THE KING’S ROYAL HUSSARS

REGIMENTAL JOURNAL 2012
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 604839 • Web: www.krh.org.uk • E-mail: info@krh.org.uk

The KRH Regimental Trust is a registered charity — Charity Commission No 1021455
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

Editor: Maj CDW Smith

Volume 19 2012 Tidworth

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

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

As your Colonel-in-Chief, I am very proud of what the Regiment has achieved during 2012. It was a year dominated by the deployment to Afghanistan and this tour has clearly demonstrated your ability to perform any task that was placed before you; be it the mastery of a variety of vehicles, the mentoring of indigenous forces or close quarter infantry war-fighting. It gave me great pleasure to present the operational tour medals in December and hear so many of your stories personally.

It was evident that you had received support of the highest order from the Rear Operations Group, your families and the Regimental Association and I warmly thank them for their dedication. I am sure that this support will continue for as long required for those that need it, underpinned by the success of the KRH Appeal. My thoughts are with you all as you recover physically, mentally and professionally throughout 2013 and I send you all my very best wishes for another successful year.

[Signature]

Buckingham Palace
2012 has been a year almost completely dominated by Operation Herrick 16 and arguably presented The Regiment with one of the greatest operational challenges of our long and distinguished history. The Regiment deployed all four of our sabre squadrons into a variety of roles and locations, whilst Headquarters Squadron formed a Battlegroup Headquarters that assumed tactical responsibilities for the district of Lashkar Gah. The mission in Afghanistan is complex and demanding, but our training was thorough and we arrived in theatre confident that progress could be made. We left after six months of intense operations knowing that we had made an invaluable contribution and that the campaign was on track. In particular, the insurgents’ Summer offensive proved to be a failure, because of our efforts with the Afghan security forces, and we continued to handover responsibilities for security to our Afghan partners with confidence. Afghan society will continue to face significant challenges, but the campaign and considerable international investment is providing them with a meaningful chance of success and their fractured economy is already showing significant signs of growth; we saw this first hand in Lashkar Gah.

Our soldiers performed remarkably well, as advisors, armoured crewman and dismounted counterinsurgents. No other combat unit in the brigade provided such versatility across its ranks. But operations in Afghanistan require the closest integration of a broad range of capabilities and troops. Thankfully, it is in this Regiment’s culture to welcome ‘attached arms’ into our ranks; and it is something we take pride in doing well. Our Battlegroup was the most diverse I have encountered to date; all three Services were represented as well as most parts of the Army. Furthermore, our squadrons were reinforced with troops from The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, The Royal Yeomanry and The Light Dragoons. All this meant that our experiences on the tour were not purely Regimental, but involved individuals from all parts of 12th Mechanized Brigade and beyond. This is reflected in the articles and photographs of this Journal.

Tragically, twenty eight of our brigade paid the ultimate sacrifice and almost two hundred were wounded in action. Amongst the Fallen we have lost valued colleagues from within the Battlegroup and Squadron Groups and others with whom we have worked in the past. Whilst everyone in The Regiment returned home, some carry injuries that will be with them for life. The KRH Appeal was initiated so that we could be in a position to care for them, and their families, both now and in the future. The KRH Appeal has proven to be a great success because of the generosity that exists within the Regimental Family. We have already acted in support of our wounded and we remain committed to support them for the rest of their lives. Therefore, the fundraising in support of the Appeal will continue for the foreseeable future.

Operation Herrick 16 confirmed once more that the greatest strength of our Regiment remains the commitment of the soldiers. This commitment is never taken for granted and impossible without the support of others and in this regard our soldiers have been blessed. The tour was in many respects a family effort, with the absolute support for our troops from our families, friends, local communities and the wider Regimental Family. It is not easy to have a loved one deploy to Afghanistan and we are most grateful for the manner in which our Welfare Team has acted to ease the burden carried by our families.

This has been an extraordinary year for The King’s Royal Hussars. Our future role as an Armoured Regiment features prominently within the new Army 2020 structure and as such, I am quite sure it will not be long before we will face similar operational challenges in the service of our country.
## Diary of Major Events 2012

### January

- **2**  
  Return from Christmas Leave

- **2–8**  
  D-3 month Op HERRICK Recce (CO, 2IC, Sqn Ldrs)

- **3–6**  
  Ex CRIMSON FORCE (Small Arms Ranges, SENTA)

- **9–14**  
  Ex PASHTUN TEMPEST (Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise)

- **16–20**  
  Ex PASHTUN HORIZON 2 (12 Mech Bde HQ Staff Training)

- **18**  
  Visit – Commanding General 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Maj Gen Gurganus

- **24**  
  Visit – Senior Colonel & Battlegroup Dinner night

- **30–4 Feb**  
  Ex MOUNTAIN DRAGON (Jt FIRES Trg)

- **30–1 FEB**  
  Bengough Trophy (Troop Tests)

### February

- **2**  
  KRH Command Group Dinner, Royal Southern Yacht Club

- **6**  
  Visit – Colonel in Chief

- **6–10**  
  Ex PASHTUN HORIZON 3 (12 Mech Bde HQ Staff Training) & Small Arms Ranges, Bulford

- **15**  
  Brocklehurst Trophy (Inter Sqn Boxing)

- **17**  
  Fathers Dinner Night, Officers’ Mess

- **18**  
  A Sqn Ldrs Lunch

- **22–28**  
  Ex PASHTUN DAWN (Field Training Exercise), Salisbury Plain

### March

- **1–16**  
  A Sqn deployment window

- **2–16**  
  KRH Battlegroup pre-deployment leave

- **9**  
  KRH Command Group Dinner, Royal Southern Yacht Club

- **10**  
  Visit – Colonel in Chief

- **13–9 Apr**  
  KRH Battlegroup RSOI & handover

- **15**  
  12th Mechanized Brigade TOA from 20th Armoured Brigade

- **16**  
  ROG (Rear Operations Group) established, Tidworth

### April

- **1**  
  A Sqn Ldrs Lunch

- **6**  
  Visit – Comd 20th Armoured Brigade Recce

- **7–8**  
  Visit – Comd 20th Armoured Brigade Recce

- **8**  
  Operation Order SUMMER ACE (12X Orders for Op HERRICK 16) Issued

### May

- **2**  
  Visit – Comd EC (Commander Equipment Capability)

- **6**  
  Visit – Comd 30th Day Review

### June

- **1**  
  KRH BG transform from a Combined Force to a Transition Support Unit

### July

- **2**  
  Queen's Diamond Jubilee BBQ, LASHKAR GAR

- **6**  
  ROG – Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Street Party

- **7**  
  ROG – Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Tidworth

- **8**  
  Visit – CDS (Chief Defence Staff)

- **11–13**  
  ROG – Support to TANKFEST, Bovington

- **21**  
  ROG – Cammo Day, Collingbourne Ducis School

- **26**  
  ROG – Support to TANKFEST, Bovington

- **30**  
  Op QALB K10 (Check Point SPINA KOTA handover to Afghan Police)
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The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars
Regimental Notes

2012 was an extraordinary year for the Regiment that will be cherished and remembered as a unique segment of our distinguished history. The main focus was the deployment from April to November to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 16 with the Battlegroup responsible for the Lashkar Gar District of Helmand. The commitment to the deployment was a significant undertaking, which started in early 2011 and is still ongoing with us supporting those destined for Op HERRICK 18 in April 2013. The challenge has been immense and intense, training for a complex, demanding and evolving operational theatre, in a primarily dismounted role during the insurgent Summer fighting season, all at a critical point in the campaign where security responsibilities were rapidly transitioning from ISAF (International Security Assistance Force – us) to ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces – Afghan Police and Army – them) ownership. The training we received was outstanding and we arrived exceptionally well prepared. Many diverse operations were conducted and our contribution to the campaign was significant; thankfully the Battlegroup recovered to Tidworth with the majority unscathed ready to enjoy the Christmas festivities and some well earned post-tour leave with friends and families. An extraordinary year…!

2011 ended with most of us on our knees with exhaustion; Christmas leave had never been so anticipated or well earned. It was a fantastic respite and sufficient to recharge batteries for what was to come. With New Years’ Eve hangovers still fresh, the Command Team were into the first serial of 2012, the D-3 Recce to Afghanistan for the CO, 2IC and Sqn Ldrs. This was our only opportunity to get a real feel for the campaign first hand with a couple of days ‘on the ground’ and to see the Queen’s Royal Hussars in action in the role that we were training for. We all returned assured and reinvigorated that we were on the right track and importantly we were able to inject reality into the remaining training.

January to March was a whirlwind of activity, as we completed the back end of the relentless 6-month Mission Specific Training (MST) cycle, with Small Arms Ranges in Wales, a CALFEX (Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise) in Castlemartin, BGHQ Staff training in Warminster and Lincolnshire, language training in Tidworth, and the Field Training Exercise (FTX) on Salisbury Plain. The FTX was fantastic: extremely well resourced and importantly it enabled the Battlegroup to fully flex its muscles with the whole team in place. With a detailed scenario, Jordanians fulfilling the role of a partnered force (to replicate us working with Afghans) and realistic equipment scalings, the only characteristic that was at odds was the weather. February (-10°C) on Salisbury Plain is nothing like Lashkar Gar in the summer (55°C)! With CO 4 SCOTS (Op HERRICK 14 CO of Lashkar Gar Battlegroup) mentoring us throughout the exercise, he was more than satisfied with the KRH Battlegroup’s performance and we were certified fit for role! Other activities did not cease during this busy time; we were able to compete for the Old Comrades’ Cup (Winter Sports), the Bengough Trophy (Troop Tests) and the Brocklehurst Trophy (Boxing). Several high profile visits were also conducted: we were delighted to host the Commanding General 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Commander Regional Command South West (our future 2-up boss for Op HERRICK 16), the first visit of the Senior Colonel, Prince Michael of Kent, the Colonel-in-Chief and the Officers’ Mess fathers dined in the Mess.

The deployment of the Regiment was an enormous task which took nearly two months to complete. Each deploying element would muster on the Parade Square in Tidworth, travel by coach to Brize Norton normally in the middle of the night, fly to Qatar to transfer from a civilian charter plane to a Military transport aircraft to land in Camp Bastion 24–36 hours later. The next stage was RSOI (Reception, Staging and Onward Integration), the process of top-up training and acclimatization prior to moving forward to respective Patrol Bases. RSOI is a well-oiled machine, processing 10,000 troops every 6 months; it was the icing on the cake in terms of our training and importantly it imbued confidence for all. After just over a week, all were transported by Chinook to onward destinations to commence handovers and familiarisation patrols. The KRH Battlegroup assumed responsibility for the Lashkar Gar District area of operations on 15 April and waved goodbye to the Queen’s Royal Hussars and Op HERRICK 15.

The Colonel in Chief meets B Squadron during her visit in February

The Senior Colonel visits the Regiment during our pre-deployment training
We had an excellent handover from our friends in the QRH who were very much on the same wavelength; they undoubtedly set us up for success and enabled us to bed in quickly.

The entire Regiment, less a Rear Operations Group (ROG), deployed in a variety of roles within 12 Mechanized Brigade. Both A & D Sqns were detached: A Squadron under Maj Charlie Smith advising an element of the Afghan Army as part of the Brigade Advisory Group under command of the 3 RIFLES Battlegroup, and D Squadron under Maj Jules Smith formed the Warthog Squadron – a highly mobile, well protected, armoured troop carrier – working as a critical part of the ISTAR Group under command of the Light Dragoons Battlegroup. The KRH Battlegroup comprised the Headquarters based in Main Operating Base Lashkar Gar and 4 dispersed sub-units: B & C ground-holding Squadrons, Corunna Armoured Infantry Company 3 YORKS, equipped with Warrior armoured vehicles and B Company 3 RIFLES as our Operations Company equipped with Protected Mobility
Vehicles. B Squadron was commanded by Maj Chris Badcock and was located a half-hour to the east of Lashkar Gar in Patrol Base Atraal, with 2 troops and Recce Troop. C Squadron was commanded by Maj Alex Michael and was located an hour to the north of Lashkar Gar in Patrol Base Nahidullah with 2 troops and a Fire Support Platoon from 1 R WELSH.

Due to the specialised nature of operations in Afghanistan, the Battlegroup was augmented by many diverse capabilities including search dogs, electronic warfare specialists, biometric enrolment teams, a geor-mapping specialist, intelligence analysts, stabilisation specialists, counter-improvised explosive device teams, medics, unmanned aerial vehicle specialists.

Our numbers were further swelled with 29 augmentees from both the Royal & Royal Wessex Yeomanrys and 17 from the Light Dragoons. Key to our mission were the
Advisor Teams, whose role it was to mentor the Afghan Police and Army units. Their primary task was to develop the Afghan National Security Forces, to ensure that they are sufficiently developed to maintain enduring security when ISAF departs in 2014.

The final component of the team was the Rear Operations Group (Rear Party). The ROG was commanded by Maj Rupert Hope-Hawkins and they tirelessly supported the deployed elements whilst dealing with the plethora of routine UK-based issues in our absence. Regrettably, the emails, inspections and tasks from Division did not stop with the Regiment deployed! The ROG was a demanding task, but was approached with enthusiasm and professionalism, for which the deployed elements were extremely grateful.

The District of Lashkar Gar, the ancient capital of Helmand Province, comprised 400 square kms of battlespace, approximately the size of the Isle of Wight. The area encompassed the full diversity of southern Afghanistan terrain, from jungle-like green zone on the banks of the river Helmand in the west, to the rocky desert in the east through which the Nar-e-Bughra canal cuts. Single carriageway tarmac roads bisected the area, which enabled the locals to move relatively freely to and from the District Centre.

Our mission was to partner the Afghan National Security Forces, primarily the police, to secure the key routes and the populations that exist within the Protected Communities. Significant gains were made in the west, where the Afghan Police were near the point of independence as we departed. However, the east saw a dangerous and externally supported group of insurgents, who contested the Afghan Government’s presence. We took the fight to these insurgents, and the narcotics and terrorist networks that supported them. We struck the heart of their safe havens and in depth, to deny them access to lethal arms, funding and effective command. As we acted in depth, and as another insurgent summer fighting season drew to a close, the local population saw their own soldiers and policemen keep the enemy at bay, with increasing confidence and capability; this is a momentum that will build steadily on the foundations laid by the KRH Battlegroup’s efforts during the summer of 2012.

For many it was their first tour: as a battlegroup the KRH had not previously deployed to Afghanistan, with a last full Regimental tour on Op TELIC 10 (Iraq) in 2007. We had believed that the tempo and friction that the pre-deployment training delivered was unrealistic and unsustainable; we were quickly proved wrong. Indeed, at times it seemed as if the daily ‘main events list’ had been constructed to eek every last drop of resolve from us all. But with the excellent foundation laid, and a thorough understanding of each other’s strengths, we were a robust team and nothing phased us for long!

The environment was hugely challenging – dust pervaded everywhere, the summer heat – at an incredible 50°C – combined with the average on-the-man patrol weight of 50 kgs, was extremely demanding. The men rose to the challenge, and indeed were
indistinguishable from our infantry friends in terms of professionalism, capability and competence.

Op HERRICK 16 sustained the momentum of transition of security responsibility through the insurgent summer fighting season and set the conditions for the campaigns’ final stages to 2014. The decisive gains at both Battlegroup and Brigade level advanced the campaign significantly, but were exceptionally hard won, and were only enabled by the relentless dedication and perseverance of our soldiers. Their selfless commitment to the campaign, offensive spirit in depth and humbling courage, was outstanding.

There were many achievements for which the KRH Battlegroup can rightly be proud. In the West, C Squadron advanced the pace of Transition to the extent that the Op HERRICK 17 sub-unit was planned to withdraw completely by Christmas 2012. During the insurgent summer fighting season, not a shot was fired, in an area that saw intense kinetic activity in the summer of 2011 – a demonstration of significant progress. In the East, B Squadron expanded the Protected Community into one of the most contested areas of Helmand and enabled the building of 2 new check points from which the Afghan Police will be able to exert enduring security. Throughout the Lashkar Gar District, the Afghan Police made considerable progress during our tour, increasing in confidence and capability daily, which was very rewarding to witness.

The significant gains, regrettably came at a high cost. As a Battlegroup, the KRH faired well. The Brigade suffered 28 Killed in Action and 174 Wounded in Action; a higher tally than the last 3 Op HERRICKs. Thankfully, we lost no one, but did sustain casualties: 9 as a result of improvised explosive devices, 2 from gun shot wounds and 12 from non-battle injuries (slips and trips). The most serious was SSgt ‘Chesh’ Lloyd from Recce Troop, who initiated an IED on Monday 15 October – his final week of tour – whilst on a dismounted patrol in the east supporting activity in a recently secured area. His injuries were severe with the loss of both legs to the knee and with damage to his hands. The medical system was outstanding and he is making tremendous progress whilst being supported by the KRH Appeal.

Our Relief in Place with the follow-on 1 LANCS Battlegroup occurred in October. The Transfer of Authority which formally marks the transition from Op HERRICK 16 to 17 took place on 19 October. As with the deployment, our recovery to Tidworth was over several months, with A Squadron recovering first, followed by the KRH BG (HQ, B and C Squadrons) and with D Squadron bringing up the rear in November; regimentally, the tour lasted for 9 months. Further detail of the tour is captured in this journal, but also in the KRH Helmand Diary and the KRH Op HERRICK 16 DVD.

Whilst we were entirely focused on the mission in Afghanistan, the future plan for the Army entitled ‘Army 2020’ was announced back in the UK. As is now widely known, the Regiment fared well. The plan sees the Regiment remaining in Tidworth, equipped with Challenger 2 main battle tanks, but in increased numbers from 44 to 56. Our structure changes to 3 sabre squadrons each of 18 tanks, with each squadron having 4 troops each of 4 tanks. The 2 RHQ command tanks remain. The key to this new structure is that it enables the Regiment to operate as robust 9-tank half squadrons, with enablers.

A year ago the Regiment was ordered to disband the Medium Armour Squadron. Thankfully, this order has been revoked and under the new structure, D Squadron will form a Command and Recce Sqn; a grouping of Recce Troop, Command Troop, an Intelligence Troop and the Training Wing. HQ Squadron will
become Support Squadron and will comprise the usual departments, less those relocated to C&R Squadron. This will mean it will be easier to manage and regimental sport will be far less one-sided! This new structure will be adopted from January 2013. Other positive announcements in October included excellent results on the Regular Command Board with Lt Col Julian Buczacki destined to command the Queen’s Royal Lancers in 2013 and Lt Col James Senior to command the Light Dragoons in early 2014.

With the Regiment safely recovered from Afghanistan, the emphasis became Normalisation and Recuperation. With the diverse nature and roles for the different squadrons the immediate priority was to re-establish unit cohesion and return to our core role on tanks for contingency operations. The Normalisation period enabled the Regiment to return to life in Tidworth in a staged manner after the rigours and demands of pre-deployment training and the tour itself; the progressive return to ‘normal’ set the foundations for the Return to Role training planned for 2013. Essentially, the tour was put to bed, all the specialised equipment was handed back, we attended mission exploitation events to share our Op HERRICK 16 experiences and supported pre-deployment training for those in 1 Mechanized Brigade preparing for Op HERRICK 18 in April 2013.

Two outstanding homecoming parades were conducted, the first in Leyland in conjunction with the Northern Reunion and the second in Winchester with the Senior Colonel taking the salute, followed by a Thanksgiving Carol service in the Cathedral. Both were exceptionally well supported by the public and the genuine appreciation for the Regiment and its achievements was tangible. The Medal Parade in Aliwal Barracks was equally as impressive and well attended with the Regiment in Service Dress and the Colonel-in-Chief taking the salute. HRH presented Regimental and Operational Service Medals supported by the Colonel of the Regiment, General Richard Shirreff and General Adrian Bradshaw. Given the time of year the weather could not have been better with a crisp bright day; the summer heat and dust of Afghanistan felt like a different world!

Despite a fairly hectic programme with what seemed like a years worth of activity being crammed into 15 working days, there was the opportunity for the odd social gathering which saw the Corporals’ and Officers’ Messes having winter balls and the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess celebrating the 164th anniversary of Ramnuggar. On the sporting front, the Regiment competed in winter sports for the Old Comrades Cup and deployed teams to Bovington to compete in the Royal Armoured Corps Hodson’s Horse winter sports competition.

The Regiment enjoyed a 4-week Christmas block leave period, with a maturing plan for 2013 to look forward to. On return, the first priority will be to conduct Recuperation which sees the Regiment re-orbating into the new Army 2020 structure and commencing the task of rebuilding tank squadrons after 18 months of dismounted activity. Thereafter, the Regiment will deploy to Canada as the enemy force for Ex Prairie Storm 3 in late summer, which will be a fantastic opportunity for a run-out in armoured vehicles on the best training area that the Army retains. We will be sparring against the 2 Royal Welsh Battlegroup, who will have C Squadron under command. From late 2013 and into 2014, the pace of training will steadily increase as the Regiment prepares to become the Lead Armoured Battlegroup, trained and at readiness to deploy in armour to the next hotspot.

However, it will not be all work: ski teams will compete in Alpine, Nordic and Snowboarding championships over the winter, adventurous training expeditions will deploy to many arduous locations including skydiving in California, trekking in New Zealand, scuba diving in the Red Sea and Polo in Argentina. For the remainder, there will be a Regimental adventurous training camp in the early summer down in Cornwall. On the sporting front, the football and rugby teams will both conduct tours in Europe and the Brocklehurst Trophy will be competed for in the boxing ring. And significantly, after nearly 3 years in command, Lt Col Alex Potts will handover the Regiment to Lt Col Justin Kingsford in April 13.

In summary, 2012 has been a significant year for the Regiment, deploying as a dismounted Battlegroup, we have acquitted ourselves well in Afghanistan on a demanding tour, during the summer fighting season in Helmand; we have benefited from the cuts of Army 2020 and we have an exciting and resourced programme for the next couple of years with a robust task, on armour, to look forward to in 2014.

JC
Honours and Awards

**Member of the Order of the British Empire**
Lt Col Danny Wild

Lt Col Wild was posted in at short notice as Innsworth Station Quartermaster and tasked with ensuring that Imjin Barracks was ready for HQ ARRC's move from Germany to Gloucestershire. If the project were to fail then the UK's reputation in NATO would be seriously tarnished. Lt Col Wild set to and through his drive and undaunted determination coaxed and cajoled the building contractors and Defence Estates to deliver the requirement. In short, he was the dynamo who drove the project on the ground and the glue which held it together. Throughout, it was Lt Col Wild's inspiring leadership and tireless energy in prioritising, directing and fixing a myriad of issues outside the normal remit of a quartermaster which saved the project from potential disaster. He has been universally praised by allied senior military officers for his devotion to resolving their problems and recognised by all as an outstanding ambassador for the UK.

**Operational Honours and Awards 2013**

The following H&A were announced shortly before publication. Citations and photographs will appear in next year's Journal.

- **Mention in Despatches (MiD)**
  - Corporal Christopher Brown, Recce Troop
  - Sergeant Antony Holland, A Squadron
  - Sergeant Daniel Rudge RAMC, B Squadron

- **Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service (QCVS)**
  - Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Potts, HQ Squadron

- **Joint Commander's Commendation**
  - Corporal Liam Holden, B Squadron
  - Lance Corporal Neil Preston REME, D Squadron
  - Trooper Adam Reeve, B Squadron
  - Craftsman Daniel Woodhouse REME, D Squadron

- **Regimental Bar No 18**
  - Colonel David Woodd, Colonel of The King's Royal Hussars

Over the past five years, Colonel Woodd has been the driving force behind the development of numerous initiatives within the Regiment. His leadership and dedication to the Regiment, particularly in the field of officer recruiting, has done much to enhance our military efficiency and has maintained our reputation and prestige throughout the Army.

**Regimental Bar No 18**

The Colonel of the Regiment is awarded Bar Number 18, his second bar, for his service as Colonel over the past five years. His leadership and dedication to the Regiment, particularly in the field of officer recruiting, has done much to enhance our military efficiency and has maintained our reputation and prestige throughout the Army.

Colonel Woodd is only the second person to have two bars to his Regimental Medal and manages to surpass even his father, Colonel Basil Woodd, who was awarded a bar to his Regimental Medal in Tidworth 41 years ago, whilst Colonel of the Regiment.
Regimental Bar No 19
Lt Col Alex Potts, Commanding Officer of The King’s Royal Hussars

Lt Col Alex Potts has been awarded a bar to his Regimental Medal for outstanding and enduring leadership throughout his tenure of command. His notable achievements include leading the Regiment in exercising the Freedom of Gloucestershire, a full Hybrid Foundation Training cycle on Challenger 2 in 2011, before deploying to Canada to conduct Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 3 in BATUS.

With only a brief respite, he instinctively led the Regiment through the relentless 9 month pre-deployment training period for Afghanistan and delivered a full Regimental deployment on Operation HERRICK 16 between April and November 2012. His firm direction, absolute professionalism, outstanding leadership, meticulous attention to detail and unwavering dedication have enabled the Regiment to return safely with a robust and much enhanced reputation.

Despite an unprecedentedly busy period, his concern and foresight for the future wellbeing of potential casualties drove him to launch the KRH Appeal. His leadership raised in excess of £160,000 which will allow the Regiment to make a significant difference to the lives of soldiers and their families adversely affected by operations.

Regimental Medal 223
Maj Julian Smith

Major Smith is awarded the Regimental Medal in recognition of his leadership whilst in command of D Squadron, The Warthog Squadron, during Operation HERRICK 16. His preparation and command of this independent squadron greatly enhanced the reputation of the Regiment across all parts 12th Mechanized Brigade. The squadron provided the Brigade Commander with a flexible and highly professional force that he employed in over 60 deliberate operations during the tour.

Regimental Medal 224
Capt David Barclay, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Captain Barclay is awarded the Regimental Medal for his outstanding contribution as Training Officer in the preparation for Operation HERRICK 16 and for his contribution as the Liaison Officer in Camp Bastion during the initial deployment of the Regiment. Through his tireless efforts he has ensured the Regiment deployed in good order, with the soldiers receiving the best training available.

Regimental Medal 225
Sgt Malone

Sgt Malone is awarded the Regimental Medal for his outstanding contribution to the military honour and efficiency of the King’s Royal Hussars during Operation HERRICK 16 as the Motor Transport SNCO. Fulfilling responsibilities normally held by a Warrant Officer his efforts greatly enhanced vehicle availability, driver safety and he was responsible for creating plans that were duly adopted by the other deployed units in the Brigade.

Regimental Medal 226
Capt Wayne Price

Capt Price is awarded the Regimental Medal in recognition of the outstanding service he has provided the Regiment as the Welfare Officer. His tireless efforts in support of the Regimental families and soldiers during an extremely challenging period have done much to reinforce the moral component and stiffen the resolve of the deployed troops. His compassion and hard work have enhanced the reputation and military efficiency of the Regiment.
The past year has been all about Afghanistan: the training, the tour itself and the post-tour as well as – I’m sure friends and family will agree – horrendous army chat taken to a whole new level. The last time the Sqn deployed was Op TELIC 10 in 2007; for many this would be their first tour. Those with a few tours under their belt were possibly half prepared mentally; however for the newer members of the Regiment the intensity and suddenness of MST (Mission Specific Training) would come as a shock, particularly as we were to prepare ourselves to operate on our feet and not on our beloved CVR(T).

C Sqn returned rested and afresh from a well earned Summer leave, following a gruelling two months as BATUS COEFOR (playing the enemy). No sooner had the Sqn set foot back onto the Aliwal Barracks parade square everybody was herded onto buses for a week of small-arms ranges in preparation for the forthcoming dismounted live firing package at Lydd and Hythe in Kent. The week went off without a hitch and everybody enjoyed the opportunity to get to grips with their new core skills. When it came to deploying on the Lydd and Hythe range package C Sqn were fully trained on a host of dismounted weaponry including shotguns, UGLs (Under Slung Grenade Launchers) and the new Sig Sauer pistol. The desolation of the Lydd and Hythe coastline, broken only by the bright lights of the Dungeness Power Station, provided an almost apocalyptic backdrop for C Sqn’s first major foray into the world of dismounted close combat. Needless to say the Sqn, once re-grouped into multiple size groupings (of twelve to fourteen men), tackled all targets with assurance, despite a distinct lack of brew-making facilities and burgers!

On return to Tidworth the Sqn set about focusing on dismounted training in preparation for Ex CRIMSON LION, a two week dismounted exercise in sunny Brecon, Wales. As is tradition, as the Sqn crossed the famous cattle grid – the ‘gateway to Brecon’, the heavens opened. C Sqn set up camp for the week in an abandoned farm house and, as the multiples practiced contact and CASEVAC (casualty evacuation) drills, it was clear that the last vestiges of mounted tactics had been flushed from memory and everybody
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was now ready to embrace the world of dismounted counter-insurgency operations. The exercise involved a week of low-level training, focusing on dismounted skills and drills, followed by a week of force on force – staving off attacks from Capt Clarke’s Recce Troop. A Cambrian Patrol-style competition was then run for all those volunteered to partake in the actual event. The exercise, despite being exceptionally wet and chilly at times, proved extremely worthwhile for all involved.

Next on the exercise treadmill was a week of actual counter-insurgency training, in preparation for the forthcoming CFX (Confirmatory Field Exercise) on Longmoor Training Area. Once again the over-riding theme was the cold and the rain, however the exercise was an excellent introduction to working within the complex environment of a COIN campaign.

With the first test exercise looming in the form of the CFX, the Sqn prepared to deploy to Lt Astley Birtwistle’s home county, Norfolk. Once Capt Tyson had been assured he didn’t need any jabs or his passport, he, SSgt Budd and Sgt Lancaster deployed early in order to take-over the ‘accommodation’ from the previous incumbents. The rather agricultural surroundings of C Sqn’s home for the week wasn’t quite up to the palatial standards expected, however a couple of days of C Sqn SQMS with his marigolds soon brought the rather drafty barns into a habitable state. Once the Sqn had arrived it wasn’t long before the test serials were coming thick and fast. Capt Gillespie found his multiple deployed to a ‘remote’ Check Point (CP) in the neighbouring village. With no lighting and heating to speak of (and it being an exceptionally chilly winter’s evening) Cpl Kempton soon improvised with a ‘poorly’ aimed rocket flare – setting light to the wooden sangar on the roof of the CP and creating a rather fun Guy Fawkes-like spectacle. Meanwhile SHQ were busy planning ever more elaborate ways for the Sqn to travel home at the end of the exercise. Despite there being few helicopters available, after a carefully constructed flight request, the RAF were able to fly half the Sqn home on ENDEX, landing back in Tidworth in front of a bemused public. Once back in camp we enjoyed a shortened pre-Christmas period before then breaking up for well earned leave.

Early in the New Year the Sqn hit training at a sprint in readiness for the final two hurdles prior to deployment – a tactical live firing exercise at Castlemartin ranges and the FTX (Field Test Exercise). The FTX saw the Sqn deploy in much the same vein as the CFX, but this time on the familiar ground of Salisbury Plain-istan. However this time all of the additional personnel that would be attached to us in Afghanistan were present, notably the Fire Support Group (FSG) from 1 Royal Welsh. For the first time, the Sqn was able to operate as a fully formed squadron group. Following a two week pre-tour leave period, the Sqn followed the trail of biscuit crumbs laid by the Intelligence Officer, Lt Wilson, to RAF Brize Norton for deployment.

The first hurdle upon reaching Afghanistan was RSOI (Reception, Staging and Onwards Integration) in Camp Bastion. This sees the squeezing of seven months of training into a seven day refresher course; seven days of rattling buses, stifling lectures and ‘Sirs, Ma’ams, ladies and gents, listen in…’. The material was all familiar, with the biggest challenge being to acclimatise to the weather; the hot midday sun and strong winds being a sign of things to come.

With the 2IC and the J2 (Intelligence) cell having arrived early to prepare the ground, the men and women of C Sqn were pleasantly surprised on arrival at our patrol base, Nahidullah. They discovered a tidy and spacious camp complete with plumbed-in loos and showers, an air-conditioned cook house and a welfare tent with internet and a television. A jubilant Support Company, 1 Yorks, were soon off, offering both advice and commiserations. The peacefulness of Support Company’s last few months lent encouragement to those old hands who were hoping for a quiet tour but the opposite to the hot-blooded young guns! Black Jack (BJ)21, with commander Lt Astley Birtwistle (AB) and his 2IC Cpl Laureau, were shipped off to CP Spina Kota, a small base previously inhabited by two multiples.
The majority of us were to patrol from Nahidullah. Aside from BJ21, five patrolling multiples were formed, three from the KRH commanded by Sgt Pollard, Capt Gillespie and Sgt Baines (BJ22, 23 and 24 respectively) and two from the 1 Royal Welsh FSG, commanded by Capt Dott and Sgt Sharley (BJ25 and 26). Attached were two PATs (Police Advisor Teams), one from the Welsh Guards and another from the Queen’s Own Ghurkha Logistic Regiment, a troop of engineers, a Brimstone team (counter IED), a couple of search dogs with their handlers and most importantly, a team of chefs.

The initial reaction upon starting foot patrols is to see every patch of mud as an IED and every Afghan as an insurgent. However, after the nerves had settled it became clear that the priority in C Sqn’s Area of Operations was not just about finding and engaging the insurgents but building relationships with the Afghan Uniform Police (AUP) and slowly teaching them to be better policemen. To that end each multiple was assigned a police unit to mentor and patrol with and the C Sqn ‘love and peace’ bubble began to spread over Babaji and Bolan. Lt AB from his base to the south-west in Spina Kota would deal with two Precincts in the more stable Bolan area, while three other multiples were assigned Tolays (company sized) in the busy and politically important Precinct 8 in Babaji. The remaining two multiples, BJ22 and BJ26, took up the tasks of the PM (Protected Mobility) troop and the QRF (Quick Reaction Force) respectively. The multiple commanders were to develop a close relationship with the AUP commanders in their respective areas, with the Sqn Ldr taking on the task of dealing with the notorious Precinct 8 commander, Lt Esmerai.

The third month of the tour saw a substantial change for BJ22. In June it was decided that the B Sqn Lashkar Gah based patrols multiple should move to PB Attal and BJ22 would backfill their role. The move was welcomed as a chance to see more of the KRH area of operations in a very different role. The relocation to Lashkar Gah, orchestrated by Sgt Pollard, went smoothly and the new patrols multiple took on two Jackals and a (rather temperamental) Mastiff from B Sqn without a hitch. They instantly
threw themselves into familiarisation patrols and settling in to life at the Main Operating Base in Lashkar Gah. Shortly after this Cpl Baldwin arrived back from R and R with a bemused looking new troop leader in tow and the reshuffle was complete.

For BJ22, life for the remainder of HERRICK 16 was a very different kettle of fish from the role the multiple had been performing in Babaji. The switch onto vehicles came naturally for the vast majority and the adjustment to efficient air conditioning and fresh waffles at dinner was not too difficult but the pace of operations ground on relentlessly. Tasks involved a mixture of odd jobs and random chores, as well as moving people around the area and getting involved in as many operations as possible. From routine personnel moves to prison detainee interviews and from electronic warfare team force protection to inspecting new Afghan sewage farms, you name it they did it! They laid bridges across canals with the engineers, protected lines of communication with the Scots Guards and spent nights in CPs with the AUP – in short, very few days were ever the same. The variety kept them interested and whilst the hours may have dragged, the days and weeks flew by.

Spurred on by the relentless enthusiasm of LCpl West and Tpr “Sherman” Lewis, entertained by the bizarre humour of Tpr...
The OC putting his all into building a rapport with the AUP, after agreeing to go home with them.

Tpr Tyers is rewarded with ECM Brown for his poor shaving skills.

Williamson and Laureau enjoy an Afghan jacuzzi.

This bit of poppy is only for medicinal use.

Cpl Webb organising a date for Thursday night.

Lt Stephens finally having found a use for his bayonet.
Parkinson and kept in check by Sgt Pollard’s standards, BJ22 met every demand with a quiet efficiency. Every member of the troop knuckled down, worked hard and can reflect on a job well done.

Patrols, compound searches, air manoeuvre operations and instruction of the AUP became the norm for the remainder of the Sqn. The Afghans’ hospitality could not be faulted; the police would invariably invite you to sit down with them, to enjoy a glass of ‘D and V roulette’ chai, boiled sweets and the odd lunch of chicken drowned in palm oil. The C Sqn commanders soon developed good relationships with their police counterparts and every member of the Sqn worked hard to maintain the security of the area. As the summer heat developed, the Sqn became fans of the 50/50 diet – 50 kilos of kit in 50 degrees! Most call signs learned to patrol early in the morning or late in the afternoon, with the exception of Capt Dott who was keen to lead his multiple on marathon endurance patrols. Overnight patrols were found to be key to much success, especially during Ramadan when most Afghans, but sadly not the insurgents, go into hibernation.
When not coercing policemen into work or ploughing through head-high corn fields, there was plenty of time to relax. The main pastime was the gym, with many soldiers taking up with gusto the 'Op Massive' routine of weights and grunting. Workouts ranged from Tpr Duffy's gravity-defying bench presses to Capt Tyson's 'pregnancy workout' using green exercise balls and the cross-trainer (never more aggressively than at a brisk stroll). Various exercise crazes swept the camp; with terrifying names like 'The Insanity Workout' and 'Ab Ripper X'. A judicious amount of tanning also took place, in an attempt to justify 'I'm going to return looking like Arnie' promises to wives and girlfriends. The SQMS, SSM and OC constructed a popular chill-out area halfway through the tour, complete with shop and tented area. It was an instant hit and allowed nightly games of bingo, cards and darts. The SSM also organised quiz and pizza nights – the pizza night usually falling on the one ration day a week, much to the delight of visiting troops. During quiet periods sports events were
An early morning test fire!

Wythe barters rifle for extra rations

LCpl Seabourne tests telepathic driving

Afghan fighting dog versus Afghan fighting dog food

Afghan children deny distracting driver by throwing stones
organised, with teams from each multiple competing in highly competitive rugby and football tournaments.

At the end of the tour the Sqn embarked on decompression; 24hrs of sun, sea, and sand in Cyprus. Given the time of year the weather remained surprisingly good, with everybody able to make the most of the beach activities and the ‘4 can’ rule. On return to Tidworth it was a moving experience to see so many welcome home the Sqn and we thank the Welfare Office for co-ordinating the day.

After a few days of normalisation back in camp, C Sqn was finally let out on the unsuspecting British public for a very well earned post-tour leave. All in all C Sqn had a successful and worthwhile tour. Our thoughts go out to Tpr Brown and Tpr Morgan for their continued speedy recovery and of course to all our families and friends for their support over the last 12 months. Every member of the Sqn achieved what was asked of them from the start of MST to the last day of the tour. Success was achieved in theatre and it was truly a joy to experience, particularly given the knowledge of what could have happened. All members of the Sqn have earned the right to be proud of what we left behind – a better AUP, a happy public and security established.

AHLM
A Squadron

As with all other parts of the Regiment in 2012, A Squadron was focused on the continued preparation for, deployment on, then recovery from Afghanistan on HERRICK 16. Under the continued command of Maj Charlie Smith and ably assisted by WO2 ‘Tank’ Shearman, A (xHx) Squadron returned from some much needed leave in early January refreshed and ready to tackle the remaining two months of Mission Specific Training (MST). Well, nearly all returned to work: the Sqn 2IC, Capt James Scott quietly excused himself and took the Regimental snowboarding team away to achieve great things in Austria.

We were already preparing hard for our challenging role as advisors to an Afghan National Army Kandak (or battalion). The Brigade Advisory Group (BAG) Immersion Recce in September 2011 had been very useful for gaining a feel for the task; but it was important to continue to glean as much information as we could from our QRH predecessors on Op HERRICK 15 about the changes and progress being made before our deployment. Knowing what to expect allowed the command team to tweak our training and brief the Squadron on what to expect when we finally arrived in theatre. It was with this in mind that the OC joined the other Brigade sub-unit commanders on a short theatre recce in early Jan, returning with renewed enthusiasm and simply wanting to get on with the tour.

Despite being a small team of thirteen KRH cap-badged personnel and Sgt Walker, our recently arrived addition from the RWxY, we were never destined to undergo any of the key training serials as a formed body. Such was the frenetic pace of the requisite individual training courses overlaid by the collective training events, we had to prioritise and closely manage everyone’s time.

The most significant training shortfall was the driver and commander training we required to operate the Jackal and Husky vehicles we would use on tour. As A Squadron had been re-formed almost exclusively from those who had returned from ERE postings, we had entered MST without the chance to attend the 12 Brigade Crew Training School where the bulk of the Regiment had completed their crew training. Having highlighted the shortfall, the Training Officer Capt Dave Barclay made himself increasingly unpopular with the military driving fraternity in order to secure us course places. It was inevitable that a solution would eventually be found, and we finally received the training we needed just prior to our Final Training Exercise (FTX) on
Salisbury Plain in February. The two training and advisory teams (TATs) commanded by Sgts Holland and Duxbury were then able to use Jackals and Huskys during the FTX. This allowed them to practise and adjust the Squadron TTPs that would be so important for our everyday patrolling.

As a welcome distraction in late January, the Squadron travelled to London for a tour of the Houses of Parliament hosted by Mr Mark Menzies MP, the MP for Fylde just outside Preston. ‘A Troop’ deployed for a very useful week of BAG conceptual training in Edinburgh at the end of Jan, which helped to establish the baseline of understanding for our task, and allowed CO BAG, Lt Col Charlie Maconochie (CO 3 RIFLES) to eyeball his mixed group of Kandak Advisor Teams (KATs) for the first time, and give some command guidance.

Back in Tidworth, the men undertook MATTs training, plenty of PT, received vaccinations and hearing tests, conducted small arms ranges and a myriad of other activities. We also played our part in hosting General Charles Gurganus USMC, The Senior Colonel and the Colonel in Chief during the visits to the Regiment in early February.

SSgt Sercombe attended the SQMS course to allow him to fulfil the role on tour. Around his driver and Vallon training – and only a few days before the Brocklehurst Trophy Regimental Boxing Night – LCpl Arnfield began training for a Heavyweight bout. On the night, he won his fight with a masterful display that earned him Best Boxer award.

Sgt Duxbury led with the preparation for an A (xHx) Squadron Leaders’ luncheon which was held on 18 February. This was exceptionally well attended by many of the great and good of the Regiment both serving and retired. The Squadron Leader gave a brief on the forthcoming mentoring task, after which the remainder of the Squadron manned a display of vehicles, weapons and equipment and spoke to the former Squadron Leaders about the training we were undertaking. An enjoyable lunch in the Officers’ Mess rounded off the visit. Having been understandably reluctant to give up a precious Saturday shortly before deployment, all were agreed that the visit had been good fun and it was reassuring to realise the depth of support for the Squadron amongst its former members.

Having run the Regimental Boxing whilst back in Tidworth for a few days, Capt Scott disappeared again for some more snowboarding – this time to represent the Army at the Combined Services – where he did exceptionally well. He returned in time to pack his bags for pre-deployment leave following the Luncheon, knowing that he would miss the FTX the remainder of us were about to embark on because of his early deployment on 1 March.

The FTX in late February brought together the various strands of pre-deployment training in a testing scenario. The exercise was a great run-out for the advisor teams, gaining experience of working with a foreign army through interpreters – in the form of Jordanian troops – and also practising responses to the various potential incidents that would face us all. The other frustration through MST had been not knowing who would provide the necessary force protection troops that would be essential to our task. The FTX in late Feb was the first time 6 members of 3 RIFLES joined us and were able to integrate into the TATs and train as formed crews. We would meet the remainder of our force protection in theatre.

As we returned to camp at the end of the FTX, the 2IC was already on his way to Afghanistan. We completed the last bits
of administration and packing, and enjoyed our own pre-deployment leave before travelling to Brize Norton late on 15 March.

Our first ten days in theatre were spent in Bastion on Reception Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) whilst we finalised the detail of moving the team forward to Patrol Base (PB) Hayatullah, our new home for the next six months. We also met up with many of the attached arms from the BAG that were going to live with us and would be so important to training the support elements of the kandak.

We were met in PB Hayatullah by our jubilant QRH predecessors who spent the next few days ensuring we had the best handover they could provide. We were introduced to the 6th (Highways) Kandak and the various key personalities, the 6th Kandak AO and the checkpoints that lined the Highway 1. Following a small flag-change ceremony on 1 April, the last of the QRH KATT departed for Bastion. The excitement of handover was clearly a little too much for Sgt Holland who promptly had a cookhouse ’pop’ to ensure his pistol was in full working order! He was a few pennies poorer by the end of the month.
The Regimental Journal of The King's Royal Hussars

The first 30 days were all about settling into role and getting to know our Afghan counterparts, our vehicles and each other. Our numbers in the PB swelled to around 50 as the Royal Engineer Counter-IED advisors, REME mechanic advisors, medics, logistics advisor, an ops room signaller and the bulk of our force protection team arrived, provided by the Fire Support Group from the Queen's Company, Grenadier Guards. We also inherited a US Marine Corps Joint Fires Team or ANGLICO who turned out to be excellent company. By the end of April we were one close team.

As we arrived, the security relationship between ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the Highways AO was changing. In short, ISAF had transitioned from being primary guarantor of security on Highway 1 to the 6th Kandak having the lead, supported by ISAF. It meant that day to day, there would be no ISAF assisting with the provision of security on the Highway, unless the Kandak specifically requested it. As advisors, we were clearly there to assist 6th Kandak provide security on the Highway. It placed the A Squadron KAT at the heart of the link between the Kandak and the Nar-e-Saraj (North) (NES(N)) battlegroup. From an ISAF perspective, we were key to making the kandak security self-sufficient; from a kandak perspective, we provided the access to key enablers that the Afghans could not provide for themselves – medical air evacuation, certain C-IED assets and joint fires.

We had a number of command relationships to manage: we were OPCOM to the 3 RIFLES BAG but we were TACOM to CO Nar-e-Saraj (North) (NES(N)) as we operated daily in battlespace that sat within the NES(N) AO. And then, as advisors, we actually worked daily for CO 6 Kandak who now had designated responsibility for his Highways AO.

We threw ourselves into our relationships with our Afghan counterparts. We knew that time spent drinking chai was not wasted, and slowly the KAT HQ team and the TAT commanders began to warm to their opposite numbers, and vice versa. Col Abdul Sboor, the Kandak Commander was a sophisticated and charming officer, but it became clear pretty quickly that the AO (almost 240 sq km) was too big to be secured by his Kandak (around 1000 men) alone. The Soviet doctrine of positional defence dictated that his forces manned a series of static checkpoints (CPs) along the Highway which created the illusion of security; and like some deadly game of ‘Wack-a-Mole’, the number of CPs was increasing at around one every two months as the 3/215 ANA Brigade attempted to stop insurgent attacks against those (mainly Afghan security forces and ISAF troops) using the Highway.

Advisors 60 and SHQ

Advisor 62

The Squadron 2IC, Capt James Scott

Advisor 61
As the Kandak was increasingly dispersed manning and securing new CPs, there were even fewer ANA warriors available to carry out patrolling. As it was – and despite our predecessors’ best efforts – there was very little in the way of patrolling when we arrived, especially in depth of the Highway; there was therefore little to deter insurgent activity along it. What limited patrolling there was tended to be predictable and lacking in commitment. We set ourselves the task of improving their appetite and confidence, to encourage the Tolays (Afghan companies) to push in depth and in particular to patrol at night, something for which there was no interest when we arrived. One of our key successes on the tour was making the kandak appreciate the value of both night and depth patrols and seeing tangible improvements in the numbers and types of patrols.

Our assistance to the ANA involvement in Governor-led eradication (GLE), which ran through most of April, was neatly timed. GLE is a controversial policy which does little to aid Afghan National Army and National Police relations, but it provided a good opportunity for the KAT command team to get out alongside the Kandak HQ and get to know the AO and the tolays. The other notable excursion during April was Sgt Duxbury’s advisor support to a composite 6th Kandak tolay on the ANA Brigade planned and led Op SHAFUQ. He returned with tales (and video footage) of fighting alongside the ANA in engagements with insurgents; and it cemented his credibility – and to some extent, ours – with the Kandak. At the end of April, we had our first opportunity to show our physical support for the Kandak when one of their more exposed CPs came under sustained small arms attack one evening. Sgt Holland’s TAT and part of the FSG deployed to assist and remained overnight in a nearby CP as a QRF. Our assistance and moral support was greatly welcomed even though we were of little practical support in the event.

Meanwhile, in PB Hayatullah, the in-camp support team – led by the SSM and supported by Sgts Walker and Wilkinson – were busily making the place ship-shape, removing the last vestiges of our predecessors and ‘KRH-ing’ everything, whether it moved or not. Tents were shifted, new gym-kit ‘found’, plastic matting was laid simply everywhere and a camp BBQ area was created. We had a few issues to contend with such as unpredictable and hugely frustrating power outages because of an overworked generator and poor camp wiring, but these were eventually rectified. The ANGLICO were everyone’s best friends on BBQ nights, producing the juiciest lobsters and most succulent steaks, flown in from the States.
Through May and June, we supported the Kandak’s regular patrols programme and ran medical, counter-IED, mechanic and intelligence cell training. Towards the end of May, there were two incidents of note. The first, on 22 May, was a major fire that broke out in one of the buildings of PB Hayatullah and which gutted the medical and logistic offices, threatening to spread to other blocks in a strong breeze. We provided as much help as possible removing furniture and belongings from neighbouring buildings. Second, on 23 May, local insurgents carried out a close quarter assassination of two 6th Kandak soldiers in the middle of a bazaar on Highway 1. It caused great outrage amongst Kandak HQ who dealt with the issue pragmatically closing the bazaar immediately. Despite daily protestations from shopkeepers, it was not reopened until there was no prospect of any further information about the murderers coming to light. Another new checkpoint was built to overwatch the bazaar. As with all issues relating to the kandak and the AO, my job – through the medium of my daily meetings – was to provide advice but also to report back on Col Sboor’s intentions to both CO BAG and CO NES(N).

Aside from occasional IED attacks on ANSF along the Highway, government-sanctioned militia-protected convoys of trucks were a favourite target. We would hear from the kandak when an
attack had happened and soldiers from the check points would relish the opportunity to race out of their bases to have a scrap with some insurgents. But it was never completely clear what the motivation for the attacks was – piracy or insurgency. In one incident a convoy of fuel tankers was attacked and set on fire, the wreckage of which remained beside the road throughout our tour.

The relationships we cultivated with our Afghan interpreters were crucial. We quickly got used to working with particular ‘terps’ and they learned to understand our accents, and the subjects we most frequently discussed. On occasion they caused headaches for the Sergeant Major but in the main they provided an excellent service without which we could not have advised. As a check and balance, we were fortunate to have attached a Dari-speaking British TA officer, Capt Paul Turner, who did a fantastic job of providing the ‘cultural grease’, managing expectations of both us and the Afghans as required. Speaking the native tongue meant he could also find out things about the AO and the Kandak that we would otherwise have been unable to discover.

In late July, an insurgent team that had been laying IEDs for the ANA in the west of our AO switched to attacking the Highway infrastructure itself. After a couple of failed attempts, they succeeded in blowing up a section of the highway itself with a culvert bomb. This forced ISAF and the ANA to work out who would pay for the work and how it would be repaired – issues that needed resolving for a time when we are no longer present to assist. Quick to capitalise on success, the insurgents then demolished a road bridge forcing all traffic off the Highway and into the dashte to bypass it. This made everyone more vulnerable to the IED threat. In short, the attacks on the infrastructure directly undermined the appearance of security on the Highway and attracted...
Provincial interest. It was a problem without resolution that we handed over to our successors in October.

Ramazan was a difficult time. This year, it started in late July so the fasting and no water during daylight hours seriously affected what the warriors could and would be prepared to do. We had to moderate our aspirations but took the opportunity to encourage night patrols with some success. The cultural rituals were more fun, and the OC and 2IC were invited to a number of evening Iftar meals by the Kandak HQ. We were always well hosted.

In early September, as the last of the team returned from their R&R, the ANA Brigade geared up for a clearance of the Yakchal, an area just south of the Highway well known for insurgent influence. Known as Qalb 8, the operation involved a separate ANA and ANP operation in what was to be viewed as ANSF cooperation. Elements of all the kandaks were present and all KATs also supplied elements to advise them. The OC took out an enlarged SHQ of 4 vehicles to mentor and advise detachments of soldiers from 5th Kandak who had been tasked in a block to the east of the clear. The operation began on 11 September and proved hard work for the infantry kandaks who lost a number of soldiers in an IED blast; but it was as the ANA clearance of the Yakchal was completed on 14 September and the operation was drawing to a close, that tragedy struck the A Squadron KAT. A Jackal vehicle crewed by four members of our Grenadier Guards Force Protection struck a massive Legacy IED whilst they were manoeuvring into a position of overwatch. The commander, LCpl Duane Groome was killed and two Guardsmen were injured.

As the casualty evacuation helicopter lifted off, a second of our vehicles hit another IED, thankfully with no casualties. Until specialist teams arrived and cleared a path for us to move away, we were fixed to the spot. By this time, we had been reinforced by a number of other KATs and a section of Warthog who provided all-round defence for us through the night. The next day, there were a couple of significant small arms contacts targeting our beleaguered team, during which we sustained two wounded including Sgt Wilkinson. However, the attacks were repulsed with significant support from the other KATs as well as support from an Apache helicopter. Specialist counter-IED vehicles arrived shortly before sunset and began to clear a path for us to extract. By nightfall, we were moving away and back to the relative safety of a Highway checkpoint to recover.

The remainder of the tour passed quickly. Capt James Scott handed over as 2IC two weeks before the rest of us, reflecting his earlier tour start date. As the days wore on, talk of our successors grew and plans for our handover firmed up. Handover day was set for 3 October allowing time for the bulk of the HERRICK 17 Queen’s Royal Lancers-led KAT to arrive. As handovers were completed, our close-knit team began to disperse. We played a game of cricket against the Kandak HQ (where we were soundly beaten) and hosted the Kandak officers to one last dinner where...
we exchanged parting gifts. On the final morning, following a short flag change ceremony, the last of the KAT left for the flight back to Bastion.

We returned to UK on 6 October and were met in Tidworth by a very enthusiastic group of wives, girlfriends and parents. Following a few days of normalisation in barracks, the men dispersed for some well earned leave. By late-October, we had fallen back in line with the activities of the returning KRH battlegroup. November passed in a flurry of more post-tour leave, the Leyland Parade, Old Comrades Cup and preparations for the Winchester and Medals parades. As we arrived at the end of the year, the A Squadron team prepared to disperse to different parts of the Regiment as the details of the new ORBAT were released.

C D W S
The end of CFX in cold and wet Norfolk marked the end of 2011 and the start of the Christmas holidays. The three weeks off were a welcome break from what had been a relentless pace of life since September with a whole host of exercises and course which at some point everyone in the whole Squadron had been involved in.

The new year kicked off in the same way in which the previous year had finished with exercises and range packages. Lt Sherbooke along with Sgt Smith took a small team of the newer boys from the Squadron to a catch up range package in Wales. The torrential rain on the drive up with the bus acting more like a sail in the wind did not bode well but everyone came through the other side all be it slightly damper.

The next three months before the deployment flew by with a number of exercises and other training events as well as sporting fixtures. The Old Comrades Cup was a particular highlight and gave everyone an opportunity to relax a little. Big thanks especially must go out to Tpr Stoddart and Cpl Duckworth for their help in training the B Squadron Boxers of Padee, Davies and Taylor who put in a solid performance in the competition.

The main event before the deployment and probably most importantly was the Seniors and Officers Vs the rest of the Squadron football match. A strong team was fielded by both sides but a natural inability to play football by the officers severely hampered their performance and resounding defeat was suffered. Capt Cowell did however put in a solid performance and was awarded the most improved footballer much to his distaste.

The start of April saw the Squadron deploy to Afghanistan for what would be their six month tour on Op HERRICK 16. The first 2 weeks of the tour were taken up by the mandatory remind and revise training in BASTION. Main operating base BASTION forward base for all the troops in Afghanistan and is what can best be described as a small city like Reading, stuck in the desert. The majority of the Squadron conducted the full training package. The training culminated in a mini exercise which allowed all involved to practice the skills and drill taught over MST as well as a good method of acclimatisation. To the shock of the most the Officers at least, Bastion wasn’t the air conditioned heaven which has been mentioned so often. The temperature reached a cool 41 degrees Celsius whilst on the ranges. The training covered
everything from making sure you wash your hands at every opportunity to minimise the risk of the getting the trots to never going near any of the local wildlife as it will give you a nasty bite or worse a sloppy kiss.

From here the Squadron pushed forward to Patrol Base Attal which would become our new home the next six months. ATTAL was on Rte 601 which is a large tarmac road with a number of Afghan security force and ISAF base locations. By any stretch of the imagination it is not a holiday camp but it provided for all of our needs of hot showers and flushing loos. The camp was big enough to house all of B Squadron group including Recce Troop, 50 odd Gunners, Engineers, the Welsh Guards Police Advisory Team and a handful of medics to name a few. One of the Multiples, led by Lt Wicks was seconded to RHQ in Lashkar Gah for the first two months, where they enjoyed ice cream and steak to their hearts content.

The Squadron group slowly took the posts and positions of the out going QRH C Coy who handed over the camp in a great condition. They also fed us as much information as we could digest, allowing for us to start off on the front foot. The Squadron found its feet well and explored the routes where you could and could not take vehicles due to the boggy ground. This was well demonstrated by Lt Cowell who managed to get his vehicle well-bogged as it slipped off a track into a ditch. In Mr Cowell’s defence no one was expecting to have as much rain as we have had on our summer deployment to an arid country!

The Squadron group’s work focused on enhancing the gains made during the previous six months on HERRICK 15. This entailed working with the local security forces and enabling them to take control of their own security in the future. This partnering worked extremely well giving confidence to both the ANSF and our own guys that they have the ability to govern their own country. Some of the operating methods of the ANSF would make health and safety Nazis back in the UK feel slightly unwell and controlling them was often like herding cats but steady progress was being made.

The end of July marked the half way point of the tour. Three months had been completed and there was light at the end of the tunnel but there was still some way to go. To try and raise moral the officers in PB ATTAL conjured up a cunning plan to make Lt Sherbrooke believe he was moving to MOB LKG for the next
two months. An elaborate plan consisting of convincing email chains and phone calls from the Adjt and Maj Ward, from the Light Dragoons, helped to make the idea seem more believable. The trick went as far as Mr Sherbrooke packing up his bed space and loading his kit into the back of one of the vehicles and doing two laps of camp to arrive at the ops room with half the Squadron waiting for him. Lt Sherbrooke was the brunt of many jokes over the next week, with all of the Squadron asking “Have you not left yet Sir!”

The start of August also saw a temporary change to the command structure with Major Badcock heading home for two weeks of R and R. This Squadron holiday married up well with Capt Wythe moving from C Squadron as well SSM Barrow taking his R and R. This gave an opportunity for Mr Ashton to take over with all of his pent up aggression at being a Rear Echelon soldier after many years in Recce Troop. This anger was directed at the B Squadron soldiers who were made to endure a new WO2 enjoying his first train set. Captain ‘cowboy’ Wythe’s deployment as the backfilling OC saw him following the local AUP on an IED hunting mission. These home made bombs were dealt with by a healthy burst of machine gun fire and a smile from the AUP. This is what is known as an Afghan solution to an Afghan problem!

The next major operation undertaken by B Squadron was only a short distance from the PB. Due to the ground a helicopter assault was needed to get over a large irrigation ditch that separating a previously unpatrolled area linked to an INS facilitation route. Somehow the American Osprey pilots did not listen to instructions regarding routes in and managed to rip off the roof of the med centre covering everyone waiting for the flights in debris. The patrol was a complete success with the AUP working well disrupting the insurgents in depth. There was however one issue for Trooper Neary whose sense of balance escaped him when trying to climb on a pipe over an irrigation ditch. With a number of wobbles whilst attempting to fly by waving, Trooper Neary fell head first into a large irrigation ditch completely submerging himself in some very dirty ditch water. Just to make things worse the whole event was captured by the Afghan media who were following the patrol.

The end of August luckily brought a quiet period for B Squadron with Ramadan limiting the patrols by the AUP. Small patrols sticking closer to the road were a welcome respite in the heat of the day for the patrolling multiples. To keep everyone motivated Man Vs food was brought to Attal by Sgt Bruce Adams. This comprised of the largest ice cream Sunday in Afghanistan, the hottest chicken wings in history and a 5kg burrito. The guys took on the challenges well with LCpl Dickson not being fazed by the heat in the chicken wings. This was in complete comparison to Cpl Holden who was later found crying for his mummy!

September saw an increase in operations with another helicopter assault into a facilitation route to the North in the Brigade Battle space. Previous patrols into the area had suggested a large facilitation centre with a command and control centre known
scanning his area by the INS as “The HQ”. This joint patrol with the AUP resulted in them finding some machine gun ammunition and taking a number of detainees. This was also a first with the AUP commander, Col SATTAR KHAN, deploying forward to control his men on the ground. However his style of command was lacking somewhat when his bodyguards started laying out rugs and tea on the high ground. Captain Cowell’s ability to liaise with the AUP was somewhat hampered when the Colonel proceeded to fall asleep and his body guards refused to wake him up.

The next week an exuberant Col SATTAR arrived at PB ATTAL with some vital intelligence on an IED factory approximately 15 KM from the PB. He stated that they were going to raid it that afternoon and could we help out. Lt Lambert happily deployed forward following the hunt to some high ground where he could watch the 50 odd AUP search for the supposed IED
factory. A heavy INS reaction was drawn by the AUP but luckily Lt Lambert was onside to call in the biggest Artillery fire mission of HERRICK 16.

As September drew to a close the spotlight of the Brigade switched onto the B Squadron Group and the heavily contested area of PUPALZAY which had been a thorn in our side for the previous 5 months. The brigade level operation saw PB ATTAL swell to over 600 personnel including reconnaissance from the Light Dragoons, the brigade operations company from the Welsh Guards, tanks from the Danish and American route clearance teams to name but a few. All of these forces worked together to provide a cordon for a whole host of engineers who would build the new check points which would secure the area.

The operation was a great success and there were only a few major problems such as the Engineers rolling a digger into a ditch! With the new check points built patrolling was allowed to take place in areas which previously would have drawn a large kinetic reaction. Now a single multiple of 12 men partnered with the Afghan Police could patrol through the village. A noticeable change in the local people was also experienced with members of the public pointing out IED locations and benefiting from road improvements and new water pumps. This was fantastic to see but the operation did not come without a cost. Staff Sgt ‘Chesh’ Lloyd and Tpr Stoddart were both seriously injured by insurgents indiscriminate IEDs. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to them and their families hoping that they will make a full as recovery that is possible.

The end of October saw the end of HERRICK 16 and the returning home of all of those from the B Squadron Group still left in Afghanistan. As the Squadron trickled home Cyprus and decompression was enjoyed with BBQs, ice cream, banana boating and a strict supply of alcohol. It was a good way to start unwinding but the thought of home and your family was always at the back of your mind wishing you were at home.

Since then the Squadron has not really had a chance to draw breath with inter-Squadron sports competitions in the Old Comrades Cup, freedom parades in Winchester and Leyland and finally the Medal Parade in Tidworth with our Colonel-in-Chief supporting The Regiment. A key message from this has been the thanks to the families and other loved ones that has been unfaltering over the past year and so our thanks goes out to them.

LS
The past year has been a pinnacle in the lives of D (XRH) Squadron (Sqn) soldiers. Throughout 2012 the Sqn reshaped into a unique and privileged role as 12 Brigade’s Warthog (WHG) Sqn for Operation HERRICK 16. Separate from the Regiment, we became a part of Brigade Troops Ground Manoeuvre working to the Light Dragoons ISTAR Group.

By January we were midway through Mission Specific Training (MST) and had morphed from a Challenger 2 Sqn into a larger new fangled WHG Sqn structure. This saw the Sqn receive 11 Territorial soldiers from The Royal Wessex Yeomanry. Additionally Ssgt O’Donnell, following his sabbatical in HQ Sqn re-joined the team taking on the SQM(T) role. His job for the next eight months would be to ensure that the 31 WHG vehicles and other assorted vehicles were kept on the road fit for operations; a job that required a ‘Ronseal’ bond with Sggt Jones the Sqn’s Artificer.

Alongside the overwhelming Tour focus Lt Wicks, LCpl Edmondson and Tprs Calvert and Winstanley all trained hard for the Brocklehurst Trophy Regimental Boxing Competition. Unfortunately the results did not reflect the long hours, dedication and commitment shown by the team during their training, but all the boxers did the Sqn proud. In typical pack mentality the entire Regiment’s Other Ranks contingent bayed with glee to see Lt Wicks bloodied and beaten. Oh to be an Officer! This only stimulated Lt Wicks all the more leading to an even and very impressive full three round match. He came a close second on points.

On a freezing late January morning the Sqn deployed onto Salisbury Plain to get to grips with WHG and prepare for the ‘Collective’ MST activities: the Mounted Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (M-CALFEX) and Formation Test Exercise (FTX). The irony of deploying in sub zero temperatures, as low as -8 degrees, versus the raging heat of Helmand was not lost on the team… The aim of the exercise was to give experience to (and iron out) any teething errors with this new Urgent Operational Requirement vehicle. It also provided an opportunity to run out low level manoeuvre and reaction to incident procedures. The learning curve was steep and not without hiccups. Cpl Whittingham excelled himself by rolling a WHG onto its side – apparently it was to give the REME Recovery Mechanics some practice!! Overall this one week exercise was invaluable in teeing-up the Sqn for the final MST serials and ensuring we cut the mustard early on in the Tour.

Ground rush was experienced through the following three months of pre-deployment training. In February the Sqn deployed to Castlemartin Ranges in Pembrokeshire to conduct the M-CALFEX. The week consisted of firing the GPMG, Heavy Machine Gun and Grenade Machine Gun from the WHG turret as well as Small Arms ranges with the individual small arms weapons. The Sqn said a sad farewell to Pte Brown who had been the D Sqn Clerk for nearly a year. Along with Cpl Shadbolt she helped us gain excellent administrative results and has been a ray of Glaswegian sunlight in the office. At the beginning of March the Troops took a well deserved breather and enjoyed a day out. Sqn Headquarters escaped to Grately Golf Club on a very wet and windy afternoon to play 9 holes, 1st Troop enjoyed a paintball afternoon and 2nd Troop unashamedly went to a brewery.

The final MST hurdle was the FTX; a three week exercise on Salisbury Plain. The first half saw the entire Sqn attached to the 12 Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF), a grouping we would
repeatedly work with in theatre. The week consisted of Ground Maneuver Operations with WHG directly supporting the BRF. We were also lucky to have members of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) attached to the Sqn. The JAF were used to fulfill the role of Afghan National Army and created an all too realistic experience of working with a Partnered Force. Their worst habit was to relieve themselves wherever they wanted; this inadvertently enhanced our competence at ground sign awareness.

The Second half of the FTX saw D Sqn work with the Brigade Operations Company (BOC) from 3 RIFLES and The Formation Reconnaissance Sqn. The continued mockery of the cold weather and muddy conditions in Wiltshire was once again not lost on the team gearing up for desert conditions... The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, who had been the WHG Sqn on HERRICK 14, provided excellent advice and encouragement throughout. Cpl Oakes spent most of his time bird watching with Capt Ballard-White and establishing which birds he was most likely to see once deployed. Of memorable note Cpl Williamson manage to tear his WHG in two; not something the Land Accident Investigation Team had ever seen before! Following the exercise the rush to hand back the 28 training WHG was not lost on Tpr Mason who managed to role his vehicle on a virtually straight road, fortunately no-one was hurt in the process.

The reality of the impending tour was marked by the early departures of Cpls Lee and Barton as Continuity Troops. They deployed two weeks before the Advanced Party to ensure that all of the current theatre Tactics, Techniques and Procedures were harnessed and cascaded to the incoming Troops.

Following the usual RAF rollercoaster the Advanced Party finally departed Brize Norton for a roundabout trip to Afghanistan on 20th April. The 15 strong team conducted Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) in Camp Bastion and deployed forward by both Wolfhound (a Toyota Hilux on steroids!) and Chinook to MOB PRICE which would be home for the next six and a half months. The important but painful experience of taking over accounts, vehicles and infrastructure was achieved. When not pouring over equipment serial numbers the three Troop Sergeants deployed on operations as part of the tactical hand over. The first of which was a baptism by fire with two WHGs blown up by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and their first experience of insurgent small arms fire. Wide-eyed the KRH Sgts braced themselves for a torrid tour. Within a matter of days the
The main body of the Sqn arrived in MOB PRICE, post RSOI, and the WHG Tank Park became a frenetic hive of activity completing handover take overs from The Queen's Royal Hussars. They struggled to mask their beaming smiles and excitement.

The Tour started at a frantic pace. We bounced relentlessly from Operation to Operation with barely enough time to breathe and reset in between. Although unsustainable in the long term, the experience did mean that every member of the Sqn learned their specific job rapidly and early mistakes were privately eradicated where possible. 2nd Troop's six hour ging-gang-goolee pottering around the Area of Operations, without a care in the world or establishing communications was all too much for Capt Bush. The subsequent helicopter rescue mission and re-prioritisation of UAVs put the Sqn uncomfortably under the spot light.

Furthermore the Sqn leader’s casual stowage issues did not help matters at this stage!

It was during the first month of the tour that the tragic news reached us in MOB PRICE that Cfn Taylor, who had not deployed with the Sqn due to serious illness, had very sadly passed away peacefully at home. The news came as a great shock to all in the Squadron and particularly the REME fitter section. A small service was held in his honour in the MOB PRICE chapel and the Sqn again remembered him during the Cavalry Memorial Parade, held by the Regtl Padre, in early May. A tribute to his memory is covered in the LAD section of this journal.

In general the majority of operations we conducted were in support of the BRF. We often acted as the Ground Assault Force with the BRF as the Heliborne Assault Force. These tended to be
short two or three-day operations and after a month of frenzied activity we had between us already covered the entirety of the Task Force Helmand Area of Operations. Fortunately the repetitive but effective Ground Sign Awareness training conducted in the UK paid off and saved the Sqn from having to employ complex Improvised Explosive Device procedures whilst still finding our feet in theatre.

In June the Sqn began to deploy on longer operations, up to 14 days long, in support of Combined Forces / Battle Groups. The longest of these was QALB 7A in the Upper Gereshk Valley near Patrol Base RAHIM. Our task was to block insurgent movement in all directions and exploit a power vacuum created as the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) passed through the Green Zone. The conventional obstacle crossing drills conducted in Canada on tanks in 2011 proved relevant as the WHG Sqn conducted a dawn bridge crossing over the DAK Canal and Forward Line of Enemy Troops. Like lemmings we spilled over the canal securing a bridge-head into the notorious Green Zone. During this break-in, Cpl Barton cleverly ‘found’ our very first fully functioning IED as he crossed a bund line. This resulted in a horrifically loud explosion, a mutilated WHG, but fortunately no casualties. The unpleasant experience served to give everyone confidence in the protection levels afforded by WHG – a marked step up from its predecessor Viking. With this knowledge and the Sqn Leader scratching his head as to how to get the mangled vehicle out of the Green Zone, the Operation continued. That night, with defensive positions secured, 250 Afghan National Army Warriors landed by helicopter at landing sites secured by the WHG Sqn and started their deliberate clearance Operation.

The mobility of WHG over irrigation ditches and in the notoriously impassable Green Zone proved impressive but not without cost to vehicle or terrain. The damage to the micro irrigation systems also had to be delicately managed to avoid losing local consent. Whilst 2nd Troop maintained the BLOCK and important Ground Lines of Communication to Queen’s Company,
Grenadier Guards, 1st Troop conducted manoeuvre in support of the dismounted soldiers to dislocate insurgent activity. After two successful crossings of the Helmand River harassing the insurgents from their rear our luck ran out. Lt Garbutt’s WHG struck a large IED, blowing the rear module onto its side and creating some minor casualties to the dismounts inside. The post match analysis is that Lt Garbutt’s impressive belly acted as a turret plug and saved him from being unnecessarily rattled or launched into the air! Though in the interests of balance, his physical stature did help him float when he fell comically into the Helmand River some thirty seconds later and splashed around. The recovery of this stricken WHG from behind enemy lines proved to be the most testing and resource intensive extraction conducted by the Sqn throughout the whole tour. The next 16 hours was to see fighter jets, attack helicopters and Danish Leopard Main Battle tanks used to deter insurgent fire. A US Black Hawk helicopter extracted our wounded interpreter. The artillery supported the night extraction with many hours of mortar illum fire. This whole 24hr period now makes fabulous old buffer war story, whisky in-hand, ramblings. At the time it was no joke. 2nd Troop and 1st Troop magnificently pulled together in adversity to extract the vehicle and stranded soldiers to safety. This one event demonstrated the courage, selfless commitment and fortitude of Armoured soldiers and it was truly heartening to witness at first hand the impressive ISAF resources that can be brought to bear when the big red panic button is pressed!

The following 10 days of the operation passed largely without any further major incident with the Sqn deterring insurgent freedom of manoeuvre and securing support to the Grenadier Guards. The REME team were tested to the max fixing damaged WHGs as quickly as we were breaking them. Tiff Jones and his gang in
Main Operating Base (MOB) Price were sending them back to the front.

Shortly after this operation, 1st Troop departed for their Rest & Recuperation. Those remaining in theatre bounced through three back-to-back operations in Nad-e-Ali, Burma and Lashkar Gar with the KRH Combined Force. Each of these operations came with their own unique challenges but highlighted the versatility and wide employability of the WHG Sqn. It was during this period that the Sqn sustained its only long term casualty. Cpl Lawton, whilst commanding a WHG in Burma initiated a large vehicle IED which devastated his vehicle and launched him from the turret. Suffering leg injuries he was returned to UK for treatment and spent the rest of the summer recovering at home. He is currently making a complete recovery and has even enjoyed a trip overseas to participate as a Wounded Soldier in the New York marathon. Not to be out done by a REME colleague, Cpl Rodgers within a matter of weeks was likewise turned into a “rocket-man” when he was launched from his WHG when he triggered an IED whilst supporting B Sqn KRH. Rescued by the medic he was given an in depth and surprisingly thorough examination before being evacuated by Chinook to the Role 3 hospital in Camp BASTION to regain his dignity...

At the beginning of August it was 2nd Troop turn to escape for R&R. The pace of life for 1st Troop over this period was no less light. They deployed with Capt Bush at the helm in TAC on a series of Operations in the northern most part of 12 Brigade’s area. This grouping conducted Operations with the BRF and the BOC, one of which led to the detention of three insurgents who, between them were forensically linked to nine IEDs and a Small Arms shoot onto a local checkpoint.

With the return of 2nd Troop from R&R, the Sqn welcomed the arrival of several new comers: Tprs Bramah, Trooper Kemp and Second Lieutenant Higton into our fold to bring our numbers up to 101. Cpl Plant and LCpl Mellis arrived shortly after having...
completed RSOI and ranges in Camp Bastion. From mid August the Sqn began to permanently work in two ½ Sqn structures with one Troop operating with the BRF and the other operating with the BOC or on call to a Combined Force. Sqn Tac, consisting of four WHG, bolted onto the most complex or higher threat operations to bolster blue forces on the ground.

In a moment of vehicle maintenance and a brief respite inside MOB PRICE (and stimulated by the Olympics back at home) the Sqn organised its very own WHG Tank Park Olympiad. This much anticipated event, organised by the underemployed Morale and Media Officer, Capt Ben Hickey, was a resounding success. Teams of 11 competed in a series of events from Road Wheel Discus to Ten Pin Bowling, Land Rover Pulling and Water Bomb Throwing at the Sqn SSM and 2IC. Tpr Aldridge’s team somehow floated to the top of the awards to win gold medals.
Throughout September the WHG deployed to all four corners of Task Force Helmand’s Area of Operations to support Combined Force Nahr-E-Saraj (South), Transition Support Unit Lashkar Gar and the Brigade Advisory Group (BAG). On 10th September Capt Matthews and his Troop deployed out of MOB Price once again to support The Queens Company, Grenadier Guards. An eventful few days of small arms attacks, bogged vehicles and an IED strike. This was to be the seventh and final IED strike onto WHG during the Tour. Cpl Gillon’s Sect completed a textbook recovery under cover of darkness and with infantry in the rear module.

Sgt Bradley and his section enjoyed a few days away from Sqn Headquarters working with the BAG; the Group responsible for the training and mentoring of the Afghan National Army. Sgt Bradley’s Section was in charge of the resupply, ground casualty evacuation and intimate support of around 50 ground troops. The largest part of the Operation was to TSU Lashkar Gar and was supported by 1st Troop and Sqn Headquarters. Throughout the 10 days of this Operation we worked directly with B & C Sqn KRH and hugely enjoyed the camaraderie of seeing friends and working together to a common goal. Whilst in PB ATTAL the KRH soldiers from all Sqn’s mingled and caught up on their adventures gained over the last four and a half months in Afghanistan.

The last six weeks of the Tour rushed past in a blur of Operations, vehicle preparation and the inevitable report writing that comes with a deployment. With the Royal Dragoon Guards (RDG) shortly inbound the Sqn said good-bye to Cpl Lee and Cpl Barton as they return home slightly early to support the HERRICK 18 MST for 2nd Royal Tank Regiment. With multiple operations ongoing the Sqn yet again found itself committed across the Task Force Helmand Area of Operations. In parallel the SQMS and his staff were hard at work consolidating the Sqn’s accounts and equipment in preparation for the hand over.

With the arrival of the RDG WHG soldiers we could barely contain our excitement. As temperatures across Helmand began to drop, morale shot through the roof. The final few operations brought with it increased anxiety and some quirky superstitious behaviour at all levels. On 3rd November the Sqn conducted its final 24 hour handover operation with the incoming RDG team. This “left seat – right seat operation” was curtailed due to lack of aviation support which enabled the Sqn to hustle home through Gereshk with the Regimental March playing gallantly over the Sqn radio net.

The return home to family and loved ones seemed to take forever and was delayed further by 24 hours for enforced normalisation in Cyprus. However, eventually under cover of darkness and later than planned we arrived back in Tidworth. The Sqn marched back onto the Square to be received by a large crowd of shouting and screaming family and friends. It was an emotional homecoming for all and the whole experience was somewhat surreal.

The support that the friends and families of the D Sqn soldiers provided throughout the tour is not to be underestimated. We...
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will always remain eternally grateful for all the parcels, letters and messages of support that we received in theatre. In one demonstration of public support for the Sqn received many hundreds of parcels from a mystery Mrs Val Worrall and the villagers of Braunston Village. It was most humbling to receive such support from complete strangers.

Since being back in the UK we have had time to reflect on what we have achieved over the year. As a Sqn we conducted 60 deliberate Operations ranging from 12 hours to 14 days in length. We travelled the equivalent of nearly twice around the world in the process and helped provide the all important space for the Afghanistan National Security Forces to develop. We unfortunately triggered 7 IEDs over the tour but due to good drills, training and a smattering of luck only one soldier returning to the UK injured as a result. From the safety of the UK, the hardships, stories and relentless pace of life during the tour has already gained a healthy rosy tint. It was with a degree of melancholy and fatigue that we separated for the Christmas holidays on 5th December and a well deserved month of post tour leave. The final parade marked the end of an era. Under the new Army 2020 structure D Sqn no longer continues as a Sabre Sqn. When the Regt re-ORBATs in January 2013, D Sqn will become the “Command and Reconnaissance” Sqn. As we are all too often reminded at present, “Be comfortable with change...”

J R L S
Not long ago someone identified that when a regiment deploys on Operations those who are left behind do not necessarily have a six month recreational pause, so the “Rear Party” has been replaced by a “Rear Operations Group”.

The King’s Royal Hussars Rear Operations Group (ROG), was a motley crowd with a fluctuating strength of about 130 soldiers and officers whose primary responsibilities were to provide effective support to deployed troops, operational casualties and their families throughout Op HERRICK 16. The ROG was set up by Capt Ford, the outgoing QM, before Maj Hope-Hawkins arrived to take over the reins as the Regiment deployed. He was ably supported by Capt Dave Barclay as the 2IC, once he returned from his medal earning 28 day sojourn in Camp BASTION, overseeing the Maintenance Troop and Battle Casualty Replacements. Capt Alex Rutter arrived following his QM’s course to take over all matters G4; Capt Les Lester fulfilled the role of Adjt Rear and oversaw the deployment of the Regiment while Capt Wayne Price and his band of merry men took care of the families and the casualties.

The exceptional work done in the Admin, G4 and Welfare areas is covered elsewhere in the Journal so this article focuses on the bits in between and some of the key events that took place during the tour.

Following a comprehensive package of briefings preparing us for the tour we began with a sense of trepidation and immediately set about preparing the Ops Room, Bearer Parties and Firing Parties for the worst case scenario. SSgt Baird was released early from Warminster to be the ROG SSM and he soon had a gaggle of reasonably inexperienced Troopers doing drill to a standard that would not have looked out of place on Horse Guards. While this was going on the SPS team were busy deploying the Regiment and it is largely to their credit that we were the only unit in the Brigade that managed to avoid a single “Failure to Attend” at Brize Norton.

Once D Squadron had set off in late April we managed to settle into a routine of sorts and training of Battle Casualty Replacements (BCRs) took centre stage. The troop of BCRs was initially led by 2Lt Henry Foster, ably assisted by Sgt Farling with his vast operational experience – which he was only too happy to pass on to anyone within earshot! The troop had to be trained in a whole host of vehicles and weapons to ensure that they were ready to deploy to replace any casualties sustained in theatre. Because of the diverse range of roles being filled by the Regiment this was no small feat and required individuals to undertake a multitude of courses. Throughout the tour thirty two BCRs deployed to backfill individuals who were either injured or had to return to UK for compassionate reasons or career courses.

Life in the UK continued apace and we soon became embroiled in the various celebrations for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Firstly a contingent led by Capt Alex Rutter deployed to Windsor for a formal review of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces. We then had our own marginally less magnificent parade at which the Colonel of the Regiment presented the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal to members of the ROG. The parade was followed by a sports afternoon where the SSM showcased his ground-keeping skills by creating a wicket on the Rugby Pitches using a borrowed lawn mower to cut the strip and the scrum machine powered by some able bodied soldiers as a roller. The match was a huge success and SSgt Addison, the ROG SQMS, provided ample refreshments for all who attended.

The Cavalry Memorial took place on 20 May and thirty members of the ROG made their way to Hyde Park for the March Past and Service, reduced numbers from Regimental Duty were bolstered by a strong presence of those serving at ERE and Retired Officers and Soldiers. Capt Dave Ford’s “Bowler” Hat made its final appearance at the parade – for which it is extremely grateful as the ridicule was starting to take its toll.

In keeping with the ROGs previous title of Rear Party it felt apt to have a dinner night in the Officers’ Mess. All Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers paraded in the Officers’ Mess on 21st June to celebrate the 199th Anniversary of the Battle of Vittoria. Staff Officers from the Brigade ROG were invited, including Maj Tom Mallinson, for a lively evening where many Senior Ranks had the opportunity to drink from The Emperor for the first time.

Military training for the BCRs, and many other members of the ROG, was at a premium so to re-focus and improve military skills we organised a four day dismounted exercise on Salisbury Plain. Having mustered two platoons of reasonably able-bodied individuals we deployed for a few nights living under canvas. The exercise practiced Troopers and Junior Commanders in a variety
of skills including navigation, battle drills, first aid, camouflage and concealment and Counter-IED drills. While the exercise was taking place a small team, with little preparation, entered the Army Operational Shooting Competition (AOSC). The team did well and Tpr Harris excelled, gaining a place in the Army 100.

Unfortunately the drill rehearsals for repatriations and funerals were not in vain as Craftsman Taylor and Corporal Booth both died in UK during the tour. Though neither death was linked to operations we were well placed to assist at their funerals and the Bearer and Firing Parties at both funerals were exemplary and contributed to giving them fitting send offs.

The annual jamboree that is The Rundle Cup at Tidworth Polo Club took place in July and we were, once again, called on to provide support for the event. Abysmal weather provided our tame Recovery Mechanic with plenty of practice as “VIPs” insisted on parking in their designated car parks which soon became quagmires. Cars slid around in the mud and the well rehearsed parking plans had to be rapidly revised at the last minute. Our soldiers performed well in trying conditions and SSM “Beard” was repeatedly thanked for his efforts. On the pitch the Regiment was well represented with Col Nick Hunter and Capt (Ret’d) Phil Kaye both playing very well.

At the end of July we had the pleasure of the Combined Assurance Week where teams from Headquarters 3rd (UK) Division came to pick their way through our files ensuring that we were conducting our Equipment Care, Logistical Support, Administration and Medical procedures correctly. While this was only an “advisory visit” the pressure was on to maintain high standards set in previous years and all of the departments performed well having worked extremely hard to ensure that all was in good order. During the week the General Officer Commanding the Division came to visit the ROG. After breakfast in the Mess and visiting various stands he delayed his departure to congratulate Tpr Harris on his marksmanship in the AOSC a month earlier, and emphasised that he looked forward to more success in 2013!

Throughout all of this SSgt Nowell and his Maintenance Troop were doing sterling work looking after all of the Regiment’s A Vehicles. With very limited manpower they did an outstanding job which included the time consuming and labour intensive reactivation of the fleet prior to the Regiment’s return.

Not to be outdone by all of the Key Leader Engagement being done in Afghanistan we had the brief pleasure of hosting the Lashkar Gar District Chief of Police on his visit to UK. Colonel Kamaladdin was being advised and mentored by the Regiment in theatre so it was a privilege to return some of the hospitality he had given them. He hugely enjoyed his familiarisation on Challenger 2 and seemed slightly surprised that the Regiment
had left their tanks behind in Tidworth. After a brief road run he had lunch in the Mess before generously presenting a pair of Helmandi Marble Urns to the Regiment.

There were some fleeting opportunities for sport and adventure training. Capt Tony “Tank” Smith generously offered a few places on a sailing expedition he had organised for the Royal Wessex Yeomanry. Three of our newly arrived troopers joined the RWXY and gained their Competent Crew qualification whilst bobbing back from the Channel Islands. Our cricket team managed to make it to the Army Minor Units Final; unfortunately this was more down to the draw (a bye in the first round), bravado (our opponents withdrawing in the quarter final) and chance (we won a coin toss in the semi final) before coming up against a well-drilled Army Medical Services team in the final. After they had scored 270 runs in their 30 overs we prayed and danced for rain and another coin toss but it was not to be – so we had to go home proudly carrying our runners-up trophies.

All of a sudden the Regiment’s return was looming and attention focussed on preparing for their arrival and the parades, parties and services they deserved. Fortunately Maj Mickey Caulfield, Homecoming Parades, and Maj Ant Sharman, Medal Parade, arrived in the nick of time to organise these events where the somewhat diminished ROG was able to assist. The last hurra for the ROG before the Regiment landed was the team entered into Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL. Led by 2Lt Jack Fleming and consisting of those who had not managed to deploy they did remarkably well with little preparation. The weather in Wales did not disappoint and they were one of only three teams from their group of eight who completed the course.

There was a huge collective sigh of relief when the final flight returned. Although there have been some horrific injuries to our soldiers we were all grateful for the diligence, skill and courage of those who deployed which ensured we never did have to put the repatriation rehearsals and plans into effect. The ROG was not something many individuals would have chosen to do before or during the tour but reflecting on what has been achieved they should all be proud of a job well done.

R H-H
I could start with the standard phrase of ‘another busy year for the squadron goes by’, but in this case it was probably the busiest and most diverse for most if not all. The year was dominated by the deployment of the Regiment to Afghanistan, which saw all facets of the operation supported by members of HQ Sqn in one form or another. The command team deployed with the Battlegroup Headquarters and saw the Squadron Leader label the Battlegroup Logistics Officer and the SSM, WO2 Bretherton deployed as a Battle Captain (how things have changed) and SSgt Martin Briscoe became the BUZZARD organising the quickest and safest form of travel – the helicopter. The only member of the team to deploy in role was the SQMS SSgt Fresh Preston, who quickly found out how tricky it was to keep a load of Officers happy for six months.

The tour was a resounding success and everyone played their part. In Camp Bastion the forward QM Capt Kev Sloan enforced mandatory PT for the whole troop in line with the RM Commandos, with daily sprint sessions and Uppy/Downies being the order of the day. I can now inform him that whilst covering him during his R&R period, RQ Chris Dunn and I made the decision to include volleyball and 5 a-side, which for some reason everybody was happy with. MT forward was based in Lashkar Gar (LKG), headed up by Sgt Buggy Malone and LCpl Holmes as the MTO and Geordie Kennedy disappeared off to be QM of MOB PRICE. Once in LKG Sgt Malone began taking over the MT dept and Wolfhounds, and soon after he was conducting IRG’s all over the AO mainly moving the incoming/outgoing freight to and from Bastion (BSN), which went well apart from the RSM going slowly insane. He was often seen pouring equal amounts of hot water into washbowls and ensuring everyone washed their hands before meals. On Day 4 LCpl ‘Bag puss’ Parker arrived, he was joined on day 6 by Sgt ‘Tex’ Houston; this was to be the chosen ‘Dream team’ that would support TFHQ throughout the H16. The FTX served as a nice ‘wake up call’ as to what to expect from his course that there was a button with a little green light which he was told to make sure was on all the time, however whilst driving through the town of Gereshk he decided to press it, which promptly shut down all the power to the radios and ECM, not a mistake he made again! He managed to get the IRG from LKG to BSN which was a 4 hour trip without getting us lost which impressed the Sqn Ldr, as he was never the best map reader. However his success was short lived as once in Camp BSN he managed to take the whole IRG sightseeing around Camp Leatherneck for an hour. For this he was awarded the Regimental Medal, which is richly deserved for his outstanding contribution to the success of the Regiment during the operation.

On our return, it was out with the ironing and bulling kit as we proudly marched our way through Leyland, Winchester and culminating in the Medal Parade just before Christmas leave. This leave period sees some organisational changes for the sqn, gone is the title Headquarters Squadron and in comes Support Squadron. We lose RHQ, Recce, Comd and Tg Wing to what was D Sqn but now becomes Comd & Recce Sqn. With these organisational changes come personality changes, with the handover of Sqn Ldr from Maj Mark Kvesic who passes the baton onto Maj Mickey Caulfield. Maj Kvesic moves to Army HQ to look after the RAC manning. SSgt (SQMS) Preston moves on to be Intelligence WO and we welcome SSgt (SQMS) Bradley. 2013 promises to be another challenging year as we look to restructure following the ORBAT change. It will however provide an element of stability which will be welcomed by all.

MK

SQMS Department

A busy training season saw no fewer than 8 soldiers working for the SQMS at some point over the year. Cpls Shores & Daniels along with LCpl Hatton, Fallows, Cooke & Pillig, were joined by Tpr ‘2 dads’ Dunkerley-Edwards during the BATUS/MST season. As the training began so did the surge of new equipment, none of which anyone fully understood or knew how to operate, but as long as it had a serial number and we could squeeze it into the Armoury, we were good to go.

Throughout MST the Dept supported several CAST/CATT exercises and even managed to get the Burger/Breakfast stand, set up in Farm 12, Brecon; the food stand proved popular with people finding many ‘valid reasons’ to visit HQ! Incidentally it was Tpr Brown from MT who was selected for Q’s able assistant for that particular 2 week period.

FTX began with all of the pre-mentioned staff joining other departments and the SQMS spending the initial 3 days on his own, detective work was needed to find out what the hell was on our ISO containers, creating a weekly trawl around Camp 30, to keep ‘Gucci’ items only to be told they had to hand them in 6 months later. The problems with the QM being so far away often meant hunting, Xmas duties always tend to create a sense of urgency!! The problems with the QM being so far away often meant hunting, Xmas duties always tend to create a sense of urgency!!

As things slowly began to calm down a routine was established. The problems with the QM being so far away often meant detective work was needed to find out what the hell was on our accounts, the staff in LKG often enjoyed being told they could keep ‘Gucci’ items only to be told they had to hand them in 6 weeks later. The forward clothing stocks were popular especially the Berets that quickly ran out after the RSM went Orange beret hunting, Xmas duties always tend to create a sense of urgency!!

The MOB QM decided at least once a week to play ‘Itrris’ with the ISO containers, creating a weekly trawl around Camp 30, to find where our stores were!! LCpl Parker began to learn the ropes for the ‘bedding in’ phase of H16 and we can confirm it did not disappoint.

The air freight was late (believed to be lost), which the CO was particularly pleased about. Grown leaders of men were reduced to tears because of accommodation issues, and Camp DIMOND had to go with no water for nearly 3 days only for KBR to gently tap the water pump and get it working again!! Sgt Houston and LCpl Parker became ninja’s at Air con, level 1 repairs and the 28 day wait for repairs meant it was often quicker to grab a screwdriver and do it yourself.

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in the Armstore and was often seen trying to get air on the Quad bike by hitting speed bumps at great speed!! Sgt Houston spent most of his time entertaining the lads with his bottom drawer humour and his guitar skills.

It was a challenging tour for the SQMS and his team however they never failed to deliver. We now bid farewell to SSgt Preston as he takes up his post of Int WO and welcome SSgt (SQMS) Bradley. We very much look forward to a more stable 2013 with a new team and new challenges.

MP

QM’s Department

The year started at a pace that Usain Bolt would have had to train hard to keep up with. At a time when the new QM and RQMS were trying to find their feet, the remainder of the team went about business in their usual unflappable way. Already in the thick of Mission Specific Training, the favourite phrase adopted to categorise the varying priorities within the department was ‘nearest crocodile to the canoe’. The QM appreciated the simple methodology and was in favour of speaking a language that he understood, at least until he had completed his QM course.

From an early stage in 2012, Cpls Bennett and Marshall joined the combined QM Forward team and supported a range of training activities, often simultaneously at opposite ends of the country. Carrying out ammunition details, accommodation administration and on one ‘blue light’ occasion, they had to source an emergency supply of toilet rolls, as it appeared that the Sqn Ldr had worked his way through the initial 1200 rolls despatched, within 48 hours.

Demanded late in 2011, the operational clothing and equipment, known affectionately as the ‘Black Bag’ started to arrive in dribs and drabs early on in the year. With space a premium in Aliwal Bks and no luxury of a hangar to store this clothing, the QM’s building was used to receipt, unpack, sort and issue the clothing and equipment to all deploying troops. Located in every part of the department, less the QM’s office, the team would grab a handful of waiting troops and lead them by the hand, filling the holdalls and back packs as they trudged round. The process was not made easy due to the fact that the majority of clothing arrived late on in the issuing process and hence, more than one trip to the QM’s was required to collect all clothing and equipment. Finally and with much credit to Cpl Thompson and LCpl Howarth, the majority of the Regiment were able to marvel at all the shiny ‘gizzits’ and clothing they had received.

April saw the return of the QM having completed his Media course and the QM course. It was also the time that the Regiment had started to deploy in earnest. Work was still ongoing to bring to account all clothing issues; work that engrossed the RQMS for a couple of weeks. He and UNICOM became best friends as he encountered every problem and obstacle that the aged IT system throws at our accountants. Again, some sterling work by all the team meant that the books were now balanced, with minimal cooking and that we could start to focus on stock checks and preparation for the ROG Health Check in July.

Although open to debate, as two of the smartest soldiers the Regiment has to offer, the QM and RQMS were selected to form part of the KRH contingent to march in the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Armed Forces Muster Parade in Windsor on 19 May 12. This was seen as a welcome break from the office and turned out to be an enjoyable and memorable occasion for all participants. Ultimately, it was evident that the QM was recognisable on TV by one facial feature alone!

One character that often goes unnoticed in the department, yet the Regiment could not function without is WO2 Robinson, or WO SHE as he is referred to. He has used 2012 to further develop his already impressive health and safety portfolio. On one occasion, he managed to talk the QM into attending a 3 day Waste Management course in Buckinghamshire. Since the course, the QM has been dreaming up an endless supply of excuses not to attend similar courses in the future. Also invaluable to the department was LCpl Hodgson, the Unit Facilities Manager, who has now transitioned to Civilian Street, having opted for redundancy. He was the perfect arbiter between the likes of ASPIRE,
A new vehicle platforms had to be received so the guys could train. The department were at full steam for Pre-deployment Training, being thrown at you. All over again. There is no end of clothing, gadgets and hardware. Pattern combats and so you get truck loads of stuff issued to you. Use what you had last time you were in theatre, because of the new equipment. It's not even that you can end up try to buy your own, yes the kit of the past was questioned. Its equipment – people often complain about issued army kit and its quality and varied amount of kit, all with an individual serial number – it was a storeman’s dream (not really, more of a nightmare actually). And new weapons and sights were collected for the Sqn. It was all part of the Dismounted Close Combat equipment, a serious amount of kit, all with an individual serial number – it was a storeman’s dream (not really, more of a nightmare actually).

November saw the final batch of troops arrive home from theatre and the last of the OSPREY body armour handed in to the QM’s Dept for conditioning and preparation for return as part of the Op SILVERSTONE equipment. It was work that engrossed the RQMS and Cpl Thompson for the best part of 3 weeks, 8 hours a day. Eventually, with seriously mangled finger tips, the 2 declared the 350 odd sets ready and the majority were handed in successfully late in November. The word ‘OSPREY’ is now deemed blasphemy within the department, and it will be some time before the nervous twitch disappears from the RQMS’ eyes when he sees something remotely resembling body armour.

The final few working weeks of the year turned out to be pretty horrendous for the department, as we were stretched beyond capacity at times. Supporting parades, social functions, preparing for close down, Board of Officers, MJDI conversion etc, etc, the limited number available worked wonders, as they responded to several last minute changes to key events. In one week, 3 trips to Loan Pool, Bicester were carried out, as well as to Knightsbridge and a multitude of local units in and around Salisbury Plain. One highlight of the final few weeks was the promotion of Cpl Howarth, for which the team pass on their congratulations. Of course, another highlight was departing on some well earned leave, which for some in the department was quite late on in December, but saw conditions set for a ‘clean’ start in 2013.

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The J4 Cell

An operational year for the Quartermaster’s Department’s is one of the best parts of the job – supporting the Regiment in role. It was a long time coming though; Post BATUS the department jumped straight in with the mandatory cadres which set the scene and gave us a feel of what we would be up to in theatre. Then off to Lydd Ranges before we knew what hit us.

We kind of forgot how much the Army has moved forward with its equipment – people often complain about issued army kit and end up try to buy their own, yes the kit of the past was questionable, but today it is completely different. The quality and varied amount of equipment is truly amazing and is still getting better, and we had to deal with truck loads of it. It’s not even that you can use what you had last time you were in theatre, because of the new pattern combats and so you get truck loads of stuff issued to you all over again. There is no end of clothing, gadgets and hardware being thrown at you.

The department were at full steam for Pre-deployment Training, new vehicle platforms had to be received so the guys could train and the unit. He is currently pursuing a new career in the Police Force and is wished well for the future. Early in July, the last of six accommodation blocks were ready to hand back to the military, having undergone the transformation to Z-Type (the term used to describe a single-occupancy room with en-suite shower and toilet facilities). Overall, the renovation work in the blocks that were originally raised in the early nineties has taken over 4 years to complete and seen pretty much every single soldier displaced at least once, whilst the rooms were transformed. It is impressive what has been achieved and the soldiers’ residence receives very little criticism from the occupants; just the odd shout of “wasn’t like that in my day” can be heard by those that have long moved out of the single living accommodation!

It felt like it was a long time in the waiting, but finally, the week of doom arrived at the end of July aka the Rear Ops Group Health Check. For the first 2 days, all aspects of equipment care and support were scrutinized by a team with a combined charisma of 0.001; suffice to say that the QM’s jokes and classic one-liners were not appreciated. Following the medical OME, it was then the logistical accounts that came under the spotlight by the LSI team. With far more charisma and an appreciation of the QM’s humour, the inspection team gave a thumbs up to all QM accounts and processes and managed to finish the inspection in 1 day.

LCpl Howarth finally managed to break out of the shackles tying him to the clothing store, as he headed out to Afghanistan to join D Sqn for their final 6 weeks in theatre. It suddenly became eerily quiet in the department after Howie had departed, especially without the phrase “just to let you know” resonating around the place. With the now seriously depleted manpower remaining, work started in earnest to prepare for the troops returning. It was also the time that Sgt Gillam headed to Bovington to join the ARMCEN QM(T) team and for Sgt Miller to return to regimental duty, having served 2 years with 16 Air Assault Brigade in Colchester.

November saw the final batch of troops arrive home from theatre and the last of the OSPREY body armour handed in to the QM’s Dept for conditioning and preparation for return as part of the Op SILVERSTONE equipment. It was work that engrossed the RQMS and Cpl Thompson for the best part of 3 weeks, 8 hours a day. Eventually, with seriously mangled finger tips, the 2 declared the 350 odd sets ready and the majority were handed in successfully late in November. The word ‘OSPREY’ is now deemed blasphemy within the department, and it will be some time before the nervous twitch disappears from the RQMS’ eyes when he sees something remotely resembling body armour.

The J4 Cell

A new operational year for the Quartermaster’s Department’s is one of the best parts of the job – supporting the Regiment in role. It was a long time coming though; Post BATUS the department jumped straight in with the mandatory cadres which set the scene and gave us a feel of what we would be up to in theatre. Then off to Lydd Ranges before we knew what hit us.

We kind of forgot how much the Army has moved forward with its equipment – people often complain about issued army kit and end up try to buy their own, yes the kit of the past was questionable, but today it is completely different. The quality and varied amount of equipment is truly amazing and is still getting better, and we had to deal with truck loads of it. It’s not even that you can use what you had last time you were in theatre, because of the new pattern combats and so you get truck loads of stuff issued to you all over again. There is no end of clothing, gadgets and hardware being thrown at you.

The department were at full steam for Pre-deployment Training, new vehicle platforms had to be received so the guys could train and the unit. He is currently pursuing a new career in the Police Force and is wished well for the future. Early in July, the last of six accommodation blocks were ready to hand back to the military, having undergone the transformation to Z-Type (the term used to describe a single-occupancy room with en-suite shower and toilet facilities). Overall, the renovation work in the blocks that were originally raised in the early nineties has taken over 4 years to complete and seen pretty much every single soldier displaced at least once, whilst the rooms were transformed. It is impressive what has been achieved and the soldiers’ residence receives very little criticism from the occupants; just the odd shout of “wasn’t like that in my day” can be heard by those that have long moved out of the single living accommodation!

It felt like it was a long time in the waiting, but finally, the week of doom arrived at the end of July aka the Rear Ops Group Health Check. For the first 2 days, all aspects of equipment care and support were scrutinized by a team with a combined charisma of 0.001; suffice to say that the QM’s jokes and classic one-liners were not appreciated. Following the medical OME, it was then the logistical accounts that came under the spotlight by the LSI team. With far more charisma and an appreciation of the QM’s humour, the inspection team gave a thumbs up to all QM accounts and processes and managed to finish the inspection in 1 day.

LCpl Howarth finally managed to break out of the shackles tying him to the clothing store, as he headed out to Afghanistan to join D Sqn for their final 6 weeks in theatre. It suddenly became eerily quiet in the department after Howie had departed, especially without the phrase “just to let you know” resonating around the place. With the now seriously depleted manpower remaining, work started in earnest to prepare for the troops returning. It was also the time that Sgt Gillam headed to Bovington to join the ARMCEN QM(T) team and for Sgt Miller to return to regimental duty, having served 2 years with 16 Air Assault Brigade in Colchester.

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The final few working weeks of the year turned out to be pretty horrendous for the department, as we were stretched beyond capacity at times. Supporting parades, social functions, preparing for close down, Board of Officers, MJDI conversion etc, etc, the limited number available worked wonders, as they responded to several last minute changes to key events. In one week, 3 trips to Loan Pool, Bicester were carried out, as well as to Knightsbridge and a multitude of local units in and around Salisbury Plain. One highlight of the final few weeks was the promotion of Cpl Howarth, for which the team pass on their congratulations. Of course, another highlight was departing on some well earned leave, which for some in the department was quite late on in December, but saw conditions set for a ‘clean’ start in 2013.
to be another South Cerney – you know, one of those places that serves no other purpose than to give you that ‘I have just been on guard feeling’ and of course, keep the RAF in a job.

We landed in Camp Bastion late at night, tired and hungry – with a buzz of excitement – the Chuff Chart had actually started. RSOI, loads of briefing, a day on ranges, and into the handover with QRH. The handover went fairly well, with only a small amount of friction, but lot’s of ‘Stroking the donkeys’ ears’, a flag change, and we were finally Combined Force Lashkar Gah Rear JOC to shortly be renamed as a TSU.

The team kicked into action in the only way that they knew – flat out. There was so much to do and so little time to get organised. RQMS Chris Dunn took on his role in the usual studious manner and quickly delved into to the legacy issues that are always going to surface. Sgt Paul Bensley took on the role of ET SNCO, a new post for him, but one which he would soon warm to (he actually had no choice as it is his next job anyway). Cpl John Buckley was to be tested by the USA account and the dreaded backload, which would be his enduring nightmare – as the QM would always be on his back, and Cpl’s Pete Shepherd and Vinnie Barton got stuck in to BOWMAN and ECM.

The REAR JOC is the central hub for equipment and materiel, its location in Camp Bastion placed it in the nerve centre for all logistics in theatre. The Sqns had an SQMS rear to help them with all of their J4 functions and their job was vital to all Sqn operations. The job was complex and it involved moving equipment forward by any means; road move, support helicopter, contract road move and contract rotary wing. There were a number of available assets with which to equip the troops in very quick time. Cpl Tony Hocking and Sgt’s Jolliffe, Wilson, and Daisley amongst others, acted as Rear SQMS’s for their Sqns. 3 RIFLES and 3 YORKS also supplied manpower which brought us into contact with some fabulous characters.

The remainder of the team consisted of Cpl’s Del Bennett (ammo), Alan Kendall (Med & expense) and Scotty Marshall (Clothing & Rats, etc). Most of the guys had more than one account to cover and during R&R much more than that. The ESLO, SSgt Olive changed half way through the tour, to be replaced by Tiffy Si Jays, two widely different characters. Ollie loved to place demands at midnight and ask for them immediately and Si waited until morning and waited until they arrived through the system, both were equally efficient and helped greatly.

All work and no play makes for a dull job, so the QM, Captain Kev Sloan insisted that we all have fun, at 0600 on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mondays fun would include 800m Sprints, Wednesday’s would be a steady state run (steady my $%^*), and Fridays would depend on his mood. If in a good mood we would have fun Fridays, maybe football or something similar, but for the most of the time we would end up in the gym as he tried to kill us off with one of his hideous circuits.

The Tour went seriously quickly and before we knew it we were handing over to 1 LANCS, making up MFO boxes, checking and cleaning equipment to return in good order to the UK. The weather held out for us and started to actually get quite hot again towards the end of the tour. Then it was off to Cyprus and back home for tea and medals.

On arrival back home we were immediately met with the green fields of home – clearly the UK has had its fair share of rain since our departure, but you kind of forget how much colour you miss when living in a desert. We were greeted by our loved ones and officially processed. It was lovely to step off the bus in camp and have our families there outside the Aliwal Arms – that was truly the end of the Tour.

As always there was lots of work to be done by the Quartermaster’s Departments and finishing tour is a date on paper, not reality. We
still had Op Silverstone to return, all the equipment we had taken to theatre to return into the system for HERRICK 18, and so it would be all hands to the pumps up at QM(T) before we would finally get some leave.

J1 Cell

After an intense 6 month preparation period in Barracks, including numerous J1 Briefings, presentations and Pre-DAC’s (Deployment Administrative Checks), all Regimental personnel were primed and ready to deploy forward on Op HERRICK 16. Upon arrival in Camp Bastion and after RSOI had been completed, the J1 staff, comprising of Capt Harvey (RAO), SSgt Harney (FSA), Cpl Downham (R&R LO), Pte Appiah and Pte McIntosh were thrust into the busy period of receiving the incoming Battlegroup and ensuring that the critical, administrative arrival of every individual was captured accurately.

Once the Battlegroup had all completed their RSOI packages and moved forward to their Sub Unit locations, it was time for the J1 Cell to settle into a daily routine. This included updating and checking the PERSREP, sending in the feeding strength, collecting and sorting the mail for the forward locations, coordinating and booking all R&R flights and onward movement, checking pay statements, processing the input of all Operational applicable allowances onto a very temperamental JPA system, booking SH (Support Helicopter) to and from forward locations, meeting all casualties at BSN R3 Hospital and dealing with the related welfare & administration issues, coordinating the AEROMED of personnel as and when required, coordinating the arrival of all BCRs & IRs and many more ‘various administrative type tasks’.

At the end of May we said farewell to Pte McIntosh who returned to ROG. Pte Kannike then joined us from (a very reluctant to let him go) C Sqn in PB Nahidullah. May also saw the J1 Cell take part in the Bastion Triple Challenge where SPS personnel from across the Bde took part in a 10km tab, followed by a shoot. This event saw the majority of the TSU SPS staff get together to compete. The charity event was a huge success with the TSU team coming home in 7th place. Over 250 USD was raised for the charity, FAB (Families and Bereaved), which provide holidays and fun events for families of those who have fallen in the line of duty.

With the R&R well under way, Cpl Downham was kept on his toes ensuring all personnel arrived in Bastion on time and space permitting, helping individuals get home 24 hours early where possible. Credit to Cpl Downham for ensuring the process from the beginning of the individuals R&R to their return to their forward locations was carried out with professionalism and commitment, making the whole process simple and as hassle free as possible.

In mid-August we said farewell to Cpl (half-a-tour) Downham and welcomed Cpl (not-even-half-a-tour) Neal who took on the remainder of the R&R packages and commenced preparation for the RiP.

In early September, before the hustle and bustle started in earnest, the J1 Cell organised an SPS Volleyball Competition at the Danish Camp. Here, all of the Bastion-based J1 Rear JOC cells had the opportunity to get together for some healthy competition followed by a social get-together for prize giving and some food. No, we didn’t win – didn’t even come close!

As September begins to come to a close, our sights are now firmly set on the RiP and the J1 tasks which are paramount to the successful administrative recovery of the Regiment. We also will be required to receive in the first elements of the 1 LANCS Battlegroup and will maintain the running of the J1 Cell until their SPS personnel are in Theatre and in a position to take the reins.

Throughout Op HERRICK 16, the Rear JOC J1 Cell has been a dedicated team committed to the delivery of practical and sound J1 support to all personnel of TSU and their families. We now look forward to returning to Barracks where no doubt, a fresh load of additional J1 tasks will be awaiting our arrival!

Recce Troop

As for most of the Regiment 2012 has been a very exciting and testing year for Recce Tp. The New Year brought the second half of our Mission Specific Training (MST), and the opportunity to put into practice the new drills learnt for our deployment on OP HERRICK 16; although many found it hard to imagine the extreme heat of Helmand as we sat in the pouring welsh rain.

However with all qualifications complete we were all prepared for FTX and the final tick in the box before heading off. FTX saw the opportunity to work with the Jordanian Army, which turned out to be perfect practice for enduring the Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) work ethic. After a lot of pleading, and careful ego
management we eventually managed to get the Jordanians out of the compound into a typical February on Salisbury plan.

During the build up to deployment the future of the troop was always a little uncertain. With Recce Tp not deploying as a formed unit since Kosovo, the Commanding Officer was set on keeping Recce as a separate entity, that he could employ in independent roles. The troop deployed with B Squadron as part of the ground holding sub-unit in charge of protecting Highway 601, the road that link Lashkar Gah to the rest of Afghanistan. The day-to-day tasks varied enormously, from vehicle patrols mounted in Jackals, to partnered dismounted patrols with the ANP. Luckily there was the odd occasion to employ the troop in some more reconnaissance-specific roles. On a couple of operations Recce Troop were ordered to move into the hard-baked Dashte north of the Green Zone to set up over-watching screens, before other sub-units conducted deliberate ops with the ANSF. Our job was to identify insurgent ingress routes, give early warning of changes to atmospherics within the area and wherever possible draw attention away from the main effort of the operations. This was Recce back in their element, living a nomadic lifestyle in the desert, answering directly to the Commanding Officer and using innovative ways to draw the eye of the enemy. These included charging towards likely access points into the green zone, stopping short, throwing smoke grenades before retreating back into the Dashte, only to appear again elsewhere. However being no fool the Taliban soon understood what we were trying to do, so we resorted to ‘plan B’. This entailed Cpl George Burke free-styling on the loud hailer device before handing over to the interpreter to begin heckling any likely insurgents. Needless to say this had the desired effect, with a very exciting couple of day for everyone.

The highlight of all of these independent operations was the first helicopter assault operation of the tour. The aim was to reaffirm the AUP’s ability to police anywhere in their district, despite what imaginary lines in the sand had been drawn. Recce were
given a target Kalay to the North of PB Attal and two Chinook helicopter lifts and told to crack on. With AUP and their Welsh Guards mentors the raid went in just after first light. After a few minutes of panic the locals figured out what the 50-man team was up to and we started to take incoming sporadic fire. Within 50 minutes the AUP had found a PKM machine gun, ammunition, IED pressure plates, homemade explosives, several kilograms of opium anddetained one suspected (later confirmed) Taliban fighter. After a short anxious wait for our pick up the helicopters returned, unfortunately managing to land on the wrong side of a rather large irrigation ditch. So after a little chaos of throwing rucksacks and each other over the ditch – and a little swimming – all were safely on board and heading back to PB Attal.

The final month of the tour was probably the hardest for the troop, dominated by OP QALB 8. This was a Brigade-sized ANSF-led operation focused on building two new check points north of Pupulzay Kalay. Despite being only 1km from PB Attal, this was the most kinetic region within the AO. A plan was hatched to sweep in from the west, clear the main routes of any possible IEDs and form a protective cordon to allow the engineers to fortify some Afghan compounds. This would then allow us to move in permanently, in order to protect the subsequent build of two brand new checkpoints for the AUP. With the biggest men carrying almost 60kg of kit we set off on the initial phase; a two-day push to seize the ground, take over temporary checkpoints and marry up with their sleeping bags and other niceties. The troop then spent the next month rotating through these temporary checkpoints with the other B Squadron multiples, securing the area and waiting for the Afghan system to provide sufficient police for their new checkpoints. It was on these patrols that we could really understand the achievement of OP QALB: walking freely around Pupulzay Kalay, where previously we could almost guarantee enemy activity within 30 minutes of us arriving, without the risk of IEDs or small arms fire, talking with the locals who now no longer ran away at the first sight of ISAF forces.

Unfortunately it was on one of these patrols that the troop had its darkest day of the tour. During a familiarisation patrol with the incoming Troop Leader from the 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment, SSgt Lloyd, the Recce Second-in-Command, stepped on an IED, losing both his legs and injuring his hands. It was only due to the rigid discipline and the outstanding courage of members of the troop that he did not die from his wounds, and that the evacuation of SSgt Lloyd and the civilian casualty caused by the subsequent fire fight, went so smoothly. In excellent Recce Troop form the boys dealt with the situation and the aftermath with expert professionalism and finished the tour in good order.

The Troop is now looking forward to regaining some of its independence with a specific reconnaissance role for the forces playing enemy in Canada in mid-2013. With the shake-up of manning, we say goodbye to some die-hard Recce loyalists, but welcome some very promising new talent. Lt Mark Lambert will take over from Capt Felix Clarke in May 2013, and Sgt Oldfield will step up to replace SSgt Lloyd as Second-in-Command.

Command Troop

The Joint Operations Cell (JOC), or ‘The Turret’ as it became known was the element of the BG HQ tasked with providing and maintaining command and control across the TSU Lashkar Gah battlespace. It was the role of the JOC to maintain total situational awareness over the multitude of moving pieces, co-ordinating assets where required. The JOC team, including all attached elements, came together at an early stage of the MST, meaning we were put through our paces together; by time of deployment at the end of March 2012 we were ready to hit the ground running on Op HERRICK 16.

Due to the nature of the task the JOC manning and capability was considerably larger than that which we were used to during HFT. Although KRH provided the central thread to the ops room, the brown beret was noticeably outnumbered within the JOC by the attached elements: The Gunners provided support on the Joint Fires desk, controlling all the guns capabilities; the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) department provided all the ‘eyes in the sky’ whilst the Base ISTAR co-ordinated the ground surveillance assets. The Tactical Air Control Party provided the air support capability. Finally, the Electronic Warfare Desk allowed us to intercept the insurgent communications and pre-empt their movement.

The KRH provided the intelligence and operations contingent to the JOC, fundamentally pulling all the other pieces together ensuring that the focus was on supporting our ground forces. The radio operators established themselves as the reassuring voice of the TSU; be it Tpr Carey and his attempts to an reach ever-higher pitch of euphoria on the net, or Tpr Clements’ rather more melancholic drawl. SSgt Underwood decided that BSM and IHub Manager were not enough to fill his days, so took on RSWO and Interpreter LO as part of his plan for world domination. LCpls
Callon and Sheridan on the J2 desk tapped in to the mind of the insurgent allowing us to stay one step ahead – as well as providing confirmation that the compound that the insurgents were using as a firing point was indeed a compound of interest! For watchkeepers we had a number of individuals roll through the TSU JOC; the 3 new subbies – 2Lts Fleming, Higton and Mawby – all spent a couple of weeks finding their feet within the JOC before moving to their respective sub-units, whereas Lt Nick Westlake-Toms used it as an opportunity to rehabilitate after an ankle injury. However Cpl Murphy and Sgt Donald were the stalwarts in this role, able to facilitate with ease between the sub-units and Task Force Helmand and ensuring situational awareness was maintained throughout. Perhaps more importantly however they ensured that the Day Battle Captain, Capt Nick Beattie did not get too carried away thinking he was sat on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise in his swivel chair. WO2 Bretherton said goodbye to daylight for six months as he took on the role of Night Battle Captain. Capt Q Hicks as Ops officer provided the link between the plans and the operational implementation. He would take up post within the JOC during the extensive operations or if trying to hide from the persistent phone calls at his usual desk.

Life in the JOC was pretty schizophrenic with the tempo dictated by what was happening on the ground. There would be days when all was quiet across the AO and the clock ticked pretty slowly. However you could never sit back too much as out of nowhere there would be a frenetic resurge in tempo as nefarious activities came to the surface. Many hours were spent tracking white Toyota Corollas around the battlespace, apparently connected to some illicit activity of varying sorts. The infamous white Toyota Corolla was such a prolific feature of Op HERRICK 16 that Cpl Murphy has had to sell his white family saloon on return to UK, as it was inducing cold sweats every time he thought about it.

There were a few examples of what came to be known as FTX days, where a multitude of incidences seemed to come to head at once. On one such moment the JOC was co-ordinating a BG level op, an ‘IED find’ incident as well as trying to facilitate a recovery of a casualty from MOB Lashkar Gah when the JOC was hit with a power cut to top it off. A quick litmus test of how busy things were was by looking at who was in the JOC; if the CO, BC, COS, OC ISTAR, Ops Officer, SO3 Consequence Manager and Abdul (the octogenarian toothless Afghan who kept the MOB Lashkar Gah facilities so spotless) were there then you knew things were about to get interesting.

Over Op HERRICK 16 the JOC has witnessed instances that were so left-field and random that exasperated cries of ‘You couldn’t make this up!’ were regularly heard echoing out of the JOC. This included a hunt for a missing Afghan truck reportedly on route to Lashkar Gah DC and reputed to be carrying depleted uranium. After 24hrs of piecing together various conflicting Afghan Uniformed Police reports of what had happened with the vehicle it was eventually tracked to the DC where it was discovered to be carrying opium, rather then nuclear stores. Another included a threat warning about a suicide bomber planning an attack against MOB Lashkar Gah. Whilst this was not particularly out of the ordinary what was odd was the assailant was reported as having no arms or legs and being transported in a wheel barrow.

It is incidences like these that made the tour feel like it flew by. Whilst it has not perhaps been a glamorous job, it has certainly been a pivotal one that has played a key part in maintaining command and control throughout the tour. The whole process was made all the easier and enjoyable because of the strength and cohesion of the team, whether KRH or attached individuals.

NB
2012 started with a reduction in the size of the Troop. Historically the largest troop in the Regiment, we became one of the smallest! The majority of the manpower was farmed out to the sabre squadrons for the H16 deployment, the numbers dropped from 64 to just 14. Those remaining in MT were split into MT Forward, deploying on H16 and MT Rear, remaining in Tidworth forming part of the Rear Operations Group (ROG).

MT Forward was made up of Sgt Malone and LCpl Holmes and Wilton; all of which had to undertake a series of courses on a variety of vehicles in order to meet the qualification criteria. Time was tight: as MT reps they were required to be some of the first to deploy into theatre to take over the vehicles and ensure they were ready for the handover to the Regiment on their arrival. With a successful handover complete, they settled into their roles for the tour. Sgt Malone commanded the IRG for TSU Lashkar Gah (LKG) He was ably assisted by LCpl Holmes, conducting vital moves between the various locations within the AO, which routinely involved the movement of personnel and equipment. LCpl Wilton worked from Camp BASTION (BSN) under the QM(T) ensuring all the vehicle details were correct. LCpl Wilton also went on a fitness campaign, and as a result, had completed several half-marathons by the end of the tour.

MT Rear was commanded by the MTWO. Initially WO2 Jeff McParland held the post but somehow managed to secure himself a sunshine tour in a much friendlier environment. WO2 McParland was to spend the next 2 years in Cyprus working with the UN Forces based out of Nicosia. We wish him and his family the very best of luck and hope he took the advice to pack lots of sun tan lotion, taking into account his ginger mop. His successor was SSgt ‘Dicky’ Davis; although very much a gunnery man, he quickly threw himself into the MT world. He attacked his role with such vigour, that he managed to put his back out for 6 weeks! On his return, SSgt Davis transformed MT into just the way he wanted, which meant anything not moving was laminated to an inch of its life!

Working with MT Rear, Cpls Warren and Campbell ensured the vehicles were kept in tip-top shape while Tprs Parker and Twanje controlled vehicle details, these at times numbering over 1000 in a month. MT Rear’s trips to Brize Norton in support of the Regt’s deployment clocked up over 4300 miles!

As for the MTO, he also deployed on H16 in the role of MOB PRICE Camp Commandant. This involved running a camp for 600 personnel including multinational forces and civilians. There were times however, when he had to put his MTO hat back on to investigate RTAs. Our American cousins – who deemed themselves too cool to ground command their vehicles – were the main culprits.

Once the tour was complete, MT Rear and Forward joined forces once more. Those who deployed busied themselves preparing for homecoming parades in Leyland and Winchester and the medal parade held in Aliwal Barracks. Those who were not involved in that had a plethora of other events to support including the many Christmas functions that took place prior to leave. The Troop was so busy that even the MTO had to drive, dressed in a Rasputin fancy dress costume, for the Officers’ Mess Russian Ball!
Training Wing

2012 saw the Training wing busy preparing the Squadrons for their specific roles for OP HERRICK 16. The main aim was to ensure that each Squadron was fully up to date with new principals for C-IED and working within the complex environment of Afghanistan. The excellently resourced exercises in the MST programme more than achieved this with civilian population, helicopters and all the vehicles we were to use in theatre adding to the realism.

As soon as the Regiment deployed the training wing was reduced to a one man show, with Cpl Nugent stoically flying the flag. The focus became preparing the battlefield casualty replacement troop. This meant ensuring that their training stayed current and that they were fully up to date with their courses in order the be ready to deploy on OP HERRICK at any time.

Cpl Nugent deployed on OP ESCALIN, in preparation for the fuel strikes. He drove an ESSO fuel truck around London for 2 weeks and suffered being put up in a luxury hotel near Heathrow for his troubles.

During the course of the summer there were plenty of military cadet and school visits that took place in Tidworth. As ever the cadets were eager to gain an insight into life in the KRH and even more eager to get inside a Challenger 2. Cpl Nugent took the opportunity to head north to sunny Southport for the North West Cadet and School recruiting week. As ‘the Training Wing’ he was privy to future of recruiting for the Army in this area after meeting the Commander of the North West Recruiting.

Following the Regiment’s return from Afghanistan the Training Wing has been cranked back into life and is currently preparing for the challenges of readying the Regiment for its return to armour and BATUS in 2013.

Many congratulations to Sgt Malone who was awarded the Regimental Medal for his fantastic efforts on H16. We bid him farewell and good luck in his new post within the QM(T) Department.

As we look forward to 2013, we must also say a fond farewell to LCpl Massey who moves to the QM Department. We wish him well.

2013 promises to be as challenging as ever. Following the Regimental Re-ORBAT, new members of the team will now have to be trained and gain the necessary licences and qualifications required to fulfil their roles. This we will do, whilst continuing to provide the excellent support expected of a KRH MT Tp.

CMN
Welfare Office

Along with the rest of the regiment this last year has, without question, been the most challenging and intense since the KRH were formed in 1992. The welfare team that started the year was much larger than one that would normally be expected due to the imminent HERRICK tour. It was not as large as most units within 12X but it was staffed with, as was soon abundantly clear, the right people, some of whom may have been placed in the team against their will but very soon demonstrated to me that they were more than capable to cope with the constant barrage of welfare issues that we were to face throughout the year. As well as the Welfare Officer, the team consisted of Sgt Matthew Davis-Bawn, Cpl Paul Mulcahy, Cpl Ashley Kirkbride, Tpr Dean Steele and Tpr ‘Tommo’ Thomas.

Just prior to the deployment we received a number of items that would be of great assistance during the tour in the form of two seven-seat MPVs, a minibus (which came with so much red tape and baggage that it was mostly parked during the tour and used by MT). We also received extra mobile phones (for use by Casualty Visiting Officers), a couple of extra sat-navs and perhaps most importantly a big fat £44,000 in Families Welfare Grant; this money would mean that we could provide trips and entertainment for the families during the deployment at no expense to them. I should point out that this upscaling of equipment is common to all units that deploy and is part of the operational welfare package, whatever it is; our job was made much easier for having them.

Instead of giving the reader a week by week account of what we in welfare got up to during the deployment I will just pick out a few points that were unique to the year. One of the sad but inevitable consequences of what we do in Afghanistan is that we suffer casualties. You will hear it said in many circles that the KRH were lucky in that we did not suffer any operational deaths. Arguably, if you measure the success of a tour as not having any deaths then we, as a regiment were lucky; however we did incur wounded soldiers and some of their wounds are life-changing and very severe. Others will have been affected in different ways and only time will tell what they might suffer in the future.

If there was a positive to having to deal with wounded soldiers as we in the welfare team did on numerous occasions, it would be the informing, medical and AEROMED system that kicks in as we in the welfare team did on numerous occasions, it would be of great assistance during the tour in the form of two seven-seat MPVs, a minibus (which came with so much red tape and baggage that it was mostly parked during the tour and used by MT). We also received extra mobile phones (for use by Casualty Visiting Officers), a couple of extra sat-navs and perhaps most importantly a big fat £44,000 in Families Welfare Grant; this money would mean that we could provide trips and entertainment for the families during the deployment at no expense to them. I should point out that this upscaling of equipment is common to all units that deploy and is part of the operational welfare package, whatever it is; our job was made much easier for having them.

When a soldier is wounded on the ground his details are sent to a Casualty Visiting Officer in place ready to be tasked as soon as we got the nod from JCCC. The KRH rear JOC, also located in Bastion would make a phone call to either the OC ROG (Rupert Hope-Hawkins) of the 2ic (Dave Barclay) informing us of who the casualty was and the basic nature of the wounds that meant that we here on the ROG could then put in place all that we needed to prior to being officially informed via a signal from the Joint Compassionate and Casualty Cell (JCCC) based at Innsworth in Gloucestershire. In real terms this allowed us to have a car, a phone and more importantly a Casualty Visiting Officer in place ready to be tasked as soon as we got the nod from JCCC.

Once the casualty was at the Hospital in Camp Bastion the next stage would be informing his next of kin (NoK). Where possible, it was always better if the casualty themselves did this by phone. If however the casualty was unconscious or was impaired by strong drugs the job of KINFORMING would be done by a third party nominated from whichever regional Brigade within the UK the soldiers NoK lived in. We in the KRH took a decision early that we would never provide the Notification Officer, but would always provide the Visiting Officer and throughout the tour we were able to do this.

Once the family had been informed that their soldier was wounded we would receive another signal from JCCC to confirm this and then the regiment would take over, firstly with a phone call from me as the Welfare Officer to the NoK. This phone call was for a number of reasons, not least to reassure the family that the regiment was, at this stage just a phone call away and to provide that personal touch from the soldiers other family, psychologically for the families it proved to be extremely important. This phone call also allowed me to spell out in simple terms, bearing in mind that the NoK was very distressed at this time, the process that would now be played out over the coming few days. At the same I would receive phone calls from the Defence Medical Welfare Services (DMWS) and the Military Liaison Officers at Birmingham Hospital who would be responsible for the care of the NoK when their soldier arrived there.

Unless the casualty was a critical case, listed either as very Seriously Ill (VSI) or Seriously Ill (SI) AEROMED flights usually took place on a Thursday or a Monday and we in the Welfare Team would have liaised with the family daily up until then keeping them up to date as to the progress of their soldier and when the AEROMED would take place. At the same time I would arrange for the provision of accommodation and feeding for the NoK whilst they stayed at Birmingham; as you can imagine, no two families are the same and family dynamics can sometimes provide a challenge especially when there are factions that do not get on with other family members.

On the day of the AEROMED we would collect the NoK and transport them to the Hospital where they would be met by a member of the DMWS and briefed as to any changes that may have occurred and what the process would be once the soldier had arrived on the ward. It was natural throughout all this time for the NoK to want to know every detail of their soldier’s wounds and it was equally important for us to not answer clinical questions and leave that to the surgeons that they would be seeing soon. It was interesting to see the different ways that families reacted and we certainly witnessed all that is good and bad in human nature during the time I spent with the families, notwithstanding the fact that they were in a very bad place at the time.

As soon as the soldier was on the ward the family would be taken to them and there they could have any questions answered by medical professionals. It should be noted that each family was provided for by a process that is called DILFOR; this allows
the NoK (up to five members) to have free accommodation and food throughout their stay at Birmingham Hospital. DILFOR would be granted on a weekly basis and the staff at the Hospital, as well as the great members of the DMWS would move heaven and earth to ensure that the NoK’s needs were catered for; this often meant fudging the facts and figures so that the families received 100% of DILFOR even when they were not strictly entitled to it. If there is one thing that I would sing from the rooftops regarding the Casualty evacuation chain it would be the attitude and superb professionalism of the staff in the DMWS and at Birmingham Hospital. As a gnarly old soldier I was hugely impressed and awed by their care and dedication to their role and having seen it on many occasions I could, without any fear of contradiction, assure the NoK of any of our wounded soldiers that they, the soldier, were in the very best of hands.

Of course for us in the Welfare Team the tour was not about the soldiers deployed as much as it was about the families. Long before the first soldier deployed we had plans in place to occupy those left behind. Our aim was to provide a wide variety of events appealing to all age groups in order to keep everyone happy and hopefully this would make the tour fly by.

Almost as soon as the first flights had left, we were off to Paulton’s Park, the home of Peppa Pig World and on a wet Saturday morning we left Tidworth with two full coaches of intrepid adventurers. Unfortunately the weather did not improve much during the day but that didn’t seem to bother anyone, we even spotted our coach drivers enjoying a ride on the miniature railway.

Many of our events took place in camp with the Aliwal Arms as the focal point. We may well have set a new record for the amount of barbecues held in one tour, as well as the food, always on offer were the bouncy castles and a children’s entertainer, and usually Nolan who must have been able to pay off the mortgage on his house with the money he took from us.

The main event of the summer was to be our celebration of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. The stops were well and truly pulled out as we brought in an array of giant inflatables, a children’s entertainer in the form of the now very familiar Nolan (see above) and a Hog Roast to supplement the barbeque. Cpl (Monkey) Hodkinson brought along a selection of reptiles and the Hawk Conservancy brought Stormer our regimentally sponsored Harris Hawk as we took petting zoos to a whole new level. Permanent Send, our regimental rock band provided additional and very loud entertainment and Maint troop provided a vehicle display including Sgt Tim Daisley’s Army racing team motorcycle. Once again the weather let us down on the day with torrential rain throughout most of the morning meaning that most of the 200+ attendees gathered inside the Aliwal Arms, however the moment the food was ready, nature took pity on us and the sun came out. In all the day turned out to be a great success enjoyed by all who attended.

With the arrival of the summer and the school holidays, our activities program kicked into overdrive. In quick succession we held trips to Moors Valley country park, Coral Cove indoor activity centre, Bournemouth beach and the Weymouth Sea Life Centre (although most of that day was spent in a traffic jam due to the Dorset Steam Fair). For the older families though, the highlight of the summer was the all expenses paid trip to Thorpe Park. Once again we left Aliwal barracks bright and early with two full coaches, but this time the weather was kind to us and the sun shone all day. This
Finally the tour was over and our guys started to arrive home, it fell to the Welfare office to co-ordinate the homecoming receptions. The Aliwal Arms was once again used as the focal point and the crowds who gathered to welcome home their soldiers generated a great deal of noise as the homecoming squadrons marched proudly into camp.

The next event on our calendar was the annual Halloween party. This year Kirky outdid himself; with the help of the extended Welfare team he transformed the Aliwal Arms into a macabre dungeon complete with sound and light effects. Nolan made yet another appearance this time supported by Tony Becket’s disco and LCpl Bee provided an interesting Halloween twist to the food. This event is always highly anticipated and well attended and this year was no exception despite the fact that many had only just returned or were still on tour. We are looking forward to what Paul can come up with next year without Kirky.

After Ramnuggur but before the Medal Parade, we had to fit in the Wives’ and Girlfriends’ Christmas Party, held once again by kind permission of the RSM, in The Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess. Cpl Errol Carter assisted by Sgt Bruce Adam laid on a terrific meal for the girls who were once again waited on by the usual happy volunteers from the Officers’ Mess and Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess. Suitably fed and watered they move from the dining room to the bar with great anticipation, the word spread by Sgt Bruce Adam and his team and this was confirmed by more of you than ever before. We were treated to a fantastic spread by Sgt Bruce Adam and his team and this was confirmed by a world first for the Welfare Office: we received no complaints at all and even a few compliments. Everyone was in high spirits when Santa made his big entrance. Once the food was finished it was over to the Aliwal Arms again where we had once more engaged the services of Nolan to keep the kids occupied while we whittled down the queue to the Grotto. Santa did a fantastic job seeing everyone in record time ably assisted by Kirky in his Elf Costume; Kirky claims that this will be his last year as an Elf, but only time will tell.

As I said at the beginning of this piece this has been an unprecedented year in the history of the regiment and the Welfare Team has shared hugely in that burden. It is an interesting thought that we in the Welfare Team saw all of our casualties when those forward may have only seen one or two or if they were lucky none at all. Not only that but we also have had to deal with the families of those casualties, which I can assure you can be an extremely harrowing and exceedingly difficult task, particularly when they are looking for someone to blame and you are the focal point that they aim that anger at. I am extremely proud of the team that I had working with me during the year and the way that they conducted themselves throughout the tour; I had the distinct pleasure in knowing that I could rely utterly on every one of them, particularly in those dark early days of receiving another casualty. They may not have deployed forward but their contribution to the success of the tour is incalculable.

Sadly though all things must change and we now bid farewell to Sgt Davis-Bawn who has been an absolute stalwart within the Welfare Team for many a year and has proved to be a tower of strength and knowledge to me as the Welfare Officer. We all wish him well in his new post as the Officers’ Mess Manager. We also say au-revoir to Kirky who leaves us for B Sqn via the Signals School where he is doing his instructors course. Kirky is replaced in the PRI by LCpl ‘Guns’ Gungor. Finally we have also lost Tpr Steele to MT; we will all miss his ready wit and the interesting banter he had with Tpr Thomas, one being a Saints fan and the other Pompey.  

IP
Light Aid Detachment REME

The year started like most others in the UK, cold and wet with the LAD deployed on Mission Specific Training with the Regiment. Some, fine tuning their military skills in makeshift Patrol Bases across Salisbury Plain and others getting to grips with the fact that their vehicles had wheels instead of tracks, more complicated wiring systems and smaller guns than they were used to. By the time the deployment day arrived most of us were relieved to be heading out for some sun, sand and an action packed 6 months (well maybe not, but it was good to get started). From across the LAD 24 deployed as the TSU LKG LAD, 3 were attached to other units and 16 deployed with D Sqn as the WARTHOG Gp LAD.

Following a period of further training in BSN the LAD pushed out forward to their new homes. Undoubtedly the most comfortable, the ASM and EME were quick to establish themselves in LKG and soon found the best time to visit the cookhouse to ensure that the chocolate cake was on offer. Other members started off with more ambition and found the gym, while eventually all found the LAD and started the relentless task of keeping the vehicles on the road. Elsewhere PB ATTAL secured the prize for the first fitter section on the ground, going out with the BRF to recover a stricken COYOTE, the section considered themselves real veterans having been further forward than anyone in B Sqn had been.

Led by SSgt Cupples the fitter section soon became accustomed to deploying out to recover stricken vehicles and became particular friends with the Engineers having pulled several tractors, dumper trucks, Mastiffs and even at one point the Engineers’ own Recovery vehicle out of ditches. Cpl Wilson was often called on for his expert knowledge and shear determination to get any vehicle out no matter how stuck and the Sqns soon learnt to stay where he put them once recovered so they didn’t end up stuck a second or third time! As the tour progressed Techs became Mechanics, Mechanics became Recovery experts and even the Tech Storeman LCpl Lockyer was seen in coveralls on the shop floor, such was the workload that all mucked in day and night.

Obituary – Craftsman A J Taylor
The King’s Royal Hussars Light Aid Detachment 2012

Craftsman Aaron Taylor died at home surrounded by family on the 4th May 2012 after a relatively short battle with cancer. He was 22 years old.

Craftsman Taylor joined the LAD in March 2011 having previously served at 2 Close Support Battalion REME in Germany. He was posted into D Squadron Fitter Section as a Class 2 Vehicle Mechanic and quickly made an impression as a competent and proactive tradesman. Fit and robust he preferred to be on exercise than in Barracks and was keen to deploy to BATUS to get more experience in his trade.

On returning from BATUS he was pleased to hear that he would remain with D Squadron for Operation HERRICK 16 and would be part of the WARTHOG Squadron. A skilful tradesman he was quick to get to grips with the new vehicle and to ensure that he had the necessary knowledge in order to keep them on the road during the Squadron’s training. Though apprehensive of the challenges it would bring, Craftsman Taylor was excited to be deploying on his first tour and looking forward to the training exercises prior to this.

Tragically before he could deploy on his first exercise with the Squadron Cfn Taylor was diagnosed with cancer and quickly became too ill to work. Despite his best efforts he could only deploy as a day visitor to the exercise. Fiercely proud of his fitter section and his Squadron he was determined that his family would see the work he had been doing and understand their role in Afghanistan.

Despite the pain he suffered he kept his sense of humour and great pride for his job until the end. He insisted on wearing his uniform on visits and spent many hours preparing it so that he maintained his high standards.

It was very fitting that he was buried with a full military funeral attended by members of both the LAD and the Regiment, who also provided bearer and firing parties. Memorial services were held in Lashkah Gar and MOB PRICE and attended by members of the LAD and Regiment serving in Afghanistan.

Cfn Taylor was a skilful tradesmen, strong soldier and loyal friend to many in the LAD and our condolences are extended to his family and friends.
The ASM was regularly found with his head in a vehicle and it soon became apparent that there weren’t many electrical faults he couldn’t diagnose with a light bulb, a few rivets and a piece of wire. On occasions even the EME got stuck in through the night, lending her expertise to holding the torch and making the brews. Working through the night became a regular feature across all the fitter sections and some friendly competition saw the quickest Engine change being done in 28 hours (Although this was some way over LCpl McGivern’s estimation of 8 hours). In PB NAHIDULLAH they managed to find time to conduct the first ANSF maintenance course. 20 Afghan policemen turned up for a week to learn the basics of vehicle and weapon husbandry and to have their picture taken with Cfn Warner and LCpl Roets. Cfn Fitt our resident teacher was quick to volunteer to instruct and to jump on the local motorbikes to do some basic repairs. He has ever since been trying to escape the LAD to spend time with his new found friends and is regularly reminded that the rather shiny toolbox in the ISO belongs to him.

Halfway through the tour a change of personalities, saw WO1 (ASM) Bob Hosken leave theatre to join the dark side as the new Welfare Officer for the REME training Bn (much to the amusement of all those who were told welfare ‘was not his thing’) and WO1 (ASM) Georgia Bowring arrived. The new ASM quickly got stuck into life within the LAD and deployed forward to the various PBs. Sgt Perry has learnt not to keep her waiting and the pair of them are regularly heard having a conversation with each other from either end of the operating base. There were also a few more changes as more vehicles were added to the Area and a whole new Ops Company arrived. Sgt White and Sgt Cadmore got the task of teaching an infantry unit more used to using their feet, how to look after their vehicles and changing endless JACKAL wheel arches when they failed to notice that the suspension had gone down. Their patience certainly paid off and the Coy were soon fully operational. Working out of PB DURAI they had the hardest routine, with endless Sangar duties and limited facilities; this did however allow them the opportunity to go a little more native and some impressive/questionable moustaches were grown by LCpl Kilbourne and Cfn Morrison. The final change made was to allow SSgt Olive to finally get forward and claim some war stories; having spent the majority of tour in BSN he was desperate to deploy forward to the “real action”. Little did he know that as soon as he had hopped on the flight, it would in fact be BSN who saw “the action” and SSgt Jays who has the stories to prove it. Both have done a fantastic job of acquiring spares in BSN and ensuring that they pull every favour to get them forward. Their ability to turn bags of nails and cans of pop into spares and flights is true magic!

Whilst Op HERRICK 16 has been the highlight of the year, we must not solely focus on those of us lucky enough to deploy with the Regiment. The substantial (and ever changing) LAD Rear Ops Group have worked tirelessly during the deployment, maintaining the Regiment’s Vehicle fleet and ensuring that the Regiment is ready to hit the ground running in 2013. Ably led by WO2 (AQMS) Gear the LAD has been busy with the unit LSI and ECI, as well as moving and consolidating the technical stores and managing the upgrades to the LAD infrastructure.

Though opportunities for sport have been limited given the pace of life, Sgt Hier has maintained his position in the Army shooting team and SSgt Rees gained promotion to Head Coach for Army Rugby Union. Both fantastic achievements. We now look forward to our return to Tidworth and the opportunities which the New Year will bring.

PL
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As ever, 2012 has been an exceptionally busy year for the Regiment. January dawned and we knew that within 3 months the Regiment would start deploying on Op HERRICK 16. The work needed before the deployment was in full swing and seemed never ending. The SPS elements of the ROG had been formed (headed up by the Det Comd Capt ‘Les’ Lester and RAWO WO2 Mark Wild), with the forward element going on FTX to Salisbury Plain. Exercises, briefs and kit issues were conducted with the weight of the work back in the Barracks with the ROG, it is testament that through all this the whole Detachment pulled together with the Forward elements and the ROG, deploying the Regiment smoothly. As the ROG got to grips with the aftermath of the deployment, SPS Det (Forward) were mostly in Camp Bastion completing RSOI and settling into their new roles in Theatre.

The SPS Det (Forward) were scattered over the KRH’s AO in both HQs and sqn locations. The nucleus of the Detachment was in Camp Bastion at the Rear JOC with the RAO, Capt Andy Harvey, heading up a small team ensuring that all personal kit sanitised and stored, all the pay and allowances were started, making sure the administration for all deploying was in order and most importantly the R&R ran smoothly. The Rear JOC got straight into the routine, including meeting their new PTI (Capt Sloan).

In six short weeks the R&R plot started, Cpl Joel Downham got to grips with this, with his unmistakable drive and determination, making contacts with the flight line and getting pretty much all flights out on time and in a lot of cases early, ensuring that connecting flights were booked to get back to locations for returning R&R pax as early as possible! As first man deployed Cpl Downham subsequently returned early to UK and that gave the chance for Cpl Neal to deploy. She finished the R&R plot and ensured that the flights home went as smoothly as possible and assisted greatly with the recovery of the Regiment.

Capt Harvey (known as Capt Kit-Kat in Bastion) was not only the RAO for the KRH but also had the dual role as the RAO of MOB Lashkar Gah, racking up the air miles as he split his time between the two locations; Rumour had it that the waffle bar in Lashkar Gah was frequented more than once per evening meal!
SSgt Sorsha Harney ensured that all locations were giving the correct support to the Regiment; management checks were completed and held the cash to pay transiting personnel. She had a very busy time in the Rear JOC and also had a 3 week stint in Lashkar Gah covering R&R for the Force Cashier in the MOB Admin Office.

All were ably supported by Ptes Margret Appiah, Ryan McIntosh and LCpl Layiwola Kannike, all completing their first tours. They formed the backbone of the Rear JOC and ensured that the inglorious tasks of recording personnel movements and updating of records happened in time and correctly. Pte Appiah was drafted to Lashkar Gah on two occasions to cover R&R and EOTs for 12 Mech Bde personnel, whilst Pte McIntosh completed 6 weeks at the start of the tour covering for Pte Kannike who was having the time of his life on his PNCO Cadre before returning and providing administrative support to both C Sqn and B Sqn.

BGHQ in Lashkar Gah was the primary location for the Regiment. Sgt Scott Doyle and Pte Deborah Brown supported a diverse HQ supporting all three services and a multitude of capbadges within the hierarchy of the Regiment. The perfect start to the tour was had when the freight boxes arrived and the realisation that our stationery boxes had not; Sgt Doyle and Pte Brown became the scroungers of Lashkar Gah! Pte Brown kept up morale by being her cheeky cheery self, whilst the author got to grips with the daily and weekly PERSREPs and the discipline. Pte Brown set about sign making and her general tasks.

The other forward members deployed with their Squadrons in much more austere locations. Cpl Kevin Dalton (promoted from LCpl towards the end of the deployment) had an interesting tour, getting on the ground doing the ‘real’ soldiering, seen wandering about more on the ground than inside his PB! LCpl Natasha Petrie, fresh from her recent promotion and Pashtu course revealed in the opportunity to put her new skills into practice, talking to locals on patrol. By the six-month point of her tour LCpl Petrie had completed at least 500 sangar duties to her reckoning. We also had Cpl Zoe Taylor (nee Shadbolt) who deployed with the Warthog Group, working with the Squadron 2IC in the Ops Room and ensuring ‘her’ boys were looked after. She worked outside of our chain of command with the BTE and completed the DANCON March which was 20kms with weight in the blistering heat of July.

The Forward Detachment whilst in Afghanistan celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps and entered the Triple Crown Afghanistan, coming in a respectable 6th and 7th place overall. Sgt Doyle, who was the only clerk left ‘up country’, celebrated Corps Day with the other SPS personnel, police, lawyers and education officers by entering a volleyball competition and took part with the SPS Detachment from the Grenadier Guards finishing 3rd overall.
Meanwhile back on the SPS ROG the work was relentless and with a small team they managed to achieve great heights, earning a creditable grading on the ROG Health check. They gave a service which was greatly appreciated by the guys and girls in theatre. They also managed to squeeze in trips to Thorpe Park and Sandown Racecourse. All work and no play...

October came around and it was finally time to come back to the UK, the pace of life was as hectic as ever on return, but the Detachment pulled together and even managed to squeeze in a Leaving/Welcome/Christmas Function! It was the first time we had the whole Detachment in one place at one time in just over a year. On that function we said farewell to WO2 Mark Wild and Sgt Geoff Fleming who have both left the Army, and Cpl (now Sgt) Joel Downham who left on promotion to the AAC in Odiham. We wish them all well for their respective futures. Over the year we have also said farewell to Cpl Angela Daniel who left on maternity and to Cpl Gemma Jones on assignment. We welcomed WO2 Jane Cowell, Sgt Natalee Stoner and Cpl Janine Smith posted in.

The Detachment can reflect on a very successful 2012 and enters 2013 in high spirits, just as we start preparing for another round of inspections and a deployment to BATUS.

S D

Regimental Aid Post

2012 has obviously been dominated by our Afghanistan deployment on Op HERRICK 16. The members of the RAP have been split amongst the Squadrons, with varying experiences as a result – Cpl Kennedy and Cpl Vincent in D Sqn spent many a long day in the back of a Warthog ambulance, hoping that IEDs will not cause too many casualties, whilst the C Sqn medics of LCpl Daffern and LCpl Francis did allot of patrolling miles on their feet. Meanwhile the B Sqn Medics of Cpl Pople, Cpl Rudge, Cpl Harris and LCpl Oliver-Taylor were based from busy PB ATTAL, keeping their trauma skills up to date, under the watchful eye of the RMO Maj Anna Hicks. As well as providing emergency medical care in and out of camp, the RAP team also provided a significant amount of primary care wherever they were, augmented by medical staff from 4 Medical Regiment.

The RAP members also made the most of their R&R time, most notably Cpl Charlie Smith, who married Sgt Chris Pople (Command Troop) in Gretna Green, so she is now most definitely a permanent part of the KRH family!

The work-load really can come in peaks and troughs on tour, but the ATTAL team were happy to see the spike in D&V as new HERRICK 17 personnel arrived in September – it meant that going home was definitely in sight! Meanwhile the Rear Ops Group RAP led by Cpl Rachel Smith, looked after the Tidworth team and those who had returned to the UK for medical reasons.

On return from tour there were several changes for the RAP – Cpl Jamie Craig leaves the Army imminently to pursue a civilian career; Cpl Dan Kennedy heads off to the Household Cavalry, and Cpl Dan Rudge leaves the KRH after 8 years to a Sergeant’s post at 16 Close Support Medical Regiment in Colchester – time to get tabbing, Rudgie!

A H

Catering Troop

January ensured 2012 began at the same pace the previous year ended. With Op HERRICK fast approaching, it was imperative that all chefs deploying took part in the final phase of pre-deployment training EX PASHTUN DAWN. Sgt Adam was tasked to ensure that all chefs deploying rotated over a three month period allowing all to receive high calibre training in a realistic and challenging environment. Additionally, the KRH Catering Department organised and hosted a training week for all caterers within 12 Mechanised Brigade which included all MATTs and infantry skills training.

The chefs deployed in support of 12 Mech Bde and were distributed throughout Theatre with most employed away from their parent Unit. SSgt Pickin deployed as IC Chef RIp HERRICK Chef Group to bolster the number of chefs in Theatre whilst the handover between H15 & H16 took place. Cpl Beckett then deployed in a ration JNCO capability for the full 6 months; LCpl Bowen and Pte Lyte deployed with him until June. Those left behind were covering the welfare functions which took place on a weekly basis from BBQ’s through to family Sunday lunches and Regimental Open Days to keep the families entertained whilst the Regiment was away. Next on the agenda was Easter Sunday then a well deserved leave period for the department. Sgt Adam was next to deploy with Cpl Boorn, Pte Asimba, Pte Karalo and Pte Navisiri for the second half of Op HERRICK 16. Pte’s Asimba and Karalo were attached to outside units where they received
nothing but praise for the hard work and performance. Sgt Adam and Pte Karalo were sent to PB ATTAL and were attached to B Squadron KRH where there was a marked improvement in the service provided from the day they arrived until the day they left. Cpl Boorn was sent to no less than 5 locations and was moved around Theatre to help out where required. He was a real asset to the HERRICK Chef Group, setting up a new location and as well as closing one down.

September saw the safe return of all KRH chefs deployed on OP HERRICK 16. It was noted by 3rd UK Division Headquarters that the performance of the KRH Catering Department was outstanding whilst deployed; with a few select members of the department receiving great plaudits and awards for their considerable efforts. Back home, the Rear Operations Group caterers held the fort admirably with minimal manpower as well as supporting OP OLYMPICS. SSGt Pickin decided that the Catering Department should have their own training facilities, i.e. an improvised cookery area in order to prepare chefs adequately for the realism of operations. This took a lot of planning but with the support of the QM, a plot of land and planning permission was granted through Aspire. The task fell to Sgt Smith; with the support of Cpl Bowen and Pte Legg and this was completed within one week. Additionally, Sgt Smith and Cpl Bowen attended and passed the CBRN Trainer course with LCpl Pun attending and passing the BCD Instructor course.

The main focus for October was Ex Joint Caterer which is a Tri-Services catering competition that catches the attention of some of the UK’s best celebrity chefs and covers a variety of categories. With a large proportion of the Department on post-tour leave and with minimal manpower on the shop floor, we were determined to allow our junior and up and coming chefs the opportunity to compete at the highest level. Overall, this was a huge success with two of the three competitors coming away with awards. LCpl Bee entered senior open pastry category where he reached the final and was awarded a Merit. Pte Lyte entered the Field Catering category and due to her outstanding display, won gold best in class but also caught the eye of a celebrity chef who, due to the talent of Pte Lyte, has offered her one week of work experience working in one of his Michelin-starred restaurants. Pte Tikata entered the Senior Lamb category and although making it through to the final was unfortunate to walk away unrewarded for his efforts.

November has been another exceptionally busy month for the Catering Department which, with the return of the Regiment from OP HERRICK and the arrival of the festive season has seen the department deliver a multitude of functions; the most notable ones were Ramnuggar and the Officers’ Mess Winter Ball. Sgt Smith was also tasked to organise and execute a dinner night for all of the Junior Caterer ranging from Pte to Cpl within 3(UK) Division. With the support of the entire Aliwal Catering Department (yes, that includes 2RTR aswell) the event passed without a hitch. As part of the evening an awards ceremony was held in recognition of the 3(UK) Div caterers for their outstanding contribution to food services throughout the past year; out of the six awards on offer, the KRH Catering Department collected 3. Pte Navisiri was awarded the most productive learner for achieving her NVQ. Pte Lyte was recognised with an award for her outstanding display and gold medal during Ex JOINT CATERER. Most notably due to his outstanding performance throughout OP HERRICK, Cpl Boorn was recognised as the top soldier within the Division. Meanwhile Sgt ‘Taggart’ Adam (there’s been a MURRRRDERRR) was busy planning a completely separate dinner night for the Catering Department designed to say goodbye to a number of chefs; the night was a glowing success and enjoyed by all.

The Christmas functions rolled in thick and fast to the Catering Department. The Medals Parade meals in all locations went to plan as did the Officers’ Mess, the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess and the Cpl’s Mess Christmas functions. Chefs that deployed on Op HERRICK took an extra week’s leave followed by the rest of the department a week later.

The Catering Department would like to take the opportunity to say farewell to the following personnel: SSGt Pickin posted on promotion to WO2 (RCWO); Cpl Beckett posted on promotion to Sgt; Cpl Scott having served 24 years in the Army; LCpl Suddell left through redundancy. At the same time, we would like to welcome SSgt Campbell (UCM) on promotion from 19 Regiment RA and Cpl Thomson from the Food Services Wing at Worthy Down.
Gymnasium

The primary role of the gym staff this year has been to physically prepare the deployable element of Regiment for operations and to maintain the general fitness for the ROG personnel as well as the management and duty of care to all injured soldiers attending Rehab PT. The early part of the year was extremely busy for the gym as we ramped up fitness sessions in order to ensure the core fitness levels of those going to Afghanistan were at a level appropriate for the tasks in hand.

July saw the arrival of our new ‘Beast master’ SSgt Ward. Although slightly disappointed to have missed out on an Operational Tour with the Regiment, it did provide him the opportunity to settle in at a steady pace, submit some much needed leave after a lengthy stint at the AFC Harrogate and witness the arrival of his second child Max Ethan Ward born 15 Sept 12 at Winchester Hospital. With the bulk of the Regt on H16 the gym staffs were able to focus their attention on the ROG. Being on the ROG provided many opportunities to participate in sport as well as the mandatory PT that takes place.

One highlight must be the ROG reaching the Army Cricket Finals in Aldershot gaining second place overall with only a scratch team! The gym staff were also responsible for ensuring soldiers deploying later on in the tour were physically robust enough to do so. This was an ongoing task that was carried out superbly by SSgt Ward and his team.

Now the Regiment has returned from operations the gym staff can begin settling back into a routine supporting the sqn fitness programmes and facilitating the Commanding Officer’s Friday runs.

Regimental Chaplain – ‘Breaking Bread’

As I write this article, in the cold of January, I am reflective on the year gone by as I also look ahead to the year to come. January provides an appropriate time to reflect on what has been done and to see where the journey should lead for the time ahead.

I have entitled this article, “Breaking Bread”, which has a theological and religious meaning of fellowship within the Christian faith, which is understood traditionally as Holy Communion, but also has a wider significance of sharing together in fellowship with soldiers, whether or not actual food is involved. With this in mind my reflection takes me back over 2012 and the encounters I have had.

2012 was a very busy year, with preparation for and deployment to Afghanistan. There were many opportunities to spend time with the guys. In particular Afghanistan provided a rich and fertile ground for fellowship and cultivating the trust of soldiers. I was based out of Lashkar Gah and travelled to and spent time in the various operating and patrol bases where the soldiers lived and worked. It struck me as a time when the church was not the four walls of a garrison building, but rather the place where I was, with the soldiers. It is refreshing to know that pastoral care is often most effective outside of the church building, and that church is essentially where the people are. Certainly Army chaplaincy provides the environment for this to be properly exercised.

Travelling in Afghanistan proved testing, as often the helicopter flights to and from locations were delayed, made all the more taxing due to the very high summer temperatures. I was never without several litres of water, having embarked on a 6-month cleansing programme of the mind, body and soul. In the absence of helicopters I also became very good at jumping on road moves, often at short notice, including a number of lifts with the Danes. It is a pleasant alternative to our approach, sitting in vehicles with long-bearded Vikings, lots of leg room and everyone reading their kindles. All that was missing was a good coffee making machine.

We may assume that fellowship is always pleasant, but far from it. My time with the soldiers was good in the sense of sharing happy times, such as eating Afghan bread and water melons. Equally I...
shared the trials and tribulations of the soldiers, whether it be ration packs, which have improved greatly to what they were, or living in basic conditions. There were also times when I shared dangers, as I was involved in a number of foot patrols and open top vehicle moves through shady locations. There was always a sense that danger was present, although it was difficult to say how much at any one time. I also had the opportunity of going on a 3 day op to the Green Zone, with various attacks on compounds along the way. I wouldn’t say that this was doing the work of God, but I offered pastoral support to those who had a job to do.

Afghanistan was my first deployment in the British Army and it allowed me to understand the role of chaplaincy better, translating concepts into reality. Essentially my experience reinforced the notion of incarnation, or Jesus coming into the world, where as a priest I was able to share the world of the soldiers constantly. Deployment offers a unique and privileged opportunity to do this, with a focus and intensity greater than that of peacetime operations. Issues for soldiers, experienced at home, took on greater meaning whilst soldiers were away from home for long periods. Domestic and emotional needs were often shared with them, and as a padre I could listen to and where appropriate help them whilst still maintaining absolute confidentiality.

People have asked me: who cares for the carers? At home and during deployment I enjoyed enormous support from other chaplains. We all met up several times in Bastion during the course of the tour, and at times I also found myself in a location with another chaplain. These were opportunities for discussion and reflection and to know the support of the spiritual team. I also conducted or was involved in many services, often involving reflection with soldiers on recent losses and injuries. In Lashkar Gah there was also a chapel, and whilst there we enjoyed regular daily prayer.

If I were to sum up Afghanistan for me, I felt perhaps like one of the Desert Fathers of the fourth century, living in hot and dry locations, yet interacting with those around me, reflecting on my life and relationship with God. Like the Desert Father tradition, I also interacted with local people, and had opportunities of discussions with members of both the Afghan police and Afghan Army, learning something about different cultures.

Since coming back from Afghanistan my wife has again become fully conversant with all of my bad habits, such as leaving the top off the toothpaste, and I have been able to share my war stories with her and the children. It was a great honour to have served with the KRH. In April 2013 I will be moving into new pastures, as I take up a chaplaincy post with the Royal Welsh. I will take my experiences with me and intend to develop them in my new setting. I believe that the only way to learn is through experience with life as our teacher. Reading books provides a level of insight but it is experience itself which gives deep understanding.

NK

Battlegroup Headquarters

It was 15th September, D+3 on Operation QALB 8 with ten sub units under command and BGHQ was split into 3, CO was deployed with his TAC forward, the Ops Offr and Battery Commander were with BGHQ Fwd in PB ATTAL leaving BGHQ Main under the COS and Battle Capt in MOB LASHKAR GAH. The Brigade Ops Company were taking accurate small arms fire onto their Temporary Checkpoints in Obj HAWAII which the BC was queuing up an EXACTOR strike to defeat; the Queen’s Coy was 10 Kms to our north cut off and surrounded in 2 TCPs and down to their last 6 hrs supplies taking accurate grenade fire; D Sqn were hastening to their rescue in their WARTHOGs but the American Route Proving & Clearing Company c/s WARHAMMER, who were leading them in, found 3 IEDs in the first km of their route, and then the BRIMSTONE C-IED team reported 2 more IEDs buried on the key route into Popalzay. Back in BGHQ information was flowing in over the Comd net, from the fast air and attack helicopters supporting our Squadrons and Companies, from the 3 display screens beaming camera footage from the balloon flying 2000 feet over PB Attal and from the Unmanned Air Vehicles flying over the battlefield. Meanwhile back in BGHQ Main, more assets were being lined up and the rest of our AO controlled.

This was BGHQ on the very edge of what we were capable straining every sinew to stay ahead of both the enemy and of our sub units in order to support them; it was utterly exhausting but
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very satisfying. The weeks on exercise in BATUS, the months of gruelling MST in both CAST and CATT, on FTX on Salisbury Plain and on exercise with the Jt Fires gurus at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire were paying off. This was a long way from the Canadian Prairies, bouncing along in the back of Bulldog with a map board and headset but just like the tank gunner turned dismounted cavalryman, this tour has proved this Regiment is nothing if not flexible and immensely capable.

Throughout our training we learnt key lessons from other cap badges, adopted best practices where appropriate but remained true to our Cavalry ethos and culture. Where other BG Ops rooms resembled an infantry section in an FUP with tempers fraying and grip applied with shouting and physical posturing, our JOC was the Turret in both name and atmosphere. Voices were only raised when a metaphorical target pit appeared directly to our front, but for the most part calm voices, empowered NCOs and clear, succinct direction prevailed.

A swift glance around BGHQ told the starkest story, just how combined we were with Brown Berets in the minority. A host of Gunners led by the BC, Maj Jim Bridges, took up residence in one half of the JOC and together with our TACP, Maj Dave Merrick (late RAF Regt), enabled us to target ruthlessly but professionally. The Gunners also manned the ISTAR desks, Lt Hannah Breslin heading the Base ISTAR team controlling the mast and balloon mounted cameras that gave us such an edge over the Taliban and Sgt Fletch Unwin running the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) detachment, withstanding a torrent of jokes about pilot hours, to add great value.

In the far corner the Royal Signals contributed an Electronic Warfare LO who combined with the J2 desk to anticipate Taliban activity and give the Sqns and Coys critical situational awareness. Cunning plans were dreamt up by Capt Andy Snell of 3 MERCIANs who gave some Brecon grit to our schemes of manoeuvre and who has now written more FragOs than he has ever dug shell scrapes. Maj Simon Ward, attached from the Light Dragoons, standing on the shoulders of giants, fused the assessments of the J2 team with the picture presented by ISTAR to understand the Taliban’s intent.

The excellent J2 team was led by Capt Tom Gibbs with great assistance offered by the Int Corps attachments. The Forward J2 team
in PB Attal led by WO2 Ashton unpicked our knottiest area of Popalzay and worked with the Base ISTAR PGSS team to enable significant attrition of the enemy in Lashkar Gah East.

The J4 team resided in the darkest corner of the HQ where Maj Mark Kvesic, BGLO, the EME, Capt Pip Lines, Buzzard, SSgt Briscoe and Med LO, Lt Tom Paveley kept the troops supplied, vehicles mended, pax moved efficiently around theatre and casualties monitored with great rigour.

Capt Nick Beattie and his Command Troop team led the JOC, providing good comms (most of the time) and a tight grip on the current battle with a coolness and quiet grip that was the envy of other BGs.

The J1 team was led by the Adjutant who toiled for many hours in the corner of the CO’s office ensuring that no miscreant went unpunished, controlling the Operational Record Keeping each month with ruthless efficiency and keeping even the most battle hardened troop leader in order.

To complete the One Army team our TA officers contributed much in their respective fields: Capt Jake “let me tell you about Everest” Meyer won the war of words via radio, bill boards and key discussion points for the troops and managing the consequences of all our kinetic strikes, traffic accidents and any other incident where the attention of higher HQ put us under scrutiny. This thank less task was executed with attention to detail that satisfied TFHs thirst for information in the form of the always fun storyboards. The Yeomanry duo was completed by Lt Dan “let me tell you about Transition” Van Barloewen, who took on the thankless task of ANSF LO and became our subject matter expert on the process of Transition of Authority to the Afghan Forces. Lt D’n’V-B as he became known for obvious reasons, threw himself into the breach holding hands with Police Officers, who were sometimes Afghans, and understanding more than anyone else in Helmand, London and Washington about the process of Transition. His genital-mutilatingly boring power point briefs were only a snap shot of the red tape he fought through on a daily basis which saved the rest of us a great deal of work.

Above all these teams stood the all seeing eye of the COS, who Darth Vader like, kept an iron grip on all he surveyed, crushing outbursts of morale with a mere sideways glance, red penning all available OSW and above all ensuring that the HQ delivered 24hrs a day for 7 months to support our soldiers.

So for future BGHQs the lesson to be learnt from your predecessors on Op HERRICK 16 is to have great confidence in your Cavalry heritage and culture. Learn all you can from others, adopt best practice where you can, but do not try to be an infantry HQ, because you will ignore your greatest strengths.

2012 has been a long and gruelling road in BGHQ but every soldier who took part should take pride that they succeeded in the most demanding context for a HQ and earned the reputation in Task Force Helmand as having the best JOC in the Brigade.
interview was closely followed by a live interview of LCpl “Fast” Eddy Payne, LCpl Andy Barnett and Sgt Chris Pople, who were concerned that the CO’s comments would mean an end to the flow of parcels. They managed to conduct some damage limitation and ensured that the parcels continued to arrive.

Whilst in camp the daily routine carried on as usual however it was a good opportunity for some team bonding. Cpl Fawcett managed to confuse a number people when he told LCpl Denton to ensure that the GPMG’s fired single shot on a function test, but he also announced that he thinks that hovercrafts do not touch the ground, ever, fact.

It was not all MOB life and road moves and CO’s Tac had plenty of opportunity to cut their teeth during some of the key BG operations. Op QALB K13, a key op involving BG and some more units dragged in from afar saw CO’s Tac tasked to deploy in support of C Sqn. With the CO on the ground, C Sqn quickly evolved to gauge the CO’s mood by his trade mark left eyebrow movement. Tac showed that there is now need to be uncomfortable in the field as Sgt Pople ordered the boys to “deploy the set up” as we call it in Commando Troop. C Sqn quickly realised that Tac means business when taking the CO on an Op. One onlooker from the LEWT team asked if we thought we had parked up in Dorset by accident; LCpl Denton and Judge had not only deployed the BV on a 6ft table complimented with a plethora of brew kit and other niceties but also had the camp cots set up in a flash complete, whilst not forgetting to ensure the comms were fully working. The CO did however have to draw the line when his young gunner, Geordie Fawcett offered to powder his feet (that really is what is known as an SJAR moment). As long as a coffee was handed to the CO in the morning it would ensure he was happy for the rest of the day, a role Cpl “Rusty” Saunders was quick to embrace. Whilst the op went smoothly there was slight concern when the CO decided that he wanted to get closer to the bridge; he took (dragged) Geordie Fawcett (who was feeling like he was Kevin Costner at this point) along with a radio and marched off in to the heart of darkness. It is in such cases that the job of CO’s Tac becomes apparent; whilst the CO was telling the soldiers to get in cover, it took Geordie to ask him to take his own advice whilst UGL rounds were going off not 20 meters away.

During Op DAAS 2C we found ourselves inadvertently testing our (limited) engineering skills. The plan was to use the engineers to build a road across some “soggy” land to allow the remainder of the KRH BG to cross and provide B Sqn the required equipment

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The Team

Sgt Pople

The CO & RSM

The RSM conducting KLE

On the move
to allow them to sustain themselves in a TCP for a number of days. The plan was fantastic, it involved many working parts from all over Helmand to do their tasks and everything was going to go like clockwork from the start. However all was dependent on the ground line of communications being established. So then, it started and the helicopter assault to take over a compound by B Sqn went extremely well and the other units deployed to establish the essential Ground Line. When it became apparent that this would take longer than thought it took the CO, RSM and Sgt Pople, who have little engineering expertise to tell the Sappers how to: A. Build the road. B. Recover all of the 6 vehicles that had been bogged or slipped off the side. With the friendly advice given we spent the night with part of the Warthog group (D Sqn) in the desert….in a dust storm whilst Tpr South confirmed to us all that he could have done a better job on his own with a shovel. The next day we all awoke bright and breezy to not only find that the GLoC fairies had been working all night long but also all of the sappers were as pleased as punch. We moved off to join B Sqn and get invested with fleas from head to toe. (Not from the mighty B, but from the donkeys in the compound).

Op QALB 8 was the BG’s decisive op and we were on call every time the CO wanted to deploy forward to see something like bridges (the CO has a thing for bridges). On the first night out the RSM had the great idea of using some mozzy repellent to keep the nasty pests away whilst asleep. However when being applied in the dark it turns out that sun cream is not very effective to repel mozys and the threat of sunburn from the moon is minimal.

On numerous occasions Tac burst out of the gates to visit the sub units at their different locations, providing Sgt Pople and opportunity to visit Cpl Pople (Sgt Pople married Cpl Smith whilst on R&R). The Ops officer even ventured out and witnessed in person the difficulty that Tac have to stop the CO from walking off when he sees something he likes.

In the last few days we have started to hand over to the next BG to the cheers of “whose stuffing your bird this Christmas” and the welcome return of LCpl Cook along with his enlightening account of life as well as Tpr’s Campbell and McLaughlan. Tpr Cambell was slightly injured in the last Op by a piece of shrapnel and now bears a scar only just big enough to make out! He has also made a video of himself singing a song by someone called Justin Beiber (who ever he is).

It was a very good feeling within the troop to finish the tour as we started it, as a troop. Morale was high to the end, though everyone was buzzing at the prospect of returning to the UK for our well deserved leave. In all it has been a very interesting last 18 months with Command Troop and CO’s Tac, it will be a sad day when the Regiment re-orbats in 2013 and it has been a pleasure to work along such a fantastic bunch of soldiers. We have all enjoyed our time together and will forever be Commando Troop. (Like RECCE Troop, but with friends).

C J M P

Learning Development and Female Engagement Team

I was fortunate enough to be attached to the King’s Royal Hussars Battlegroup for their deployment to Afghanistan in April 2012, as both their Female Engagement Officer and Learning Development Officer.

After a busy six months of Mission Specific Training we deployed to the Lashkar Gah Area of Operations, an area which for the most part had transitioned to the control of the Afghan National Security Forces. On arriving, after conducting a handover with both the previous Education Officer as well as the outgoing Female Engagement Officer Coordinator, with both giving a busy account of their tour, I foresaw a demanding time ahead.

During the first month of the tour I organised a trip to Kabul for some of the Female Engagement Operators to attend the IJC Women’s Shura. This was the first time such a large scale event had been organised and it was exciting to be a part of it. Women were flown in from all districts and with over 500 attending it put my search skills rapidly to the test! Attendees included many influential characters in local and provincial government, perhaps the most impressive of which was General Khatool, the only female General in the Afghan National Army. It was an honour to meet her as well as listen to her rousing speech on women’s affairs and security in Afghanistan. There was an atmosphere of excitement as all of the women clustered together to form discussion groups about areas such as education, governance, security and transition. Their strong views and positive attitude surprised...
and enlightened me as these were not views that would perhaps be expressed so freely by the local women of Helmand. However it reassured me that with such inspiring and confident women in these positions of authority, the future for women looked brighter than I’d previously assumed.

Back to ‘Lash Vegas’ and it was business as usual, visiting the female police officers stationed at the local OCCP to monitor their education programme as well as partaking in regular PT with the ladies...perhaps not PT as we know it! Our main effort with the Female Afghan National Police was encouraging them to work in the more remote CPs as female searchers to improve security in those areas and reduce the incidences of women being used to smuggle weapons across checkpoints.

With Female Engagement ongoing, I planned my first ‘Educational Roadshow’ for the sub-units in the neighbouring areas. I was warmly received by all and absolutely overwhelmed by the number of soldiers wanting to do education. I set myself up in the cookhouse and had a regular stream of people from morning until night for everything from Basic Skills to ‘Storybook Soldiers’. Conditions in the Patrol Bases varied and I had my first introduction to life without flushing toilets. Life in the PBs however was relaxed and friendly with everyone mucking in to look after the base, a completely different scenario to the humdrum of MOB Lashkah Gah.

Whilst mainly carrying out education in the PBs, the OC would often attach me to a patrol as part of a community engagement project or simply to collect atmospherics or human terrain information regarding the female population. On one particular occasion we visited a school in Babaji, were we had previously found out there were female teachers. On arriving at the school we found that the women had been banished however there was an unusual amount of men interested to know if we wanted some ‘jiggy jiggy’...not exactly what we had come for!

I have had an excellent tour, kept busy by the continuous stream of soldiers eager to complete their educational qualifications. I have been lucky enough to visit different areas and a wide variety of people over the duration making for a very memorable time in Afghanistan.

KM
The intense and disparate nature of pre-deployment training for Afghanistan fragmented the Officers’ Mess throughout the first quarter of 2012. As the Regiment was processed along the Mission Specific Training conveyor belt, time in Tidworth was scant and traditional Mess life was largely lost in the noise. Daily black-tie dinners (which so many retired officers will associate with life in the Mess) were all too few and far between, meaning that an entire junior cohort of the Mess will first experience this delight in early 2013. Nevertheless, as often as possible, the Mess members pulled together for the usual plethora of social events with a particular emphasis on its important role as the face of the Regiment for visits.

In January we hosted Major General Charles Gurganus, a US flag officer who was imminently to become Commander Regional Command South West and therefore the KRH ‘two up’ in Afghanistan. General Charles gave a blunt and kinetic message to the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess but was more politically correct whilst enjoying lunch with the Officers. On departing the Mess, fortified with good food and wine, he struggled to climb into the turret of a waiting Warthog vehicle and bellowed down the microphone to the waiting driver, “Trying doing this $**t at 60!”

The Senior Colonel’s inaugural visit to the Regiment the following week was conducted with greater decorum. With another old comrade, Lt Col ‘Twiggy’ Thompson bt, at his side, the Senior Colonel visibly enjoyed talking to the Officers and taking lunch surrounded by the family silver and paintings. After lunch he visited D Sqn on the driver training area to witness Lts Ed Wicks and Bertie Garbutt demonstrate their immediate action drills following an improvised explosive strike on a vehicle.

A “Combined Force” (the now already defunct new term for a Battle Group?) Dinner Night followed closely after the visit. Ten Officers due to be attached to the KRH for the Tour were hosted in style into the early hours. This was also the first opportunity to properly welcome our Royal Wessex Yeomanry mobilised officers to the Mess: Capt Ben Hickey, Capt Jake Meyer and Lt (definitely not Capt) Dan von Barloewen. The Emperor made its customary after dinner appearance and was followed later on by repeated challenges on the Foxes’ Masks. With little respite the Commanding Officer, Field Officers and wives headed to dinner on 3rd February to the recently twinned Royal Southern Yacht Club in Hamble. Col Alex generously hosted all the Field Officers and their wives to a delicious dinner and it proved a fitting opportunity to thank the wives for their considerable support during the build-up to the tour and the expected hard times ahead. The evening was great fun and in the minibus on the way back the Sqn Leaders all agreed that this dinner should become an annual ‘habit’ hosted by the Commanding Officer!

The Colonel-in-Chief conducted a pre-deployment visit to the Regiment on 6th February. Having toured the Sqn displays and the Welfare Office, HRH chatted with the Officers in the Mess and wished the Regiment the best of luck in Afghanistan.

A week later, the annual boxing extravaganza of the Brocklehurst Trophy proved an excellent social release from training and visits. This event saw every element of the Regiment in the gym to
witness oodles of courage, commitment, sheer determination and aggression which was to set the tone for the tour in Afghanistan.

One highlight, amongst many, was the display of Lt Edward Wicks representing the Officers’ Mess. The junior ranks predictably bayed for officer blood and public annihilation but the match was close fought and to the untrained eye indistinguishable. To sucking of teeth by the Officers, Ed Wicks was scored a close second but left the ring with more respect than when he had scampered in at the start proudly showing off his Top Gun aviators. The end of the week was topped off with a Fathers’ Dinner Night, which kicked off with Col Alex briefing the Fathers during afternoon tea and coffee before a hearty black-tie dinner and a considerable amount of Regimental whisky went down the hatch.

On Saturday 18th February a select grouping of 24 former A Sqn Leaders and their wives gathered for a reunion organised by current incumbent Major Charlie Smith. The event was a great success which culminated in a long lunch in the Mess. In a similarly jovial but suspiciously tight-lipped affair, the Late Entry cohort held their occasional black tie gathering on the 2nd March.

The Salters’ Company, a long time affiliate and friend of the Regiment, once more extended a welcoming invitation to dinner later in March and there were no shortage of takers for this evening of high repute. Arriving on time (for a change), we were exceptionally well hosted to a fabulous feast and their renowned wine cellar. Alongside colleagues from the Royal Navy and Air Force, we were given most sincere good wishes for our imminent deployment. After dinner we escaped into the backstreets of the city and following a protracted merry-go-round eventually stumbled into a late night drinking venue where some (physically and emotionally) excruciating dance techniques were witnessed. As the marginally more sensible Officers clambered into the minibus to head back to Tidworth, Capt Tom Gibbs was seen running into the distance in search of more fun. The Salters’ Dinner marked the last of our pre-tour social events and with the onset of the Final Test Exercise (and pre-tour leave) the immovable feast of the deployment was upon us.

Mess life in theatre continued in a style, albeit in fragmented groupings across six locations. In Lashkar Gah, the KRH Transition Support Unit headquarters was the most civilised ‘home’ to be found and frequently revelled in hosting those Hawks who were just passing through Helmand. Co-located with Bde HQ, the quality of accommodation and food was reportedly to be favourably skewed and the offices were given a touch of home with copies of Mess paintings reproduced onto large posters on the walls. C Sqn in Patrol Base Nahidullah enjoyed a spacious existence with ‘dress down Friday’ and ‘man vs. food’ eating competitions. Lt Rhys Wilson, a dedicated and long standing foods member, still holds the camp record for eating 56 spicy ribs in one sitting. B Sqn and Recce Troop enjoyed the largest gaggle of Subalterns in Patrol Base Attal and made their own fun on the internet. D Sqn in MOB Price spent many a night living out under the stars in the desert but managed to pull together with the Grenadier Guards and Light Dragoons to hold a Cavalry and...
Guards Club drinks reception, with special T-shirts provided by the Club themselves.

The two sole A Sqn officers, Maj Charlie Smith and Capt James Scott, were rarely seen outside PB Hayatullah where they were focussing upon their Brigade Advisory Group task. KRH Rear in Camp BASTION provided the all important hub for G1 / G4, with Capts Kev Sloan and Andy Harvey enjoying the facilities available until the ‘Battle of Bastion’ made the wearing or carriage of body armour compulsory.

Meanwhile, back in Tidworth’s Rear Operations Group (ROG), the less glamorous but equally important and busy team under Maj Rupert Hope-Hawkins kept the show on the road, including the usual summer calendar mainstays. The ROG and Association represented the Regiment at the Cavalry Memorial Parade at Hyde Park Corner in London in early May.

Similarly, the Regiment continued to support the Rundle Cup Polo on 14th July providing manpower and an Officers’ Mess tent for individuals to shelter and quaff champagne.

The ROG also managed to celebrate the 199th Anniversary of the Battle of Vittoria with a dinner night in the Officers’ Mess for Offrs and SNCOs. For once QM Capt Alex Rutter was not singled out to finish the Emperor – to his obvious delight.

Majs Mickey Caulfield and Anthony Sharman returned to RD towards the end of the summer to reinforce the ROG. Anthony took over the mantle of PMC in anticipation of the Regiment’s return but started his reign with a Ladies’ Dinner for wives and girlfriends. This event was waited on by ROG Officers, whilst the wives enjoyed the opportunity to kick-on at their husbands’ expense. Over the summer, the Regiment continued to receive batches of young officers from Sandhurst and their Troop Leaders’ courses. This saw the arrival, over the year, of 2Lts Henry Foster, Chris Higton, Ned Mawby and Jack Fleming who all managed to trickle out to Afghanistan for a medal and to accumulate some war stories. Henry Foster, early on, jumped at the opportunity to be proudly photographed by the Bde photographer in his uniform whilst Jack Fleming, slightly less photogenic, was snapped in theatre having a gentleman’s half hour surrounded by his
favourite magazines. The usual trickle of promotions took place over the tour as Col Alex visited his dispersed sub-units.

From time to time opportunities arose for Squadrons to work alongside each other. Op DAAS 2C, one particularly gritty Brigade operation, provided once such memorable occasion with the entirety of the Regiment (less A Squadron) pushing back the insurgent lines in Popolzai under our HQ command. The culmination of this enabled a rare opportunity for an officers’ lunch under canvas in PB Attal, hosted by B Squadron leader Maj Chris Badcock. This was an unrivalled chance to boast, gloat and pull each other’s chains.

It was towards the end of October, as the Tour drew to a staggered close that that the arteries of the Mess in Tidworth became re-oxygenated. The pitter-patter of officers’ dirty feet in the Mess could be heard and the Mess re-filled with excited chatter and inflated stories of bravery and daring-do. The Mess (less the tardy D Squadron) celebrated The Battle of Balaklava on 25th October with a very richly celebrated dinner night, attended by The Rt Hon Nicholas Soames MP, Lt Gen Bradshaw, Brig Chalmers (12X Commander), Julian Metherell Esq, David Hancock Esq, Lt Col Cox (12X COS), Prof Sir John Holman (from the Salters Company), Commodore Mark Inkster (RSYC), Lt Col Jeremy Moger, Col Woodd, Maj Perowne, Maj Simpson, Maj Mallinson, Capt Snell (attached as BG Plans), Lt Comd Kearsley RN (attached as our Cultural Advisor), Maj Merrick (attached as our TAC-P) and Lt Phil Riding (attached as Int Corps) to name but a few. The festivities of Balaklava Day had long been eyed as the right date to celebrate our return to the country and the dinner did not disappoint, rolling happily into the early hours with barely any nod to the sensory (alcoholic) deprivations our bodies had suffered for the seven months previous.

The short post Operational period prior to Christmas leave focussed on returning to normality and homecoming parades in both Leyland and Winchester which are covered separately in this journal. In their own particular style however, the living-in officers celebrated their return to Mess life with an earthy sausage and ale night, the legacy of which was to linger in the air for several days.

D Squadron Officers, the last deployed element of the KRH, returned home on 9th November in time to join rehearsals for Winchester and the Medals Parade. Following two weeks post tour leave the Mess returned at the end of November with the prospects of a month’s worth of Christmas celebrations crammed into two weeks. The Field Officers enjoyed the 163rd celebration of the Battle of Ramnuggar with the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess, where the chilli vodka ice-luge played havoc with Capt Kennedy’s less than robust digestion and the CO was spotted luring his 2IC into a false sense of security. On 28th November, the Royal Artillery Hunt pack met once more at the Officers’ Mess, enabling five officers to saddle up and subsequently walk bow legged for several days thereafter. The Field Officers enjoyed a day’s shooting with the Bulford and Tidworth Shoot on 1st December. Joined by Charlie Valdes-Scott, Capt Gary Wills and Lt(Ret’d) Phil Smith the team shot with enthusiasm but the day was more of
C Sqn Ldr, Maj Alex Michael survives his WHG extraction

D Sqn Ldr, Maj Jules Smith samples some home made flap jacks in the field

A Sqn 2IC, Capt James Scott behind his desk as usual

Capt Ben Hickey delighted to escape Lashkar Gah

Maj Michael chooses comfort over style

Mounted Officers at the KRH meet

The Living-In members at the sausage and ale night before it got too silly

Putting the new tankards to good use

Capt Tyson shows his delight at being selected to be an ADC
armoured walk than a weapon unload. Regardless, it was still a success and the cold weather was held at bay by lashings of Col Alex’s King’s Ginger.

The sparkling diamond in Mess social calendar was undoubtedly the Russia-themed ball organised by Rupert Hope-Hawkins. Breaking all previous records the Mess hosted over 450 people to an extravaganza. Upon approach to the party, guests had to pass through Checkpoint Charlie in the Berlin wall, through Stalin’s mausoleum and then gladly into the warmth of a vast marquee and an unquantifiable amount of booze. 42 suckling piglets were served to wide-eyed guests and then promptly hacked by inexpert Officer carving attempts. The frozen bottle of vodka on each table was not wasted, with perhaps the only exception being James Scott’s party who arrived almost two hours late and missing a sister. Post-dinner, things deteriorated at a somewhat startling rate with the aid of perennial favourites of the boy-fountain and vodka train and a newcomer in the Tetris ice-luge. This was all accompanied by enough cheese to supply a supermarket chain and some rip-roaring music and dancing. Following a ‘time out’ in the fresh air Anthony Sharman managed to wipe the hedge from his slicked ‘barnet’ before knocking on the CO’s door at 0230 hrs to invite himself in for a late night snifter!

With livers and kidneys returning to pre HERRICK shape and knees trembling the Mess final effort was thrown at the WOs’ and Sgts’ to Offrs’ Mess Party. Wayne Price and Mickey Caulfield produced some scathing carols which proved a little tricky against the barrage provided by the SNCOs. Following several hours of hosting and repeated scores settled over the Foxes’ Masks, the Mess moved from the Offrs to the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess to the kicking rock soundtrack of Permanent Send. Men dancing together has never been a more amusing sight. Weary but with a festive inner glow and buoyed by the successes of the tour, the Mess separated for Christmas leave.

Only with hindsight and time has there been opportunity to reflect on the major events and personality changes in the Mess. George Matthews was engaged to Kathryn in March and was so elated he acquired two engagement rings. Capt Dave Welford’s engagement to Samantha in April, following a courtship of only six weeks, sent shock waves through the bachelors in the Mess, horrified that the news of such decisiveness might filter through to their girlfriends. Capt George Tyson’s engagement to Kitty was conducted at a much less terrifying pace. Our EME, Capt Pip Lines, married Capt Phil Ware AAC in November.

Whilst the new members of the Mess settled, we also said a sad goodbye to Capt Dave Ford following a full and successful career. Another departure was that of Capt Dave Barclay, posted to us for two years from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. He had manfully taken on the very busy Training Officer role for our pre-deployment training but had, like Dave Ford, also been an active living-in member of the Mess. We wish them all the very best for the future as we turn to what may prove to be a rather more ‘normal’ year of Mess life.
The early part of 2012 saw the vast majority of Mess Members deployed on various exercises as part of the MST cycle. The first opportunity to get everyone together was in March when the Mess as a whole bid farewell to a number of well-loved characters. SSgt Bushell, Sgts Debaughn, Whitehill and Weatherby were treated to an evening of drinks, hugs, dancing and the inevitable SSgt Budd striptease.

April saw the Regiment deploy on Operation Herrick 16 and the Mess left in the capable hands of WO2 Baird and SSgts Dix, Nowell and Davies.

The annual Central Southern reunion was held at Aliwal Barracks within the Mess in October as has become customary over the past few years. It was well attended by the Rear Ops Group SNCOs. WO2 Baird and his crew were thoroughly entertained by tales of soldiers past telling them “it isn’t as hard as it was in my day young man”. Stories we have all heard before and will no doubt come again next year. As always it was good to see the old boys even if their stories haven’t changed.

On the Regiment’s return the usual pace of events within the Mess was resumed. The presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to SSgts Lloyd and Warren, Sgts Lancaster, Perry, Doyle and Cudmore immediately following the Afghanistan Medals parade was an opportunity for the Mess to host HRH the Princess Royal. She spent almost an hour in the Mess presenting the Medals and talking to Mess Members and their families.
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

The RSM’s Stick handover took place on the 6th December and as is customary the Mess shared a glass of port with both the incoming and outgoing RSMs before the new “Sheriff” took over and all smiles were wiped from faces and all fun was halted forthwith.

The year ended in it’s now infamous fashion. The Officers’ Mess played host to the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess for an evening of champagne and frivolity. The Carols were particularly fitting with smiles and “gritted teeth” from all our hosts. The writer of the carols remains one of the Mess’ best kept secrets but it is safe to say SSgt Preston was taken off more than one Christmas card list that night.

The night progressed and the Foxs’ Masks were brought out. Sgt Taylor at his first event with the Mess did us proud beating his Tp Ldr but the ASM was left holding the cup half full by the RMO. Drinking champagne we are told is one of her many skills.

WO2 Ashton was seen sneaking around with Maj Hope-Hawkins arranging a Fox’s Mask race between WO1 RSM Barrow and Capt Taylor. Capt Taylor won and despite his well known ability to hold his drink the RSM was surprisingly absent shortly afterwards leaving hosting duties to the RQ as he caught up on a few hours sleep.

2012 has been a great year for the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants Mess. We have welcomed a number of new members into the Mess: Sgts Farling, Duxbury, Dyer, Taylor Brown and Laureau but we have also said goodbye to some well loved characters after years of loyal service to and within the Mess. As always we wish them all the very best in what ever they choose to do from now on and hope they will not be strangers to us and the very exclusive club that is the King’s Royal Hussars Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess.

The Corporals’ Mess

It was a busy start to the year with the Regiment training for Afghanistan and the Corporals’ Mess was like a ghost town with nobody to be seen. With a large percentage of the Mess members deploying forward, Mess activity for 2012 was going to be minimal.

Key roles within the Mess were to change as the year progressed. The first being Cpl Farling, who on promotion to Sgt, handed over the role of PMC to Cpl Nugent. All Mess members would like to say a big thank you to the now Sgt Farling for all the hard work he put in while he was in the Corporals’ Mess, and of course many congratulations on his promotion.

With the vast majority of Mess members deployed on H16, the PMC and Mess members from the ROG took the opportunity to enhance the Mess by installing a new Bose sound system which is excellent and blows the WO’s & Sgt’s Mess stereo out of the water. They’re so 90’s! The PMC and PEC (Cpl O’Donnell) were tasked with organising a function for Cpls’ Mess members on their return from Afghanistan. Being so close to Christmas, it was decided that the theme would be a ‘Winter Wonderland. This turned out to be a most excellent night and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The atmosphere was no doubt enhanced with the decision to place copious amounts of wine on the tables; it didn’t last long! The band were excellent and managed to play a number of Cpls’ Mess favourites which belted out until the early hours of the morning.

2012 has been an excellent year for the JNCOs within the Regiment. Many have performed heroically on operations and many on promotion have moved up the road to the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess. 2013 sees us under the guidance of the new RSM, WO1 (RSM) Barrow and we welcome our new Supervising WO, WO2 (SSM) Ashton. Things promise to be exciting and interesting as we look forward to another challenging year.

The Wives’ Club

What a rollercoaster year 2012 has been for all of us and our family and friends. Undoubtedly it has been the busiest year I have known since becoming a WAG and certainly the most emotional. However, what has struck me most is how lucky we are to have such a fantastic group of ladies who have been so willing to help and look after each other through the good and the bad times. The KRH family keeps growing and with that our understanding, friendships and loyalties to each other grow too.

While the Regiment was busy with pre-deployment training we were busy building our support networks with each other and making sure everyone knew where to turn when they needed that extra.
support once the tour started. Facebook proved to be an invaluable way of communication with a WAGs page – that Donna Thompson had set up the year before – and then the ‘Mums Page’ by Gail Garbutt. This made communication and information readily available and at everyone’s fingertips. If Facebook wasn’t your thing then our trusting Welfare team were e-mailing you with events and information. Hopefully we reached as many people as possible.

Coffee mornings became busier and it was a great comfort to be with friends and know the children were safe and happy. The Welfare team were always on hand to help and we were able to catch up with everyone’s news and how they were dealing with everyday issues. As Herrick 16 started the number of BBQs and events organised by Welfare increased considerably. There were too many to mention individually, but one of the highlights was when we celebrated the Queen’s Jubilee, along with the rest of the country! All events were brilliantly attended and gave us plenty of opportunity to swap stories and look after each other. The Wives’ Committee met up and helped out too and I must say a huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time to be involved.

We also found time to help raise money for The KRH Appeal with our continued Bag4sport collections in Tidworth; and further afield WAGs were busy across the country showing their support for the Appeal, ranging from running half marathons in Torbay to marching through Darwen and walking along the Dorset coastal path.

In an extraordinary year for all of us there have been many highs and lows and helping us through those times we have had each other, and of course our Welfare Team. Captain Wayne Price, Sgt Mathew Davis-Bawn, Corporal Paul Mulcahy, Corporal Ashley Kirkbride, Trooper Jamie Thomas, Trooper Dean Steele and Lance Corporal Cory Gungor continued to be there for us and we are most grateful to them and their WAGs. It can’t be an easy task working in the Welfare Department but they did it fantastically well.

AP
The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Muster

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midst the orgy of national celebration that took place to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee this year the event that was to stand out the most for the men and women of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces was the Diamond Jubilee Armed Forces Muster parade. This was a military celebration designed to bring over 2,500 service personnel from all branches of the armed Forces together for a simple parade through Windsor Castle and a drum-head service, combined with two flypasts from the RAF. Thus it was that eleven of the shiniest and best from the Rear Operations Group gathered under the eagle eye of the Quartermaster Capt Alex Rutter for a few days of stamping about in celebration of “The Gaffer”.

Our two days of practice for the parade itself were held in Pirbright under 1st Battalion The Irish Guards (pronounced GEEDZ!!) and the Brigade Major of the Household Division, Lt Col Andrew Speed MBE. It was apparent from the off that this was not the natural environment of the slightly more laid-back cavalry marching detachment. Hence we contented ourselves on the first morning with watching the infantry Sergeant Majors compete to see who could shout the loudest and whose detachment could murder the most ridiculous drill manoeuvre, before taking our places near the head of the Army column for the drill to begin in earnest.

Thankfully for most in our detachment the parade was actually fairly simple, and, despite the odd young officer ‘going rogue’ at times, the practices went with relatively few hitches. This was a good thing as being the only eleven people wearing crimson trousers in what was, quite literally, a cast of thousands we tended to stand out.

The day itself dawned and the weather, whilst not spectacular, at least held off for long enough for us to put on a show for the crowds of awed spectators that packed the streets of Windsor. With three competing bands echoing around the quadrangle of Windsor Castle, the march past and eyes right for the Queen proved a challenge but the KRH detachment accomplished this with aplomb and even made it onto the BBC’s 10 o’clock news with everyone in step! The drumhead service went smoothly with tributes from, amongst others, CDS and 12 Brigade troops out in theatre and, to the surprise of many, the RAF actually managed to tip up on time. All in all it was an impressive occasion for the Armed Forces and a memorable event in which to have represented the King’s Royal Hussars.  

HGSF

WO2 (RQMS) Sinclair smartly parading in Windsor Castle

The Quartermaster and Lt Henry Foster prepare to march passed The Queen
THE ROYAL WESSEX YEOMANRY

Armoured Reinforcement to the Reactive Force

The Army is reforming fast. By 2020, the Army Reserve will be 40% of the Army’s strength. In the new design, the Reactive Force will contain 3 x CR2 Armoured Regiments. Key to their ability to function effectively will be an armoured regiment of the Army Reserve - currently known as The Royal Wessex Yeomanry. It will provide armoured resilience to the QRH, KRH and RTR. Common understanding, professionalism and successful integration of Regular and Reserve are fundamental to the success of A2020 - this requires your help. The RWxY is actively recruiting CR2 trained personnel, of all ranks and trades, to continue their careers in the Army Reserve after regular service.

The CO, Lt Col Chris MacGregor KRH, will offer you:
◊ The opportunity to remain current and competent on CR2; fire once a year.
◊ The opportunity to conduct virtual and live training with your brothers-in-arms from across the Armoured Corps.
◊ Adventure Training, Sport and Social activities with the style and flair you expect.

If you successfully enlist into the RWxY before your last day of regular service, and have completed 3 or more year’s continuous service, you will receive:
◊ As much training as you wish, but a reduced minimum qualifying period for the annual TA Bounty (only 15 days cf 27 for the most other TA units) for the first 3 years of TA service.
◊ Annual Bounty of £1674 in first year of TA service (this is the highest level of bounty and normally takes 5 years to achieve).
◊ Reduced MATTS requirements.
◊ No call-out liability for the years of TA service completed within the 3 year concession period.
◊ No minimum commitment; leave whenever you wish.

* “Details correct as at 05 Feb 2013.”

Interested?

You should be, this is a no-brainer. There are limited places - apply now.

2012DIN01-018 (available on DII(F), gives full details of incentives and enlistment. If you have any questions, please contact the RWxY for further details:-
RHQ ROSO 01929 40 3106 RWXY-RHQ-OSO@mod.uk

You do not have to live in the Wessex area to be a member of the regiment.
Leyland Homecoming Parade

On Saturday the 10 November the Regiment received an overwhelming reception from the people of Leyland when they marched through the town centre following our recent tour of Afghanistan.

The Regiment had travelled up to Halton Camp in Lancashire the previous evening where we shook out and enjoyed a few sociable beers. Despite being confined to camp that night an escape committee was formed and a few miscreants escaped over the wire only to find that Halton Camp is bordered by a very swollen River Lune on one side and extremely rural countryside on the other. It must have been with not a little embarrassment when they returned having been abroad for an hour or so.

Following some early Saturday morning drill practice, the Regiment moved down to Leyland by coach and spent a little time with families before forming up and marching, with the help of the Band of the King’s Division, around Leyland. It was extremely humbling to see how many of our families, friends and the people of Leyland had turned out to greet us, and more than one soldier had some ‘smoke’ in their eyes as we swaggered around town. The Recce Troop patrol that followed us along the route wearing the equipment that we all wore on the tour received a lot of interest as they accompanied a Jackal vehicle. It truly was an honour to be on parade and all ranks were extremely moved at the reception we received.

Following the parade the Mayor of Leyland and South Ribble laid on a Civic Reception for the soldiers and our families which not only featured a wonderful Hot Pot but also the thing of all soldiers’ dreams, a free bar!
On Monday 3 December, which incidentally was the twentieth anniversary of the Amalgamation, the Regiment held a homecoming parade and service of thanksgiving in Winchester, the heart of our Southern recruiting area. The Regiment formed up at the Great Hall and marched down the High Street being cheered all the way by the great and the good of Winchester. We were honoured to have the Senior Colonel, HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO take the salute as the Regiment marched passed, although the fact the saluting dais was outside a baker’s shop almost caused a disaster when the MTO, Capt Rob Kennedy broke ranks in an effort to secure a pasty.

Following the Parade the Senior Colonel met Sgt Wilkinson and Tpr Brown, both of whom were wounded during the tour of Afghanistan. There was then a Thanksgiving Service held in Winchester Cathedral which was accompanied by The Salisbury Plain Military Wives Choir and the Band of The Rifles. There was a fantastic turn out for the service with many families, old comrades and the good people of Winchester making it a very special occasion. The day was rounded off by the Mayor of Winchester and the Civic Council hosting a reception at the Guild Hall. The entire Regiment was deeply moved and extremely grateful to the Mayor of Winchester, his Civic Council and of course the people of Winchester who made us feel so at home.
The Medals Parade

On Tuesday 4 December, the Regiment held a Medals Parade in a very cold Aliwal Barracks. The Colonel in Chief, HRH The Princess Royal, presented both the Operational Service Medal for Afghanistan and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medals to those who qualified. General Sir Richard Shirreff, Lieutenant General Adrian Bradshaw and the Colonel of the Regiment, Col David Woodd, assisted.

The turnout was exceptional and it was a delight for our soldiers to be supported so well by their families, continuing a theme which had endured throughout the year. The Colonel-in-Chief also presented a number of Regimental Medals including the second bar to Col David’s Regimental Medal. The citations for all the Regimental Medals are covered elsewhere in this journal.

After the parade, Her Royal Highness had the opportunity to meet most of the soldiers who had been wounded during the tour of Afghanistan.

Following the parade the Princess Royal went to the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess where she presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Over lunch in the Officers’ Mess, Her Royal Highness spent time with the officers and their families.
Gen Sir Richard Shirreff presents medals to B Squadron

Tprs John and Sam Lawrence after the Parade
Regimental Sport

Alpine Skiing

Alpine skiing starts with Ex WHITE KNIGHT in Verbier, Switzerland, consisting several weeks training ending in the RAC and AAC Championships. From there to Serre Chevalier, France, for Ex SPARTAN HIKE, the Divisional Champs. Then if the team qualifies for the Army Championships it moves down the valley for Ex LIONS CHALLENGE.

On the 7 December, fresh from the Regimental Parade Square bearing shiny new Op HERRICK medals, the 8-man KRH Alpine Ski Team headed for the snow in search of a different form of glory. Just pipped to the majority of the trophies during last year’s shortened season by the Light Dragoons, we were determined this year to surmount our light armour friends and stamp our authority on the Swiss Alps. The previous year had been cut short to return to the UK for pre-deployment training, which was not going to be an issue for 2013 so we were especially keen!

The very early start and long drive were well rewarded once we arrived in Verbier, being greeted by some of the best early season snow in a generation. After a brief catch up with Maj Ed Hodges, the new Ex WHITE KNIGHT director, we swiftly unpacked into our Chalet; Mont Jois. It was a new home to Team KRH but worked well for the eight of us and the occasional assisting chalet girl throughout our 5-week stay in Switzerland.

There was a good mix of talent in the team this year. The comedy duo of the Lawrence twins provided 3 previous seasons’ experience between them, with LCpl Frodsham with 2 seasons of Nordic Skiing under his belt. Tpr ‘big-uns get more’ Campbell had done
some holiday skiing and Tprs Nicholson and Whitehead were essentially novices. It was fair to say the officers were over-excited, Lt ‘Tall George aka Melvin’ Stephens and Lt Williamson were returning for their second seasons, and had thought about little else bar skiing since leaving last year, despite having been in the desert.

The excitement was not let down with the superb snow. The second day found Group 1 skiing from Verbier down through the trees and cliffs of the valley to Le Chable, which is practically unheard of. Over the initial weeks the novices improved rapidly in difficult learning conditions and at our chalet home all was quickly prepared for us to host the KRH Party on the second Saturday. By the 15 December, 97 RAC and AAC Soldiers were in resort and all came to partake of some good KRH hospitality. The ‘Warrior’ flowed in Pub Mont Fort along with some White Russian (jerry can kindly supplied by the QDG).

The good conditions continued until the Christmas Stand down, so after hearing everyone in fine voice at the Carol Service – a highlight of the British Ex-Pat festive season in Verbier – the Team split for Christmas until the 28th. On our return we were joined for a week by Lt Mawby who came to revel in the joy of going downhill after training with the Nordic team. 2 days of training got us back on top form after the break.

Ski race seeding is known to be a dark art but, essentially the better the time, the lower the number and therefore the better chance you have of being quicker next time out. A ‘seeding’ Giant Slalom (GS) was held on the 31st December to allocate starting bibs for the initial race, and the team did well with our highest bib number 47. With 97 racers on the hill this was a very promising start. Well organised parties held by the HCR at Chalet Larzy and the RTR at the Medran lift station for New Years’ Eve dictated racing properly got underway on the 2 January after a much-needed day off.

Alpine Racing consists of 4 events: Slalom, Giant Slalom (GS), Super-G and Downhill, with each event becoming progressively faster and less technical. This means there is too much action to mention it all here! With particularly strong teams from 3, 7 and 9 AAC, LDs, and 9/12L the racing was very competitive.

We opened with Individual Slalom in which we did valiantly but were not quite in the prizes. Lt Williamson was just 0.17s off the leading time in the 2nd run before straddling a gate. The Team Slalom the following day proved annoyingly more frustrating. A great first run from Tpr Campbell brought the B Team – also consisting of Tpr John Lawrence, Tpr Nicholson and Tpr Whitehead – into a good position to win; however, sadly exuberance overcame him and he straddled 6 gates from home, costing the team a podium place. The A Team – consisting of Lts Stephens and Williamson, Lcpl Frodsham and Tpr Sam Lawrence – skied well but all lost some time on the hill, again costing the them a podium finish. With 6 cumulative runs on a course upwards of 48 seconds long, the team missed out on a third place by 0.32s to 9 AAC!

The Individual GS on the 4th Jan proved more successful. 2 fantastic runs from Tpr Sam Lawrence got him his first ever 15th, whilst Lt Williamson came from 27 behind after the first...
run to finally get a win for the KRH. Lt Stephens was annoyed with his solid 19th, but the remaining lads skied above themselves, all climbing up the rankings.

High hopes for the team event on the Saturday were justified with the B Team winning exceptionally by over 16 seconds. It was made even more impressive by the fact only 3 of them were skiing due to a shoulder injury to Tpr Nicholson, so the pressure had been on. The A team missed out by under a second to the Officers from RACTR, which was thoroughly frustrating as Sam Lawrence fell after his time had been looking good.

A day off on the Sunday allowed the hill to quieten before we started speed training behind Savoleyrees. An air of anticipation always starts these days but a great day of Downhill (DH) practice prevailed with the boys all doing very well and skiing above their seedings. A 2nd run proved LCpl Frodsham to be a reckless ninja on DH boards coming a timed 10th. An unsettled night’s sleep and the Team Captain donned his Regimental Tie for ‘Downhill Day’, the sun shone and a great days racing the next day meant we were all on good form to host the Colonel of the Regiment, Lady Sarah Jane and sponsors Mr and Mrs Dowty for supper at Mont Jois. Super-G followed the next day also with good weather and firm fast snow for racing.

The tradition is to keep the speed results a secret for the prizegiving, so we were all thrilled when the B Team won the B Team GS, the A Team won the Downhill, the Super G, Best RAC Team and the Best Team Overall. Our individual prizes with Tpr Whitehead winning Best Junior with a pair of skis, and Lt Williamson winning the GS, the Super-G, the Downhill, the Hodsons Horse for RAC DH and Best RAC Skier Overall. Most notably Tpr Sam Lawrence won Best Chalet Girl Scream for his whinging on the DH course! Our haul of t-shirts, hoodies, rucksacks, hats, ski wax, ski poles and an iPod were incredible.

2 days later with all the Trophies and Cups carefully packed in the wagons we left for Serre Chevalier with high hopes. It was a shame then the Divisional Championships were filled with mixed emotions. The team was trying to qualify 2 four-man teams for the Army Championship and all were given four practice runs so by the race itself, we were well prepared. All four of us got down unscathed but it was agreed upon by all involved that it was one of the more terrifying experiences of our lives. Some good results were gained with Lt Mawby finishing 23rd, Lt Stephens 40th and LCpl Frodsham 45th, and the team finishing 8th overall. All team members clocked over 100kph as they passed through the finishing gates.

The culminating event of the season was the speed events on the infamous Luc Alphand DH, still a fixture on the women’s World Cup Circuit and the Blue Riband event. With all competitors helping to put up miles of padding and netting, we were under no illusions as to how dangerous this was going to be! However, we were all given four practice runs so by the race itself, we were well prepared. All four of us got down unscathed but it was agreed upon by all involved that it was one of the more terrifying experiences of our lives. Some good results were gained with Lt Mawby finishing 23rd, Lt Stephens 40th and LCpl Frodsham 45th, and the team finishing 8th overall. All team members clocked over 100kph as they passed through the finishing gates.

It would be remiss not to thank a number of people for their help this winter: all the championships’ various sponsors need mentioning, but especially the KRH sponsors, General Dynamics. With four new very smart FIS-Race suits donated this season, the promise of more for next year, we are extremely grateful. Friends to the team should also be mentioned: Chris Haworth for his solid 19th, but the remaining lads skied above themselves, all climbing up the rankings.

Fortunately Lt Mawby was in Serre Chevalier for the Nordic event, so brought his training from Verbier into use. The team progressed on through the Individual and Team GS recording some good results with all members performing well. The Super-G brought about mixed results with Tpr James Campbell and Tpr Sam Lawrence (carrying an injury) falling and so losing some valuable seeding points. The last event to allow a racer to secure a seeding was the slalom, and all the KRH still needed a good result to qualify. Unfortunately Tpr Sam Lawrence’s knee hindered his chances, and Tpr Campbell was accused of straddling a gate during what had been a good run. The new captain Lt Stephens tried to dispute but unfortunately Tpr Campbell was still disqualified. Generally the slalom results were disappointing from the two days racing; only 4 of the 8 had qualified. Whilst still good for a KRH team to reach the Army Champs the high initial hopes had not been fulfilled, and disappointing Tprs Campbell, Nicholson, S Lawrence and Whitehead had to head for home.

So the new team of four for the Army’s moved down the road to Chantermerle. A large number of teams qualified for the Army this year, and this combined with the melee of generals and sponsors, including our own General Richard Shirreff and Brigadier Nick Orr, ensured we realised this was a step up!

We were blessed with fine weather all week, and one of our Swiss Ski School instructors from Verbier was there to advise us on the best lines and technical aspects, the RAC and AAC team was in high spirits going into the competition.

First up were the technical events, on both longer and more testing courses than anything we had experienced before. Lt Mawby and Tpr J Lawrence really going for it unfortunately fell in the Individual GS, only Lt Mawby finishing well with a finish of 33rd. The Team GS was a better result for the KRH coming 9th from the 20 teams. Slalom went less well with a tricky, icy course causing a few tumbles, but still a Team result unlike many Regiments.

The final event was the Super G, on the same piste as the DH, albeit with several more tighter turns. Again there were good results from Lt Mawby 26th, LCpl Frodsham 67th and Lt Stephens 69th giving a the team a respectable 10th overall. Tpr John Lawrence brought the team home with a spectacular head-first fall down the finishing wall, stopping just short of the finish line, much to the disappointment of the gasping crowd. It was a unique end to the most successful KRH Alpine season for several years.

With some outstanding results from this season, new kit and good depth of experience we are looking forward to starting training the Alpine Team early for next year (in spite of some damaged knees). A stronger and bigger team will go next year so if you are a serving member please be keen to get involved!

JSPW
Nordic Skiing

After a hectic 48 hours following the medals parade and some shenanigans with the Dover customs authorities (where fortunately our paperwork was found to be in order), the 6 members of the KRH Nordic Ski Team 2012-13 deployed to Germany to begin an arduous few weeks training. We initially spent the night in BFG Rheindahlen which gave us the opportunity to stock up on essential duty-free supplies. We also met up with Lt Col Danny Wild, who had been instrumental in arranging host nation support with the German Army Gebirgsjäger Brigade (Mountain Brigade), based in Bad Reichenhall near Ruhpolding, a renowned Nordic skiing and Biathlon centre.

Once ensconced in the bosom of the German Army in Bad Reichenhall, the extent of the level of support given to us by the Gebirgsjäger soon became apparent. We were made to feel incredibly welcome and after a weekend of acclimatisation (exploring the local town), we met our instructors, who also happened to double as mountain gods. One of these guys, Stabsfeldwebel Tiefenthaler, known to us as Andy, was a former German Biathlon Champion and therefore somewhat amused by our inability to remain upright on skis at first. Whenever training we were accompanied by both Andy and Hauptfeldwebel Stein, known as ‘Stone’ to us. Stone acted as a translator and liaison during our time in Bad Reichenhall. Soon the Nordic Skiing training began in earnest. This usually consisted of an intense session on skate skis around the Ruhpolding World Cup circuit in the morning, followed in the afternoon by a long cross-country ski often in excess of 15km on classic skis. Fortunately, we were able to break up the grind of Nordic training with spells on the Gebirgsjäger’s climbing wall, running track and an evening as the guests of the Sergeants’ Mess. We also took the opportunity to try out a session of TRX training in the local gym which left all thoroughly exhausted; although we weren’t sure if that was from the training itself or the laughter that accompanied it. During rest days the team took in some of the local German and Austrian culture with a visit to Salzburg. Although only a half-hour train journey away it still took 2Lts Fleming and Mawby 4 hours to return the next morning. Unfortunately, some German culture left Cfn Day and Tpr Walker cold even in the 50 degree heat of a sauna: both expressed considerable dismay at the locals’ lack of swimwear.

The team returned to the UK for a short period of well-earned Christmas leave before returning to Bad Reichenhall for some final training before the competitions and to welcome in the New Year. New Year’s Eve in a small Bavarian town was something none of us had ever experienced before and at times the town sounded more like Copehill Down village with hundreds of bangers being let off until the wee hours of the morning. The team then moved to Hochfilzen, Austria to take on some of the fittest and coldest members of the RAC, RA and AAC. Upon arrival it soon became apparent that the accommodation arranged for us by the organisers was more akin to Austerlitz than the Officers’ Mess. Happily this was rectified swiftly and with a minimum of toe-treading.

The competitions began with a 10km classic race which consisted of 2 laps of the Hochfilzen World Cup circuit. On the morning of
the race the conditions were very far from ideal with the classic tracks collapsing due to heavy rainfall during the race. It was, however, a fantastic baptism of fire for the team and all members showed considerable grit and determination to get around the course, despite most of us suffering numerous falls on the more technical sections of the track.

The conditions on the day of the Biathlon were significantly better but by now the enemy was not snow but ice; this led to more hilarity and frustration as the team negotiated the tight bends built into the circuit. The only exception seemed to be 2Lt Mawby, who dealt with the more technical aspects of the course with the casual disdain one would expect of a proficient downhill skier. Our shooting was a bit hit and miss…literally.

After 40km and 5 competitive races in varying conditions the team left Austria and many of our RAC brethren for Serre Chevalier, France and the Divisional competitions. This small resort nestled in a picturesque valley in South East France represented a welcome return to civilisation for the team after the sparse amenities of Austria. We also expected it to be an even greater physical challenge than the RAC Championships with a larger emphasis on biathlon and greater distances to cover with each race. The course was in much better condition and slightly less technical than the previous one in Austria but still proved a huge test of physical stamina and determination. It just meant the team could ski uphill faster and fell over less, not that we were any less exhausted as we crossed the finish line. As the competition went on the races grew in length and intensity, culminating in a 22km Patrol race which combined cross-country skiing with running, military skills and marksmanship. This was a fantastic way to end our season with the team coming top in their category and posting an especially strong time.

This year’s KRH Nordic Ski expedition was a fantastic test of physical endurance and determination, which was met with relish and determination by all members of the team. We survived Nordic World Cup circuits in 3 different countries, pushed our stamina to the limit over 100km of biathlon and classic races and tasted the adrenaline and terror that accompanies rock climbing, alpine skiing and snowboarding. Finally I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the team to Lt Col Danny Wild, the KRH Quartermaster department and of course, the German Army, without whose substantial help this expedition would not have been possible.
Polo

With the Regiment deployed on operations in Afghanistan, the remaining polo players were determined to field a team and fly the colours in the Regimental Cup competition. Planning began in late February on the King’s Road between Captains Freedman and Kaye. The team was drawn up as follows:
1. Potential Officer James Cooper (0 goal)
2. Capt (Ret’d) Kaye (1 goal)
3. Capt (Ret’d) Freedman (1 goal)
4. Colonel Hunter (2 goal)

Despite drawing up ambitious plans (care of several pints) of practice tournaments, work commitments and a lack of funds put an end to all that. So, we met for the first time in mid June to play our sister Regiment, The Queen’s Royal Hussars. It was a fantastic match, despite a rather dry and bumpy Tattoo ground. Maj Nick Cowley, quickly proved why he had once been a professional 2 goal player and dominated the QRH team, ably supported by Capt Doug White (1 goal) and Capt George Denaro (0 goal). With the score at half time 4-4 the pressure was on for the KRH to turn on the gas. Col Hunter, fresh back in the saddle after a double hip replacement with the doctor advising that he should not even go running!! scored a phenomenal under the neck goal from the half way line. This was quickly followed by two more goals from Kaye in the final chukka. Panic ensued in the QRH team and they quickly began cursing each other allowing James Cooper to slip a final goal in to seal our position in the quarter finals against the Royal Navy.

The Royal Navy, having been given a bye into this stage, were as determined as ever to hold onto the Regimental Cup after defeating a 6-goal HCR team the previous year. As always when playing the RN, it was a rough game played up at Druids Lodge. However, morale was high with numerous KRH supporters including Col Julian Moir, Majs Matt Wilkinson, Charlie V-S and Capt Q Hicks, fresh in from Afghanistan on the sideline. With Hunter and Kaye having defeated the RN in the Rundle Cup playing for the Army Team the previous year, they knew the secret to taking them apart: closing down their 2 goal play maker Hero Suzuki. This task was left to Kaye, who knew what needed to be done. A strong ride off and a keen pair of elbows were to go a long way against a very hung over Hero!! The KRH dominated the first half, but failed to convert with four goals narrowly missing the posts in the first chukka and Mason rode harder than ever to crush our attacks. Fortunately, we managed to score three goals before Suzuki began to sober up and came on the attack. Going into the 4th chukka the score was 4 – 4.5 to the RN. Hunter’s new hips proved their worth once more with a phenomenal run down the ground, and drove the ball confidently through the posts. A great piece of team play as Kaye rode off Suzuki, allowing Freedman to pull off a goal saving near side backhand onto Hunters stick. Much to our horror and with only two minutes to go the RN immediately retaliated with a goal from the line out, once more putting them in the lead by half a goal. James Cooper then went a long way to securing himself a place in the Regiment by scoring a final goal in the dying seconds, thereby putting us through to the final.

The HCR and QRL (both of whom had been given a bye straight to the semi-final) sadly never played. Both teams were sporting a professional, the HCR with Ben Vestey on 3 goals and QRL with Martin French-Blake on 4 goals. So it was that we played at Cowarth Park against the might of the QRL. Martin F-B was ably supported by Mark Cann and Piers Hankinson. Martin, on his second match of the day, arrived with more ponies than Hunter and Kaye put together!! The match was classic, old school fast open polo, however, despite the KRH’s best efforts, we were defeated 7-5. Players and ponies limped off the ground licking their wounds. It was crushing, particularly for Hunter and Kaye who have been in four finals in the past seven years, and every time lost to teams fielding a professional player. The Army Polo Chairman, Lt Col Simon Ledger has promised to review the rules. Whilst many Regiments, particularly under the current operational strain, need to lean on ex-officers to bolster numbers, there is a great difference between a part time 1 goaler and a 4 goal professional. Perhaps another way will be to limit pony numbers?

2013 is looking set to be a great season with the Regiment back in England and fresh talent coming through the system.

PK
On 15 February towards the end of Pre-Deployment Training, the Regiment found the time to hold the Annual Brocklehurst Trophy Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition. Despite the thorough and extremely demanding preparations for HERRICK 16, over forty members of the Regiment applied to box with twenty being selected for the competition. Furthermore, we had the pleasure of being able to host two test matches in which members of the Army Team were competing to be selected for the 2012 Combined Services Boxing Competition.

Given the frenetic pace of MST, it was unusual that nearly all the Regiment were in camp to witness the night's events. The atmosphere was warmed by DJ Paul Knight who provided music, special visual effects and the ring side support. Also present was The Band of The Prince of Wales's Division. Furthermore, we had a computer technician who was able to produce a special effects slide show which illuminated the entire far gym wall with boxer introductions and statistics. All this, combined with a large and eager crowd, produced a vibrant and exciting atmosphere and the perfect conditions for the boxers: and they were not about to let their Squadrons or the Regiment down!

The evening was opened by the Army Boxers who produced three hard rounds of skilled and elegant fighting. It was a chance for the Regiment to see just how high the standard of Army boxing has become. This was followed by Tprs Padee and Edmondson fighting a middle weight contest; and after what was one of the best three round fights of the evening, Tpr Padee took the title on points. Then came a welterweight contest between Tprs Winstanley and Tyres. Despite an obvious height difference, Tpr Tyres was able to exploit the benefits of his smaller frame to win a battle of attrition. There was then a break and, with the Aliwal Arms open, the Regiment was able to grab some refreshments and reflect on the evening's progress so far.

The remaining six bouts saw some memorable boxing. Highlights included a close contest between Tpr Evans of C Sqn and Lt Wicks who represented D Squadron and the Officers' Mess. Also memorable was Tpr Seaborne’s lucky punch in the Super Heavy Weight contest against an intimidating foe. Last to fight were LCpl Arnfield and Tpr Taylor in what turned out to be a terrific cruiserweight contest. Tpr Taylor’s skill and superior fitness had LCpl Arnfield working hard throughout every round. The fight peaked magnificently in the final minute as both boxers burnt what little remaining energy they had left to fight their corner. Eventually, through a combination of sound tactics and considerable skill, LCpl Arnfield was declared the winner.

The evening concluded with the JNCOs and Other Ranks moving to the Aliwal Arms while the Officers, guests and SNCOs...
went to the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess where they were able to meet and congratulate the boxers.

The skill and quality of the night’s athletes reflected great credit on Sgt Collier and his team, who had worked tirelessly to bring both novice and experienced boxers up to the required standard. It was made clear by the judges and referees that every boxer had not only met but had exceeded this standard. Of particular note was Tpr Evans, who was awarded the Regimental Novice Boxer Award after winning an especially hard fought contest against Lt Wicks. The Best Boxer Award was earned by LCpl Arnfield, who had had to use every ounce of his skill to defeat a super fit and experienced Tpr Taylor.

At the end of the contest The Brocklehurst Trophy was awarded to C Squadron. This was a reflection of both the number of its participants and the Squadron’s hard work to make time available for training. LCpl Smith had also played a leading role in training the Squadron’s Boxers.

Plans are already afoot for the next Brocklehurst Trophy Boxing Night which will be held in late Autumn 2013.

JDS
Cross Country

2012 has been a quiet year for Regimental running, with only the Old Comrades Cup (OCC) and Hodson’s Horse competitions taking place amongst the busy schedule of HERRICK 16. Prior to deploying the the Regiment lined up on the square to tackle the 6 miles of hills, mud and pain that was the closing event of the 2012 OCC. Incorporating Sidbury Hill, and the entire driver training area it was always going to be a tough race, and with Squadron rivalry riding high, pride was at stake. Pte McIntosh lead from the start, with WO2 Barrow doing his best to chase him down over the distance. However the result was never really in question and McIntosh cruised home to victory; he even had time for a victory lap of the Squadron Offices before SSM Barrow arrived in a “close second”…

On return from Afghanistan, with much of the Regiment anticipating an easy standdown period Hodsons Horse loomed large and the Regiment entered a cross country team amongst others. The intention had been to select a crack team from those taking part in the planned Old Comrades race that had been scheduled for late November, but the event was postponed due to weather. Thus, it was left to Capt Gibbs to bring together a number of hopefuls and then set off for Bovington. Rather pleasingly, the event was won by LCpl Vernon KRH despite some stronger than anticipated challenges. Unfortunately, there was a dirth of similarly stellar performances from the other KRH runners: other competing Regimental demands had meant that some of the other strong runners were unavailable. As the saying goes, it was the taking part that counted, and we showed that KRH should be a force to be reckoned with next year – all we need now is some committed runners and some training time. The return of Wednesday afternoon sports afternoons should help the squad. In 2013, we still have to compete for the postponed OCC Cross-Country event early in the year, and the intent is to establish a formed team to compete in a number of military races.

Parachuting

Within a month of returning to the UK from Afghanistan, the Regimental Medical Officer Maj Anna Hicks ran Exercise FREFALL HAWK – the Regimental skydive expedition to Skydive Deland, Florida, with the aim of teaching 14 complete novices to become qualified solo skydivers over two weeks. Some experienced skydivers from the Regiment also attended to progress their particular skydiving skills, and personnel were recruited from across the KRH Op HERRICK 16 Battlegroup, including two soldiers from 3 RIFLES, to learn this new and exciting sport. The team of four instructors included the RMO and Maj Jerry Denning KRH, teaching the students to freefall from 13,000 feet after just 6 hours of ground school!

Despite initial grey skies and high winds, the weather eventually cleared and the students were able to go for their first jump. Even though they already had some freefell practice in the indoor vertical wind-tunnel at nearby Orlando, even the toughest of the students were nervous when they were about to get out of the plane on their first jump.

The first parachute descent is done from nearly 2 miles high, with an instructor either side of the student holding onto an arm and a leg each, and the student is in freefall for about 50 seconds before they open their own parachute, closely supervised by their instructors. The students progressed through a total of 18 jumps each, eventually progressing to safely jumping on their own and becoming fully qualified internationally licenced skydivers!

The expedition was hugely enjoyable, hard work at times (jumping from sunrise to sunset when the weather was good in order to get the maximum jumps done), and in all cases pushed the boundaries of individuals, enabling them to experience this exhilarating sport.
Sailing

2012 has obviously been a year dominated by Op HERRICK 16 and the realities of an operational tour in a landlocked country have somewhat curtailed the KRH sailing season. Despite often perfect sailing weather the King’s Royal Hussars battlegroup was unfortunately unable to get the Helmand River Yacht Club off the ground. That said, we did manage to enter teams from the Rear Operations Group into both the Army Offshore Regatta and Combat Arms Seaview Regatta with some success.

The Army Offshore Regatta is an inter-corps level competition held in Cowes each May with two racing classes, one in the Combined Services’ Victoria 34s and the other a handicap class for corps yachts. This year the RAC was represented by the QDG in the Victoria and a predominantly KRH team on White Knight VI. With the newly arrived 2Lt Foster taking the helm and tank park manager SSgt “Christmas” Nowell acting as 2IC we had our hands full with blustery conditions and a lot to learn in a short space of time. On the water we were the scratch yacht and enjoyed a close tussle over four days of racing with the RLC, AGC, Engineers and Gunners. Tprs Shaw, Lemott, Hodgson and Vessey – all brand new to the sport – rose to the challenge with unfailing enthusiasm and we put in a strong showing to finish second in the inshore race series and third offshore – second corps yacht overall.

The AOR then led into the Combat Arms Seaview Regatta and, with the wind having moderated and the sun come out, we were treated to a glorious few days racing in the Eastern Solent. This time the crew that was to compete against 25 other teams from across the infantry and RAC consisted of 2Lt Foster steering, LCpl “Ricky” Hatton trimming and Tpr “Frenchie” Lemott on the bow. Onshore Tpr Lemott took to the relaxed yacht club lifestyle like a duck to water and could always be found on the balcony, gin and tonic in hand, educating retired senior officers on life, the Army and everything; but on the water the racing was fierce and the competition tight. At the top of the leaderboard the APC Glasgow team, skippered by Major Tom Holloway, proved nigh on untouchable, romping away to a clear and well-deserved victory. However behind the APC team the KRH were involved in a dogfight with the Mercians, Yorks and the RTR with positions and trophies going down to the wire. In the final results we finished in sixth place overall and second placed RAC yacht, missing out to an experienced RTR team by just one point – a decent result considering that two of the team had not set foot on a sailing boat until the week before!

Looking to the horizon the crimson tide is set to rise again in 2013 with plans afoot to send KRH officers and soldiers to the Canary Islands and the Caribbean as well as racing both inshore and offshore at inter-regimental, corps and service level.

H G S F
Commanding ATDU is a little bit like being Q from the Bond films; hopefully more in Desmond Llewellyn mould than John Cleese, although it is increasingly the Ben Wishaw (Skyfall) type activity which keeps us busy. The job has a broad-reaching remit, which sees me visiting arms fairs across Europe, attending armour and weapons demonstrations and hosting delegations from around the world, as well as our own senior officers, troop leaders and recruits under training.

This year alone I have attended the Eurosatory arms convention in Paris, Defence Vehicle Demonstration at Milbrook, an armour demonstration by Ruag in Switzerland, a 40mm cannon demonstration by CTMI in Bourges (near Paris), a future track convention in Amsterdam, stakeholder days at both Oakdale (home of General Dynamics UK who are leading on SV) and Ampthill (home of Lockheed Martin UK, who are leading on WCSP) and a plethora of industrial sites across the UK where the various subcontractors produce subcomponents. Next year I have my sights set on the US and Scandinavia, finances permitting.

The Regiment has representation all around the defence industrial world. I regularly see Peter Flach in his role as Military Liaison Director for General Dynamics and Mark Collins of Thales. I even bumped into Richard Magnus at a Counter Terrorism Exposition earlier in the year.

Tucked away in a quiet corner of Bovington Garrison, ATDU is still a secret world, with access only permitted to those who have business in the compound. It is a very small organisation with only 38 military and 11 civilian staff, but the impact of the work we do is felt across the Army. Every man at the unit is a specialist in one way or another. There are 3 trials officers and 5 WO1s, each of whom has a wealth of experience in his particular field, be it gunnery, CIS, ES or the new Scout Vehicle and they are supported by a fantastic team of RAC trials troops and REME craftsmen. This year we have undertaken twenty six different trials, covering over 21,000 miles and ranging in length from one to eighty-one days.

During the recent Afghanistan tour the Regiment may have benefited from a number of Urgent Operational Requirements trialled at ATDU, including improved suspension, running gear and air intake on Warthog, new lightweight anti-RPG armour for most of the protected patrol vehicle fleet and improvements to Panther, while the rest of the Brigade saw in addition the introduction of the CVR(T) roll over protection system and new remote weapons stations. As I write we are trialling further Warthog suspension improvements, improved brakes for CVR(T), Challenger 2 suspension upgrades and an AFV black box recorder. At the same time we are investigating a new driver’s sights for Challenger, the potential for rubber track on all of the light to medium AFVs, improvements to batteries and battery management, headset improvements and a new digital optical weapon sight. Meanwhile research continues on electric armour, thermal and visual camouflage, the electronic architecture of vehicles and new ammunition types. We even have the opportunity to look at inventions from people who arrive at the guardroom with a new idea (they don’t often work, but some ideas are intriguing).

The unit is set to grow significantly over the next 18 months, with the trials of the Army’s top two equipment projects: Warrior Capability Sustainment Project (WCSP) and the Specialist Vehicle family (SV) including Scout. This will mean an influx of over 100 people, the arrival of 17 prototype vehicles and the building of a range of new offices and technical accommodation, which is already under way.

WCSP is a project which will see the Armoured Infantry’s work horse fitted with a modular armour solution and a new turret, containing a new 40mm cannon. This may sound straightforward,
but is actually a very demanding engineering project, which will test the contractor, Lockheed Martin, to the limits. It will also mean that a small infantry company worth of troops will be required to trial it, few of whom will have any experience of a stabilised gun in an independently moving turret.

SV is a family of vehicles designed to replace CVRT(T), but with greatly enhanced survivability and, in Scout, ISTAR capability and lethality. Scout will be a big beast, weighing about 35 tons and again armed with the new 40mm cannon. The real revolution, however, will be in the array of sensors and digital sights which will be networked via a new electronic architecture, enabling commanders to pass information and intelligence rapidly around the battlefield. There will also be a general purpose (akin to Spartan), a recovery and a repair variant. Both of these projects will require new range templates, new targetry, new training and a new set of doctrine. ATDU will be involved in all this work.

Closer to the Regiment’s heart is the Challenger 2 life extension programme which has only just begun. The programme aims to avoid the obsolescence of some of the current vehicle capabilities. Most importantly the thermal imaging will be upgraded, but simultaneously there will be enhancements to the suspension and drive train aimed at mitigating the ever increasing limitations imposed by the gross vehicle weight. There will also be some work done to improve the internal turret ergonomics, hopefully reducing the number of screens the commander has to keep track of simultaneously. Currently, however, there is no plan to improve the lethality of the platform and the rifled gun will have to soldier on. If there are any specific aspects of Challenger 2 that you think should be addressed, please get in touch, either directly with me or through one of the KRH team at ATDU.

In order to play our part in delivering all these new capabilities ATDU needs experienced and capable officers and soldiers to advise industry and test the new equipment. I am lucky currently to have SSgt Blacklock, Srgt Farling, Cpl Tovey and the newly promoted Cpl Munday here at the moment, but there are plenty of new posts opening and volunteers with the right background and training will always be welcome. I am particularly looking for officers in the 2014 timeframe. Even if you do not want a job at ATDU, but are moving to an appointment which has a technical aspect, (however remote) please come and visit so that we can give you the latest update on where we stand with matters technical.

A Hawk at the Italian Staff College

Maj RM Jackson

Since I finished as Chief Instructor of the Late Entry Officers’ Course at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst at the end of 2011, I have completed an intensive 8-month language course at the Defence School of Languages in Beaconsfield. I am now the only Brit at the Italian Joint Services Staff College or ACSC equivalent. I have to complete this course before taking up a twoyear exchange post within the Italian MoD in Rome. The Joint Services Staff College (‘Istituto di Stato Maggiore Interforze’ or ISSMI) was established in July 1994 following the reorganization of the Centre for High Defence Studies and it is under the responsibility of a Major General or equivalent rank.

The mission of ISSMI is to improve the vocational training and culture of the Armed Forces Officers for later significant assignments in national and international environments and the course is open to military officers of Maj or Lt Col rank. Apart from the group of 20 or so non Italian ‘frequenteri’, since 2000 the course has been open to civilian graduates from the University of Milan and the Libera Università Internazionale di Studi Sociali in Rome. In addition to the three civilian students attending, there are representatives from as far a field as Niger, Mauritania, Ukraine, South Korea, China, USA, Germany and France. Yet more colour is added because the Italian Armed Forces also consists of the Guarda di Finanza (a sort of paramilitary HM Revenue and Customs) and the Carabinieri, the national military police force who are also represented in the course cohort.

Starting from academic year 2011-2012, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Italian military and the University Roma Tre which provides course graduates with a post graduate Masters degree in International Military Strategic Studies.

The educational process and training methodology are not quite what a graduate from the UK military education system is used to, especially with more than 20 exams throughout the course, however, the strategic view has been a pretty wide one. I have so far completed modules in economics, international relations, international law and human rights and political science and anthropology. I would not recommend it for the faint hearted!

Teaching is developed mainly by visiting lecturers and military and civilian experts, two thirds of whom come from the most important Italian universities and entrepreneurial centres both at home and abroad. Seminars are held regularly, in the Italian mother tongue, with the participation of well-known officials and high ranking officers who hold prominent offices at national and international institutions.

The course syllabus includes the following subjects ranging from the political-strategic level down to the operational:

• the international political, legal and economic framework;
• security and defence policy and strategic planning;
• the planning and conduct of multinational, joint and interagency operations;
• management and sociology of complex organisations.

In order to foster the integration of NATO Staff Officers, the course syllabus envisages bilateral exercises with similar institutions within NATO, PIP (Partnership for Peace) and Mediterranean Countries. Field Studies in Italy and abroad are
also part of the ISSMI Course and aim to deepen relationships and integrate the officers from across the different Services.

The ISSMI is housed in a converted Palazzo (Palazzo Salviati) on the west bank of the Tevere river just a stone’s throw from the Vatican. As you might imagine, the prospect of living and working in Rome provides some interesting and diverse opportunities for excitement. Since my arrival in September, apart from the academic study, I have been fortunate to participate in the Italian Cavalry’s celebration of the heroic charge of the Genoa and Novara Cavalry in 1917 which saved the Italian Army from destruction, and reciprocate with a celebration of the Charge of the Light Brigade. Living in the historical centre of Rome with all it has to offer on the doorstep, and the mountains of the Grand Sasso national park and Tuscany just 2 hours away, the opportunities for exploration and adventure abound.

A Hawk in KABUL

Lt Col JNJ Kingsford

Back in September last year I jumped at the chance to deploy to Afghanistan, prior to returning to Regimental Duty. The post I deployed to is based in the ISAF 3* Joint Command (IJC) in Kabul. Of course this is far removed from the dangerous and gritty environment of Helmand, although after an 18-month stint at the Army Personnel Centre (APC) in Glasgow I was more than ready for pastures new. I managed to see a few of the KRH echelon team in Bastion on my way through, who were all on excellent form.

In true APC Glasgow style, I managed to secure the post of Chief of the Network Effects Cell (NEC), despite being entirely unsuited according to the Job description and preference. This called for an RAF Intelligence officer, preferably with a Targeting background, who required detailed experience of Divisional or above Headquarters. A Cavalry officer who has spent most of his career at Regimental Duty would clearly have to do!

My team of 20 oversees the kinetic and non-kinetic operational level targeting efforts, with a specific focus on the enemy networks with a regional profile, as well as getting after those Insider Attackers that are on the run. In line with the wider campaign, the scope and pace of change has been considerable, with a lot of our efforts geared towards the transition of capability to the Afghans. Working at the operational level offers a unique insight in to how political level decisions translate in to strategic and operational direction. The experience has been fascinating, both in terms of working at the Corps HQ level and working in a predominantly US headquarters. The collective and individual commitment of US personnel is considerable, with some of my team having completed 7 tours of Iraq and Afghanistan in the last 9 years, totaling over 5 years away.

My team consists of 20 US Army and civilian Intelligence analysts/contractor types, plus a Greek Warrant Officer, so quite an eclectic mix. The wider headquarters has around 30 countries represented and is a fascinating melting pot of mostly Eurovision song contest countries. There is inevitably a healthy amount of banter between the various nationalities and I have waged a one-man campaign to educate my American colleagues in the correct use of English’, so far with very little success. At the same time, I have done my bit to embrace American culture too, taking part in a Thanksgiving game of Flag American Football a little like ‘touch rugby’). I was the only non-US and it showed. Despite weeks of training I was still baffled by the rules and various organisational cries throughout the game. My only achievement was to be politely asked to leave the pitch due to a Rugby style tackle on a quarterback who un-sportingly was not wearing a flag (what else was I to do!) The spectators loved it, although this experience most certainly represents the end of my short-lived American Football career.

On a personal note, Holly, Poppy, Jake and I are very excited about our imminent return to the Regiment after 2 long years away.

Maj Rupert Jackson (in Crimsons) with colleagues at ISSMI

Maj Rupert Jackson (in Crimsons) with colleagues at ISSMI

Maj Rupert Jackson (in Crimsons) with colleagues at ISSMI
‘A Hawk in the BAG’

Maj I Simpson MBE

When I handed over the reins of HQ Squadron in June 2011 it was, to say the least, a particularly sad day. Knowing that after 30 years service it was to be my last day at Regimental Duty and almost certainly the end of operational tours with friends and comrades of a ‘family’ I’d known for three decades. In addition, the prospect of the remaining years being taken up with staff jobs and command of a desk was not filling me with too much excitement, particularly as the Regiment began their Mission Specific Training for the deployment to Afghanistan just as I left. Having spent the next 6 months in my new role of SO2 Light Armour at HQ Land Forces in Andover – which incidentally turns out to be one of the more interesting desk commands – I was pleasantly surprised to come across a request to fill a post on Op HERRICK 16. With the blessing of my 1* boss, it took very little time (seconds) for me to volunteer (having first of course discussed the pros and cons with the “Real Boss”, Debbie). How could I resist, with all five Squadrons of the King’s Royal Hussars deploying, what better time could there be?

Initially assigned to take up a post in the Headquarters of 12 Brigade I had the opportunity to move across to 3 RIFLES Battlegroup as the role of SO2 Capability Development for the Afghan National Army (ANA) within the Brigade Advisory Group (BAG); this was a great move and one that linked me to KRH with Maj Charlie Smith and A Squadron providing one of the Kandak Advisory Team (KAT) sub-units to the BAG. The post provided a great opportunity to see Op HERRICK from a new perspective; and with the operational priority well and truly focused on the development of Afghan Forces and their ability to take on all aspects of security, it made for a challenging and very enjoyable tour.

With responsibility for maintaining the ANA’s capability development plan and coordinating it across the Afghan 3/215 Brigade Headquarters there was never a dull moment. The ANA’s 3rd Brigade provide force elements that cover the Central Helmand Valley, one of the most kinetic areas of Afghanistan, working alongside the UK Task Force Helmand (TFH), including of course, KRH. Essentially the Afghan Army are now a very competent force and the main challenges involve the establishment of the institutional procedures and development of a stable and sustainable organisation, something we very much take for granted in UK Forces. It can take a little time to get used to, but despite the differences the ANA manage to maintain a professional and competent force that continues to grow in confidence. In an effort to provide an “Afghan solution,” rather than one imposed by NATO, there were always going to be differences of opinion on training methods, operational procedures and attitudes (which include the obvious cultural differences). The NATO requirement to hit milestones and deadlines were often met with a more leisurely approach and one that reflects the ANA’s longer term view of the conflict; for NATO soldiers this would often frustrate: in particular the Western approach to planning – as early as possible, scrutinising and refining every element of a plan – was often met with a simple Afghan, “No, It’s too early, we’ll plan a couple of days before!” This cultural difference – in actual fact done for reasons of operational security as much as anything else – would often lead to TFH staff officers leaping to 40,000 feet until the Afghan planning started. Perhaps not surprisingly, the Afghans always managed to get the job done, very efficiently and in a fraction of the time! There’s a lot to be said for a simple plan!

Despite the frustrations, which on some days could be akin to pulling teeth (your own, that is), it was a hugely satisfying role, particularly in the very successful Brigade level operations which were being carried out by the Afghans, largely independently. Seeing Afghans take the lead and having had a part in that development was particularly rewarding. As I settle back again into my staff post in Andover (which has now become Army HQ), I can reflect on a very eventful year. Deploying on the same operation as the Regiment was a real bonus and the ERE job gave me the opportunity to meet some truly inspiring people. It was a real pleasure to serve with some of the most professional individuals, both Afghans (whose casualty figures continue to rise as they take the lead) and of course our own, who continue to give their all without question. I must also say a huge thank you to the Commanding Officer of the Brigade Advisory Group, Lt Col Charlie Maconochie who, along with the officers and soldiers of 3 RIFLES, looked after the ‘Hawk in the BAG’ so well.
A Hawk with the RWxY

Capt THM Perrott

To write an inspiring article about the duties of an Adjutant is a tricky task. I hope, however, that the following text bucks the trend and also explains a little about the Royal Wessex Yeomanry (RWxY), an organisation that The King's Royal Hussars are closely affiliated to despite currently having little interaction until they work together on operations. I also hope to outline the exciting future that the RWxY holds and what it may offer recruits or ex-regular soldiers.

The RWxY is based in the south-west of England with squadrons in Dorset (Bovington), Wiltshire (Old Sarum), Gloucestershire (Cirencester) and Devon (Barnstaple and Paignton); it is tasked with providing Challenger 2 (CR2) Main Battle Tank augmentees to the Regular Army, a role that will grow in the future. Whilst there has been no CR2 role on current operations the RWxY have been supporting the Regular force in a number of other capacities; these have varied from providing Heavy Base ISTAR (CORTEZ) operators on Op HERRICK 13 to infantrymen on Op HERRICK 16: the RWxY recently deployed 34 soldiers with the majority of these supporting the KRH. RWxY soldiers have also deployed on operations as agricultural specialists, doctors, planning officers in multi-national headquarters and mentors to the Afghan National Army. The first of these specialist roles identifies a unique trait of the reserve soldier – the ability to bring civilian skills into military context, something not possible with regular soldiers.

Yeoman are different to the Regular soldier; they are often older and are usually juggling their time between families, civilian careers and military training (normally in that order). The result of this is that a yeoman has a lot less time to train (the average requirement for annual training is 27 days per year, or 15 for exRegulars) and many use their annual leave from their civilian jobs to attend a two-week annual training camp. This results in a soldier who may not have the level of training as his Regular counterpart but is absolutely the equal in his dedication to military service.

Following a deployment to Afghanistan in 2011, I was absolutely delighted to be appointed Adjutant of the RWxY. From a personal perspective, having just got married, it offered a fantastic opportunity to benefit from some of the best aspects of a career in the Army: the comradeship of serving in a Regimental structure, the opportunity to live in one of the prettiest parts of England and the chance to spend a little time on the cricket field at Square Leg or in the woods on a Shooting Peg.

The role was challenging too. As the Adjutant of a TA regiment there are less discipline cases to conduct, no Operational Record Keeping to compile and fewer annual appraisals to 'raise'. However, there is a significant amount of time spent administering those that are due to mobilise for operations, advising and assisting the officers in their career development and co-ordinating and briefing the Commanding Officer on where he is due and what he is likely to need to know. The Adjutant is also the CO’s primary staff officer; in the current climate of change within the Reserves he also has a role, along with other members of RHQ, for looking forward and devising policy for where the Regiment is to meet the future tasks given to it by the Army 2020 (A2020) and Future Reserves 20 (FR20) papers.

The future of the RWxY is a bright but challenging one. The Regiment has been tasked with providing the Armoured Resilience to the Reactive Force. In the short term this means providing former CR2 crews to the QRH, KRH and RTR and resilience to the RAC. In the longer term this may extend to providing crews for CVR(T)/SCOUT. This is a fantastic opportunity for the Regiment to further tighten its bonds with the KRH and create strong links to the QRH and RTR. Importantly it will involve integration outside of operations and pre-deployment training. Although the RWxY has trained crewmen for main battle tanks since its inception, it has rarely fielded fully trained crews, troops or squadrons for field exercises. With the announcement of A2020 this is already changing with the RWxY receiving requests to provide CR2 crews for exercises in 2014. This is an achievable task however the greatest challenge that the Regiment faces is a shortfall in CR2 Crew Commanders; the supply of TA trained CR2 Crew Commanders is non-existent and the Regiment is wholly reliant on ex-regular soldiers to provide this skill set. If the RWxY are to achieve its mission then it will need to recruit ex-regulars. If you are leaving the Army then please seriously consider the prospect of joining the RWxY, even if it is just to register your interest and discuss the options. Ex-Regulars joining the TA are granted a reduced training commitment for the three years after they leave Regular service. This commitment amounts to 15 days service (for which the soldier is paid) which, on completion, qualifies him for a bonus of £1,674. Reserve service with the RWxY offers the opportunity to continue to train on tanks, to be involved in the camaraderie of Regimental life and to earn some extra pay.
A Hawk Running Ex WHITE KNIGHT

Maj EDL Hodges

As Secretary of the RAC Ski Club I had the unenviable task of organising and running the club’s annual training camp and championships in Verbier over Christmas and the New Year. 6 weeks in the Swiss Alps with 100 soldiers and the best early season snow for a generation was indeed a hardship, but one that I stoically endured.

The Club is extremely well supported by the chain of command, the participating regiments and teams and by our sponsors from industry. This year we were also extremely fortunate to benefit from a subtle change in the classification of what is known as Army European Winter Activity from ‘Sport and Adventure Training’ to ‘Individual Military Training’ (IMT). The result is that the chain of command and budget holders in 1 and 3 Divisions have largely stumped up the cash and paid for the Regimental ski teams in a manner not previously enjoyed.

The club benefits from continued support from the wider Regimental family. After 8 years at the helm the club President, Gen Sir Richard Shirreff, is hanging up his skis and handing over to Lt Gen Simon Mayall who is in turn is being replaced as Club Chairman by Lt Gen Adrian Bradshaw. Maj Jez Hay is also being promoted to the club committee. Coupled with an extremely strong performance by Lt Joe Williamson and the Regimental team this season – which saw them win best RAC team and best overall team at the Corps Championships – the future of KRH involvement and current dominance of the club remains strong.
On April Fool’s Day 2015, the Army aspires to resume the levels of training, that were curtailed as Op ENTIRETY began, the all-out effort to support both Iraq and Afghanistan. At present, these resources have been ‘ring fenced’ to allow all Track Activity levels to increase to the levels required to support the new Army 2020 structures. Everyone will complete annual Crew, Troop and possibly Sqn level trg on Salisbury Plain, as well as a range period in Wales, with all due to have a regular visit to BATUS.

Majors Ian Simpson and Charlie Valdes-Scott have both been working within the Programme and Resources Branch of the Equipment Directorate in Army Headquarters in Andover. Their role has been to oversee the current resources available and stretch them as far as possible, in order to enable as much track mileage to take place, given the current squeeze on activity levels. They are responsible for all the armoured tracked platforms in service: the big hitters being the 227x Challenger 2; 781x Warriors; 654x CVR(T) and 895x Bulldogs. However not to be forgotten are the Titans and Trojans, numerous BV206, Vikings and Warthogs; a few Panthers left lying around outside Regimental LAD’s; and not least the 4x Beach Recovery Vehicles.

Not long after Maj V-S turned up, Maj Simpson was despatched on Op HERRICK 16, leaving him to carry the can until his welcome incident with a total of 3 broken legs and one broken wrist as well as a host of bumps, bruises and muscular injuries. Whilst extremely regrettable this goes someway to validating the exercise as individual military training, designed to develop and test an individual’s psychological limits, determination and physical courage.

The sponsors and visitors week was well supported with Regimental representation in the President’s race from the Club Secretary, the Club President and incoming Chairman, as well as 2 previous Hussars in the form of Lt Col Richard Slack and Lt Col Andrew Gossage. It goes without saying that a Hussar won the race, although the ‘General’s’ race was won by Maj Gen Halter of the Swiss Army.

Switzerland remains a financially challenging country for the Club to train in, and this is well recognised by the committee and Verbier village. The tourist office is extremely supportive and this season we enjoyed significant support with our accommodation cost – this is set to continue. Our main sponsor, General Dynamics UK, is also extremely keen to continue their affiliation with the Club, and together with continued support from RAC and AAC Regiments the club has a bright future.

Next year marks the 30th anniversary of the exercise, and plans are already afoot to hold events in both the UK and Verbier to celebrate this achievement.

The exercise traditionally comprises of a 4-week training phase run from 1 December up until New Year, followed by 2 weeks of racing. This season we deployed with 13 Regimental Teams – the only notable absence being the RDG who are deployed on Op HERRICK 17. Of the 100 skiers that gathered in Verbier, 32 had never been skied before; it was therefore with extreme trepidation that they made their way up to the top of the Atlats lift (2900m) for their first taste of snow. In a reversal of fortunes from last year, the exercise was blessed with extremely good snow from the outset. In fact it snowed every day for the first 3 weeks. During this time we spent only one day off the mountain to conduct essential avalanche training – all 9 ability groups experienced some exceptionally good off-piste skiing. Other activities included a 1000m night accent of the mountain on skis as part of an international ski touring race, a torchlight decent from Rounettes and a floodlit dual slalom. The usual array of Regimental parties and New Year celebrations were enjoyed by all as the boys continued to try their luck with the numerous chalet girls in the village. We also managed to qualify 32 soldiers in the Joint Services basic ski touring qualification (SF1).

The superb weather continued into race week, where we were blessed with clear blue skies and plenty of sunshine. This allowed us to complete a full complement of races (Slalom, GS, Super G and Downhill) over the 2 weeks. The highlight was undoubtedly the speed training events with a Downhill course which challenged even the most experienced skiers. The exercise was not without

Hawks in Army HQ

Maj CAJ Valdes-Scott

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Not long after Maj V-S turned up, Maj Simpson was despatched on Op HERRICK 16, leaving him to carry the can until his welcome return nearly a year later. Seen here together, they are currently investigating affordable options, should the CR2 Life Extension Programme (obsolescence management) scheduled for 2017 not go ahead…
Affiliations and Alliances

The Royal Gurkha Rifles

The following is taken from the update sent by the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, Lt Col DJ Robinson RGR, to his Rear Operations Group in Shorncliffe on 7 January 2013, as the Battalion reached the halfway point of its deployment on Op HERRICK 17.

As the 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles now approaches the halfway point of Op HERRICK 17, this provides me with an appropriate opportunity to update you on the exploits of our 475 Gurkhas deployed across Task Force Helmand. We remain the second largest unit in Theatre but with our manpower deployed under seven different chains of command; including three complete RGR Rifle Companies deployed out in Patrol Bases and numerous smaller teams advising both the Afghan Police and Army in their continued institutional development.

Soon after our arrival the Battalion was rocked by the tragic loss of Lieutenant Ed Drummond-Baxter and Lance Corporal Siddhanta Sunwar. The nature of their murder by a suspected Afghan Policeman was a bitter pill to swallow but the soldiers have rebounded with true Gurkha spirit and have continued unabated with their mission of supporting our Afghan partners. This was an additionally difficult situation considering that members of this Platoon were from the same Company targeted by another insider attack in July 2010 on Op HERRICK 12 which saw the loss of three of their comrades. Sadly, we have also experienced seven Gurkhas wounded in action by a grenade attack and an IED but fortunately none with life threatening injuries. Four have now returned back to their Company.

The most positive aspect of the tour thus far has been the very encouraging signs of progress across the area of operations and improvements in the Afghan National Security Forces. Many of the Battalion have deployed to the same districts that they patrolled in 2010 and they now constantly remind me that the difference in the level and proximity of the violence compared to their last tour is stark. So far on this deployment the ability of the Afghan Forces to provide a far more acceptable level of security has been notable; to illustrate this one of the Companies has yet to receive a direct fire attack in three months, when on their last tour they would have expected to have been in contact on nearly every patrol in the same area. This improvement has been hard won over numerous tours and by various units but it has now allowed us to start to step back and encourage the Afghan Forces to more formally take the lead for their own security. So much so that up to two hundred from my Battalion alone will now return early from the tour as the tangible progress in their area or local security forces has allowed us to make that important step away.

As you would expect our Gurkhas have continued to make friends and make an impact wherever they are based. The Commanders who have taken ownership of my soldiers continue to send me extremely positive feedback; in fact the Commanding Officer of 40 Commando Royal Marines has stated that if he had joined the Army he would have wanted to lead Gurkhas. Early on in the tour we all managed to celebrate Dashain and Tihar; the goat population in central Helmand reduced drastically as these Hindu festivals coincided with the Islamic festival of Eid. Soon after the
weather changed dramatically from the blistering hot days on our arrival in September to our now period of extremely cold nights and occasional rain. Whilst this has affected our operations it has also reduced the level of insurgent activity. Christmas was low key but celebrated with some excellent work by the chefs and the rush of Christmas parcels made it through on time; the Battalion’s morale remains high.

As we now look to the future, we will seek to continue to support the tangible progress and set the conditions for our successors over the summer. This includes a large number of base closures in our tour but it has been encouraging to many, who saw the construction of these Patrol Bases in the past, to now see their requirement diminished and their imminent demise. Due to our dispersed deployment the Battalion will return to the UK over a prolonged period in the spring. They will all receive a well-earned period of post tour leave before then focusing on our planned Arms Plot to Brunei in July 2013. No simple task given the short timeline post the tour but we remain confident that we will deliver the Battalion and their families to Brunei in good order. The only real concern for our soldiers is the next Tranche of Redundancy which is due in the summer; it is expected that those currently deployed will be exempt but with a large Rear Party of some three hundred, the Battalion is unlikely to go untouched.

Throughout the tour, our Rear Operations Group, under the Gurkha Major, has provided sterling support both to our families and also sadly on organising and representing the deployed Battalion at the repatriation of our fallen comrades. Their active

HMS Dauntless

The main event of 2012 for HMS DAUNTLESS was AURIGA 12, an operational deployment to the South Atlantic. However, before the ship was ready to undertake this tasking, DAUNTLESS had to undertake a period of Operational Sea Training in the South Coast Exercise areas. The challenges presented to the Ship’s Company in terms of warfighting, contingency operations, maintenance and logistics coupled with the typically British winter weather conditions made for some realistic training in preparation for the 7-month deployment that lay ahead. Having completed every hurdle successfully, the ship returned to Portsmouth in March for a condensed period of maintenance and leave before departing UK waters at the beginning of April.

The strategic context to AURIGA 12 ensured that the deployment of the first Type 45 to the South Atlantic, coincidentally in the year of the 30th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict, was well covered in the international media. It is quite usual for the shores of Old Portsmouth to be lined with family and friends but less so for the skies to be buzzing with media helicopters! That said, once clear of UK waters and media attention, it was noses to the grindstone to prepare fully for the tasking ahead. The first stop was Lisbon where a round of meetings and briefings were conducted in advance of Counter-Narcotic (CN) Operations around the Cape Verde Islands scheduled for May. After that short stop, the focus shifted to preparations for EX SAHARAN EXPRESS, an AFRICOM-led exercise off Senegal at the end of April. The exercise was a maritime exercise designed to improve cooperation among participating West African nations in order to increase maritime security and safety. Eleven countries took part in the training at sea, which included Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) drills, medical casualty drills, command and control exercises and search and rescue scenarios.

After the completion of the exercise, DAUNTLESS headed west to undertake CN operations in support of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Cape Verde. A matter of days after embarking the CV Law Enforcement Detachment, the ship was tasked by the CV authorities to conduct a live operation against a merchant ship suspected of carrying narcotics from South America. Despite the short notice, the boarding went extremely well and the merchant ship was escorted back into port and handed over to the shore authorities.

One of DAUNTLESS’s major objectives during the West African phase of the deployment was to conduct capacity building initiatives with host nation armed forces. Therefore, in every country the ship visited (Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Angola), training days were conducted alongside as well as at sea
in order to share tactics, techniques and procedures covering a wide range of topics from firefighting to international maritime law and practical leadership skills to seamanship training. One of the most successful and rewarding periods of this training was the embarkation of ten Ghanaian sailors at sea where they were put through their paces in all manners of naval training, culminating in a theoretical and practical exam.

The focus on promoting maritime security played a prominent part in everything the ship was involved in around West Africa. On top of the training facilitated for local armed forces, various agencies including the FCO, the IMO and industry realised the potential that a ship’s visit can bring and every opportunity was used to host maritime security events on board including Defence and Security Industry Days and inter-agency conferences. These visits also allowed the Ship’s Company to participate in wider regional engagement initiatives from hosting official dinners and receptions on board to conducting charity work ashore as well as the inevitable sporting fixtures. Maritime security was also the driving force behind the ship’s time spent in the Gulf of Guinea where piracy is having a dramatic effect on national economies as well as the business of international companies. The efforts of the Ship’s Company in Counter Piracy Operations were bolstered by the embarkation of a Royal Marine Boarding Team for two months in recognition of the increased threat to merchant shipping in the region.

After an extremely successful 3 months in West Africa, DAUNTLESS headed south for an operational stand off and maintenance period in Cape Town, South Africa before facing the challenge of crossing the South Atlantic during the austral winter. En route south, the ship carried out emergent medical tasking in Tristan da Cunha and also assisted the islanders to erect a VHF repeater aerial on one of the highest peaks using the helicopter. From there, the focus shifted to preparing for operations under the command of Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands and integrating in the joint environment of the Falkland Islands.

The visit to the Falkland Islands JOA represented a pivotal point in AURIGA 12, marking not only the southern most latitude of the deployment but also the first time a Type 45 has acted as the Atlantic Patrol Task South. Remarkably, the weather during this period in the JOA was as favourable as the South Atlantic gets in winter thereby allowing DAUNTLESS to conduct a hugely beneficial period of training and engagement; from a raft of official
functions in Mare Harbour and Stanley to working with the RAF Typhoons and an embarkation of the Roulement Infantry Company. Despite the brevity of the interaction down south, it was evident that the step change in capability that the Type 45 can bring to that theatre of operations was recognised by all those the ship worked with and helped realise the potential for future Type 45s working in defence of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories.

The final phase of AURIGA 12 saw DAUNTLESS conduct a 3-week transit north from the frozen south to the humid heat of the Caribbean to take part in various ventures. Firstly, DAUNTLESS supported a Ministerial visit in Colombia before taking part in the US Navy’s Fourth Fleet-led EX UNITAS, which was aimed at improving interoperability between South American maritime forces through the execution of complex ship manoeuvres, air defence, gunnery serials as well as a freeplay multi-threat scenario.

After the successful culmination of UNITAS, the ship then undertook further Counter-Narcotics operations in the Caribbean under the direction of the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South. Again, DAUNTLESS was successful in prosecuting a suspicious vessel and, in conjunction with the US Coastguard team on board, detained and handed over the vessel to the relevant authorities. Once the Coastguard team had disembarked in Puerto Rico, the ship headed north to Boston to conduct one final visit before heading back across the Atlantic for a well-attended Homecoming in Portsmouth.

It is sometimes difficult to articulate the impact of a deployment such as AURIGA 12 especially where most of the effects are not as tangible as those demonstrated by more traditional task group operations or warfighting roles. Even the statistics behind AURIGA 12 do not paint the full picture; the fact that DAUNTLESS conducted 26 visits to 22 different ports in 18 countries across 4 continents and, during that time, hosted 4000 dignitaries, conducted over 4000 ship’s tours, worked with 27 different navies and provided training to over 600 foreign military personnel goes only some of the way to outlining the legacy of what was achieved during those 7 months. Feedback from all those whom the ship worked for and with has been extremely positive and has helped the Ship’s Company to appreciate the wide-ranging benefits of such a deployment. Now the focus is on preparing DAUNTLESS for a significant maintenance period in 2013 and the task of regenerating and improving the ship’s operational capability for her next deployment in 2014.

**E F S**
The Royal Wessex Yeomanry

2012 has been a milestone year for the RWxY as Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) has finally provided confirmation of our future role, whilst we continued to juggle our annual training and recruitment commitments with supporting UK operations both at home and overseas.

The FR20 role and challenge is to provide formed sub-units to support our regular counterparts, a significant step up in training, time and resource. It is a role that all ranks are excited about and fits with our proposed new terms and conditions of service (TACOS), which call for a greater degree of time commitment from the reserve soldier. If matched with the required training and exercise facilities, employer engagement and funding, it is an achievable though tough objective. An essential factor in our success will be growing the training relationship with our regular counterparts.

During 2012 A (DY) Squadron has been able to put a number of individuals employed by Babcock through AFV instructor courses enhancing the Regiment’s training capability. Through these instructors (augmented by ex-regulars leaving the Army) the RWxY is able to deliver the required qualifications in order to maintain our CR2 and armoured delivery capability.

In order to fit into the reservist Man Training Day (MTD) availability, driver courses have been amended and tailored in order to produce qualified personnel with the sufficient competency and qualifications required to operate an AFV in our armoured delivery role.

B (RWY), C (RGH) and D (RDY) Squadrons supply replacement turret crews to the regiments of the RAC in order to augment their ORBATs. Again this is achieved by modulising course training programme folders to fit the soldier’s ability to attend. Having ex-RAC members is of great value to us as their qualifications can be used and updated.

The Regiment needs to constantly recruit; a mixture of ex-regulars on limited training requirements and ‘direct entry’ reservist soldiers from around its recruiting areas. Each sub-unit has been responsible for its own recruitment, double hating its soldiers for its own recruiting efforts, which could take up 25% of its yearly effort. In the last nine months, with real money being put into reserve marketing at a national level and pressure applied to ACIOs to perform, recruit numbers have expanded enormously with some squadrons showing up to 60 potential recruits on the books at any one time. With a one in five conversion rate, broadly double that of the regular Army (from expression of interest at the ACIO to passing out of Phase 1 training) each squadron will require in excess of 200 expressions of interest per year in order to expand to the levels required of FR20, entirely achievable with the right resources.

All squadrons of the RWxY contributed soldiers towards Op OLYMPICS. The RWxY contingent formed part of a larger force of Army, RN and RM personnel (both regular and reserve), charged with the security of the Olympic Sailing Venue and the athletes’ village in Weymouth. RWxY soldiers and officers augmented part of the Venue Security Force itself and assisted 43 Bde with Liaison Officers at Dorset Police headquarters. They also formed the majority of the ‘enablers’, who worked tirelessly at Chickereill Camp to keep the sizeable security force administered and entertained. The hours were long and the work could at times be tedious, however all involved enjoyed the opportunity to support an operation that took place in the Regiment’s back yard, yet under national and international spotlights. The RWxY can claim a stake in the overwhelming success that was the UK’s staging of the 2012 Olympic Games.

From their initial arrival at Aliwal Barracks in December 2011 the RWxY augmentees received an extremely warm welcome by the KRH, easing their transition into the regular environment. Despite winding down for a well-earned Christmas leave, the KRH made sure RWxY Yeoman were included in all the Christmas festivities which greatly assisted integration into their ranks and made all feel very much part of their Regiment. Not only did the KRH understand the importance of integration, they also trained and employed the RWxY augmentees well, providing an excellent example of how the reserve and regular can work well together.
For those Yeoman mobilised to support Op HERRICK 16, Mission Specific Training (MST) was a significant step up from their previous training experiences in the reserve. To put the COIN principles into practice and see the likely outcomes, through the exercises conducted through MST, brought home the reality of what could be expected in Afghanistan. Although conditions on Salisbury Plain in February were a far cry from the conditions experienced in Helmand during the height of summer.

As with the regular Army, the reserve now has the well-deserved privilege of organised parades, whereby families and a grateful public can show their appreciation of the work that their army carries out on its behalf and the opportunity for the soldiers to show off their regimental esprit de corps. In the case of reservist soldiers a formal parade can also give closure to their tour, which can sometimes be difficult to come to terms with particularly on their return to civilian life after the excitement and high tempo of serving in support of a regular unit in a combat environment.

On their return from Op HERRICK 16 the Royal Honorary Colonel, HRH The Earl of Wessex, invited the Regiment to hold a medal parade at his residence of Bagshot Park. This provided an opportunity to have medals formally presented and to give the soldiers and their families the chance to meet and discuss the tour with His Royal Highness. The whole day was greatly appreciated by all ranks and an excellent conclusion to a very eventful operational tour.

In August the Regiment bade farewell to Lt Col Dickie Trant QRL who moved back to Paderborn where he has taken over as SO1 CAST(G). Lt Col Trant took over command of the RWxY in January 2010 and was the first regular CO the Regiment has had for 15 years. By being in regular service, Lt Col Trant was able to conduct a detailed review of the state of the Regiment and he worked tirelessly to create a much improved administration, focusing on targeted training. During his time in command the RWxY deployed 36 personnel on Op HERRICK 12/13, a further 31 on Op
HERRICK 16 and 40 in support of Op OLYMPICS. However Lt Col Trant’s enduring legacy to the Regiment is the RWxY’s role as part of the Reactive Force. Without his steadfast support and justification for this role, at the highest levels, there was a strong chance that the Regiment may not have survived the restructuring.

Lt Col Trant has been succeeded by Lt Col Chris MacGregor KRH. Lt Col MacGregor took over having freshly returned from operations with the Campaign Transition Assessment Group, in HQ ISAF Joint Command, Afghanistan. In light of the changes brought about by FR20 it is critical that the Regiment has a CO who can dedicate 100% of his time to the role, in order to steer the Regiment down the correct path and to write the ‘rule book’ for the totally unique role with which it has been tasked (Armoured Reinforcement to the Reactive Force). However, it is vital that reservist officers do have the opportunity to command the Regiment in the future; this may require a regular 2IC for when a reservist officer is in post as CO to ensure continuity.

BJH

The Royal Yeomanry

It’s been another busy year in the Royal Yeomanry set against the backdrop of the Future Reserves 2020 study. From ongoing operational commitments to historic freedom parades and overseas exercises, the pace has been at times frenetic and only sustained by the sort of unstinting commitment that modern reservist soldiering requires.

Operations

During this period four officers deployed to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 16. Units require to be augmented and Territorial Army personnel fill slots which would otherwise take a regular from their usual role. For HERRICK 18 the RY are the lead Yeomanry regiment training 80 soldiers against a requirement of 32. Such a ratio may sound strange to regular army readers but a TA unit needs to factor in issues including fitness and dental health and civilian employment which could prevent a reservist deploying.

For Lt Dan von Barloewen, Operation HERRICK 16 was his first tour and it has been a steep learning curve, but a valuable experience. Serving with the KRH, Dan continues the tradition of RY reinforcing regular cavalry; Dan’s Squadron, A (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) has close historical links with the KRH, which this attachment refreshes.

The Future: Future Reserves 2020

The FR2020 study encapsulates the new RY role as a light cavalry reconnaissance regiment which will integrate with a regular recce regiment. The main vehicle for this role will be the R-WMIK, a stripped-down landrover mounted with a heavy machine gun. Orientation towards the new role and training on R-WMIK vehicles are the themes for the Royal Yeomanry for 2013.

The Royal Yeomanry were fortunate enough to host the Secretary of State for Defence as he launched the FR 2020 White Paper and we hope to remain as central to the new Reserve proposition in the future. Although we’re living with bizarre uncertainty (facing 40% reductions while the reserve is supposed to grow) our aim is clear: by Sept 2014 the RY will deploy on Collective Training level 3 – training as a full regiment for the first time in many years. Whilst the KRH will remain armoured, the RY are now moving from CBRN to a Light Cavalry role equipped with R-WMIK. This is an opportunity to add even more to the Regular Army than the 110 soldiers mobilised in the last 18 months.

Op OLYMPIC

35 personnel from across the regiment took part in Operation Olympic providing security to this summer’s Games. Highlights included meeting GB medal winners and the gratitude of the public. Tpr Callum Marvin, 21, of Whetstone, saw Jessica Ennis and Usain Bolt and called it, “A once-in-a-lifetime experience.”
Tpr David McCourt, 31, of Lutterworth, said they felt they had done a good job, successfully blocking any weapons from entering the park, including a few sent through by the Olympics organisers to keep the soldiers on their toes.

**London District Operational Shooting Competition**
A frosty weekend in early December saw the Royal Yeomanry host teams from 14 Regular and Territorial Army units at the OSC at Ash. This is the first time the competition has been hosted by a TA unit and presages the increasing use of the TA to take on former regular taskings. Although our shooters were more valiant than successful, the event demonstrated how the Reserve can add value.

This was a high-profile event which showcased the capability of the TA and the RY in particular, as much as it did the shooting talents of those involved. Visitors included Major-General Norton, GOC London District and General Everard, ACGS.

**Overseas Exercises**
The major overseas exercise of the year was Ex Viking Star, a two-week battle camp in Denmark during September. A composite squadron trained on the M95 rifle which is quite different from SA80 and the rifle was also used in its paintball mode.

During the field phase the squadron worked with the Danish reserves on night patrols and recces. The high tempo enabled JNCOs to develop their skills and the troopers got a feel for a demanding patrol rotation. A final attack that coincided let the Squadron show off their new skills.

In direct support to operational training, Capt Matt Fincham and Lt Olly Key deployed to BATUS on exercise Prairie Thunder as part of the 2RTR Battle Group. Matt and Olly worked in RHQ, supporting the logistics and personnel functions respectively.

**Annual Training Period**
The regiment required a qualifications-earning fortnight to increase the qualifications held in a range of vital disciplines. RY soldiers trained in everything from CVR(T) commander to Signals and some gained HGV licenses. 41 other soldiers attended the training package at Lydd including night shoots, house defence and live section attacks, expending 50,000 rounds of 7.62 GPMG ammunition with nearly 40,000 5.56 rifle rounds. WO2 Martin Furminger commented: “We set the bar high with an ambitious programme of training; I was delighted that we exceeded all expectations and the lads enjoyed themselves.”

**Freedom Parades**
The Royal Yeomanry marched through the borough of Kensington and Chelsea and of Hammersmith and Fulham on 10 and 11 March 2012. CO Lt Col Newton Astbury said: “It is both an honour and a privilege to have been awarded the Freedom of these boroughs. We have always appreciated and valued the support that the local communities in both Boroughs give to us.” B Squadron conducted their own Freedom parade in Wigston in May and A Squadron paraded through Swindon in October.

**Lord Mayor’s Show**
The RY annually takes part in the Lord Mayor’s show with marching troops and armoured vehicles. This year the regiment also had a contingent mounted on borrowed HCMR horses. The Guidon was carried by RCM Mick Flynn, who as a Household Cavalryman himself, has years of experience of riding in such parades. Others attended practises at Knightsbridge in the weeks before the parade to make sure they were good enough to ride the powerful HCMR blacks.

**Stalking in Scotland: Ex Imperial Yeoman**
In November 2012, 5 members of The Royal Yeomanry took part in Exercise Imperial Yeoman on the west coast of Scotland near the Isle of Skye. The aim was to assist the stalkers of the Glen Shiel Estate with their Red Deer cull and to teach stalking skills.

The professional stalkers of Glen Shiel estate guided the participants and advised on the use of ground and windage to get within 100-250 yards to enable a shot to be taken.
Good marksmanship was essential, as an animal not cleanly shot will result in a pursuit over many miles of mountainous terrain. After shooting, a carcass must be dragged back to the nearest accessible track – sometimes over 2 miles of difficult ground – a total beasting!

During 5 days RY shot 13 hinds and calves over stunning terrain with a magnificent view over to the Isle of Skye. It is hoped this will become an annual event.

**Exercise Snow Fox 2012**

Exercise Snow Fox XVII saw a fantastic week of challenging skiing which culminated in racing and orienteering against other Yeomanry teams on the slopes of Verbier. The RY’s three teams enjoyed great success. The A team came first with Capt Johnny Arkell winning overall. The B team led by the CO, came third overall and the C team’s tight lycra turned elegant skiers like Sgt Gus Searcy and Cpl Mike Fitzgerald into wild-eyed racers who placed ahead of other A teams.

The two RY orienteering teams were less lucky: a team led by Lt Alex Vakil skied past the checkpoint at cabin Mont Fort and not turned in and the time penalty added pushed them into second. Lt Oliver Key, had only learnt to ski during the week and still managed to ski the Mont Font black run. However this heroism did not bring the team a quick time!

Exercise Snow Fox was as ever a great week to test the skills and courage of all those who attended. January 2012 had the best snow in the Alps for years and the week provided the perfect opportunity to meet members from many other Yeomanry Regiments.

**Change of Command**

September 2012 saw the handover to Lt Col Kingsley Donaldson RTR. A former Royal Yeomanry Officer before going regular, Lt Col Donaldson will have much that he can impart to the regiment regarding modern doctrine, tempered by personal knowledge of the TA. We bid farewell to Lt Col Newton Astbury, who has presided over large scale operational deployments and a change in the role and direction of the Yeomanry. We wish him well.
through local and national media. Soldiers from the Squadron were able to mix with the public and at times rub shoulders with celebrities from TV and sport. One of the highlights of the event is to provide a ceremonial guard around the Grand National winner’s enclosure; the soldiers thoroughly enjoyed the event and we look forward to doing it again in 2013.

In May a number of soldiers from the Squadron put their names forward for Operation HERRICK 17 in Afghanistan and started to undertake pre-mobilisation training to ensure their fitness and core skills were up to speed. The annual Cavalry Memorial parade in London saw a large contingent from the Squadron attend, which included members of the Old Comrades Association travelling down for the weekend. This is another event, which the soldiers enjoy very much and are extremely proud to be associated with.

The prospect of the Regiment receiving the R-WMIK platform has meant that the Squadron Permanent Staff Instructor Sgt Craig Hatfield has tirelessly worked his socks off to secure as many courses as possible in readiness. DITS, Bowman 761/762, Yeomanry Tactics, R-WMIK, Heavy Machine Gun, RODET, GPMG are amongst a plethora of courses he was striving to secure so that the Squadron can ensure it is operationally effective.

In June, a number of soldiers from across the Regiment were mobilised for Op HERRICK 17. D Squadron’s contribution was five soldiers, some of which had previously served in Afghanistan and Iraq. At the time of writing they are well into their operational tour and looking forward to a well-earned R & R break. Also in June the Squadron was asked to support B Squadron in their parade through Dudley. The parade was to acknowledge the receipt of the Freedom of Dudley. After some intensive drill preparation under the watchful eye of RCM McNamara the Squadron headed up the parade through the city with swords or with rifles with bayonets fitted. Only D Squadron could get away with leading someone else’s Freedom Parade!

Operation OLYMPICS was on the horizon and after trawling the Squadron for volunteers to support this prestigious event, ten soldiers arranged time off from their busy civilian work schedules to take up what would arguably be a once in a lifetime opportunity to do Venue Security Force (VSF). Capt Glen Miller 2IC of the Squadron, headed up the cohort. Having been mobilised
in early July they attended an MCCP which was held at RMLY HQ in Telford before departing to Grantham to undergo 7 days of VSF training. Once the training was complete, the cohort headed for Feltham where underwent training in preparation for their duties covering the volleyball event at Earls Court. Overall, the soldiers had a wonderful experience and will cherish it for the rest of their lives.

During August and September, course qualifications was the order of the day, however it also allowed those not involved the time to relax and take time off with their families.

In October members of the Squadron took part in Ex VIKING STAR which is a series of exercises held in Denmark. The aim of these exercises is to allow TA units to achieve CT1 (platoon) proficiency within a CT2 (company) level exercise. The training was conducted on the Oksboel training area. The soldiers undertook 14 days of classroom, static range, and manoeuvre live-fire/blank training. The soldiers experienced a demanding range schedule and progressed quickly on to section attacks on the live-firing range. A highlight of the training conducted on the exercise was the use of simulation rounds in a purpose-built FIBUA environment that allowed soldiers to practice tactics with an added element of realism. It was great retention-positive training in an unfamiliar and therefore challenging environment, which all the soldiers enjoyed.

In late October we received our first R-WMIK complete with HMG and PGMG. To comply with the safety requirements of crewing the R-WMIK, 22 members of the Squadron deployed to DST Leconfield to conduct training on the Roll-Over Drills Egress Trainer (RODET). Troops are squeezed into a mock-up Mastiff which can be rolled over at any angle. Once strapped in, they experience the feeling of being inside a rolling vehicle and have to practice extracting themselves from their harness and quickly exiting the vehicle when it is on its side or upside down. As an added challenge, the instructors can nominate a casualty to be extracted, and lock some of the doors so that the passengers have to think more carefully about how they get out.

In November the Squadron attended the Remembrance Sunday parade in Wigan and were greeted with a very warm welcome by the general public whose numbers continue to rise each year as more and more of them pay homage to those who paid and are still paying the ultimate sacrifice in the name of peace. The Squadron laid on refreshments back at the TA centre after the event for local dignitaries including members of the ACF, ATC Police and Fire Service. There were over 200 people who joined us.

As we approached the end of the year many Squadron members had successfully passed their respective courses and it was time for the festive season celebrations to begin. The Squadron officers and SNCOs waited on the soldiers at their Christmas party, which again went extremely well. Sgt Roy Matthews pulled out all stops and ensured everyone had more than enough to eat. It was a fitting end to a satisfying and productive year.

JFA

IX (Bomber) Squadron RAF

The past year has proved to be yet another busy and productive year for IX (B) Squadron. Having returned from Operation ELLAMY in November 2011, the Squadron enjoyed a much-needed Christmas at home before departing for Tucson, Arizona in April to take part in Exercise TORPEDO FOCUS. Located at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, the exercise provides an opportunity to employ a full range of live weapons against a variety of targets. In all, we managed to deploy every available munition at our disposal, from the 27mm cannon through to 2000lb smart bombs. The opportunity to practice live strafe at night proved invaluable Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) prior to the Operation HERRICK work-up later in 2012. The exercise also provided PDT for Forward Air Controllers (FAC) from the 4th Mech Brigade and their American counterparts.

The middle weekend of the detachment was dominated by the Davis Monthan Airshow. Although the Airshow disrupted the exercise, it proved an excellent opportunity for the Squadron to attend a large airshow with an outstanding selection of aircraft and displays, including the F16 display team, the Thunderbirds. The Thunderbirds arrived at the airshow in style, dropping a sonic boom over downtown Tucson and causing tens of thousands of dollars worth of damage, ensuring that any subsequent UK misdemeanors would pale into insignificance.

Arizona also provided an excellent opportunity for Adventurous Training with Squadron members experiencing whitewater rafting, Harley Davidson touring and – for the more courageous – free-fall parachuting. At the end of the detachment, Sqn Ldr Heeps led a formation of 9 jets back to the UK. The formation arrived home in 6 days with only 2 aircraft becoming unserviceable in
Bermuda. This was a real achievement considering the oft-cited lack of serviceability of our 30-year-old Tornado aircraft and a true testament to the abilities of the Squadron engineering team.

In May, the Squadron send 3 jets and 4 aircrew to Albacete, Spain to participate in the Tactical Leadership Programme, with many personnel flying in direct from Arizona. The exercise is an invaluable opportunity to learn the skills required to lead a formation as part of a multinational COMbined Air Operation (COMAO) consisting of 60 jets from 9 nations. The highlight of the exercise is the chance for UK crews to be mission lead for the entire COMAO. In total 30 missions were flown, ranging from Deep Strike and Anti-Surface Warfare to Joint Personnel Recovery (JPR), proving the flexibility of the Tornado.

Later in May, RAF Marham hosted the Antiques Roadshow at the Squadron site and all sorts of articles were unearthed, from the mundane to the incredible. As a result, some left with a smile that would have put a Cheshire cat to shame, whilst others were close to inconsolable as assumed priceless antiques turned out to be anything but. Unfortunately, it transpired that a 34-year-old jet is anything but a desirable antique; the more enterprising members were left bitterly disappointed that their ‘adhoc’ retirement plan had been curtailed. The day also provided the OC with another great chance for some face time in front of the camera and the opportunity to fulfil his lifelong ambition of following Fiona Bruce up the ladder to the cockpit.

In May we also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Tornado force, with a dinner held at RAF Cranwell. This provided the opportunity for aviators past and present to reminisce and spin long tales of daring-do deep into the night. As the first front line unit to operate the Tornado, IX (B) Sqn were proud to be the hosts of the evening, attended by the Chief of the Air Staff and the majority of previous Squadron Commanders from all 11 former Tornado squadrons. Not content with organising and hosting the evening, IX (B) Squadron jets also provided the traditional sunset fly past over College Hall.

At the end of June, the Squadron deployed for 2 sunny weeks to RAF Gibraltar. The exercise, titled Ex ROCKBAT, gave opportunity to practice Air Combat (dog-fighting) techniques and
provide timely defense diplomacy for the government of Gibraltar. Despite losing a few mornings to persistent fog, the Squadron achieved a lot of flying in a short period. There was also opportunity to explore The Rock, where we found the Barbary Macaques (commonly known as Gibraltar Apes) to be a friendly bunch. In fact, they were a little too friendly for those of us naïve enough to jog up the mountain with snacks in our pockets! There was a packed programme of Adventurous Training, with some members of the Squadron venturing deep into the Rock to explore the World War 2 tunnels, in addition to diving, sailing, kite-surfing and exploring the natural cave formations.

In August the Op HERRICK work-up training began in earnest. Despite working hard to achieve the work-up objectives, we also managed to send two jets to RAF Lossiemouth to partake in some Operational Low Flying training. The far reaches of Scotland were made available for us to train to at 100' and sending jets to Lossiemouth enabled us to make the most of the flying day. We also sent four jets on an ‘Overseas Training Flight’ to Riga, Latvia. This was Flt Lt Knapton’s departing gift to the Squadron, as he was subsequently posted to XV (R) Squadron prior to beginning the Qualified Weapons Instructor course.

We also managed to squeeze in hosting the Squadron Association at RAF Marham in late September. The Association Weekend is an annual highlight for the serving members of the Squadron, and this year we were able to welcome the Association to the presentation ceremony of our Op UNIFIED PROTECTOR medals (Libya). We were honoured to receive our medals from the President of the Association, Air Chief Marshall Sir Stuart Peach and the occasion was made all the more special for those currently serving by the presence of a large number of ex-members of the Squadron.

Our final preparations for deployment took place at the beginning of October, when we were put through our paces during Ex WAR WEEK. This week was the culmination of the work-up, where a multitude of scenarios were played out. A team from Amputees in Action attended the week and took an active part in many of the casualty scenarios. They added immeasurable value to the exercises, creating an element of realism and shock, which cannot be replicated without their participation.

As I write, we have just passed the halfway mark of our tour in Kandahar. So far, the tour has been notable for the absence of kinetic events, which proves that the plan for retrograding and the ultimate extraction of British troops from Afghanistan is proceeding well. At the half way stage, the Squadron has flown in support of over 200 ground forces missions and looks to continue in that busy vein for the remainder of the tour.

Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Army Cadets

2012 was an action packed year for the Army Cadets from Hampshire & Isle of Wight. As always there were numerous camps and barely a weekend when some activity wasn’t taking place. Cadets competed in the full range of sporting and shooting events throughout the year and were represented at extra events laid on to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.
in February did succumb to the weather and was cancelled due to frozen pitches. Nonetheless the County managed to put a team forward to take part in the Regional Football Competition which went ahead in diabolical weather; the worst casualties of the day were the tents purchased to provide shelter for the cadets! From this we had cadets selected to represent the South East Region in the National Football Competition.

Sport
Following on from the Football success, 5 boys were selected to represent the South East region in Rugby and made the long journey to Sennybridge, where – despite not winning any medals – they put in a great effort. In the Athletics Competition, Hampshire & Isle of Wight ACF had several cadets selected to represent the South East Region who went on to the National Athletics Championships in Grantham. Most cadets won at least one medal and we had a National Champion. Not content with this fine showing, we then won the South East Regional Swimming Competition for the 10th year running, although it was much closer this year than previously. 5 cadets went on to represent the region at the ACF National Championships and they won 7 medals between them with another National Champion coming home to us.

It is not only sports that the cadets excelled at this year: in the Regional First Aid Competition our cadet team came third and our young adult team won their category.

Rifle Shooting
Early in the year training for the Target Rifle shooting season started in earnest. The first competition took place at Bisley in May against some of the best local ACF, ATC and SCC teams and saw our top placed team finish in 7th place. The following weekend the same team won the ACF element of the South East Regional Competition which was the start of a successful season. The team was selected to attend the Inter-Service Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley in July and benefitted from a 5-day coaching course. The weather was not kind with one coach saying it was the worst he could remember in the 35 years he had been attending the event. Despite the wind and rain making the shooting more challenging, it didn’t dampen the cadet’s spirits or enthusiasm and this showed in the scores as they beat the previous County record by 15 points. 2 cadets were also awarded National Rifle Association Skill Shot badges. The success continued in the Cadet Inter-Service Skill at Arms Meet in October with some great results. Most notably, one of our cadets became the National Champion beating all the other ACF, ATC and Sea cadets.

Cadet Training
Each year an AT expedition takes place to give some older cadets opportunities to try their hand at challenging activities. In 2012 this took place in Allgau, Southern Germany and the group had the opportunity to try kayaking, climbing, mountain biking, hiking as well as some sight seeing in magnificent scenery.

Numerous successful weekend camps took place at local Defence Training Estate camps and training areas, where the cadets were able to put into practice some of the skills and tactics they had learned on their weekly parades at their cadet huts. The weekend camps helped to prepare the cadets for the main training event of the year which was a 10-day annual camp at Wretham Camp near Thetford, Norfolk. Every cadet that attended took part in a 48-hour TACEX. This year, as well as the military training and an AT taster day, the cadets spent a day completing leadership tasks and took part in a fun day. On the conclusion of camp, X Company were crowned the County Champion Company for their success during the year.

In May, Hampshire & Isle of Wight ACF hosted the County Tri-Service Cadet Athletic Competition as part of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Service pride was at stake and each cadet put in the maximum effort to help their organisation amass points. By the end, the ACF finished up as comfortable winners. No one went home empty-handed though as every participant was awarded a commemoration medal. This was the first of 2 County events to celebrate the Jubilee, as we held our inaugural ACF Massed Bands Concert in Southampton in October. Both of these events featured the Fordingbridge ACF (one of our KRH-affiliated detachments) Corp of Drums, which was formed in January using instruments that had been borrowed or donated. The Band and Corp of Drums were also present at Brockenhurst College to welcome the Olympic Torch as it passed through Hampshire.
Chairman’s Notes

Col Tony Singer OBE

This year has been particularly satisfying for your Association, for we have never worked as closely to the Serving Regiment as we did in 2012. We have been actively providing support both to those serving on Op HERRICK 16, as well as to the families back in Tidworth. Happily, the Regiment lost nobody, and the casualty count was not too high, but your Association was there to provide support both to the injured and, where appropriate, to their families.

Reunions continue to be organised 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 in their area. They all do an excellent job, and their individual reports follow. Numbers continue to fluctuate; in the main they are dropping, but those who do attend a reunion thoroughly enjoy themselves. I have attended a number of reunions, both in the North and South, and can vouch for the fact that there is nothing “old” about the Association’s drinking habits. I mentioned this with some gratification to our Colonel-in-Chief, but she was not impressed. A new event in 2012 was your Association’s participation in the Cenotaph March Past, after the National Service. This was a very popular Reunion, and provides a southern balance to the Association’s Northern Reunion and Remembrance Service. Details of the March Past in 2012, and 2013 arrangements are in a following report.

I attended with huge pride the two Welcome Home parades, one in the Borough of South Ribble, and the other in the City of Winchester; two places where your Regiment has been afforded the privilege of The Freedom. On both occasions, the Regiment was delighted by, and much appreciated, the number of well-wishers lining the streets, as well as the vocal support expressed. For me the two highlights of the year were the Medal Parade, attended by our Colonel-in-Chief, and the Regimental Thanksgiving & Carol Service held in Winchester Cathedral, on the previous day. It is very clear that our Regiment is in cracking form, and just the very best.

The Regimental Association’s Website, www.KRH.org.uk, continues to grow, but needs more work to provide a better and more informed service. If you have any ideas please pass them to Capt John Cornish in HHQ (North). The Association continues to “discover” old comrades, who we can then welcome back into the fold. Please do ensure that Capt Cornish has the details of all your Regimental chums, in order that we may inform them of what the Regiment and the Association are doing for them, and widen our Database.

The annual Cavalry Memorial Parade is to be held on Sunday 12th May 2013. This year, our Regiment is the Sponsoring Regiment, so there will be lots of crimson trousers around Hyde...
The Regimental Journal of The King’s Royal Hussars

Park, with our soldiers providing the Wreath Bearer Party, Dias markers, and the like. We also provide the Saluting Officer, so do please make an extra special effort to be there, so that we may again put the rest of the Cavalry in the shade.

While the Regiment is not expecting to deploy in the near future, I write this as new slaughters of British worker are reported by the Media, the KRH Appeal continues. So do please continue to consider running activities that can raise funds to support our Regiment, or even just wave a bucket to raise money for the KRH Appeal.

If you know of any way that the Association may raise its profile, or of any former soldier who is in need of the Association’s support, please do get in contact with Captain Cornish. I look forward to meeting many of you at Association reunions in 2013.

Northern Reunion

Saturday was a long day and especially so for the serving regiment. The Regiment started early with a superb, heart rending, homecoming parade in Leyland, sponsored by South Ribble Borough Council. There was a fantastic turnout by the locals, with many of our veterans lining the route as 250 Officers and men marched through the town with the Guidon flying. The Mayor, Councillor Colin Clark, then hosted a reception at the Civic Centre after the parade.

The Chairman invited the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Colin and Margaret Clark, together with other South Ribble Borough Councillors, and their spouses, including, Mike Nuttall, the Chief Executive, Martin O’Loughlin, Democratic Services Manager, and Tracy O’Reilly the Senior Admin Officer to join the Regimental Association at its Northern Reunion. Stephen and Pat Butler also invited their friend Mark Menzies MP, the Conservative Member for Fylde. There were 83 members and guests who sat down to Dinner, with a good mix of serving Officers and Old Comrades. After an excellent meal and Loyal Toasts, the doors were opened so that members who did not dine could listen to the speeches. 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 after the Regiment’s successful operational tour in Afghanistan. The dance floor was then cleared of diners so that the younger and more energetic members could enjoy the Disco. 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 RSM and Guidon Party leading 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 The Last Post and Reveille. After the Service, Regimental Association members gathered at the Columbarium for the interment of ashes service conducted by Canon Ron Greenall. The ashes of Dave Blocke, Alan Fogg and Les Kearton were interred by their families.

Secretary: John Cornish

South West Summer Gathering

Despite advice against holding this year’s Reunion over the same weekend as the Jubilee celebrations, attendance was very encouraging, and by the time we had all assembled we were 56 all up.

The weekend started with a round of golf for those who wanted it on Friday 1 June at the Dorset Golf and Country Club, just a short distance from Clouds Hill from where occasionally we could hear the sound of Challenger tanks on the driver training area. The day’s winner was Ian Leeming with a very healthy Stableford score of 35. One Jeremy Moger was the bandit of the day!

Saturday’s lunch was again held in the garden of Jeremy & Arabella Moger at Manor Farm, Hazelbury Bryan, and thank fully on the one day of the weekend when rain was not forecast. The Regimental flag fluttered in a light breeze to welcome all who attended. Drinks were served from the listed tythe barn in the garden adjacent to the village church, and with the duck ponds as the fore-drop. Once all were assembled Jeremy Moger gave a short welcoming speech, and then we all drank a toast, first to the Regiment and secondly to Her Majesty the Queen. A buffet lunch was then served including – of course on this the Jubilee
weekend – Coronation Chicken! No doubt as done all over the country on this day.

It was a very relaxed and happy occasion giving the opportunity for everyone to mix and mingle and it was a pleasure to welcome for the first time, Kevin & Gilly Bewley, Christian & Rosie-Ann Yates (ex-Royal Hussars), as well as Bruce Whittit and Richard Fernhough, both of whom have previously been great supporters.

Ramnuggur and Cambrai Dinner 2012

For the second time the Ramnuggur Dinner was held at The King’s Arms Hotel in Dorchester, who looked after us superbly well. The food was excellent, and Dinner was held in a warm and very cheerful atmosphere. Trumpet Major Harris (ex-RH and the first Trumpet Major of KRH) very kindly came in to play the Dinner Call before going-on to a previously booked family birthday celebration elsewhere in Dorchester. I am not only very grateful to him for that, but must apologise for referring to him in my report of last year as; “An ex-bandsman from the Royal Hussars”!!

With notes from the Commanding Officer, I was able to give a short résumé of the Regiment’s recent activities in Afghanistan, its new role from 2013, and to highlight the numerous successes of KRH officers in Type A Command appointments for 2013.

We had an excellent response to the Dinner invitation of 42, but sadly due to the vagaries of the appalling weather and some illness we finally sat down with 34. I wish a speedy return to health of Marcelle who was unable to join us.

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We had an excellent response to the Dinner invitation of 42, but sadly due to the vagaries of the appalling weather and some illness we finally sat down with 34. I wish a speedy return to health of both Jilly Palmer and Robin Holland, and hope we shall see them in the summer.

This was also the first time in memory that due to illness, Johnny Marcelle was unable to join us.

Dinner was concluded with the loyal toasts, and then all the men present formed the Ramnuggur Horseshoe and in turn made the toast; “to the Heroes of Ramnuggur” and drunk from the cup

Dinner was concluded with the loyal toasts, and then all the men present formed the Ramnuggur Horseshoe and in turn made the toast; “to the Heroes of Ramnuggur” and drunk from the cup before passing it to the next person.

Our summer gathering in 2013 will again be at Manor Farm, Drove on 1 June 2013 with the usual game of golf on Friday 31 May, at which we shall compete for the Bill Butler Memorial Cup. Thank you all for your support over the year, and let’s hope that we can persuade a few more in to the fold next year.

Central Southern Reunion

The 2012 Central Southern Reunion took place at Tidworth on Sunday 21st October. At that time the majority of the Regiment were still away in Afghanistan, with only a handful who had returned with the advance party. However, we were very generously allowed to use the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess again, and around 100 Old Comrades together with various members of the serving Regiment enjoyed drinks in the Ante Room before sitting down to an excellent lunch. Our thanks for the organisation must go to Maj Mickey Caulfield and Sgt Clayton, the Mess Manager. They and their staff provided a well-organised and friendly reception for us all.

At the end of lunch the Second in Command, Major James Cullinan – who had himself just returned from Afghanistan – gave an excellent talk on the Regiment’s operational and sporting activities. Colonel Tony Singer, our Chairman, replied on behalf of the Old Comrades.

It was a very successful day with a great selection of all ranks from both of the former regiments. Unfortunately, Bob Penfold was unable to join us but we wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him next year.

The Commanding Officer has generously said we may repeat it in October 2013 and a date has provisionally been set for Sunday 20th October. I hope to see you all there.

Central Southern Chairman: Lt Col Richard East.

Gloucestershire Reunion

The Gloucestershire Branch Reunion Luncheon was held at the Victory Club, Cheltenham, on Sunday 11th March 2012; the move from our traditional November date is appreciated by most. Numbers compared to 2011 were similar, but there are always new faces, which makes it worthwhile for me. 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.

Chairman: Col Tony Singer OBE

Darlington Reunion

This year’s Reunion Dinner was held at the Coachman Hotel in Darlington on the 29th September. Sadly numbers have dwindled to only 11 Old Comrades who attended. A great evening was had by all, with Billy Stobart and Andy Bevis driving down from Newcastle and then driving home after the Dinner.

This year we were given a real treat by the Regimental family: Lt Col Justin Kingsford (who was at ERE at the Army Personnel Centre Glasgow as S01 RAC Officers) delivered one of the best Regimental updates we have had for many years. Many thanks must go to him for taking time out of his busy schedule and updating us so well; however he did manage to lighten our pockets somewhat before leaving getting most of us to sponsor his forthcoming bike ride in aid of the KRH Appeal.

Thank you all for turning up once again and for making the day go so well. It is always pleasing to see you all. Next year’s date is still to be confirmed by the Club, but you will be informed as soon as we know.

Scotland Secretary: John Greenwell

Remembrance Day London Cenotaph March Past 2012

Seventy-two members of the Regimental Association, many with family and friends in attendance, met early on Remembrance Sunday at the Royal Scots Club to march in the Remembrance Day London Cenotaph March Past 2012.

A small Association mention by the BBC, and some excellent TV coverage, gave those that could not attend the chance to see how smart (and in step!) we all were, and the crimson trousers once again were a talking point not only with those that spectated, but even from those on parade!
The Association is allocated 96 tickets for the event and after this year’s march-past, enquiries for them are currently in the 140’s; but that does not matter. Once the tickets are allocated we would still like to see more of you at this most prestigious event. We always get a small percentage of ‘no shows’ when a ticket becomes available, and, much more than that, the day is one for joining your former comrades either to march, spectate, or drink a few pints with afterwards. So why not come along, bring your family and friends and support this marvellous event.

Further details can be obtained from the March Past Website: www.crimsonmarchpast.co.uk or on Facebook under ‘Crimson March Past 2013’.

John Cook

### Dates for your Diary 2013

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gloucestershire Reunion (Victory Club, Cheltenham)</td>
<td>10 Mar</td>
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<td>Noah’s Arc (The Sheraton Hotel, Blackpool)</td>
<td>19-20 Apr</td>
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<td>Cavalry Memorial Parade &amp; Lunch (London)</td>
<td>12 May</td>
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<td>Cherrypickers’ Reunion (Park Inn, Forgegate, Telford)</td>
<td>17-19 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shiners Club (Crown Inn, Stratton-Sr-Margaret, Swindon)</td>
<td>19 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Golf day and Reunion (Droop Farm)</td>
<td>31 May – 01 Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor’s Review, Royal Hospital, Chelsea.</td>
<td>04 Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Founders Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea.</td>
<td>06 Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scottish Reunion (Edinburgh)</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>North East (Darlington)</td>
<td>28 Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Southern (Tidworth – KRH WO &amp; SGTS Mess)</td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiners Club (Premier Inn, Mallard Restaurant, Derby)</td>
<td>19 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherrypickers’ Balaclava Day Reunion.</td>
<td>26 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field of Remembrance Service, Westminster – 1045hrs.</td>
<td>7 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Reunion and Remembrance Sunday (Preston).</td>
<td>9-10 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remembrance Day Parade Cenotaph, London.</td>
<td>10 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Officers’ Dinner (Cavalry &amp; Guards Club).</td>
<td>12 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramnuggur and Cambrai Dinner (Wessex Royale Hotel, Dorchester).</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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</tbody>
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### The King’s Royal Hussars

#### Regimental Trust

#### ACCOUNTS SUMMARY 2011-2012

**Balance sheet as at 31 March 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 March 2012</th>
<th>31 March 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>£687,585</td>
<td>£672,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Current Assets</td>
<td>£171,199</td>
<td>£84,579</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>£858,784</td>
<td>£757,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY FOR THE ABOVE PERIOD**

**Income:**


**Total Incoming resources:** £157,950 (2012) £102,260 (2011)

**Resources Expended:**

- Costs of generating funds: £2,808 (2012) £7,259 (2011)
- Governance Costs: £1,668 (2012) £1,668 (2011)

**Total Resources Expended:** £43,207 (2012) £64,223 (2011)

**Net Incoming resources before revaluation of investments:** £114,743 (2012) £38,037 (2011)

**Profits (losses) on disposal and revaluation of investments:**


**Net movement in fund:** £101,444 (2012) £62,537 (2011)

Of the Charitable Activities, the Fund assisted a total of 54 individuals who were serving with or had served with The King’s Royal Hussars or its predecessor regiments.
Helping serving and retired officers of the UK Armed Forces to meet costs incurred due to illness or injury of their dependants

Lady Grover’s Fund provides immediate grants to defray short term expenses caused by injury or illness of officers’ dependants.

We give financial assistance to dependants of officers of all three services, serving or retired. The Fund supports wives, husbands, widows, widowers and children of officers.

The only qualification for membership is 5 years regular commissioned service in the UK Armed Forces.

**Dependants** must be under 65 on joining.

Children are covered until 18, or 21 if in full-time education or vocational training.

**BENEFITS**

For a subscription of just £40 a year, a member is entitled to a useful range of benefits:

- Hospital accommodation for up to 8 weeks — maximum £1694 per week.
- Nursing at home for up to 8 weeks — maximum £346.50 per week.
- Domestic help at home for up to 15 weeks — maximum £196 per week.
- Convalescence under medical advice — maximum £346.50 per week.
- Maximum payment — £6,930 per year.

What our members are saying about us

“The assistance with housework was timely. My husband, though willing, is not particularly domesticated and to be able to call on outside help whilst I was effectively out of action was a godsend.”

“Thank you for the quite amazing rapidity of your response…”

“It’s a very special Fund...it was a great help to my recovery to be able to enjoy the comfort of the Nursing Home.”

“The Home Help provision is a great practical aspect of the Fund—long may it remain so!”

“Joining Lady Grover’s Fund has indeed been one of our best decisions”

**CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO BE A MEMBER?**

For further information and to join, email the Secretary on secretary@ladygrover.org.uk or visit our website www.ladygrover.org.uk
HorsePower – The King’s Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester

The Regimental Museum is developing its theme of HorsePower still further by tracing the history of mechanisation as it affected the Tenth and Eleventh Hussars. This is being done with the aid of a new 22” digital display screen which will show how these two predecessor regiments of The King’s Royal Hussars made the transition from horsed cavalry to armoured cavalry. The touch screen, which is part of a versatile system known as InfoAktiv, can display images and documents and it can also be used for video and oral histories.

The Museum’s archive has a wealth of interesting photographs many of which have been digitised. The images which will be seen in the mechanisation display include the early marks of armoured cars and tanks and the regimental crews who operated them both in war and peace. This example taken from the archive shows a General Lee tank and some Tenth Hussars in the Western Desert in 1942.

Improvements have been made to the post World War II gallery which depicts the Cold War period, the years of national service and latterly the achievements of The King’s Royal Hussars in various operational theatres since 1992. A manikin soldier wears the latest combat uniform and equipment issued for Op HERRICK in Afghanistan and there are slide shows of the Regiment’s operations in Afghanistan last year, the homecoming parades in Preston and Winchester and the recent medals parade in Tidworth. Visitors can also enjoy watching archive film dating back to pre-independence days in India and other film coverage of the latter days of the British Empire. More artefacts have been added to the Crimea showcase and the Balaklava trumpet, which was carried by Lord Cardigan’s orderly at the Charge of the Light Brigade, has been cleaned and repositioned so that it can be fully appreciated.

Through improvements such as these we endeavour to add to the displays and keep them up to date. However, as Museum funds and available grants are limited, our ambitions are constrained by the amount of money we can acquire through fund-raising and the vital financial support we receive in the form of cash donations from visitors to the museum and contributions from past and present members of the Regiment.

From time to time, people donate their inherited artefacts to the Museum and recent acquisitions have included medals awarded for service in the Boer War and World War II. One outstanding example is the personal collection of Colonel Stanley Barry, Tenth Hussars, who fought in the Boer War and World War I. The Museum was fortunate to receive his medals, photograph albums, scrapbooks and memorabilia which provide a fascinating insight to the life of a Tenth Hussar officer during the two conflicts.

HorsePower offers free admission and is an ideal attraction for a family outing. There is ample interactive involvement to keep children absorbed, while adults discover plenty to stimulate their interest too. The Museum attracts in excess of 7000 visitors per year, many from abroad, and it is especially busy during the school holidays and half-term breaks.

Many visitors record their comments about the Museum and these are usually very positive. Recently Lieutenant General DS Sidhu, former Director General Mechanised Forces Indian Army, commented: ‘Absolutely fascinating to go around. Very impressive and interesting. Particularly impressed with the manner in which history has been preserved’. He was accompanied by a former British Defence Adviser New Delhi who commented on the warm welcome they had received from the Volunteer Steward who was on duty.

Come to Winchester and see the recent changes in your Regimental Museum. Even if you have visited the Museum already, a return visit will be worthwhile. The Museum is open six days a week and this is made possible by our loyal group of Volunteers to whom we owe our grateful thanks because without them the Museum could not operate at weekends. You can check the opening times at www.horsepowermuseum.co.uk and if you click on the home page you will find a monthly Museum Highlight about an interesting artefact in the Museum or an illustrated narrative about an episode in the Regiment’s history.

Mrs Angie Wallace receives the Imperial Service Medal

Mrs Angie Wallace, who worked in Home Headquarters Winchester for 22 years, was recently awarded the Imperial Service Medal. She was presented with the award by Colonel David Woodd at Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, amongst members of her family, friends and former colleagues. She is pictured with her sister Mrs Sheila Millar, Mr Dave Wallace and Mr ‘Dusty’ Millar BEM, who served as WO2 in The Royal Hussars (PWO).

Mrs Angie Wallace retired from the Civil Service on 30 November 2011, having joined in 1973. During her service at Home Headquarters she worked for three Colonels of The Royal Hussars, three Colonels of The King’s Royal Hussars and three Regimental Secretaries.
Colonel Auberon Ashbrooke

Auberon Ashbrooke (Aubs) was born in Kensington, London on 4 August 1956. He was educated at Ampleforth between 1969 – 1974 and boarded in the same house at the same time as Garbo, Charles Clarke, Codrington and Peter O Neill-Donnellon. His father was originally an 8th Hussar (now part of the QRH) but fortuitously having met Vonnie Allen at a Moger wedding he switched allegiance and joined 14/20H on a SSLC in Herford, Germany.

Ashbrooke read economics at St John’s College, Cambridge, between 1975–78, and in the summers he helped organise the RAC Centre Open Day as well as the Tidworth Polo Tournament. Ever loyal to his Cavalry heritage Aubs went to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1978. His Coy Comd still recalled, when reaching 2*, that Ashbrooke had announced on initial interview that he “had joined the Regiment not the Army”.

Ashbrooke took command of his first troop in 1979 under the command of Kerry Hodson where fellow troop leaders included Sherriff, Wicks and SSgt Al Smith. LCpl Danny Wild had the difficult task of being his first tank driver involving endless damp exercises on Soltau. Living at Schloss Bredebeck, Ashbrooke became Asst Adjt/O and Gunnery Officer under Dan de Beaufort. The Gunnery School, by all accounts, struggled with his approach to gunnery.

As a Sqn 2IC Ashbrooke was ordered by Peter Harman to buy half a polo pony on the grounds that it would be far cheaper than buying a car. Unfortunately his attempts to play were a complete disaster the reason for which he claimed was the pony which refused to run in a straight line. He did also buy a car – one of the first Audi Quattros – which was credited with having saved his life in a certain fatal collision he merely murmured “Death”.

As troops deployed to Iraq for the 1st Gulf War, Ashbrooke spent his time underground in HQ High Wycombe supporting the strategic direction of the forces in the field as SO2 RAC. He was by all accounts approached by Mike Vickery to take command of A Sqn after the Gulf War “so long as he didn't lay on the 20H bit too thickly”. As a result he assumed the appointment of A Squadron Leader 14/10H in Munster under Mike Vickery and then David Woodd. Invited to run a hunter trial by Vickery, Ashbrooke agreed, but then promptly delegated the organisation of the whole event to Steve Arrowsmith on the grounds that he wasn’t quite sure what a hunter trial was.

In 1993, following the amalgamation of his Squadron with Charlie Darrell’s A Squadron RH, Ashbrooke was assigned to a UN post in Croatia. Following an intensive build-up training period in snow-covered Southern Germany and the deployment of his personal kit to Croatia, his assignment was cancelled and he was sent on a 6-month project in London which resulted in what is now known as Compulsory Drug Testing (CDT).

Keen to return to his academic roots he studied for an MPhil in International Relations at Darwin College, Cambridge between 1993–1994. During this period he was considered to be particularly good research material by a female officer also on the programme, who regularly invited him to seminars on harassment.

Ashbrooke became Second in Command of the KRH under Richard Sherriff during which a very appropriate focus on physical fitness within the Regiment led him to have cause to be grateful to the camp dog, who kept him company on runs, having a jogging pace well matched to his own.

From 1995–1997 Ashbrooke was assigned MA to DCDS (programme and personnel) based in London. He was consumed with contentious personnel issues including Royal Pardons, for which he became an instant expert, having to pursue a number of knotty cases involving soldiers who were executed during WW1. On return to London in 1998 he became SO1 (plans) in a shadowy MOD where, being of a more mature appearance he was occasionally taken for a RN Captain and addressed as Sir by officers actually senior to him. He would politely avoid embarrassing them by continuously ‘misbehaving’ with the US typist claiming “I cannot help it! I am Italian”.

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On return to London in 1998 he became SO1 (plans) in a shadowy London HQ, spending rather more time in a cloak and dagger world of which we cannot speak. During this more mysterious period of his career and to the delight of all, he married Monika at Saarde Katarina Kirik in Kilingi-Nomme, Estonia on 30 October 2000. They moved from Chelsea to a home in Westminster where they quickly produced two children: Eleanor and Eudo.

In 2003 Ashbrooke was assigned to HQ Land as Head of the Land Management Consultancy Service. His family relocated with him to Wilton, Salisbury and in 2005 they had their third child, Hendrik. One of Ashbrooke’s lowest moments was an interview without coffee with a 2* General (McColl) following his decision to ask a 2* regional division commander why his job needed to exist. It is interesting to reflect now that the 2* job in question no longer does!
In 2006 he took up the position of Principle Consultant of the now merged Management Consultancy Service (army) managing a team of 11 civil servants and 2 Lt Cols. In 2008 he became the Assistant Director for Improvement and Efficiency in HQ Land: during which time a visit from him spelt the end of many a staff officer’s job in the relentless search for savings. In 2010 when HQ Land moved to Andover, Ashbrooke moved with it, becoming the last serving officer in the Regiment with an Army number beginning with 4!

In 2011 he retired and moved to Jersey where he acquired a fourth degree and is now based as a part-time lecturer for Plymouth University.

**Lieutenant Colonel J D S Moir MBE**  

Julian Moir arrived in Fallingbostel as a University Cadet in 1981 and spent that and the following two summers building hunter trial courses for Lt Col Robert Hayman-Joyce and latterly Lt Col Ewan Morrison. Re-emerging from Sandhurst in early 1984, Moir was posted to A Squadron The Royal Hussars. It was a case of learning to run before you could walk with the major NATO Reforger Exercise, Ex SPEARPOINT, where RH, newly equipped with Challenger 1 and the pride of 1 (BR) Corps, were shunted from one German wood to another and kept in their ‘Crimean’ band box.

Early regimental life was spent on the Polo field under the determined drive of Maj Johnny Rogers and the inimitable Maj (late) Hugh Dawnay. Polo was rudely interrupted by exercises and courses, first the Regimental Gunnerie Officer’s course and then Ex Medicine Man 4 in 1986. It was on this exercise that Julian was blown up, losing his eye in the process. After a short period of rehabilitation, he was returned to England to have a glass prosthesis fitted. The surgeon, on viewing Moir’s severely bloodshot right eye (the result of an extremely convivial evening the night before), asked if he wished to have the glass eye matching. It seemed like a good idea at the time! Stories of searching for lost eyes on dance floors, or finding one in ones’ soup or drinks are manifest, not all of them true. However, it was at this time that he was christened ‘Pugwash’ by Maj Richard East and Lt Col ‘Twiggy’ Thompson; a regimental nickname that has stuck ever since.

With stints away at JDSC in 1988 and then an escape to the Staff at HQ British Forces Belize, Moir was exposed to the joys of extra regimental employment; something that was to be an enduring feature for the remainder of his military career. Belize was followed by the first of four tours in MoD Main Building. As a buckshee SO3 in the Directorate of Army Staff Duties, with responsibility for the Army Management Strategy, Moir was forced to grapple with the intricacies of cost accounting and budgeting. It was even more peculiar to be told that financial responsibility was a G3 function (when 12 months previously he had been taught that it was a G8 function) and that book-keeping was a command responsibility. At least it was a tour in London, which was a shame as the remainder of the Regiment seemed to be deployed, as battle casualty replacements, on Op GRANBY.

Julian was called back to the Regiment in 1992 with the promise of command of B Squadron, taking over from a delightful US exchange officer, Maj ‘Naj’ Sweeney. In actual fact, B Squadron was the first squadron to disband in preparation for amalgamation, so Moir, poking through the Adjutant’s in-tray, decided to volunteer first for a UN tour in Bosnia (it had just kicked off) and when this didn’t materialise, as a UN Military Observer on Op LECTURER in Cambodia. Six glorious months in one of the most beguiling countries in the world followed, negotiating with the Khmer Rouge, doing river patrols with the Philippine Navy in the style of the film Apocalypse Now and finding himself being detained in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) with a delightful female French electoral observer for ‘visa irregularities’, made 1992 the most memorable year in his career.

Div II and Staff College followed, before Moir returned to KRH to command D Squadron. These were equally happy times as ‘Dirty ’D’ proceeded to win the Old Comrades Cup and most other sporting titles on offer. Post squadron command, Moir was posted back to MoD to take control of the Yugoslav Crisis Cell within the Defence Intelligence Staff. The YCC was a semi-autonomous body who, because of the Bosnian crisis and its profile at the time, had extraordinary access to all branches of national intelligence and were the ‘one-stop shop’ for all information on the Former Yugoslavia. For his work in the YCC, Moir was awarded the MBE for services to intelligence.

He moved from the MoD to The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), prior to the advance into Kosovo which provided an interesting counter point to life in the MoD. Being virtually the last British Officer to drive down the Kacanak defile into the FYROM in March, he found himself driving back up some three months later, trying to keep control of the KRH Battle Group as both the Commanding Officer and the Brigade Commander had elected to place themselves variously with the formation reconnaissance squadron or with the BG reconnaissance troop. The only incident on the march up, was having to get by, and very nearly through, a Chinook that had landed on the narrowest part of the defile and was refusing to budge and a troop of Yugoslav T-55s that wanted to join the column, because they had been flanked and were eager to rejoin their comrades. That evening, unbeknownst to Julian and the remainder of the BG, his picture appeared on the front page of the London Evening Standard under some highly improbable headline of ‘British heroes liberate Kosovo...’

His time as Second-in-Command involved taking the BG HQ to Singapore, an arms plot move back to Tidworth, a Guidon Parade and conversion to Challenger 2. We hosted a visit from the Israeli Director Armoured Corps as the last of our Challenger 1s were being driven out the gate and a surprise appearance to hear the visitor say, ‘I hope the Jordanians enjoy them’ when we all thought it was a national and very well kept secret.

This was to be Moir’s last appearance at Regimental Duty. There followed a tour with the British Military Advisory and Training Team in South Africa, re-integrating ex-African National Congress and Umkonto wa Sizwe ‘freedom fighters’ to the South African National Defence Forces. Thereafter with the UK Maritime Battle Staff which covered Ex Saif Sarea in Oman (or as one RAF wag put it, Ex save my career). During his time with the Navy, he supported the initial Royal Marine insertion into Afghanistan in late 2001 and took part on Op TELIC 1 in March 2003. Julian still doesn’t know whether wearing a patch in a naval job was a help or a hindrance. Moir’s third tour in Main Building was with the Directorate of Joint Commitments before promotion to Lt Col in 2004.

It was ironic that his first SO1 post was back in Munster, as the G3 Ops/Plans with 1 (GE/NL) Corps. Having held his breath for 18 months he returned to England to run the Army’s Experimental Branch as part of the Land Warfare Centre. On meeting the new DGLW, he was asked about his branch, describing it as a ‘two men and a dog set-up; and here is two thirds of the team (Moir and his dog)’. Escaping from Warminster he made his way to Afghanistan to be part of COMFOR’s (Gen Stanley MacCrystal) strategic advisory group. This role was the most fulfilling of his career, being given the freedom to think, write and speak his mind. As a result he was sent as COMFOR’s personal delegate to prepare his way for the London Conference on Afghanistan.
His final tour in the Army was with the United Kingdom Trade and Investment – Defence and Security Organisation that promotes UK's defence sales around the world. He described it as selling guns and knives for Her Majesty, and the best apprenticeship available in the Army. He elected, and was selected for Tranche 2 redundancy. Julian has retired to the New Forest in the hope that he can spend a little more time fishing, shooting and enjoying his horses and his dogs. We wish him and Claire every best wish for the future.

FD SM

Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Todd

Alastair joined the 14th/20th King’s Hussars from Sandhurst in the summer of 1988. On arrival in Munster, the presence of three other Alastairs in the Mess meant that a new name needed to be found. The daily rantings of one Ron Todd, the leader of the Trade and General Workers Union on Television, neatly decided what nickname he would be known by for the rest of his Army career.

Alastair’s first run out as a Troop Leader was on Exercise IRON HAMMER where the abiding memory for him, having driven his Challenger through a line of very inconvenient minicar in the dark, was the sight of the RSM threatening to kill him in an apoplectic rage due to the illegal incursion into what was obviously meant to be a major minefield protecting a bridge crossing. Perhaps if the RSM had been able to reach the top of the turret from ground level, Alastair’s career would not have been so full. A short secondment up to the Berlin Armoured Squadron followed during which time he frequented the usual hotspots of Berlin, crossed into the East on numerous occasions to enjoy the ballet and the opera – and successfully missed the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 by 6 hours. Having driven to Munster from Berlin on route to the RSO course in Bovington, he arrived at the Mess in Munster in time for dinner only to be told that the wall had come down – to much amusement from the assembled company.

At the outbreak of the ‘great’ Gulf War in 1990, and shortly after the announcement that the Regiment would not be deploying, Alastair formed up in front of the Commanding Officer to volunteer his services to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards who would be. Not only did he want to get involved in the campaign, he also desperately wanted to get out of being the Regimental Signals Officer and, as luck would have it, he subsequently deployed as a Battle Captain with B Squadron of the SCOTS DG alongside a formed Troop from the Regiment. When 4 Brigade and the Regiment did eventually deploy, it was with much relief that his place as RSO had been taken and so he didn’t have to go back to it.

After returning from the Gulf and having completed the Junior Division of the Staff College, followed by an intensive 10-week language course at Beaconsfield, he was posted on Loan Service to the Sultan of Oman’s Armed Forces as SO3 Armour. Apart from other things this involved commanding the ‘enemy’ against the Omanis on exercise which meant that he was often ‘sent to Coventry’ by the Omani officers whose Troops had been rapidly wiped out in the early stages of the exercise.

On arrival back from Oman, he went to Sandhurst as an instructor, where he made it his mission to get the best officers in to the Regiment. Whilst never explicitly accused of ‘poaching’ other Regiments’ officer cadets, he does take credit for persuading a certain Lt Col Justin Kingsford against joining a rugby-playing line infantry battalion and coming our way instead!

Alastair then deployed to Bosnia with the Regiment, initially as the Assistant Ops Officer and subsequently as C Sqn Ldr, taking over from Tim Allen in Sipovo. On one drive from Mrkonic Grad to Sipovo, not really paying too much attention to the route, he looked up to find that his driver had pulled out to overtake a slow-moving logging lorry going uphill and round a blind corner. What made it a little more adventurous was that when he looked at the driver, he had his eyes closed and was muttering “God I hope we make it!”. The tour was notable in Alastair’s eyes for an incident that occurred in Sarajevo shortly before the end of the tour. On a 2-day trip to visit the Mine Action Centre in Sarajevo, the driver and radio operator decided to steal a Bosnian flag and then try to get into a nightclub carrying machine guns. This caused quite a stir. Having been told by the Commanding Officer just days beforehand that the last couple of weeks of the tour needed to be uneventful, the ensuing headlines which read “British soldiers in Sarajevo nightclub row” didn’t help much. The interviews without coffee that followed were reasonably harrowing, particularly as he had only been a Major and Sqn Ldr for a matter of weeks.

After a couple of years at Shrivenham and Bracknell on the Staff College course, Alastair was sent to the MOD to work in Army Equipment Plans before returning to Regimental Duty as B Squadron Leader. This second bite of the squadron leading cherry was taken up with training for and deploying to Northern Ireland where the squadron spent time in Clogher and Antrim before as well as in South Armagh with 2 Para. Although a largely uneventful tour by today’s operational standards, a platoon of Royal Anglian soldiers attached to the squadron certainly kept Alastair and the SSM very busy throughout the 6 months. From B Squadron, Alastair stepped straight up to Regimental Second in Command and straight into a full training year including a very challenging BATUS which saw the introduction of BOWMAN radios and a deployment to Iraq. Whilst 2IC, Alastair also took the opportunity to get married to the long-suffering Kim. As many readers will know, Kim is a hugely stylish model agent and a regular at the smartest parties in London. Alastair, naturally, a little less so. In church, it wasn’t the most difficult job for the ushers to spot the plumy cavalry officers and send them right and the assorted fashionistas to the left – with a spot of mortal blemishment on both sides. At the reception afterwards, it wasn’t just the girls that were pinching the Sergeant Majors’ Cherrybuns either...

Having been selected for promotion to Lt Col, a very short stint in HQ London District followed before a return to the MOD where he found himself in the bunker underneath Main Building as Deputy Director of the Defence Crisis Management Centre responsible for contingency planning in conjunction with No 10 and the Cabinet Office. From London he went to the Army Training Regiment (Winchester) as CO responsible for the training of over 3000 recruits over 2 years. Although entirely different from commanding a ‘normal’ regiment, it was nevertheless very challenging especially with the spectre of Deepcut hanging over all training establishments. A successful Ofsted inspection near the end of his command meant that he left with his career still largely intact and with enough energy to head to Warmminster where he became the Chief of Staff of the Collective Training Group, the organisation that runs the collective training of all troops deploying to Afghanistan. It was at Warmminster that Alastair began to consider a career outside the Army and on the day he finished at Warmminster he was able to make the leap with a firm offer of employment.

After 25 years, and having served in every squadron in the regiment, Alastair is now the Private Secretary to TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester which neatly maintains the regimental connections with Princess Alice’s family.
Major H J Willis  

Hugo joined the Royal Hussars (PWO) as one half of the Proclaimers in April 1991. Hugo’s father was a 10th and a Royal Hussar, and Hugo did his best to continue his Shiney 10th heritage. Having completed the Troop Leaders’ course at Bovington accompanied by his flatulent Jack Russell terrier, he joined A Squadron in Swinton Kaserne, Münster driving his infaamous orange Skoda called Sven. Here, in common with all new arrivals, he enjoyed the attention of the mess thunder flash bomber. The petrol soaked feather pillow was a particularly memorable occasion.

It came as something of a relief therefore, for him to be attached to a squadron of 16/5th Lancers, on UN duty, in Nicosia, Cyprus. The squadron was equipped with the iconic, white painted Ferret Scout Car and operated from a very civilised little barracks on the old airfield. To relax from the particularly demanding patrol programme, the officers secured a small flat in Kyrenia overlooking the harbour, and above a small restaurant. An arrangement was made with the bar proprietor so that when the beer ran out in the flat, a basket could be lowered from the balcony and replenished from the bar fridge. Hugo particularly enjoyed the tour, as it allowed him to exercise his flair for inventing unusual uniform combinations, revelling in Bedford cords, desert boots, tropical mess kit and all the accoutrements. Perhaps his most notable sartorial achievement was having a greatcoat run up by Mr Osman (the Turkish tailor) from an old Army blanket.

Returning to Germany at the end of his rigorous tour, Hugo threw himself enthusiastically into developing closer ties with the locals, paying particular attention to the female element. He soon found that along with the other Proclaimer, he was to form part of the new King’s Royal Hussars cross country skiing team. This meant he was not in Münster for the amalgamation on 4 December 1992, but it did not prevent him from getting heavily involved in the design of the new uniform. The KRH cross-country team was unique for having its own team chalet girl, in the form of Hugo’s girlfriend du jour.

After his legendary skiing exploits Hugo returned to A Squadron under the command of Charlie Darrell and enjoyed a full training year, culminating in a proper, old style BATUS, complete with mosquitoes, bogged tanks and many visits to Medicine Hat. It came as something of a relief therefore, for him to be attached to a squadron of 16/5th Lancers, on UN duty, in Nicosia, Cyprus. The squadron was equipped with the iconic, white painted Ferret Scout Car and operated from a very civilised little barracks on the old airfield. To relax from the particularly demanding patrol programme, the officers secured a small flat in Kyrenia overlooking the harbour, and above a small restaurant. An arrangement was made with the bar proprietor so that when the beer ran out in the flat, a basket could be lowered from the balcony and replenished from the bar fridge. Hugo particularly enjoyed the tour, as it allowed him to exercise his flair for inventing unusual uniform combinations, revelling in Bedford cords, desert boots, tropical mess kit and all the accoutrements. Perhaps his most notable sartorial achievement was having a greatcoat run up by Mr Osman (the Turkish tailor) from an old Army blanket.

After Ireland he completed the RGO and IO courses in quick succession and was Battlegroup Intelligence Officer for the 1995 BATUS. Throughout this period commuting to Vix’s flat in London convinced him that he would probably prefer to be based there. So it was, that in 1996 Hugo departed the Army for a brief spell in civvy street. Cutting it very fine, the lure of the brown beret won him back and just inside the 3 year limit he rejoined the Army and attended Army Junior Division of the Staff College before joining the Land Digitisation team at Wellington Barracks, responsible for BOWMAN radio. The birth of Charlie and later Georgia kept him more than busy.

After promotion he finally rejoined the Regiment to take command of D Squadron, taking it to Northern Ireland in 2003. Upon relinquishing command, he spent some time at RMCS on the long Defence Information Systems course, before moving to HQ LAND in Wilton on the G6 desk. He was then selected to be Second-in-Command of the Light Dragoons at Swanton Morley in Norfolk. As 2IC he deployed with them, as part of 19 Light Brigade on Op Herrick and was heavily involved in Op Panchai Palang in 2009. It was a demanding, but hugely successful tour, of which Hugo was rightly proud.

Hugo’s last job in the Army was as SO2 Armoured at the Command and Staff Trainer in Warminster, where he brought his huge experience and understanding of the workings of a Battlegroup Headquarters to the training of those about to deploy on operations. Having been offered an unmissable opportunity in the Middle East, after 22 years he decided it was time to move on and is now enjoying life as a modern day Glubb Pasha in the company of a number of other retired KRH officers. We all wish him the best of luck and hope that we may see him regularly at the Cavalry Club dinner.

Maj Jim Peachey  

Major Jim Peachey joined the Army in 1979 in Catterick. In training he completed Phase 1 and 2 Signals and a Chieftain gunners course before joining the Regiment as ‘Permanent Staff’ in April of 1980. A year working at the VPO in Catterick under the likes of Capt Neddy Boulter and Sgt Horace Barratt ensued with some short breaks as he undertook his Chieftain drivers course and an IFGS gunnery conversion.

Jim was posted to D Squadron The Royal Hussars (PWO) in Fallingbostel in 1981 as part of the Arms plot move and joined his first Troop as a Chieftain Radio Operator. He managed to miss the joys of being employed as a driver or gunner as he was one of the few men in the Troop that had been Clansman trained at the time. During this time there were many exercises on Soltuv, various ‘Active Edge’ crash-outs and too many guard duties to mention plus a Control Signallers course in Bovington in 1982. It was during this time as part of an ARU on Hohne Ranges that Jim was given 15 minutes notice of the fact that he was to Command 44B on the open range under the steely eye of one of the AIGs, no real pressure then! This was probably the most memorable time of his career and until the end he still considers himself a D Squadron guy at heart.

In 1984 Jim was promoted to Lance Corporal and posted to A (RWY) Squadron Royal Yeomanry in Swindon. Jim deployed on Ex LIONHEART in 1984 with the TA for his real look at TA life! It was also during this tour that Jim married his wife Sharon before being posted back to Fallingbostel and D Squadron in 1986; this time unaccompanied as Sharon stayed in UK to give birth to their first daughter Emma. Time in D Squadron was
short lived as Jim was posted to Command Troop where he took on the role of OC Driver for some more time on Soltau and a BATUS. A Signals Instructors course followed in 1987 before moving up to the Commanders seat in OC and promotion to Cpl followed shortly.

1988 saw the birth of Jim and Sharon’s second daughter Laura 5 weeks before the Regimental Arms plot to Tidworth, where Jim moved to C Squadron SHQ for a year before attending a Crew Commanders course and moving into 3 Tp as Troop Cpl and acting Tp Sgt towards the end of the tour. Jim then moved to Munster in 1990. Promotion to Sgt followed in 1991 as well a tour on Op Granby where, ironically, he served as Tp Cpl in the rank of Sgt under a very close friend, Sgt Pete ‘Geordie’ Robbo, where the Troop served as Battle Casualty Replacements to B Squadron The Life Guards. (To start Pete off on a story-telling session, just ask him about Jim’s night navigation lesson to the Life Guards)! Jim will always thank Pete for everything he taught him in that short time and that Pete allowed some of his professionalism to rub off on him!

Jim returned to Munster as Command Troop Sgt and CO’s Operator under Danny Kaye. This was a most enjoyable time. He attended the Signals School Cadre in early 1993 for his first tour in Bovingdon as an instructor. In 1995 Jim managed another stint and another BATUS as Command Tp Sgt and then Tg Wing Ssgt before being posted back to Bovingdon in 1997 as a Group Warrant Officer and subsequently RSM(I) RAC CIS School in 2000 – his most treasured job. Jim was commissioned in April 2002 and served stints as Intelligence Officer and Rear Party 2IC for a Northern Ireland Tour. Moving to the Training Wing in 2004 meant taking on Bowman Conversion. This was a most trying time as the new equipment didn’t quite do what it said on the tin and Jim suddenly became the de facto RAC Bowman expert and found himself disappearing at a moment’s notice to brief COS Land as to the state of play of the CR2 fleet.

Jim then moved to the post of RSO for the Bowman Operational Field Trial and then deployed to Iraq for Op TELIC 5. On return, Jim left the Regiment for the final time and escaped Bowman for a while where he undertook the Advanced Information Systems course at the Defence Academy in Shriwenham for a year followed closely by a Simulation course before being promoted to Major and posted to the Land Warfare Centre in Warminster as SO2 G7 CIS and Simulation. Work in CATT and CAST with Bowman and Simulation kept him busy for a couple of years before Bowman showed its ugly side once more. Jim became responsible for stopping the BCIP 5 Operational Trial dead in its tracks as it was discovered that the Intercom on the turret Armed Vehicles did not work (again) and the Battle Group was grounded!

2008 saw a posting to Andover that rapidly turned into a posting to the JAMES team in Warminster. While in that job Jim would describe it as being in the worst job he ever had in his career but in the best location as he and Sharon were posted to Orlando in Florida to help with the development of JAMES for 15 months. 2010 saw a return to Warminster, still on the JAMES team, where Jim concentrated his efforts on getting JAMES ready for deployment to Op HERRICK which required a re-work of the original scope for JAMES and a new technical solution with all of the associated documentation that the deployment would require. Jim left the Army in April 2012 without actually seeing JAMES deployed to Op HERRICK from a military point of view, but was involved in his new job with Lockheed Martin as a technical advisor for the teams on the ground.

After 11,846 days, Jim retired from the Army and has settled in Westbury, Wiltshire. She is now trying to find a suitable third career which will allow him to enjoy family time with Sharon, children and grandchildren. Jim doesn’t regret a second of his military career it looks forward to recounting all of it again at the next LE dinner night.

Major T B Wincombe

Trevor Wincombe joined the Royal Hussars (PWO) in Catterick after completing basic training in August 1980, where the Regiment was the training unit. Throughout his early career he was known around the Regiment as ‘Wolfie’. Following the arms plot move to Fallingbostel, Germany, he spent his early years in MT/FFR Troop, Guided Weapons Troop, Command Troop, and B Squadron as a Crew Commander and Signals Instructor – deploying to Soltau and Hohne training areas, and to BATUS in Canada on several occasions.

In late 1990 Wolfie was promoted to Sergeant and posted to the Sovereign Base at Episkopi, in Cyprus as part of the Armoured Recce (D) Squadron, which was equipped with the outdated, but functional Saladin, Saracen and Ferret Scout Cars. Later the island was used as a main staging post for the first Gulf war and was a hive of activity for many months. In his spare time he was pivotal in running the Squadrons’ Sub Aqua club – teaching and leading several diving expeditions around the world.

In 1992, he was posted to B Squadron in Munster as a Troop Sergeant, followed by a Permanent Staff Instructor post with the Royal Wessex Yeomanry in Cirencester. On his return he assumed C Squadron SHQ Troop Leader role and led the troop to success in the Bengough Trophy, the Regimental Troop Test competition, as well as leading an expedition to the Alps, around Mont Blanc. In 1996, Trevor became D Squadron SQMS, which included a 3 month tour supporting the Regimental OPFOR task in Canada.

Promoted to WO2 in 1997, he deployed as C Squadron SSM to Sipovo, Bosnia under Op LODestar, followed by a stint as HQ SSM, and standing in as RSM during a BATUS exercise. In 1999, as RQMS, Trevor deployed with the KRH BG Recce party to Macedonia to receive the BG prior to its move into Kosovo, as part of the NATO liberation force. He was integral to the regimental arms plot move back to Tidworth in 2000, and received the KRH Guidon from the Colonel in Chief, HRH, The Princess Royal on parade in June. Later that year he was promoted to WO1 and RSM at KRH – the pinnacle of any soldiers’ career.

Commissioned in 2001, Trevor moved within RHQ from the RSM’s office to the Career Management Officers role, and was responsible for the Regimental ORBAT and careers of the soldiers – deploying with the Regiment to Dungannon, Northern Ireland. This was followed with appointments as Motor Transport Officer, Quartermaster (Technical) and HQ Squadron Leader, with promotion to Major in 2008. In this period he completed several tours of Iraq on Op TELIC 6 and 10, was Battle Group Logistics Officer for MEDICINE MAN and OPFOR exercises in Canada. Trevor spent 6 months organising the Regimental Freedom of Preston and South Ribble parades, Ex NORTHERN HAWK, as well as the Rundle Cup, elements of the Regimental Reunion at Tidworth, and led his squadron to winning the Regimental sports competition, the Old Comrades Cup in 2008.

Major Wincombe left the Regiment in 2009 after 29 years service, and took up the post of Deputy Chief of Staff as the Defence College of Policing in Southwark Park, home of Service Police training, where he quickly put the Cavalry mark on an otherwise entirely Police cohort. During this posting he assumed the SO1 Plans and Support role at the college, with acting Lieutenant
Colonel rank. His final year of service was as Chief of Staff of Aldershot Garrison – a role that prepared him well for civvy street. Trevor has settled in Wiltshire with his wife, Helen and family, and is now a Business Support Manager for Serco, a public service company.

M C

Captain Gavin Hanratty

Captain Gavin Hanratty, more commonly known as, (and showing the deep thought used in selecting a nickname), ‘Ratty’ joined the army in 1986 as part of intake 86/05 at Catterick and after completing his training he was posted to 1 Troop of the Senior Squadron of the Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales Own) at Fallingbostel.

One of the first tasks that Gavin was involved with was the visit to the Royal Hussars by the then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher MP and West Germany’s Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The visit was supposed to be a show of unity between the two countries and an excuse to show off each other’s new tanks. Gavin however decided that he needed to make a point of his own and drove his tank into a shiny new Leopard 2 completely writing off the German defence industry’s pride and joy.

On the Regiment’s move to Tidworth in 1988 Gavin remained with C Squadron as it became the armoured element of the AMF (although the furthest the squadron got to was Marchwood). Soon promoted to LCpl, Gavin took part in the 1990 Guion Parade as a member of the Guidon Escort Squadron before further promotion took him to D Squadron and two years in the sun as the Cyprus Armoured Squadron.

Whilst in Cyprus Gavin continued his keen interest in sport adding parachuting to his already impressive list of Rugby, hockey, football and sailing. His first jump however was inauspicious, resulting in his crashing through the roof of a Cypriot farmer’s shed.

1992 saw Gavin return to the Regimental fold in Munster where, after an amalgamation, twice seriously bagging the author in a CR1 and a stint in Belfast, he was promoted again and went to the D&M School in Bovington for two years as an instructor. It was whilst he was in Bovington he met and later married Lisa, and subsequently along came Georgina and Samuel.

On his return to Munster Gavin deployed with B Sqn to Bosnia before the Regiment returned once more to Tidworth and Gavin was yet again promoted and posted as an SQMS to RMAS. Gavin’s return to the Regiment heralded his promotion to WO2 and he became B Sqn SSM deploying with the Regiment to Canada on that infamous first BOWMAN BATUS. In 2005 Gavin, now the RQMS, deployed once more with the Regiment on Op TELIC 5 where he worked out of Shaibah Logistics Base supporting the squadrons, all of whom had different roles.

His return from Iraq saw Gavin posted again to Bovington as the Garrison RQMS and whilst in this role he was successful on the LE Commissioning Board returning to the Regiment in 2007 as a Captain, in the enviable role of Welfare Officer. Since being commissioned Gavin has also been part of the Army Inspectorate and the SO3 G4 Plans for HQ 1 Mech Bde.

Throughout his career Gavin has been a constant source of support to many soldiers who have passed through the ranks of the Regiment. Always generous with his time, full of fun and banter and ever prepared to pass on the wealth of his advice and experience, I am proud to count him as a close friend. I know that all ranks of the KRH past and present will wish Gavin, Lisa, Georgina and Samuel the very best of luck as they begin their new chapter as a family.

WEP

Captain David Ford

Captain Dave Ford joined the army in March 1985. After passing off as Best Recruit, he trained as a Chieftain Driver before joining A Squadron of The Royal Hussars in Fallingbostel. On arrival in August he converted to CR1 and quickly became a full crewman.

In 1986 he was selected for an exchange visit with the 5th & 35th Armoured Division in Fort Knox. This was a fantastic 6 months in the USA where he spent most of the time sampling the good hospitality of the Americans.

Dave attended the JNCO cadre in 1987 becoming the only Trooper to take a parade on the Regimental Square carrying the RSM’s pace stick. In 1988, the Regiment having moved to Tidworth, he was promoted and got his first taste of life in the turret. He remained Troop Leader’s Operator until he volunteered to move to D Squadron and was posted to Cyprus. Promoted to Corporal he enjoyed lots of sun, sport and his first command in the form of a Ferret scout car. Lesson learned: Do not give a fictional STREP to the OC when he is sat behind you!

Dave then moved to Catterick as a training Corporal before moving to the newly opened ATR Winchester. It was there that he would meet his wife to be, Tina. On returning to the Regiment in 1995 he was promoted to Sergeant and moved to B Squadron for the 1997 Bosnia Tour. Following that, Dave attended and passed the D&M School Cadre. During his 2 years at the school, Dave spent more time away in the sun when he was selected to become the D&M SME for the CATT project in Orlando, Florida.

Dave returned to the Regiment in Tidworth in 2001. Returning to D Sqn he completed a BATUS as Troop Sergeant and promoted to Staff Sergeant in 2002. He then became Officers’ Mess Sergeant Major and remained there for the Ireland tour of 2003. He promoted to WO2 becoming the MTWO during which he drilled the Regiment for the Freedom parades and completed another BATUS. In 2004, he returned to the D&M School as QMSI of the A&R Wing before promoting to WO1 (RSMI) of the School in 2006.

Dave commissioned in 2007 and became Training Officer. Having seen the Regiment through a BATUS training cycle and preparation for Op TELIC 10 he moved to MTO in 2009. After a short 2 months in Kenya as SO3 Logistics, he returned to attend the QM’s course before again preparing for BATUS, a Freedom parade and Op HERRICK. He moved to the position of Quartermaster in 2011.

Some will remember Dave for his D&M, some for his drill, most for his drinking skills! However his love of sport will have been where the majority would have seen him. He first represented the Regiment in 1985 playing football. He went on over the years to represent his squadron and Regiment in boxing, rugby, volleyball, basketball, cricket and athletics. He represented the Corps and Army(Cyprus) in football and rugby. As the years took there toll, he flicked to coaching and coached the Regimental and Corps football teams. Dave remains the oldest soldier to have played Regimental football, playing his last game in a 2-1 victory over
Dave left the Army in August 2012 after 28 years of loyal service. He has no regrets and classes the time spent with the Regiment as the best time of his life. Dave now works as the Depot Manager of City-Link in Swansea.

Captain Richard Crofton
KRH 2005–2012

‘Crofty’ arrived at the Regiment in December 2005 and with the majority of the Regiment away after Op TELIC 6 he settled into Mess life with accomplished ease.

It was soon apparent that he was a keen sportsman and he could often be found playing coaching and leading the Hawks RFC. During the winter months if he was not on the Rugby pitch he could be traced to somewhere in the Alps where he would be skiing for the Regiment or representing us on the Cresta run; regardless he had to ensure he found the most expensive resort in each location to blow his meagre subaltern’s wage.

When not enjoying the sporting side of the Regiment this young cavalryman proved to be a quality young officer. He joined D Squadron as a junior Troop Leader and deployed on Op TELIC 10 to Iraq where he found himself detached from the Squadron driving around Basra in a Snatch Land Rover with unscrupulous individuals who had a penchant for covering their eyes with a strips of black tape. It was not long before he progressed to commanding a Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle due to the increasingly kinetic activity of the area. He proved to be very effective commander. After the tour, he moved to B Squadron to become the 2IC for Jules Buczacki; they worked very well together and produced a great team for BATUS.

After a little wobble where Crofty thought briefly about a career in horticulture he was made Intelligence Officer – surely still one of the most ironic postings ever. Here Crofty managed to get his face on the front of the Sunday Times Magazine, luckily with his hat on. After a good deal of photoshop, he looked quite the modern Flashman (his words). He deployed on Exercise African Thorn where, to this day, no one quite knows what he did other than shoot a baby zebra. He was then posted to be ADC for General Adrian Bradshaw. Crofty then impressed us all by landing a highly coveted job as COS for Op CHRONOLOGY; however yet again, we’re not sure what he actually did to earn his HERRICK medal as his Tour photos consist mostly of him sat on a pony in civilian clothing looking more like an adventurous Gap Year student!

It was subsequently decided that Crofty should take up a position as a Platoon Commander at Sandhurst where he was an excellent ambassador for the Regiment. This was to be his last posting as the offer of redundancy proved too good. Crofty is now working in the project management sphere where his talents have undoubtedly helped him make a seamless transition to civilian employment. The Officers’ Mess and the Regiment as a whole are poorer for his departure.

KRH 2008–2012

Tom Moger, the only kudu to have joined the British Army, commissioned in to the KRH in August 2008. Less an officer, more a force of nature, his Troop Leader’s Course passed in a haze of mixed dress, bizarre excuses, and actions of almost Dadaist surrealism, before Tom was released in to his unwitting Regiment. He had just about enough time to develop his trained eye for valuable silver, and demonstrate a hand grenade approach to social interaction, before he deployed on Op HERRICK 11 as an individual augmentee to the 1 COLDM GDS BG. During the tour Tom demonstrated the diligence and the concern for his soldiers that always marked him out, and for which those who knew him best will remember him. However, most will remember him better for Tolkien-style diary of the tour that Tom wrote (complete with hand drawn maps), along with his post tour tic of dusting the sand off his beret at every opportunity – “Colonel… pull up a sand-bag”. Reports that Tom was single-handedly responsible for more Hellfire strikes than any other man in theatre are unconfirmed. He finished up at Regimental Duty as D Squadron 2IC, demonstrating an unhealthy interest in office feng shui, before departing for his final year in the Army as a Platoon commander at ATR Bassingbourne.

When one of the less amusing anecdotes about a person involves him inexplicably licking the face of the 2 RTR Commanding Officer, one hardly knows where to begin; but in a more civilised age, rhapsodies would have wandered the land, turning the litany of Moger’s adventures and subsequent apologies in to one enormous cyclic epic. One will suffice to give a flavour of the others: Anyone can turn up late for a dinner party; it’s conceivable that some may turn up late and drunk; probably only Tom Moger could turn up late, drunk, and with a sword; and definitely only Moger, detecting a certain froideur from the other guests, could select from the mantle piece the (very expensive vintage Pol Roger) bottle of champagne that the hostess was saving for the birth of her first born child, sabrage the bottle with said sword, nearly decapitate the hostess – who happened to be entering the dining room with shepherd’s pie – and then console the crying girl with a, “It’s not you, it’s me”.

Raoul Moger, torment of the Sergeants’ Mess, amateur mortarman (and vehicle arsonist), and the reason why a generation of recruits from Bassingbourne will have the oddest ideas about KRH officers. He leaves the Army to work in insurance broking, at which, given his propensity to be wildly convincing for the first five minutes of any conversation, he is bound to be wildly successful. We will miss him more than we could ever say.

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1RTR in 2011 aged 44. Fittingly, he was awarded the Regimental Medal for his contribution to Football in February 2011.

Captain Tom Moger
KRH 2008–2012

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Obituaries

Lieutenant Colonel GJP Kerswell REME
Air’d 10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1943–45

Paddy Kerswell was the first EME of the 10th, joining the Regiment in Libya and serving until the end of the War in Italy.

The son of a serving soldier he was born in Ireland in 1916 and joined the RAOC after an engineering apprenticeship in the Royal Dockyard Portsmouth. By the age of 22 he was a staff sergeant and as a warrant officer with 4 Infantry Brigade LAD in France in 1940 he was severely wounded in the leg.

Having recovered, Paddy was posted to the Middle East and served with 4 Armoured Division Workshop before being commissioned as EME of 76 Anti Tank Regiment RA, becoming one of the founder members of the newly-formed REME. In 1943 he joined the 10th Hussars and proved to be a most effective EME. He was Mentioned in Despatches for his service with the Regiment and attended reunions after the War.

He was granted a regular commission in 1945 and his subsequent career included several tours with Airborne Forces, command of 6 Command Workshop, Colchester and appointments as Commander REME in East Africa and of 49 Division TA.

Before the War Paddy Kerswell was a good footballer and later he was a leading Army referee and team manager. His wife predeceased him and he died on 1st March 2012, aged 96.

Lieutenant Colonel R B Merton
4th Queen’s Own Hussars 1952–58
Queen’s Royal Irish Hussars 1958–66
11th Hussars (PAO) 1966–69
The Royal Hussars (PWO) 1969–84

Robin Merton was the first Regimental Secretary of The King’s Royal Hussars, having earlier had a varied and active career in four cavalry regiments. He was born in Winchester in 1928, and after education at Eton, Millfield, Mons and Sandhurst he was commissioned into the 4th Hussars. Whilst at Sandhurst he volunteered for the ‘Teddy Bear’ parachute course of 8 jumps but, weighing only 8 stone, he worried that he might float upwards – fortunately he didn’t.

However Robin was seriously injured on his Troop Leader’s Course when a Comet tank overturned. He spent 6 weeks in Tidworth Military Hospital. Having belatedly joined his regiment in Hohn he proved to be an excellent troop leader and signals officer. He was also an enthusiastic jockey, riding his own horse in German races. In 1957 he and Jilly, who had just left school, fell in love at first sight. Her father was then serving in Germany prior to a posting to Malaya. They were deemed too young to marry so Robin applied for a secondment to the Maloy Armoured Car Regiment. This proved unnecessary as General Dick Keith-Jones eventually relented and they married in 1959.

The Mertons’ first married home was in Bovington where Robin was Adjutant of the Junior Leaders Regiment for two years. The 4th and the 8th Hussars were amalgamated in 1958 to form the Queen’s Royal Irish Hussars (QRIH) and before leaving for a three-year tour ‘East of Suez’ in 1961 a reconnaissance flight of 3 Auster light aircraft was formed. Robin was selected to be one of the pilots. His regimental contemporary and fellow pilot Brian Kenny recalled a night flying exercise near the end of their training at Middle Wallop. Robin was awaiting instructions to take off at the end of the runway when another Auster, flown by a senior officer who had failed to listen to air traffic control orders, landed on top of Robin’s. His father, Air Chief Marshal Sir Walter Merton, was not impressed with Army flying standards.

After another stay in hospital Robin joined QRIH in Little Aden and flew his Auster in the Radfan and other parts of the Western Aden Protectorate (now part of Yemen). Robin and Jilly, with their one-year-old son Simon, lived in a flat in the notorious ‘Ma’alla Straight’ in Aden Town.

QRIH moved to Malaysia in 1962 and Robin became 2IC of A Squadron, serving successively in Ipoh, Singapore and Sarawak during the ‘confrontation’ with Indonesia. A staff appointment with HQ 39 Brigade in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, in the years before the Troubles offered the prospect of a quiet two years of family stability but, shortly after the Mertons’ arrival, the brigade HQ was deployed as an operational emergency to the Radfan where the campaign had entered a more intense phase. Robin’s next regimental posting was B Squadron Leader of the 11th Hussars in Hohnre, equipped with the new Chieftain tank. He formally transferred in 1966, the year Louisa was born, and the Mertons were immediately welcomed into the regiment, both for Robin’s military efficiency and the fact that they were popular and generous hosts.

He was away from regimental duty at the Defence Operational Analysis Establishment, West Byfleet, when the 11th amalgamated with the 10th but returned to command C Squadron of The Royal Hussars in Tidworth in 1970. His two year tenure started with a 6-month unaccompanied tour in Cyprus as the UN Force Reserve, based in Nicosia with Ferret Scout Cars. On return to England in July 1971 training re-started on Centurion tanks as the squadron was warned for a five-week exercise in Hong Kong later in the year. Robin, with the regimental second-in-command Michael Allenby, went on a recce but on return the squadron was ordered to Belfast immediately in view of the worsening operational situation, and when one troop and part of SHQ was already deployed. C Squadron’s role was to drive Saracen APCs in support of infantry battalions.

After an exciting few weeks the squadron was relieved and by November it was in Hong Kong, based at Fan Ling, undertaking tank/infantry training with the Gurkha Brigade on Lo Wu and live firing of the Centurion tanks at Port Shelter Bay. With three roles in three operational theatres, each mounted on a different vehicle, in the space of one year, Robin’s calm leadership ensured that C Squadron was efficient, well-administered and happy throughout.

He next moved to RHQ and was second-in-command to Piers Bengough and then Nigel Winter when the regiment moved to Sennelager.

In 1974 Robin’s long career of active regimental service ended. Throughout he had proved himself to be an outstanding example of a loyal regimental officer. Subsequent postings were at HQ BAOE, RA Centre, JWE Latimer and finally, the WRAC Staff College. However his contribution to the regiment continued when he was a most popular choice to succeed Peter Upton
as Regimental Secretary in 1984, based in Winchester. Over the regiment’s amalgamation in 1992, Bill Williams in Preston, and Robin worked well in tandem together. One of his many lasting achievements is in the field of officer recruiting and mentoring. The fact that The King’s Royal Hussars today has so many excellent colonels and senior majors is in large part due to the calibre of the young men Robin recruited.

In his second retirement he used to enjoy annual gastronomic tours to France or Italy with the Mesquitas and the Shennans, old friends from days as ‘young marrieds’ in Bovington. More seriously, Robin Merton was an active Chairman of the City of Winchester Trust and he worked tirelessly to ensure the preservation of the city. The huge congregation at the Service of Thanksgiving in St. Cross is testimony to Robin’s wide circle of friends and our sympathy goes to Jilly, Simon, who served in The Manchester Regiment and he worked tirelessly to ensure the preservation of the city. The huge congregation at the Service of Thanksgiving in St. Cross is testimony to Robin’s wide circle of friends and our sympathy goes to Jilly, Simon, who served in The Royal Hussars in the 1980s, Louisa and his grandchildren.

Major Hugh Dawnay
10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1952–1969
The Royal Hussars (PWO) 1969–1971

Hugh Dawnay spent the whole of a nineteen year career in the Army at regimental duty. Apart from one year as Adjutant of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, until the post was abolished, his service was entirely with the 10th and Royal Hussars, something which nowadays would not be possible for a regular officer.

He and his twin brother, Peter, were born in Lucknow, India, shortly before Christmas 1932. Their father, Captain (later Major-General Sir David) Dawnay was second in command of C Squadron, 10th Hussars, and throughout the 1930s the regiment was at the height of its equestrian and sporting prowess. For example David Dawnay was a 7 goal polo player, capturing the British team to win a silver medal at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Hugh’s long association with the horse started young and was fostered by a childhood at the family home, Whitfield Court, Co. Waterford, interspersed with education at Eton. He was an accomplished all-round horseman riding 17 different horses in steeplechases and point-to-points, including 3 winners and 3 falls, competing in Services’ show-jumping and modern pentathlon events; and most importantly, he was a world-renowned polo player and trainer.

Shortly before his 18th birthday Hugh joined the Army in the rank of trooper – as all potential officers did in the 1950s – reporting to the 17th/21st Lancers at Catterick Camp. However, whilst there he was allowed a few days with the Middleton on the commanding officer’s hunters.

Hugh’s father was the Commandant of Sandhurst when Hugh was a cadet, not necessarily an advantage, but in 1952 he joined the 10th in Iserlohn, Germany, as a troop leader on Valentine tanks. The Regiment’s move to England the following year allowed plenty of scope for racing as Hugh was in A Squadron, the demonstration squadron at Warminster. On one occasion he lined up at Cheltenham between Pat Taffe and Fred Winter.

After the 10th Hussars moved to Aqaba, Jordan, polo, which was to be the basis of Hugh’s subsequent successful career, became the only equestrian sport available. Colonel Alastair Tuck negotiated the purchase, for £10 each, of a dozen Arab colts from Baghdad racetrack. These were flown to Aqaba by the RAF and schooled under supervision of the Quartermaster, Fred Robson, a pre-war Weedon instructor. Hugh soon proved to be a natural and, having quickly picked up the art, he ‘indulged’ via Iraq, Bahrain and Aden, with Humphry Wakefield to Kenya where, after several adventures, they arrived to play polo.

On the Regiment’s return to England in 1957, Hugh spent his year with the Yeomanry, before becoming second-in-command of A Squadron in Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth. Both posts allowed plenty of time to continue his race-riding career and have two seasons hunting with the Beaufort. Polo was resumed at Tidworth on the Arab ponies which had been transported from Jordan by LST.

From 1959 to 1969, through the 10th Hussars’ successive tours in Munster, Paderborn, the Arabian Peninsula and Munster, Hugh was MTO, 2IC of A Squadron (again), HQ Squadron Leader, 2IC of A Squadron (again), 2IC of C Squadron and finally B Squadron Leader. In every role he was primarily concerned with the welfare, morale and sporting opportunities of the soldiers for whom he was responsible. Hugh Dawnay developed a niche as the most sought after defending officer at district courts martial. Approachable, interested in everyone, even-tempered and courteous, he was liked and respected by all ranks and he was involved in all aspects of regimental life – the very best sort of regimental officer.

Whilst in Paderborn the regimental polo team was reformed under Hugh’s leadership and drive. With a short break for the Middle East tour, but during which some polo was played in Aden and a regimental team went to Kenya, play resumed in Munster, including a win in the BAOR inter-regimental cup. He was captain of the British Army polo team on various occasions, including several overseas tours. Hugh also gained renown as a coach and, as his reputation grew, he was instrumental in the rebirth of polo in Germany, especially in Hamburg, where he is still fondly remembered by the German Polo Association. He was an all-round games player, captaining the regimental Rugby XV, and playing cricket, squash and cricket for the Tenth.

Having been the last squadron leader of B Squadron, 10th Hussars, Hugh became the first of Administrative Squadron, The Royal Hussars for two years before leaving the Army in 1971. He led the new regiment’s polo team to win the UK inter-regimental cup.

In the meantime Hugh had met Maria Ines Cermesoni whilst on a polo tour in Argentina and they married in 1971, moving back to Whitfield Court where their sons David and Sebastian were born. His second career now started in earnest. In addition to farming and the Mastership of the Waterford Foxhounds, Hugh established the Whitfield Court International Polo Vision School in 1976, running it for over 25 years during which players from 31 countries came to be coached. He also travelled widely, ran annual clinics in Palm Beach, Florida, and coached British Army polo teams. He wrote two highly successful books ‘Polo Vision’ and ‘Playmaker Polo’, widely acknowledged to be the best book every written on the sport.

A huge number of military, polo and Irish friends attended a Memorial Service in the RMA Chapel at Sandhurst in September, evidence of the high respect in which Hugh Dawnay was held.
**Major Trevor Wright RAMC**

Trevor Wright, who died recently at the great age of 93, was the highly regarded Regimental Medical Officer of the 11th Hussars (PAO) during a large part of World War II. Trevor was born in Belfast as the youngest of eleven children, and attributed his long life to his mother giving him breakfast of a raw egg in milk. A keen sportsman, he studied medicine and qualified at Queen’s University Belfast.

His favourite elder brother was murdered whilst a missionary in the Amazon Basin, but in spite of his efforts Trevor was forbidden to join the search party, which preyed on his memory for many years.

Trevor enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1941. He then travelled to the Middle East in the Warwick Castle after it had been extensively damaged by a naval ship in the Atlantic, requiring a diversion to Nova Scotia for repairs. The desert campaign in North Africa was being bitterly fought to defend the Suez Canal against the combined Italian and German armies. After rapid promotion to Major in 1941 he was appointed Regimental Medical Officer of the 11th Hussars whose armoured cars were the reconnaissance Regiment in the famous Desert Rat 7th Armoured Division of the Eighth Army.

In charge of the medical care of this fine Regiment, Trevor soon achieved a reputation for his bravery under fire and his diligence at rescuing the wounded armoured car crews, many of whom owed their lives to his skill. Often he drove through minefields to pull crews from their burning vehicles.

After the battle of El Alamein, Trevor accompanied the Regiment who led the advance through the subsequent battles of North Africa, ending with the victory in Tunis. There he was honoured to be presented to HM King George VI, the Colonel-in-Chief of the 11th Hussars during The King’s visit to the Regiment.

Trevor was recommended by the Regiment for the award of the Military Cross, but sadly this was not achieved, though he was twice Mentioned in Despatches. His standards never slipped and he made sure to shave every day with his minuscule ration of water. His nickname of “Corks” probably came from when under attack he would exclaim “Oh Corks” as his mother had forbidden swearing, and not from his subsequent liking of fine wine, sadly lacking in the desert.

He continued for a short time as RMO in the subsequent campaign in Italy, but was eventually posted back to England. His journey home was no less eventful in the nose cone of a Lancaster bomber, whose engine caught fire, giving him a life-long aversion to flying.

Returning to Belfast after the War he tried for a medical appointment locally, with no success, but he managed to find a paediatric training post in Sheffield. Subsequently he was appointed at the young age of 32 as a consultant in Lincoln, where he lived with his wife Margaret and children. Sadly his daughter Maureen died aged 19. His medical career continued to prosper, and he achieved a great reputation for innovative care, especially for children in Sheffield.

He married his second wife Rosalind in 1975, and went with her when he was aged 86 to revisit the battlefields of El Alamein, where he laid a wreath for his fallen comrades of the 11th Hussars. Trevor marched every year in the Cavalry Memorial Parade, determined not to let his age get in the way of keeping up with his young family and current world affairs. He maintained a great pride in his appearance and was always smartly dressed in immaculate taste.

His sense of humour and loyalty to the Regiment was legendary, and his company was always welcomed by those younger than him, especially being entertained by his fund of stories and positive outlook on life. His Memorial Service reflected his deep regard for the 11th Hussars, with a Desert Rat on the cover sheet and a trumpeter sounding the Last Post.

Trevor Wright was indeed a very fine gentleman with a zest for life, who was a shining example to us all.

**Reverend R L Hancock RACChD**

Rex Hancock was 14/20H Regimental padre when the Regiment was the RAC Centre Regiment in the mid 1970s. I knew him first when he was padre to the RAC Training Regiment (QDGs) in the early 1970s; and I saw him occasionally in the Quantocks where he had a living as a parish priest after he retired from the Army in 1982.

Rex was inspired to take Holy Orders by Billy Graham’s London Crusade of 1954. At the time he was a RARO officer with the Royal Artillery which he had joined with an Emergency Commission in 1948. He was accepted as an Army chaplain in 1963, after his ordination.

Seeing himself as firmly under command of God did not always endear Rex to the earthly writ of Bishops and commanding officers. His unshakeable and comfortable relationship with the Almighty gave him the confidence to interpret mortal commands in his own way, to the frustration of authority. As a regimental padre he was not afraid to praise God and pass the ammunition despite knowing that the latter act would have created apostasy in the Chaplains Department.

Vague about military matters, conservative, endearing and with endless tales of horse and hound Rex appeared, superficially, to be an officer’s padre. The observant worshipper might see riding boots under his cassock as Rex hurried from stable to church. Certainly, he was entirely at ease in a cavalry officers’ mess. But he interpreted his main effort as working with soldiers’ families. He did this quietly and effectively making short forays into the officers’ mess to enjoy the crain. An Anglican, Rex was jolly and worldly wise in a way that was much more common with Catholic padres at the time. His faith shone through as deep-seated as did his failure to conform to any passing fads of political correctness.

As an ‘old school’ hunting priest he was much loved in rural north Somerset where he conducted his ministry after leaving the Army. As a bachelor he was in demand for dinner parties and, over the Port, he loved nothing more than reminiscing about the cavalry officers he had known, the sport he had enjoyed in Yorkshire with the Bedale and the Zetland, and his, unauthorised, hunting trips to ‘the Free State’ during the Troubles.
Captain S Bruinvels FRICS
10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1942–44

Stanley Bruinvels served with the 10th Hussars in North Africa. He died on 31 August 2012, aged 90.

He was born in Wimbledon and was training to be a dentist when the war started. He enlisted in the 10th Hussars but details of his service with the Regiment have not survived. At some stage he was wounded and, unfit for further service in tanks, he transferred to the East Surrey Regiment. He was wounded again in Italy and was eventually medically discharged, against his wishes, eighteen months after the war ended.

He then trained to be a chartered surveyor and after a spell as managing partner of Martin Brown in Dorking he set up his own practice – Stanley Bruinvels – also in Dorking. Having been a successful athlete in his youth, he was a long-serving President of Dorking St. Paul’s Athletic Club and a generous benefactor.

Stanley’s wife Ninette, a Wren officer, died after 45 years happy marriage in 2001. They had two sons, one of whom was MP for Dorking.

Captain AJC Evans
Duke of Lancaster’s Own Yeomanry 1960–68
14th/20th King’s Hussars Reserve 1968–78

Anthony Evans will be remembered by an extraordinary number of friends, many from the Regiment. Always immaculate, impeccable polite, and with an unfailing talent to amuse, he was a true gentleman with the very best of traditional values and manners, and a wonderful memory for people that made everyone feel special.

His exploits as a Yeoman and Reservist with the Regiment in Germany are probably best, possibly only, remembered by the Mess Sergeant Major. Capt Evans’ primary function in executing the Cold War was ‘Party Officer’. He also participated in a little Adventurous Training: Martin Davis recounts accompanying him canoeing – an activity that Anthony would probably have described as being distinctly unofficial like. Undaunted, he was observed, paddled in hand, sitting in a two-man canoe, wearing a gentleman’s rain coat and a polo helmet, no doubt looking for a Blashford-Snell to complete his crew and a patch of jungle to explore.

A master with bat and ball, he contributed greatly to Regimental cricket. Had it not been for a total lack of stability on a horse, Anthony would have been an outstanding polo player. He did, however, win the Pimms tasting competition at a Bad Lippspringe tournament.

Not content with finding many people ‘disgruntled’ with life, he formed a determined band of ‘Gruntlers’ who dined in numerous locations, rarely the same twice. I believe that there were two rules for Gruntlers: never shortening a word if at all possible – a ‘geriatric’ becoming a ‘German-with-three-wickets-in-three-balls’. Cognisant of rule 1, thankfully, rule 2 required all speeches to be made concurrently.

If this paints a picture of general ‘bon-viveur’ then it is only part of his extraordinary legacy: Anthony went to work for Cole & Son Wallpapers. He, here achieved ‘By Royal Appointment’ and knocked Aston-Martin from the pedestal at the ‘Best of British’ Awards. When Anthony was sacked by Cole’s American owner, the staff – many of whom had worked at Coles for generations – resigned. When Evans returned to repair the damage done (by said American) they all came back. Evans was amazed by this but, put simply, he was a superb man manager who got the very best from his team and they adored working with him. I strongly suspect that he learnt much of this whilst working with and observing the Regiment, but it took a great talent to apply the lessons to an antiquated wallpaper company without ‘scaring the horses’.

Incapable of remaining entirely serious, when linking the business with a French company, he put together a few useful phrases in both languages to create a technical decorating dictionary. I do not believe that ‘Excuse me, you are standing on my foot’ was ever needed but it, and numerous others, completely escaped the notice of his European partners. Sadly for us all, he was still working on the Gruntlers’ dictionary when he died.

Anthony Evans was a staunch supporter of the Regiment and I do not remember him ever missing a Cavalry Memorial Parade, marching with the Yeomanry and joining us for lunch whenever possible. A remarkable, unique and splendid man, he will be sorely missed by his wife, Valerie, stepson Jeremy and many many more.

Captain M LA Hope
14th/20th King’s Hussars 1962–1975

Mike Hope joined the 14th/20th Hussars from Mons OCS in 1962, when the Regiment had just started a three year tour in Libya as an Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment. He became a Hawk, as did his younger brother Jeremy, because his stepfather, Colonel Brian Tayleur OBE, had a full career with 14/20H, until commanding The Duke of Lancaster’s Own Yeomanry.

As a troop leader in C Squadron, the Airportable Squadron, equipped with Ferret Scout Cars, he quickly showed his talent as a desert soldier. He was never lost, always on the air, and his vehicles suffered few breakdowns. He developed a talent for seeing without being seen, and quickly became acknowledged as a master of his craft.

Mike’s personality was cheerful but not ebullient; he was quietly authoritative, and a competent administrator with a streak of independent thought. But he took the lead in organizing parties, arranging food, guests, music and drink, and won the gratitude of his fellow subalterns in Benghazi, which, in spite of its Polo and the excitement of the desert was socially pretty barren! It was there that he met, courted and married his first wife, Alison, with whom he had two sons.

After some years at Regimental duty he was posted to the regular staff of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, and then as an instructor to the RAC Signals School at Bovingdon.

From here he left the Army, and in 1975 married Valerie. They took over and together ran a pub in Lincoln, the Wig and Mitre. It was an ideal partnership. Mike’s genius for administration and detailed work, combined with Valerie’s flair formed a recipe for success, and by the time of his death last year they owned and ran three pubs and a shop.
Mike was never interested in horses (an attitude which took some moral courage in the Regiment when he joined!) but became a great enthusiast for Rugby, indeed he was a shareholder in Leicester Tigers. He also swam a great deal and took an interest in classical music and the ballet. He was also keenly interested in politics.

Mike and Valerie had a holiday house in France and this allowed him to develop a sophisticated palate for wine, in particular claret. Indeed, part of his business included importing wines to UK, particularly from Bordeaux.

He died suddenly and unexpectedly from cancer in January 2012. This loyal, competent and independent-minded man is much missed by those of us who knew him, and by his family.

JRS

Captain D A Townsend

10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1948–1969
The Royal Hussars (PWO) 1969–1975

Denis Townsend was born on 7 September 1928 in Ghora Dhaka, India where his father was a SSM serving with the 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards.

Denis was called up for National Service at the age of 18 and joined B Squadron the 10th Royal Hussars and converted to a regular soldier shortly after joining the regiment in May 1949. He was a slender wiry man with enormous energy and a great sense of humour. Within 3 years of his arrival in the regiment he was promoted to the rank of sergeant which in those days was very rapid promotion.

Denis was a sabre troop sergeant in B Squadron who were employed as the Demonstration Squadron at the School of Infantry. Denis met his future wife, Audrey at a dance in Warminster in 1954. Whilst they were courting he borrowed a friend’s motor bike to visit Audrey at her home despite the fact he could not ride a motor cycle. He ended up in a hedge with the front of the bike and the handle bars all twisted.

Fortunately, his future father in law, the blacksmith at Maiden Bradley was able to repair the damage. The romance with Audrey blossomed and they were married on 5 March 1955.

In 1954 Denis became Recce Troop Sergeant in HQ Squadron. He remained with the Troop throughout the regiment’s tour in Jordan 1956-57. The Troop spent a great deal of time exploring the desert and Denis would return to Aqaba extolling the virtues of the sun compass! The luxury of satellite navigation was not available in those days.

On the regiment’s return to England Denis rejoined B Squadron as a Troop Sergeant. In 1959 he was posted to the RAC Gunnery School at Lulworth as an instructor. In 1962 he returned to regimental duty in Paderborn as SQMS B Squadron. Promotion to WOII came in November 1963 and he joined C Squadron as SSM with whom he remained for 5 years. He was a superb SSM and worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Squadron. If asked, I am sure Denis would admit that it was the job he enjoyed most throughout his military career and from which he derived the most satisfaction.

During the latter part of 1968 he was promoted to WOI and appointed RQMS, but within weeks he was posted as Assistant Range Officer to the Gunnery School at Lulworth.

Denis was commissioned on 26 September 1970 and appointed Range Officer at the RAC Ranges, Castlemartin. Here he rapidly established a reputation for his efficiency and helpfulness. He was highly regarded by all his staff and the units which came to train at Castlemartin.

In December 1973 he returned to the regiment as MTO for 18 months before retiring from the Army in 1975 after 27 years service. On leaving he joined the Army Careers Service as a RO, which he did for nearly 14 years.

In retirement at their home in Frome Denis now had time to pursue some of his favourite hobbies. A talented gardener growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. He had a passion for cooking where he enjoyed trying out new and challenging recipes. He and Audrey were accomplished ballroom dancers which they were able to do on their many cruising holidays.

Sadly, Denis did not enjoy good health in his final years, but he remained cheerful and courageous to the end. He is survived by his widow Audrey.

PDBM

Captain P M Walker

10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1944–45

Peter Walker, who died aged 88 in September 2012, was a troop leader for the last year of the Second World War in Italy.

He was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford and he attended the RAC OCTU at Sandhurst before being commissioned in to the Wiltshire Yeomanry. Posted to Italy, he joined the 10th Hussars in September 1944. As a troop leader in C Squadron Peter Walker took part in heavy fighting around Faenza in November and December. His troop sergeant, Barney Ross, now 98 years old, was awarded the Military Medal for his actions on Boxing Day 1944 and he subsequently recalled that Peter Walker ‘was the best troop officer we ever had – we all loved him! Whoever wrote ‘officer and gentleman’ must have had Peter in mind’.

Early months of 1945 were spent in an infantry role and in March, re-united with their tanks, the 10th Hussars prepared for the final offensive to the River Po. Peter was wounded, probably a result of ‘friendly fire’, and spent his 21st birthday in hospital.

After the War he returned to Oxford to complete his degree during which time he met his wife, Margaret, to whom he was married for more than 62 years. Peter’s subsequent career inICI and with the Engineering Employers’ Federation continued after formal retirement with a great deal of charitable work in Somerset and Bristol, in particular for the Samaritans, the Church and as a prison visitor and school governor.

He remained in contact with his old regiment and he returned to Italy in May 2002 on Exercise Shiny Hawk, together with wartime comrades Dan Awdry, Stephen Elliott and Dougie Covill.

Peter was a gifted musician and chorister, a keen gardener and a devoted family man with a great sense of humour. He had 10 grandchildren, one of whom – George Walker – is currently serving with The King’s Royal Hussars.

FWF (based on a tribute given by Patrick Walker at the service of thanksgiving on 26 October 2012)
Lest We Forget

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

Mr H Hollier
10H (1928–1935) RAC (1940–1945)........................................Not Known
Mr M W Pelling
11H (1946–1948)........................................................................2011
Mr A Letts
14/20H (1958–1980)....................................................................2011
Maj A Dutton MBE
Mrs J Hendy Wife of W M Hendy MM
10H (1949–1950)...........................................................................05 Oct 11
Mr A Aldred
11H (1946–1948)...........................................................................05 Aug 11
Mr D G Critten
11H (1948–1950)...........................................................................02 Sep 11
Mr B J Birmingham
Sgt G E Dear
L/Cpl R P Higgs
14/20H (1946–1948).................................................................01 Nov 11
Mr A E Milner
11H (1945–1947).........................................................................28 Dec 11
Sgt J W Carr
Mr E D Dornern
C S Gladstone Esq
10th Royal Hussars (PWO) 1951–1952..........................................04 Jan 12
Mr R Simmons
14/20H (1966–1979)....................................................................22 Jan 12
Mr B S Crossland
14/20H (1962–1992)....................................................................24 Jan 12
Capt M L A Hope
14/20H (1961–1971)....................................................................27 Jan 12
Mr A Fogg
14/20H (1984–1988)....................................................................31 Jan 12
WOI M J Goodby
Mrs C Clements Wife of Mr I Clements
10H (1959–1968)..........................................................................06 Feb 12
Mr K L Kearton
14/20H (1976–1992)....................................................................08 Feb 12
Cpl B Blocke
14/20H (1954–1982)....................................................................14 Feb 12
Maj T Wright
RAMC (RMO) 11H (1941–1943)..................................................18 Feb 12
WOI T E Baker
14/20H (1946–1969)....................................................................21 Feb 12
Mr T B Jackson
Lt Col G J P Kerswell
10H (1943–1945)...........................................................................01 Mar 12
Mrs L Knight Wife of Maj T H Knight
Rev J Fearn
RACD Padre to 11H.................................................................17 Mar 12
Sgt K J Taylor
14/20H (1940–1946).................................................................19 Mar 12
Mr P Coleman
14/20H.................................................................02 Apr 12
Mrs J Harriss Wife of A E Harriss
10H (1954–1956)...........................................................................06 Apr 12
G L Nation-Tellery Esq
11th Hussars (PAO) 1944–1945..................................................07 Apr 12
Mr J R Allford
11H (1953–1955)...........................................................................07 Apr 12
Mr H Taylor
11H (1948–1950)...........................................................................16 Apr 12
Mr M Beagley
11H (1965–1969)...........................................................................17 Apr 12

Mr R G Attenburrow MM
10H (1946–1956)...........................................................................18 Apr 12
Maj T C R Armstrong–Wilson
14/20H (1946–1955)....................................................................19 Apr 12
Mr R B Hall
11H (1937–1964)...........................................................................24 Apr 12
Mrs A J Nicholson
11H (1943–1947)...........................................................................24 Apr 12
Mr J P Parkin
11H (1947–1949)...........................................................................30 Apr 12
WOI V J (John) Rees–Oliviere
Capt A J C Evans
DLOV (1960–1968).....................................................................20 May 12
Cpl A K Roadnight
14/20H (1948–1968)....................................................................20 May 12
Mr G Liddle
11H (?–1969) 15/19H (1969–?)......................................................22 May 12
Mr D Forman
14/20H (1960–1972)....................................................................26 May 12
Maj H Dawnay
S Sgt E (Ted) Woolford
14/20H (1961–1988).................................................................14 Jun 12
S Sgt J F Atkin
14/20H (1966–1989)....................................................................22 Jun 12
L/Cpl R J Treloar
Captian R S R de W Warren
Mr R A Halsted
11H (1946–1952)..........................................................................07 Jul 12
Lt Col R B Merton
Cpl A Booth
KRH (2000–2012) ........................................................................29 Jul 12
Lt Col Rev W L Glazebrook
11H Unit Paymaster (1965–1968).............................................31 Jul 12
Capt S Bruninels
10H (1942–1944).........................................................................31 Aug 12
Mr A West
10H (1958)....................................................................................Aug 12
Mr C D Hodge
SSgt G Jackson
14/20H (1950–1972).................................................................12 Sep 12
Capt P M Walker
10H (1944–1945).........................................................................17 Sep 12
Rev R L Hancock RACD
Mr W Whittle
Mrs G Burham Wife of the late R G Burham Esq
14/20H (1942–1946)....................................................................02 Dec 12
Lady H Harding Wife of Maj The Lord Harding
11H (1947–1968)...........................................................................04 Dec 12
Capt D A Townsend
Mrs M Mills Wife of the late WOI J A E Mills
Mr D G Austin
10H (1962–1966)..........................................................................02 Jan 13
Mr S R Edge
14/20H (1989–1992)....................................................................03 Jan 13
Mr R B Naylor
14/20H (1975–1987)....................................................................10 Jan 13
WOI A Russell
The King’s Royal Hussars
1st August 2012

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

Senior Colonel
His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent GCVO

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
Adjudant
Capt Warwick
Operations Officer
Capt Hicks
Career Management Officer
Capt Witham
Regimental Sergeant Major
WO1 Taylor
Assistant Career Management Officer
SSgt Dix

C Squadron
Maj Michael
WO2 Lowe
Capt Tyson
Lt Stephens
Tpr Williamson
Sgt Lancaster
Lt Wilson
Tpr Dunkerley-Edwards
LCpl Bardell
LCpl Linnane
Tpr Seaborne
Tpr Jones
Pte Kannike AGC
SSgt Budd
LCpl Day
Cpl McGlone
Capt Wythe
Lt Astley-Birtwistle
Sgt Pollard
Tpr Lemott
Tpr Shaw
Cpl Laureau
Tpr Harris
Tpr Lewis
Tpr Tyers
Tpr Bennett
Tpr Matthews
Tpr Meads
Tpr Duffy
LCpl Gray
LCpl Smith
Tpr Bradshaw
Tpr Pearson
Tpr Unsworth
Tpr Gurung
LCpl Sproson RWxY
Tpr Ford Parker
Tpr Hulbert
Cpl Baldwin
LCpl West
Tpr Sumner
Tpr Taylor
Tpr Hague
Tpr Brown
LCpl Simler
Lt Gillespie
Sgt Baines
LCpl Belt
Tpr Slocombe
Cpl Gainford
LCpl Forbes
Tpr Lomax
Tpr Gould
Tpr Bradford
Tpr Gun RWxY
Tpr Hobbs RWxY
Tpr Regan
Tpr Parkinson
Cpl Webb
LCpl Evers
Tpr Davies RWxY
Tpr Hardacre
Tpr Woodfield RWxY
Tpr Whitehead
Tpr Halshaw
Tpr Stancombe
Cpl Taylor
LCpl Kempton
Tpr Potter
LCpl Lees
Cpl Rymer
Tpr Clegg LD
Tpr Clayton LD
Tpr Orchard
2lt Fleming
LCpl Wood
Tpr Morgan
Cpl Daniels
LCpl Blay
Lt Williamson
Tpr Evans
Tpr Brown
Tpr Price
Tpr Simon
Tpr Washbrooke
Tpr Norris

A Squadron
Maj C Smith
WO2 Shearman
Capt Scott
Cpl Rymer
LCpl Arnfield
LCpl Johnston
Tpr Edwards
Tpr Lawrence 758
SSgt Sercombe
Sgt O’Mara
Tpr Mason
Sgt Holland
Tpr Walker RWxY
Sgt Duxbury
Sgt Wilkinson
B Squadron

Maj    Badcock QRL
WO2   Barrow
Lt    Cowell
Sgt   Hay
Lt    Sherbrooke
LCpl  Bulbeck
Tpr   Lillywhite
Cpl   Bahooshy
LCpl  White
Tpr   Wilson
LCpl  Bartley REME
LCpl  Dalton
SSgt  Warren
LCpl  Dixon
Sgt   Smith
Lt    Lambert
Sgt   Bain
Cpl   Irwin
Cpl   Holden
LCpl  Constant
Tpr   Frodsham
Tpr   Hughes 238
Tpr   Leech
Tpr   Wright 176
Tpr   McCormick
Tpr   Davies
Tpr   Neary
Cpl   Cock
LCpl  Murphy
Tpr   Ward
Tpr   Rawlings
Tpr   Preston
Tpr   Winchester
Tpr   Ord
Tpr   Cree
Tpr   Henzell
LCpl  Smith
LCpl  Williams
Tpr   Halford
Tpr   Walker REME
Tpr   Owen
Tpr   Bradley
Lt    Wicks
Tpr   Bradford
Lt    Westlake-Toms
Sgt   Young
Tpr   Smith
Cpl   Mossop
LCpl  Leach
Tpr   Baldwin
Tpr   Britton
Tpr   Dawson
Tpr   Hagley
Tpr   Kirby
Tpr   Park
Cpl   Duckworth
LCpl  Trotman
Tpr   Taylor
Tpr   Wilding
Tpr   Gallagher
Tpr   Lesley
Tpr   Padec
Tpr   Polius
Tpr   Rider
Cpl   Everiss
LCpl  Hatton
Tpr   Reeve
Tpr   Shaw
Tpr   Thorley LD
Tpr   Pluckwell
Tpr   Wheeler
Tpr   Nicholson
Tpr   Topliss
Tpr   Brown
Tpr   Walsh
Tpr   Reader
Tpr   Howes
LCpl  Bamber
Capt  Bird
LCpl  Mcdonald
Tpr   Stoddart
Tpr   Burns
Tpr   Morris
LCpl  Geelan
Tpr   Brown RWxY

D Squadron

Maj    J Smith
Capt  Bush
Capt  Kennedy
WO2   Clough
Cpl   Shadbolt
Tpr   Web
Sgt   Collier
Cpl   Harris
Tpr   Barford
Tpr   Kershaw LD
Tpr   Matthews
LCpl  Cooper
Tpr   Payne
2lt   Mawby
Cpl   Whittingham
LCpl  Tolafiel
Lt    Garbutt
Sgt   Burnie
Tpr   Clarke
Tpr   Eland
Cpl   Sally
LCpl  Kelsey LD
LCpl  Mellis
LCpl  Pilling
Cpl   Smiles
Tpr   Marsden LD
Sgt   Kennedy
Cpl   Plant
LCpl  Bradbury
Cpl   Morley
Tpr   Calvert
Cpl   Cook
Tpr   Smith
LCpl  Davenport
Tpr   Aldridge
Cpl   Barton
LCpl  Hayes
Cpl   Sullivan
Tpr   Tolafiel
Cpl   Feene
Tpr   Roberts
LCpl  Smith
Cpl   Leach
Tpr   Kemp
Tpr   Rushworth
Tpr   Grimshaw
Tpr   Owen-Bell
LCpl  Hopes
Tpr   Stott
Tpr   Lowrie
Lt    Matthews
Sgt   Bradley
Tpr   Edmondson
Tpr   Mitchell
Cpl   Lee
LCpl  Peremans
Tpr   Mason
Tpr   Winstanly
Tpr   Gemmell
Tpr   Lawrence 747
LCpl  Cherrett
LCpl  Beard 695
Tpr   Narraway
Tpr   Jamieson
Tpr   Dynes
Cpl   Harrison
LCpl  Baron
Cpl   Friege
Tpr   Slade
LCpl  Newsham
LCpl  Howarth
Cpl   Gillon
Tpr   Twentyman
Cpl   Williamson
Tpr   Williams LD
LCpl  Campbell
LCpl  Vernon
LCpl  Field
Tpr   Airey
Tpr   Lashley
LCpl  Beard 443
Tpr   Bramah
Tpr   Sparnenn
SSgt  Silvey
Cpl   Shores
SSgt  O'Donnell
SSgt  Jones REME
Cpl   Mcluskey REME
Cfn   Wilson REME
2lt   Highton
Cfn   Forrest REME
Cfn   Knight REME
LCpl  Berry REME
Cfn   Saffen REME
Cfn   Stringer REME
Sgt   Fifth REME
Cpl   Lawton REME
Cfn   Davies REME
Cfn   Woodhouse REME
Cpl   Rodgers REME
LCpl  Preston REME
LCpl  Parkers-Grater REME

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HQ Squadron

Maj  Kvesic
WO2  Bretherton
Sgt  Houston RWxY
Tpr  South
Sgt  Pople
LCpl  Fawcett
Tpr  Pawluk
LCpl  Payne
LCpl  Judge
LCpl  Cook
Tpr  Campbell
Tpr  Clements
SSgt  Briscoe
Lt  Walker
Capt  Meyer RWxY
Capt  Snell MERCIAN
Lt  Von Barloewen RY
WO2  Ruddick
2lt  Riding INT CORPS
Maj  Ward LD
Capt  Gibbs
SSgt  Ashton
WO2  Potter RWxY
Cpl  Hope

Sgt  Knight RWxY
LCpl  Callon
Tpr  Sheridan
Capt  Beattie
Cpl  Westwell
Tpr  Denton
Tpr  Mclaughlin
SSgt  Underwood
Cpl  Murphy
Tpr  Carey
LCpl  Parker
Tpr  Barnett
Cpl  Saunders
Lt  Moore AGC (ETS)
Capt  King
SSgt  Preston
Sgt  Malone
LCpl  Holmes
Sgt  Doyle AGC
Pte  Brown AGC
Capt  Lines REME
WO1  Bowring REME
Cfn  O'Shea RAMC
Cpl  Saunders

LCpl  Terry REME
Cpl  Swan REME
LCpl  McGiven REME
LCpl  Barton
Capt  Sloan
WO2  Dunn
Cpl  Buckley
Sgt  Bensley
Cpl  Hocking
Cpl  Marshall
Cpl  Bennett
Cpl  Kendall
Cpl  Shepherd
LCpl  Wilton
Sgt  Jolliffe
Sgt  Daisley
Capt  Harvey AGC
SSgt  Harney AGC
Cpl  Neale AGC
Pte  Appiah AGC
Pte  Petrie AGC
SSgt  Olive REME

Rear Operations Group

Maj  Hope-Hawkins
Capt  Barclay
Capt  Lester
WO2  Baird
Cpl  Mulcahy
Cpl  Law
LCpl  Ford
Cpl  MacDougal
SSgt  Addison
Cpl  Campbell
Cpl  Warren
LCpl  Massey
Tpr  Jones
Tpr  Holland
Tpr  Tvrane
Tpr  Parker
Tpr  Radcliffe
Sgt  Boyd REME
SSgt  Tomlinson REME
LCpl  Stocks
Cpl  Nugent
Cpl  Harpley REME
Sgt  Grief
Sgt  Davis-Bawn
Cpl  O'Donnell
Sgt  Gillam
LCpl  Parr
Capt  Price
WO2  Sinclair

Cpl  Kirkbride
LCpl  Hough
Tpr  Davies
Tpr  Thomas
Tpr  Steele
Pte  Mcintosh AGC
Capt  Rutter AGC
WO2  Wild AGC
Sgt  Fleming AGC
Cpl  Jones AGC
Cpl  Patterson AGC
Cpl  Savu AGC
LCpl  Hughes
SSgt  Davies
LCpl  Young
LCpl  Fremont
Cpl  Hector RAMC
SSgt  Nowell
Cpl  Thompson
LCpl  Howarth
Tpr  Hodgson
Sgt  Clayton
LCpl  Illingworth REME
LCpl  Bowman
LCpl  Fallows
Tpr  Lavender
Tpr  Marshall
LCpl  Wales
Tpr  Tyer

Cpl  Smith
Cpl  Hodkinson
Cfn  Garner REME
Tpr  Edwards
Tpr  Bull
Tpr  Topliss
Tpr  Brown
Tpr  Walsh
Tpr  Reader
Tpr  Howes
Sgt  Farling
LCpl  Bamber
Tpr  Stockdale
Tpr  Scotford
Tpr  Andrews
Tpr  Hopkinson
Tpr  Lavender
Tpr  Greenlees
Tpr  Robinson
Tpr  Hodgson
Tpr  Howard
Tpr  Morell
WO2  Ormond
LCpl  Gungor
LCpl  Ward

Gymnasium
SSgt  Ward
## Officers at ERE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen Sir Richard Shirreff, KCB CBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj Gen AJ Bradshaw CB OBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brig JJ Powe OBE</td>
<td>Head of Programme Management and Delivery, Olympic and Paralympic Security Directorate</td>
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<td>Brig MWE Wade CBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col JNN Orr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col NW Hunter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col NGT Polley</td>
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<td>Lt Col NPF Berchem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col STW Bridge MB</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col SJM Graham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col N Grant-Thorold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col HRD Joynson</td>
<td>SO1 Deputy Bde Staff Mentor, SSR Liberia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt Col JNJ Kingsford</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Maj JEM Carey-Hughes</td>
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<td>Maj TG Mallinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj S Penkethman</td>
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<td>Maj HJ Willis</td>
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<tr>
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## Soldiers at ERE

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## Births

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<td>Stacy</td>
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<td>Amy</td>
<td>Isabella Rosaleen</td>
<td>26/10/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tpr</td>
<td>Hume</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>Noah</td>
<td>29/10/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Karen</td>
<td>Oliver Anthony John</td>
<td>01/11/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tpr</td>
<td>Aldridge</td>
<td>Kary</td>
<td>Lucy Theresa</td>
<td>07/11/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>Louise</td>
<td>Jack Daniel</td>
<td>11/12/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tpr</td>
<td>Lavender</td>
<td>Hayley</td>
<td>Jae</td>
<td>21/12/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tpr</td>
<td>Grimshaw</td>
<td>Dominique</td>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>02/12/2012</td>
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### Marriages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Spouse Name</th>
<th>Date Married</th>
<th>Location of Wedding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LCpl</td>
<td>Hough</td>
<td>Emma Louise Moseley</td>
<td>10/03/2012</td>
<td>Wigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt</td>
<td>Pople</td>
<td>Charlotte Smith</td>
<td>21/08/2012</td>
<td>John O’Groats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cfn</td>
<td>Jelliman</td>
<td>Sian Mandy Haigh</td>
<td>01/12/2012</td>
<td>Swindon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl</td>
<td>Shadbolt</td>
<td>Shaun Taylor</td>
<td>14/12/2012</td>
<td>Peterborough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tpr</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>Fern Beaumont</td>
<td>20/12/2012</td>
<td>South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cpl</td>
<td>King</td>
<td>Rhianna Boot</td>
<td>28/12/2012</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LCpl Hough and his wife Emma

Cpl Taylor (nee Shadbolt) and her husband Shaun
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
Allwah Barracks, TIDWORTH, Wiltshire SP9 7EB
Phone: +44(0)1980 604839 • Web: www.krh.org.uk • E-mail: info@krh.org.uk

The KRH Regimental Trust is a registered charity—Charities Commission No 1021455