territorial Army and held a commission in the Leicestershire Yeomanry from 1954 to 1957.

He then travelled much around the world and lived overseas. In 1975 he married Mary Chichester Mills (Mimi) and moved to live on her estate near Middleburg, Virginia: Hickory House Farm.

He lived a very happy life, coming over frequently to England with Mimi and keeping in touch with his many friends. He and Mimi were particularly kind and hospitable and his many friends in England will have been greatly saddened when they heard of his death on 5th October 2011.

**JKCS**
John Gregory Phillips Esq
11th Hussars (PAO) 1968-1969
The Royal Hussars (PWO) 1969-1970

Joining the 11th Hussars straight from Mons in 1968 without the benefit of a Troop Leaders course, John Phillips was posted to A Squadron then under the command of our American exchange officer, Major John Sherman Crow. He was placed in 1 Troop under the wing of Staff Sergeant Mo Wherton in time for a fortnight’s troop training on the wastelands of Soltuau.

He made up for his inexperience with his enormous energy and determination. When one of his Chieftain tanks was reported to have sunk in a mire, John, without a moments hesitation, in temperatures well below freezing and in a vicious wind, stripped and waded in to find it. It took him some minutes to understand that he had been the subject of a practical joke.

John stayed in A Squadron throughout his time with the Regiment, returning to Perham Down in 1969 and then moving on to Warminster still with A Squadron as the Demonstration Squadron.

John’s great love was his racing and his hunting. He had a couple of good horses, perhaps rather better than most others in the yard, which he ran with some success in point-to-points and at Sandown and Cheltenham. He was, of course, a regular with the VWH of which he was later to become Master for nine years.

John left The Royal Hussars in 1970 and set off for two years in the southern hemisphere before attending The Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. Thereafter, he joined the family business engaged in farming in Gloucestershire.

He married Priscilla Howarth in 1978. His life in Gloucestershire continued to revolve around hunting and racing with cricket and tennis in the summer. His enormous good humour and energy was a magnet, particularly for the young.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Priscilla and their children.  

WO2 A D G Rodd MM
10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1950 – 1960

Albert Rodd was educated in Belgium where his father was employed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. At the outbreak of the Second World War he returned to England and he enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry in 1940. He subsequently transferred to the 16th/5th Lancers with whom he saw action in North Africa and Italy, being awarded the Military Medal. After transferring to the Tenth in 1950 Albert served for ten years at Regimental duty in Germany, Jordan and England. He was Troop Sergeant, SQMS and SSM of B Squadron and, as a good sportsman, he represented the Squadron on the soccer field and in the Brockelhurst boxing competition.

He was then RQMS to Major Fred Robson in an appointment which was no sinecure as it covered Regimental moves from Aqaba to Tidworth in 1957 and then to Munster in 1959. The Quartermaster was a hard taskmaster and, as an old rough-riding cavalryman, he was often to be found in the stables but Albert held the fort and was invariably cheerful. In 1960 he was posted to 1(BR) Corps as RQMS where he finished his service.

SSgt MT Greenwood
14th/20th King’s Hussars 1964-1987

Michael Terence Greenwood joined the 14th/20th King’s Hussars in 1964 and was posted to C Squadron in Benghazi, Libya. Mick (or Mike as his wife Pat called him) was volunteered to work at the Officers’ Mess at Newmarket, Benghazi. Two other young Troopers, Brian (Solly) Moulton and Billy (Maggot) Griffiths, also volunteered and the three of them became close friends. While on exercise with the Mess Mick had a stomach complaint and was airlifted out with a grumbling appendix. Mick, Brian and Bill managed to “escape” the Officers Mess when they were posted to B Squadron and returned to the UK to Perham Down.

Mick married Pat, his childhood sweetheart, in 1966 just before the regiment was posted to Barker Barracks, Paderborn. Brian and Bill were regular visitors to Mick and Pat’s especially as Brian was responsible for Mick becoming a Manchester City fan and they watched City beat Shalke 4–0 in the European Cup Winners Cup. Brian and Bill were also into photography and the Greenwoods became the most photographed couple in BAOR. In 1967 Mick went back to the UK to complete an Assistant Instructor Physical Training course which he passed with flying colours. This was Mick’s introduction to coaching which became his passion. Over the years he played Regimental level rugby, football and swimming and coached numerous Regimental rugby, boxing, football and swimming teams.

Mick was posted to Assault Troop A Squadron in 1969 as a section leader, and in 1970 he moved with the Squadron to Singapore. Mick and Pat with their young sons Michael and Barry found themselves in a nice married quarter flat on the “Chip Bee” estate. Mick had even persuaded Pat to agree to let him keep a python as a pet, which took pride of place in their lounge. In Singapore Mick was coaching the Squadron Football and swimming teams. It was the cancellation of one inter-unit football match where Mick, at a loose end, thought he would go and support Pat who was playing netball for the Squadron wives team. Mick noted that they needed coaching and bringing on and so with his excellent inter-personal and coaching skills Mick turned his hand to netball and never looked back. Mick did several tours of Northern Ireland and made time to edit and produce the “Underground Hawk” during the 1978-79 tour. He also spent two years in Manchester as part of 63 Army Youth Team, which he and Pat enjoyed immensely. Mick served with C Squadron during their UN tour of Cyprus and also spent time in BATUS.

Mick was a good man and a great friend. He was a very good soldier who had the admiration of both his peers and juniors alike. Finishing as it had begun, he ended his military career in Catterick as the Officers’ Mess Sergeant Major and left the regiment in 1987.

On retiring from the Army, Mick and Pat started the Oldham Netball Club and through the years the juniors won 40 National Championships becoming the most successful Junior netball club in the history of England Netball. The seniors now play in division 1 of the National Premier League. Mick also coached Northern Thunder, first of all for a season in Super Cup, then taking control in 2008 he took them from bottom of the table to a second place finish in 2011. He also had success coaching England under 17 and 19’s for a time until he decided to dedicate all his energy to his club, Oldham. Sadly Mick lost Pat in 2008 after a long battle with cancer and it hit him more than his friends realised. Mick’s netball teams were like a second family and Mick looked after them, mentoring and guiding them, on the court and off and getting the best out of them. The Club is a legacy that will hopefully continue to succeed. Over a twenty-five year period the Netball Club has
seen nearly a thousand young women pass through it, many with a cherished National winner’s medal now in their possession. The current Senior England team has four players who came through the Oldham system, a third of the squad.

Mick is survived by his sons Michael and Barry, both of whom served in the Regiment. He is also survived by six brothers, Roland being one who also served in the regiment and three sisters and his Mother May. Mick’s death made the front page of the Oldham Chronicle describing him as a coaching legend. The funeral was attended by 600 people and there was a tribute to him on Sky Sports television. He was a great inspiration to his family sons and fellow Hawks and a huge number of young people, the big man will be sadly missed.

**Sergeant J T Monkman**

*10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1941–1968*

John Monkman transferred to the Tenth Hussars after war service in an RAC recce regiment. He had seen action in the NW Europe campaign and proved to be an efficient tank commander in both A and B Squadrons. As a countryman he was also an effective horseman and, after the Regiment obtained 12 Arab ponies from Baghdad racecourse in 1956, John was put in charge of the stables in Aqaba. The ponies proved their versatility as they both played polo and taught soldiers to ride before being shipped back to Tidworth on a LSL. Whilst a troop sergeant in A Squadron John Monkham was pressed back into equestrian service for the 1961 Guidon Parade in Paderborn when he was escort to the drum banners. He also served with the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and his final tour in the Army was as recruiting sergeant at Portsmouth. He retired to New Zealand.

**J A d’A Lister**

*11th Hussars (PAO) 1947–1949*

James Lister, British Gas executive and fundraiser for Shakespeare’s Globe, was born on August 24, 1927. He died on May 16, 2011, aged 83.

James Lister (pictured) was a networker before the term came into common use. He was a catalyst for creative encounters between widely diverse groups of people from business, the arts, music, opera, theatre and sport.

After a successful career in business, mainly spent with British Gas, he made his main contribution to British life after his retirement as a key fundraiser for Shakespeare’s Globe theatre. He combined competence with compassion, and managed to be businesslike without looking like a businessman.

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**Michael Brander Esq**

*10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1943-1944*

Michael Brander was born in Edinburgh on 8 May 1924 and educated at Haileybury and St John’s College Cambridge. In 1942, aged still 17, he volunteered to join the Army so as not to miss the war. Michael was commissioned into the Tenth Hussars in 1943, joining in Algeria whilst the Regiment was training for operations in Italy. As a troop leader he was in action in the fierce battles to break through the Gothic Line in September 1944 before being wounded on 19 October at Cesena. Having been casevaced back to England Michael was invalided out of the Army on VE Day, his 21st birthday. He returned to Cambridge to complete his MA and then read for the Bar but on doctor’s advice he moved to Scotland to breed and train gun dogs and write. In 1969 Michael Brander was invited to write the 10th Royal Hussars volume of the ‘Famous Regiments’ series of short regimental histories, edited by Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks and published by Leo Cooper Ltd.

Michael Brander died on 14 November 2011 and is survived by a son and two daughters.

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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:

Col R Hume

Mr V M Moonie
11H (1944–1947).............................................................................. 18 Mar 10

Mrs A Thompson wife of Mr A Thompson
11H (1931–1939)............................................................................. 12 Oct 10

Mr H Whitehead (Bert)
10H (1945–1947)............................................................................. 12 Nov 10

Mrs P Longstaff wife of Capt C C Longstaff
14/20H (1940–1946)........................................................................ 10 Dec 10

Mrs Jean Evans wife of Ernie Evans
10H (1935–1957).............................................................................. 22 Dec 10

Mr R T W Lumber
10H (1943–1947).............................................................................. 28 Dec 10

Mr G F Merritt
11H (1944–1946).............................................................................. 30 Dec 10

Mr P D J Riddiford
14/20H (1948–1950).......................................................................... 2011

WOII Thomas Parnell
1DG (1936–38) 16/5L (1938–41) 10H (1941–58)................................. 11 Jan 11

Mr N Rennie
10H (1956–1969).............................................................................. 13 Jan 11

Mrs E Horsford wife of Maj T B Horsford MC
11H (1939–1946).............................................................................. 15 Jan 11

WOI R K Lloyd
10H (1946–1968).............................................................................. 29 Jan 11

Lt Col N C P Winter

Mrs B Johnston wife of Maj C F Johnston
14/20H (1932–1947).......................................................................... 28 Feb 11

Mr D W Jackson

Mrs P Gunner wife of Cpl R Gunner
14/20H (1965–1977)......................................................................... Mar 11

WO2 A D G Rodd

Mr C Osbey
11H (1953–1955).............................................................................. 14 Mar 11

Mrs D Joyson wife of Lt Col H C Joyson

Mr R Regendanz
10H (1951–1953).............................................................................. 26 Mar 11

Mr J A Rowe (Mousey)
14/20H (1967–1989).......................................................................... 02 Apr 11

Mr A Corbett
14/20H (1942–1947).......................................................................... 05 Apr 11

Mr D Bowles
10H (1947–1952).............................................................................. 18 Apr 11

Mrs M Cameron-Hayes wife of Maj J Cameron-Hayes
14/20H (1971–1983).......................................................................... 22 Apr 11

Mr John Carter
10H (1951–1953).............................................................................. 23 Apr 11

Bandsman S Henshaw
14/20H (1951–1953).......................................................................... 23 Apr 11

J A D A Lister
11H (1947–1949).............................................................................. 16 May 11

SQMS C A Christian
11H (1934–1946).............................................................................. 21 May 11

Mr R Hession
11H (1953–1955).............................................................................. 04 Jun 11

Tpr A Hewitt
RH (1987–1990).............................................................................. 05 Jun 11

Mr L K Coundley
14/20H (1971–1979).......................................................................... 13 Jun 11

Mr J F Ball
10H (1938–1946).............................................................................. 16 Jun 11

Bandsman Ted Slade
11H (1938–1946).............................................................................. 16 Jun 11

2nd Lt J G Phillips

Mr J Monkman
10H (1941–1968).............................................................................. 02 Jul 11

Mr P J Hyland
11H (1959–1962).............................................................................. 03 Jul 11

Mrs B Shadbolt wife of SSgt Bill Shadbolt
REME attached 14/20H (1948–1960)................................................ 08 Jul 11

Mr P W Howell
14/20H (1956–1965).......................................................................... 19 Jul 11

A H Bridges (Sandy)
14/20H (1951–1959).......................................................................... 27 Jul 11

Mr M P W Walsh
RH................................................................................................. 28 Jul 11

Mrs J A Harris wife of Lt J H Harris

Maj J D de Courcy Mitchell TD

Maj W Acland OBE wife of M E Acland Esq.
11H (1945–1948).............................................................................. 10 Aug 11

V Stratton Esq
11H (1946–1948).............................................................................. 20 Aug 11

Mrs W G Heathier

Mrs J Matthey, Daughter of the Late: Brig C B Harvey DSO

Capt I N E Bruce

Mrs J Trotter wife of Capt J D D Trotter
11H (1949–1962)............................................................................. Sep 11

Mr D Henshaw
14/20H (1960–1971).......................................................................... Sep 11

Mr G C Cole
14/20H (1930–1937).......................................................................... 06 Sep 11

Col J R Clifton-Bligh
14/20H (1962–1992).......................................................................... 14 Sep 11

Mr D Mason
14/20H (1950–1955).......................................................................... 23 Sep 11

Mrs B Abel-Smith wife of W Abel-Smith
10H (1949–1950).............................................................................. 03 Oct 11

J W Abel-Smith Esq.

Mr M Greenwood
14/20H (1964–1987).......................................................................... 08 Oct 11

The Earl Henry Bathurst DL
10H (1946–1948).............................................................................. 16 Oct 11

Capt F F Chapman
11H (1944–1946).............................................................................. 17 Oct 11

Maj Gen P B Cavendish CB OBE
1 RDG (1943–46) KOH (46–58) QOH (58–64)
14/20H (64–81).............................................................................. 24 Oct 11

Mr J Jones
14/20H (1935–1946).......................................................................... 25 Oct 11

Mr M B Williams

Mr R Thomas

M W Brander Esq.
10H (1943–1945).............................................................................. 14 Nov 11

Maj T R Morley
10H (1942–1962).............................................................................. Dec 11

Mrs J Jones wife of SSgt K Jones
14/20H............................................................................................. Dec 11

Mrs S Williams wife of Brig T G Williams CBE
14/20H (1951–1987).......................................................................... 02 Dec 11

Mr R Sanderson

Capt T G C Holcroft

Tpr E J Heal
KRH (2011).................................................................................... 25 Dec 11

Tpr D G Harrison
KRH (2009–2011)............................................................................ 28 Dec 11

C S Gladstone Esq.
10H (1951–1952).............................................................................. 04 Jan 12

Mr D M Lack
11H (1944–1968).............................................................................. 07 Jan 12

SSgt J G Wainwright
14/20H (1944–1968).......................................................................... 09 Jan 12
The King’s Royal Hussars
1st June 2011

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 Cullinan
Adjutant
Capt Warwick
Operations Officer
Capt Hicks
Career Management Officer
Capt Witham
Regimental Sergeant Major
WO1 Taylor
Assistant Career Management Officer
Sgt Marshall

C Squadron

Maj Michael
Capt Tyson
Lt Welford
2Lt Garbutt
2Lt Gillespie
WO2 Lowe
SSgt Green
Sgt Lancaster
Sgt Pollard
Sgt Wilson
Sgt Yeo
Sgt Hendron
Sgt Budd
Sgt Warren
Cpl Farling
Cpl Taylor
Cpl Gainford
Cpl Baldwin 129
Cpl Laureau
Cpl Westwell
Cpl Daniels 174
Cpl Thornley
Cpl Rymer 112
Cpl Hurst
LCpl Bardell
LCpl Blay
LCpl Kempston
LCpl Simler
LCpl Webb 629
LCpl West 218
LCpl Wood 183
LCpl Forbes
LCpl Belt
LCpl Cherrett
LCpl Leach 510
LCpl Smith 321
LCpl Bowman
Tpr Gould
Tpr Lewis 169
Tpr Price 632
Tpr Sumner
Tpr Smith 571
Tpr Slocombe
Tpr Illingworth
Tpr Halshaw
Tpr Lemott
Tpr Bennett 580
Tpr Morgan
Tpr Washbrook
Tpr Evers
Tpr Hardacre
Tpr Gray 405
Tpr Green 790
Tpr Potter 644
Tpr Brown 337
Tpr Duffy
Tpr Tolley
Tpr Matthews 208
Tpr Johnstone
Tpr Evans
Tpr Ford Parker
Tpr Heal
Tpr Shaw 821
### A Squadron

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D Squadron

Maj Smith J
Capt Reid
Lt Bush
Lt Moger
2Lt Matthews
2Lt Astley-Birtwistle
WO2 Barrow
SSgt Silvey
Sgt Mcleish
Sgt Whitehill
Sgt Collier
Sgt O'Donnell
Sgt Bradley
Sgt Burnie
Cpl Morley
Cpl Lee
Cpl Stringer
Cpl Bohana
Cpl Simpson
Cpl Kennedy
Cpl Hinton

Cpl Harrison
Cpl Oakes
Cpl Sullivan
LCpl Buckle
LCpl Tollfield 620
LCpl Bradbury
LCpl Fremont
LCpl Davenport
LCpl Freitag
LCpl Mountain
LCpl Baron
LCpl Scott
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 Kvesic
SSM WO2 Sinclair
SQMS SSgt Preston
Smn Cpl Shores
Smn LCpl Hatton
Smn Tpr Fallows

QM Dept
QM Capt Ford
RQMS WO2 Portwood
WO2 Robinson
Sgt Gillam
Cpl Marshall 103
Cpl Thompson
LCpl Stocks
LCpl Bennett
LCpl Wilkinson 655
LCpl Howarth
Tpr Hodgson

QM(T) Dept
QM(T) Capt Sloan
RQMS(T) WO2 Dunn
SSgt Nowell
Sgt Grief
Sgt Bensley
Cpl Kendall
Cpl Smiles
Cpl Maher
Cpl Hocking
Cpl Buckley
Cpl Shepherd
LCpl Parr

Trg Wing
Trg Offr Capt Barclay
D&NCO Cpl Nugent
Sigs Instr Cpl Saunders

Regt Prov
Sgt Godwin
LCpl Day
LCpl Ford
LCpl Pickering

Welfare Office
Capt Price
Sgt Davis-Bawn
LCpl Kirkbridge

Post NCO
LCpl Hannon

RAP
Maj Lea
Cpl Rudge
Tpr Bull

Offr's Mess
SSgt Briscoe
Cpl Macdougall

Sgt's Mess
Cpl Jolliffe

Mechanical Transport Tp
MTO Capt Kennedy
MTWO WO2 McParland
Mt Sgt Sgt Malone
Cpl Warren

Cpl Campbell
Cpl Smith 590
Cpl McGlone
Cpl Mulcahy
LCpl Russe
LCpl Beard 695
LCpl Linnane
LCpl Malone
LCpl Barnett
LCpl Campbell 162
LCpl Holmes
LCpl Massey
LCpl Wilton
Tpr Jones 026
Tpr Neary
Tpr Seaborne
Tpr Ollerhead
Tpr South
Tpr Critchley
Tpr Farrer
Tpr Begg
Tpr Parker 304
Tpr Mclaughlan
Tpr Gurung
Tpr Heads
Tpr Radcliffe 435
Tpr Holland
Tpr Hagley (A)
Tpr Twanje
Tpr Steele

Int Cell
Capt Beattie
SSgt Ashton
### Officers at ERE

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<td>Gen Sir Richard Shirreff</td>
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<td>Maj Gen AJ Bradshaw CB OBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brig JJ Powe OBE</td>
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<td>Head of Programme Management and Delivery, Olympic and Paralympic</td>
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<td>Brig MWE Wade CBE</td>
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<td>Brigadier Media &amp; Communication</td>
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<td>Col AFB Ashbrooke</td>
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<td>Assistant Director Improvement and Efficiency, HQLF</td>
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<td>Col GRMcD Harrison</td>
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<td>Col JNN Orr</td>
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<td>Col NGT Polley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj AMA Tilney</td>
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<td>Maj TB Winchcombe</td>
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<td>DCOS, Defence College of Policing and Guarding (DCPG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj HJ Willis</td>
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<td>SO2 ARMD / ISTAR, CAST (South)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj MN Wilkinson</td>
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<td>SO2 G7 Cap Dev HQ ARRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt BEH Bishop</td>
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<td>9AAC, Dishforth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt MA Caulfield</td>
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<td>SO3 to Senior Mentor, CTAG-A, Afghanistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt RH Crofton</td>
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<td>SO2 G3 (Ops), OP CRONOLOGY, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt GLA Hanratty</td>
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<td>SO3 G4, HQ 1 Mech Bde</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt PJ Perowne</td>
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<td>AMA to DSACEUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt THM Perrott</td>
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<td>SO3 G3 (Ops), OP TORCHLIGHT, Afghanistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj AJ Rutter</td>
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<td>LO to OP TORCHLIGHT, Afghanistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt JD Scott</td>
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<td>PI Comd, ATR(B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt GD Wills</td>
<td></td>
<td>OC Normandy Squadron, RAC Training Regt</td>
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<tr>
<td>2Lt GHS Stephens</td>
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<tr>
<td>2Lt GM Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>2Lt JSP Williamson</td>
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</table>
Soldiers at ERE

WO1 Adesile (GSM Episkopi)
WO1 Penkeithman (Armour Centre, CIS Sch)
WO1 Childes (Armour Centre, QM(T))
WO1 Farmer (Lulworth Range WO)
WO2 Ruddick (US Armour Centre, BC)
WO2 Spyers (Armour Centre, D&M Sch)
WO2 Coleman (HQ Britcon UNFICYP, OP TOSCA)
WO2 Rutherford (RQMS BATUS)
WO2 Wade (HQ Land)
WO2 Clough (BATUS)
SSgt Bretherton (MSSG GP HQ)
SSgt Shepherd-Garner (LXC AFV Tg Branch)
SSgt Spyers (UK TIDSO EST)
SSgt Dix (HQ DRAC AFV Tg Branch)
SSgt Baird (LWC, Armoured Wing)
SSgt Clark (Defence Collage of CIS, Blandford)
SSgt Mclean (Armour Centre, CLM Wing)
SSgt Fenby (Armour Centre, D&M Sch)
SSgt Blacklock (ATDU, Bovington)
SSgt Davies (LFG, ARMTAT)
SSgt Baker (ACIO Abergavenny)
SSgt Kostilek (Shape Staff)
Sgt Almond (7 Armd Bde)
Sgt Bain (AFC Harrogate)
Sgt Brace (JAMES Team, Warminster)
Sgt Bradley (Armour Centre, RACTR)
Sgt Clayton (Leconsfield, DST)
Sgt Daisley (Armour Centre, D&M Sch)
Sgt Debaughn (AFCO, Preston)
Sgt Donald (Armour Centre, CIS Sch)
Sgt Eadsforth (Armour Centre, Gnr Sch)
Sgt Hay (Armour Centre, CIS Sch)
Sgt Holland (Armour Centre, Gnr Sch)
Sgt Hudson (AFCO, Portsmouth)
Sgt Mackay (HQ Land, CD Branch)
Sgt Miller (216 Sig Squadron, 16 Air Assult Bde HQ)
Sgt Mitty (LFTTG, Catterick)
Sgt Price (Armour Centre, Gnr Sch)
Sgt Sercombe (C Squadron The Royal Wessex Yeomanry)
Sgt White (A Squadron The Royal Wessex Yeomanry)
Sgt Wilkinson (19 CDT Tg Team)
Cpl Ashmore (Armour Centre, RACTR)
Cpl Astley (ATDU, Bovington)
Cpl Booth (Armour Centre, RACTR)
Cpl Buckle (Armour Centre, RACTR)
Cpl Burns (ART 9, Preston)
Cpl Duxbury (PTG, Cope Hill Down)
Cpl Green (Armour Centre, RACTR)
Cpl Jones (BATUS, Canada)
Cpl Larkin (44 Sp Squadron, RMAS)
Cpl Law (ATR, Winchester)
Cpl Oliver-Hughes (Skill at Arms Wing, RMAS)
Cpl Plant (ATR Basingbourne)
Cpl Thorpe (Armour Centre, D&M Sch)
LCpl Bamber (ART 9, Preston)
LCpl Bateson (ATR Basingbourne)
LCpl Brailsford (ATR Harrogate)
LCpl Mellis (ART 20A, Bicester)
LCpl Munday (ATDU, Bovington)
LCpl Willamson (ATR Basingbourne)
Tpr Bradford (ART 23 Cheshp)
Tpr Carter 853 (ART 23 Cheshp)
Tpr Stanford (HQ LWC WSU, Warminster)
Tpr Sutton (JAMES Team, Warminster)
## Births

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mother</th>
<th>Child</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sgt</td>
<td>Hepworth</td>
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<td>Harvey Mark</td>
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<td>Eadsforth</td>
<td>Louise</td>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>04/02/2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pte</td>
<td>Karolo</td>
<td>Timoci (Husband)</td>
<td>Adi Vika</td>
<td>17/02/2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl</td>
<td>Winters</td>
<td>Nicole</td>
<td>Eve Grace</td>
<td>01/05/2011</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Michael</td>
<td>Lucy</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>04/05/2011</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Plant</td>
<td>Debra</td>
<td>Hayden</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Blay</td>
<td>Tina</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>17/05/2011</td>
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<td>O'Donnell</td>
<td>Alison</td>
<td>Luke Andrew</td>
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<td>Louise</td>
<td>Henry</td>
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<td>Holly</td>
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<td>Suzanne</td>
<td>Lilly Mae</td>
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<td>Kelly</td>
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<td>Kerry</td>
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<td>Arthur</td>
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<td>Rylee Robins</td>
<td>Kyra Robins</td>
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<td>Charlie Samuel</td>
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<td>Karliegh</td>
<td>Autume Amber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl</td>
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<td>Olivia</td>
<td>Alfie Daniel James</td>
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<td>Kim</td>
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<td>Zoe</td>
<td>Logan Leo</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Valdes Scott</td>
<td>Portia</td>
<td>Caspian</td>
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*Henry Wilkinson born 11 November 2011*
## Marriages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Spouse Name</th>
<th>Date Married</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Maj Gareth Hicks</td>
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<td>Franschhoek, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rebecca Samways</td>
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<td>Sarah Carter</td>
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<td>Olga Kontakos</td>
<td>15/03/2011</td>
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<td>Susan Wilson</td>
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<td>Hood</td>
<td>Susie MacDonald</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.

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.

Tel: 01962 828541

www.horsepowermuseum.co.uk
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
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