EDITORIAL

This is the final Cheshire Regiment Association Newsletter, at least in hard copy. I am very grateful to those who took the time to contact me in order to thank me for my small contribution to the life of the CRA. I am also grateful to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter, particularly the regular contributors, namely the inimitable John Fairbanks, the late Arthur Clarke, Alan Jennings, Peter Gresty, Roy Banwell, Ron Goodwin and Bill Helliwell. I must mention Alan Jennings again because it was he who began this newsletter all those years ago and then edited it over 56 issues - a remarkable achievement. Perhaps most of all I owe a debt of gratitude to Ian Griffiths of Alvis Printers, who does such a fantastic job of transforming my amateurish efforts into the professional newsletter that drops through your letterbox. I was very pleased to see him receive an award for his services at the East Cheshire Reunion.

There are so many others whom we should all thank - Major Eddie Pickering who has done so much leg-work behind the scenes and of course his band of helpers who fill envelopes and post out the finished newsletter with all the other loose pieces of information.

I am sorry for the plethora of minutes that appear in this newsletter. There have been a number of meetings since the last newsletter and I thought it important that everyone should be kept abreast of developments. On the subject of the newsletter content, may I commend Geoff Crump’s article on Page 14. Those of you who take an interest in the exploits of the 1st Battalion at Mons may be interested in the remarkable story of John Moore and his “Return from the Dead.”

As I said at the beginning of this editorial, this is the last newsletter in “hard copy.” However, I have agreed to carry on by producing an “on line” version, which will appear on the Cheshire Military Museum Website. It may also appear on the CRA Facebook Page. Whether this newsletter continues is down to you, dear reader. If it is to keep going, then the newsletter needs much more in the way of news, articles, anecdotes and pictures. If I don’t receive sufficient copy, then I will put down my pen and go back to hacking my way around the golf courses of Kent and south-east England.

Finally I would like to emphasise the fact that despite recent changes the CRA is still a living and breathing organisation, consisting of so many who work tirelessly behind the scenes, usually for no reward, in order to keep it alive. It is these unsung heroes who embody the spirit of this ever glorious regiment, and let us hope that they continue to do so for many more years to come.

George Szwejkowski

The deadline for the first on-line issue of the newsletter will be 10th March 2017. Please send me your articles, preferably by e-mail to: george.szwejkowski@btconnect.com, or by post to 86 Edward Road, London, SE20 7JS. My telephone number is: 07721 660471. I would hope to have the newsletter onto the website of the Cheshire Military Museum by the end of March 2017. The website is: www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk

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A shorter than normal column, mainly because the subjects that need to be covered are found in more detail within the body of the Newsletter. This, then, on policy: The EGM came and went. The proposition was carried unanimously, which relieved the current serving members of CRAMAC of the responsibility for any possible future financial obligation.

In the greater scheme of things this means that, historically having moved on from Regimental Council days, through governance by the rules and regulations of the Charity Commission, the next CRA committee (forming in February 2017) will have to plough its own furrow. There is now no guaranteed income and our legacy money has ceased.

Whilst the formation of this committee and indeed the format of a new, amended, constitution is still being debated, one basic fact cannot be ignored. Without capable volunteers with the
necessary skills stepping forward to take on the various appointments, we suffer and thereby in the past. The new committee must provide a link to the Mercian Regiment and as of necessity, to the Mercian Regiment Association. It must also monitor aspects of Branch activities and provide guidance/discipline and communication where able. However, with this ‘looser’ control, the committee cannot be expected to govern or manage as previously.

The strength and longevity of our Association rests, as indeed it always has, with its members. It is reassuring that two branches are now actively seeking membership of the MRA and, accept it or not, this must be the way forward. Our FoE is extensive, will certainly be met throughout the year and hopefully 2017 will see the participation from 12/13 branches and whilst we’ve been well supported by the Mercian Financial Year (31st October) and alerted members to the likelihood that there will be insufficient funds for the CRA to continue to carry out the charitable objects for another year.

The Chairman reported on the recent Mercian Regiment Association meeting:

a. He showed the prototype MRA Standard and sought views on its adoption by CRA branches. It was agreed after discussion that this was a matter to be left to individual branches, particularly in light of the costs. He emphasised that nobody is compelling the antecedent Regimental Associations to re-brand as MRA.

b. A copy of the draft rules of the MRA was circulated.

4. WO1 (RSM) Jason Rollins spoke and highlighted his commitment to forging links with all the antecedent regional associations and as a result of this and the limited numbers of members of those associations to attend a Curry Night in the WOs and Sgt’s Mess on Friday 22nd April. He asked whether the CRA could consider hosting a similar pan-Mercian event at some time.

5. Mr Murphy reported on the Spring Reunion held on 19th March. It appears to have been considered a success by those attending and many members have asked that it be repeated next Spring.

6. The Forecast of Events was discussed, Mr Sykes asked that the date of Stockport’s St Julien commemoration (31st July) and Mr Clark asked that the Ypres Pilgrimage (9th – 13th November) be included. The Secretary reported that the Somersham Service on 26th June at Chester Cathedral has now been cancelled in light of the proximity of the national service in Manchester on 1st July. He then spoke about the Cathedral’s plan for a service on the afternoon of 11th September to mark the anniversaries of a number of Great War battles. Following discussion, it was agreed to align the CRA Mons Day service with this event. More details will be published following a planning meeting at the end of April.

7. The Chairman reminded everyone about the importance of the CRM’s Family Day and asked everyone to consider how best the CRA can be structured in the future, if the vote for dissolution is carried.

A NOTE FROM THE PRINTER

As this is the last edition of the Newsletter to be printed I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Cheshire Regiment Association the very best for the future.

I know only a handful of you personally but there are many more with whom I have worked and enjoyed your contributions and stories over the last 20 years – the first edition we printed was Volume 1, Issue 12 in December 1997.

It has been a honour and a privilege to be involved in the production of this, your regimental-family publication. Many a time I have been engrossed in the stories of the past, inspired to read a book reviewed in these pages, or left smiling to myself at John Fairbanks’ tales of mischief and mayhem. And I thought soldiering was a serious business!

I am grateful too for the relationships forged with George Szwejkowski, Eddie Pickering and Lawrence Dunning; but most especially for the friendship built and enjoyed with Alan Donaldson, Alistair Waring and Ian Griffiths.

I am grateful to all those who have supported my work and have given me encouragement in the production of this Newsletter.

In any judgement I made, sometimes I have been biased, and I will not claim to be infallible. I welcome any constructive criticism, suggestions for improvement and ideas for what we can do in the future.

I remain grateful to all who support me in this work and I look forward to hearing from you all again in the future.

Ian Griffiths, Alvis Printing Services
MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CHESIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE RENTIN CLUB, THE CASTLE CHESTER ON SATURDAY 18TH JUNE AT 1100HRS

The Chairman of the Cheshire Regiment Association, Lt Col D M Oak MBE opened the meeting and thanked members for their attendance.

There were 33 members present. Apologies were received from a further 10 members.

The Chairman outlined the necessity for the meeting to be held and presented the proposition:

"It is the considered opinion of the Cheshire Regiment Association Management Committee (CRAMC) that the charity which has provided governance of the Cheshire Regiment Association (CRA) be dissolved with effect from 31 October 2016"

He asked members to vote to "Agree" or "Disagree." The unanimous vote was "Agree."

The Chairman thanked those present and before closing the meeting, on behalf of the Association, he thanked former Chairman of the late Major Bill Jones, Major Ron Goodwin and Peter Gresty, Secretaries Alan Hughes and Eddie Pickering and those who have been members of CRAMC through the years for their work on behalf of the Regimental Association.

The meeting closed at 1115hrs.

The chairman invited comments, points and questions from those attending.

Maj Salisbury pointed out that the future CRA would need some kind of coordination for the future.

There were a number of queries about the Mercian Regiment Association (MRA). The chairman said that the MRA would be "live" from 7th October 2016.

Lt Col Angel asked if there would be some kind of governing body.

The meeting was held and presented the proposition:

- Lt Col Angel asked if there would be some kind of governing body to replace CRAMC. The chairman responded that this was under discussion and suggested that the way forward might be a committee comprising a Chairman and representatives from every branch.
- Who will organise Mon’s Day etc?
- What about communication with the MRA – (The Assistant Regimental Secretary (Chester) would be the point of contact.)

- How would branches be able to benefit from charitable status?
- Will there be a new committee?
- Will there be any further discussion?
- Pickering underwrote to find an answer.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and explained that as most subjects for discussion concerned both groups and so it was better to join together.

2. The minutes of the Branch Officials meeting held on 9th April were reviewed, there were no matters arising, John Finlay seconded.

3. The proposal that they be accepted as a true record. Carried.

4. The minutes of the CRAMC meeting held on 18th June were reviewed, there were no matters arising, Alan Kennedy commented and Terry Finlay seconded the proposal that they be accepted as a true record.

5. The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Mercian Regiment Association held on 6th October. The main points being:
   a. The MRA is now "live" as at 7th October. The proposed £5 subscription has been reduced to zero, however, the Committee have the ability to introduce a subscription in the future, should the necessity arise.
   b. Branches of antecedent Regiments are encouraged to join the MRA and to adopt the name (for example) "The Chester CRA Branch of the Mercian Regiment Association." New branches would have to apply to the current MRA to become in their title.
   c. The MRA committee will comprise: Chairman appointed by Colonel of the Regiment, RSMs of the Battalions, Chairman of each of the antecedent Regimental Associations and the Secretary being the Regimental Adjutant.
   d. MVRA will not join, but be affiliated.
   e. It will not be necessary for branches to obtain new MRA Standards, antecedent Regimental Standards may continue in use.
   f. Future events: 22nd April 2017 – MVRA will exercise the forthcoming Ypres pilgrimage.

6. The Chairman spoke about the General Martin and Patterson Presidents awards and asked that nominations be submitted to the Secretary as soon as possible.

7. News from the Branches. Dave Beech reported that Charles Sullivan of Sandbach Branch has been presented with the Legion d’Honneur. David Clark gave an update on the forthcoming Ypres pilgrimage.

8. The Forecast of events was confirmed:
   - Sat 29 October East Cheshire Reunion, Stockport
   - Sun 13 November Remembrance Sunday
   - Sun 4 December Droppin’ Well Memorial Service Ballykelly

9. The Chairman stated that the current CRAMC members would continue to act until the AGM although they would have no Trustee responsibilities after 31st October. He asked members to give serious thought to the composition of the new committee thereafter, he suggested that it comprise a Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer and 1 member (delegate) from each Branch.

10. Other business:
   a. George Szwejkowski asked about continuity of the Regimental plot at the Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance - the Chairman agreed to look into the matter and find a solution.
   b. Keith Mort reminded all present about the East Cheshire Reunion and that tickets were still available.
   c. Alan Kennedy spoke about the continuity of the East Cheshire Reunion and that Stockport Branch, in tandem with the MVRA Branch would take responsibility.

11. There being no further business, the meeting closed.
I was pleased to see Philip Smith again who for many years was, whilst with SAS Daniels, secretary to the Trust of the Armoy &. General Keith Skempton was in excellent form.

We had, as is the tradition, Bollington Brass Band in attendance playing old and familiar pieces. Members were called forward to the “Cookhouse” call resounding around the Drill Hall. Peter Gesty the MC announced the start of the formal procedures with the command “March on the Standard.” A shrill voice from the back of the hall echoed “Sir” and Derek Sykes in his usual easy manner walked from the Side Room. The B&B blew “Sunset” and the Regimental Flag was lowered by Roy Porter. General Skempton laid a wreath and turned a page of the Remembrance Book in respect of soldiers killed in WW1. Percy Cooke turned another page for those killed in WW2 and Li Col Ian also sat at table 2, enhancing the company still further.

The Drill Hall was set out, as usual, to a very high standard by the Stockport lads, and when I counted the tables there were thought, excellent, we have 150 for supper. Lawrence had met his target. The caterers were busying themselves laying out the cutlery; with a smile I might add. There was an air of confidence throughout.

Major General Keith Skempton CBE, DL who will Preside this evening was smiling, talking and appeared to be on top form.

I was grateful to be able to meet again so many friends who were now arriving at SK1 in a steady stream from North and South, East and West. The Malay lads from Walsall, friends from Macclesfield, Nantwich, Sandbach, Stoke on Trent, Kirkham, et al. Three of the main people, Peter Gesty, Eddie Pickering and Lawrence Dunning – who had organised this reunion from his home in Dorset – were there and also of good humour. It is always a pleasure to see Brigadier James Percival, Ron Goodwin, Andrew Swindale and Mike Huntress – who are the best in the Cheshire Regiment. We had a few words with Mr Percy Cooke when George and John were present and commented on our three wordsmiths being the best in the Cheshire Regiment. I was grateful to be able to meet again so many friends who had attended our reunions of the past, but it has become a main reunion of the whole battalion and a chance to remember and recollect daring deeds in the past.

I find this part of the ceremony the most poignant and I felt immense confidence throughout. Major General Keith Skempton CBE, DL performed the duties of Presiding Officer, a serving Lt Colonel from Aldershot, concluded the proceedings. After our special mess we found that we were not the first people there. We had again been beaten by Slim Hayden and his guests. We had another splendid job in printing some 60 editions of our Newsletter.

Mr Ian Griffiths receiving his President’s Award in recognition of his work on the newsletter.

On arriving at the Armoury, we found that we were not the first people there. We had again been beaten by Slim Hayden and his guests.

On the 1st of July 1916 the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Battalions all “New Army” Battalions were involved in the initial attack at 07.30 on that fateful day. The 5th battalion was also involved in fierce fighting as a pioneer unit breaching the maze of trenches, out on the northern flank. The 1st Battalion went on to hold Flers and consolidate around Morval the site where “Todger” Jones won his VC in September 1916. He held our interest with more detail of the Regiment’s battles in 1916.

General Keith then followed with an interesting synopsis of his life as a young subaltern with the odd mention of Big Phil Dutton and his then Company Commander, James Percival. Memories were certainly recalled, inter alia, of service in Bahrain, Londonderry, Berlin, Weston, Germany, Hong Kong and when he commanded in Chester. He next updated us as to the state of the two regular Battalions which I found of interest, but not quite as interesting as his related tales of life as a young subaltern.

General Keith continued: “Today the regular battalions are part of the Very High Readiness Contingency Force. I will give my rapid response VITF with a Spanish Brigade comprising 15 other nations to Poland in the summer. They are currently providing a STTT (sounds quite nasty!) which is a training team to a Uganda Battle Group consisting of three battalions. It is good to know that a platoon of 4 MERCIAN is with them, cementing both the reserve integration with main operations, but also the affiliation between the regular and reserve battalions.

They have also sent teams and Peace Support Liaison Officers to Kenya and Afghanistan and provided a platoon to 4 LANCS on the Green Line in Cyprus. Whilst dusting down Counter Terrorism skills for potential UK operations, 2 MERCIAN are planning simultaneous deployments to The Falklands, Iraq and South Sudan during the second half of 2017.

Over the last six months 1 MERCIAN has been the lead for Op ORBITAL, which is the training of Ukrainian Armed Forces in theatre. A Company are currently deployed to the Falklands as part of the 10th Independent Company. B Coy are on the highest readiness as part of the RTR Battle Group which is the Army’s Lead Armour Battle group and B Coy will deploy to Lithuania in November 2016 as part of a NATO exercise to reassure our eastern allies.

General Keith closed with the following appeal: “Despite the closing down of Cheshire Regimental Association accounts, I hope that the spirit within the Regimental family lives on. We need our commemorations and reunions and I hope that the pages will be turned long into the future, as we remember those who have gone before. To this end, whilst we remember our Cheshire heritage, we should be fully supportive of the Mercian endeavours. They have inherited the 22nd DNA and deserve our support.” General Keith sat down to warm applause.

There was however one further duty for our Presiding Officer and that was to present the President’s Award to Ian Griffiths, who prints our newsletter, and has done so since 2001. It was Ian who collected me and returned me safely to number 28 at the conclusion of events. I am sure you will all agree Ian has done a splendid job in printing some 60 editions of our Newsletter.

In the early 1980s I attended a PRA reunion at the Norbreck Hotel in Blackpool. At the reunion’s Saturday banquet the Presiding Officer, a serving Lt Colonel from Aldershot, concluded his address with this statement: “What you started goes on.”

I was talking to an assembly of ex Paras who had trained at Ringways between 1940 and 1946. That sentence has stuck with me. Next day we went to morning service, as one did in those days, in Blackpool itself. The vicar of this church had also attended the previous evening and his sermon was based on that statement, “What you started goes on.” It was a wonderful sermon. So, as you can imagine, I was delighted to hear that this reunion will continue for the next two years based on its present form and then our colleagues from Stockport will ensure that the East Cheshire Reunion will continue, although it may have a different focus. When the 7th Bn Reunion was moved to Stockport following the demolition of Macclesfield Drill Hall, my good friend, the late John Holden and I decided that the reunion will change its title from the 7th Bn Reunion to the East Cheshire Reunion. What you started goes on. I sat for a moment or two in quiet reflection of John and What you started goes on. The East Cheshire Reunion will continue will go on. It will end at the end of a wonderful evening among the best of friends I was content. Thank you Lawrence.

Alan Jennings
MONS REUNION

Mons Day was just a little bit different this year - but perhaps not that different. This year it was the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and the Battle of Jutland and so it was only fitting that this year’s cathedral service should reflect on those two momentous events.

It was under a beautiful clear and sunny that the parade left Chester Castle. The band led a company from 2 Mersey with colours unfurled, followed by a small detail from HMS Albion with the CRA contingent, led by Colonel Dick Peel, taking up the rear. Chester was thronged with Sunday shoppers and it was gratifying that so many took the time to watch, clap and occasionally cheer as the parade wound its way through the cobbled streets to Chester Cathedral. There were not many empty seats in the cathedral as the Cathedral Bell Ringers rang a quarter peal of “Grandsite Caters” to mark the commemoration. The CRA and RBL standards were marched in to the sound of the hymn, “Praise my Soul” and lastly the Regimental and Queen’s Colours of the 2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment were slow marched into the cathedral.

The service seemed well balanced, with just the right measure of religious and military content, although perhaps some may have welcomed a somewhat shorter sermon. The congregation listened intently to recollections from the Somme and the Battle of Jutland. The story of Todger Jones and his comrades at the Somme was poignantly emphasised by the presence of his bullet scarred helmet on the altar. His bravery was matched by Jack Cornwell, as we listened to the story of the 16 year old who, at Jutland continued to man his post on HMS Chester, bleeding from his wounds when all around him were killed or badly wounded. Last Post was sounded, followed by two minutes silence, during which the metropolitan horn would have been heard to fall. Afterwards the Lord Lieutenant, General Keith Skempson CBE DL, Lt Colonel Ben Wilde MBE and other representatives laid wreaths in the South Transept. By coincidence the service was held on the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the USA and the Archdeacon of Chester led prays for the victims of the tragedy.

Afterwards the parade formed up again outside the Cathedral and marched back to Chester Castle, having first passed the saluting dais, the salute being taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire. It was a shame that more members of the CRA did not take part, as it is doubtful whether the CRA will have the privilege of marching through Chester in such circumstances again.

George Szewkowski

CHESTER BRANCH

It has been a quieter summer at Chester. Apart from the annual invasion of hundreds of racegoers, and the mini drama of the CRA Extraordinary General Meeting, nothing much has occurred which would merit inclusion in these seasonal libellations. We have lately stirred ourselves to organise a day out to the Leeds Armouries, and to arrange our Annual Branch Dinner. But apart from this our main interest now lies in working towards a successful Mons Day, followed by Remembrance Day and our planned Christmas festivities. It has, as I said, been very quiet.

Like many others we are concerned for the future in particular the continued existence of the Branch. Due mainly to age and infirmity our numbers continue to fade. We need fresh blood, with new ideas, to keep the Regimental Flag flying. We will keep supporting the Club for as long as we can but we do need help. If we cease to exist this could put the existence of the Club in jeopardy. We do not expect Branches to attend every Friday or Sunday Luncheon but just to drop in on a regular basis and do what they can to join in our organised events. We sincerely hope that it will not be long before we have the great pleasure in meeting new members and friends. In the meantime we send our best wishes to our friends and comrades everywhere and that the future will be kind to them. We would ask you all to cherish your collection of back numbers of this wonderful publication and never forget the years of hard work and dedication of our editors Alan Jennings and George Szewkowski. We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a bright, prosperous, and healthy New Year.

John Fairbanks

ELLESMERE PORT BRANCH

Greetings from Ellesmere Port. Early in June, members, friends and family enjoyed an excellent social evening at Royal Chester Club. Usual features, followed up by a very enjoyable buffet supper. Members were congratulated and thanked for their generous donations of raffle prizes, the proceeds of raffle went a considerable way to defray cost of the evening.

July brought our annual services of commemoration, once again our nearest rural schools invited us for their services. As usual our Branch for help for a Somme Presentation. So our Branch Secretary Vinnie Morris put a presentation together in the form of a video presentation. With help from a fellow member who is a teacher we were able to arrange our Annual Branch Dinner. As it was held in the same month as Remembrance Day, we held a quiet service in the church to commemorate the dead of the Somme.

Latterly, as dates were confirmed, we were asked to provide a Guard of Honour for the Remembrance Sunday service. We were pleased to accompany the localollowered, a Guard of Honour for the Remembrance Sunday service. We were pleased to accompany the local soldier, the President of the British Legion to lay a wreath at Chester Cenotaph. We will continue to provide this service in the future.

Lastly, Season’s greetings to all, from Ellesmere Port.

Gordon Kippis

WORD FROM THE BRANCHES (continued)

BIRKENHEAD & DISTRICT BRANCH

It’s time to extend thanks to all those who attend our Regular Branch meetings for their continued support, remembering that this also includes our Associate Members, who make an invaluable contribution to the activities in every Branch. We were well represented at the 10th July commemoration service in Chester. The service was held on the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the USA and the Archdeacon of Chester led the prayers for the victims of the tragedy.

Afterwards the parade formed up again outside the Cathedral and marched back to Chester Castle, having first passed the saluting dais, the salute being taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire. It was a shame that more members of the CRA did not take part, as it is doubtful whether the CRA will have the privilege of marching through Chester in such circumstances again.

George Szewkowski

CHESTER BRANCH

On Friday 29 April 2016 we held a games night at Halton British Legion against South Wirral Branch, unfortunately Halton Branch came second but a rematch is on the cards for October 2016. On Friday 6 May members with wives and partners attended Chester races, our Branch Secretary Vinnie Morris organised a minibus to and from Runcorn. Seven of us set up a syndicate of £5 a head and we came away with a grand profit of £1,50 cash. In June Halton British Legion asked our Branch for help for a Somme Presentation. So our Branch Secretary Vinnie Morris put a presentation together in the form of a presentation/play about young men and boys who joined the Army to fight in The First World War. Vinnie played the Officer. I played the Recruitment Sergeant and my 14 year old grandson Lucas Dockerty played the part of a young aged boy who applied to join but lied about his age and was recruited.

On 1st July Halton Royal British Legion invited a Member of Parliament, The Mayor of Halton and 100 School Children to The Somme Commemorative Presentation which was a great success and educational for the school children. On Sunday 11 September we attended The Mons Day Parade marching through Chester to Chester Cathedral along side Members of the CRA. On Sunday 25 September members of Halton Branch attended the stone laying of Todger Jones VC DCM by his statue in Greenway Road Runcorn.

HALTON BRANCH

SNIPPETS – GEMS FROM TOMMY COOPER

A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says, “Sorry we don’t serve food in here.”

A jumpleads walks into a bar. The barman says, “I’ll serve you, but don’t start anything.”

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn’t find any.

STAFFERD & DISTRICT BRANCH

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KIRKPRATE & DISTRICT BRANCH

It was Peter Jackson, “volunteered” by Terry Finlay. Mayor of Cheshire. It was a shame that more members of the CRA did not attend, as it is doubtful whether the CRA will have the privilege of marching through Chester in such circumstances again.

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Gordon Kippis

I regret that the photos to accompany these notes arrived too late for inclusion – Ed

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KIRKHAM BRANCH

The Kirkham Branch had its AGM on Tuesday 19th January. The committee were elected as follows:

Noel Brookes - Chairman
Rick Burchett - Secretary
Bill Birckett - Treasurer
Tommy Davies - MTO
John Gibson - Branch Scribe

I went down to Walsall for the Malaya Reunion, where I met up with some of my old comrades – it was great to see them all. I must say that the Walsall Branch worked hard and put a great show on. Well done Walsall and long may it continue. We stayed at the Best Western, Barons Court Hotel in Walsall, our home for the last ten years. My old MT comrades take the place over for the weekend - Paul Hadfield, John Eddowes, Bill Bastin, Eric Thompson and Steve Poole. It was great to see Len but Bryn Jones could not make it because he was ill, so get well soon Bryn. I must also say that it was great to see Alan Jennings at the Walsall Reunion with the Stockport Branch. Alan has helped keep the CRA going over many years.

The Kirkham Branch members are looking forward to Noel and Brenda Brookes' ruby wedding party, which will have taken place before this newsletter is published. Congratulations from all of us. It will then be the East Cheshire Reunion at Stockport in October and following that we are looking forward to the Belgium trip in November. All the best.

John Gibson

Macclesfield Branch

In the last newsletter it is with regret that I report the sad loss of my father, John Wood. Dad died after a fairly short illness in Macclesfield Hospital. He had been a member of the CRA for many years and therefore two Cheshire standards and a Royal British Legion standard made his funeral a sad but proud occasion. I would like to thank my friends and comrades from Stockport Branch and Trevor Taylor, who also attended and provided the Macclesfield standards.

Our recent meetings seem to be improving in attendance. Our members from the Congleton area have been back in the fold, which means the welcome return of President Frank Worral. We now hold our meetings in a downstairs room at the Queen’s Hotel, which has pleased a few members who previously struggled with the stairs. It is sad that we cannot get enough people together to make it financially viable to organise a day trip. The cost of transport makes a trip to Chester, for example, so expensive and therefore not reasonable.

I recently attended a ceremony in Nantwich to commemorate the Battle of the Somme. It had been planned by RHQ but unfortunately had not been collected from Crewe and so the纪念碑 to use. Who to blame for this lack of organisation is unfortunately had not been collected from Crewe and so the Battle of the Somme. Wreaths had been provided by RHQ but therefore not reasonable.

The stairs. It is sad that we cannot get enough people together to enjoy good health and was good to drink a bottle of Prosecco with him and to supply him with a bottle of whisky in order to celebrate his 103rd birthday.

John Gibson

Sandbach and Middlewich Branch

Well the inevitable has arrived – this is the very last newsletter in hard copy format; it will be missed by so many who don’t have access to a computer. We would like to thank Alan Jennings and George for keeping it going and all others who have submitted articles for the newsletter - thank you gentlemen.

We recently held a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum for the N.I.V.A. Service of Remembrance. A little wet but a good day was had by all. Sandbach held a commemoration dance for the 100 years since the battle of the Somme, on 1st July 2016, 100 years to the day. Percy Cook was 95 this year and he is doing really well for his age. He attended the East Cheshire Reunion with seven more from Sandbach Branch. We were low in numbers this year.

The highlight of the year was the presentation of the Chavilier Legion d’Honneur to Mr Charles Sullivan. Edward Timpson MP presented him with the medal. Charles is 96 and one of the last survivors of the 2nd Battalion the Cheshire Regiment. He was so proud to receive the medal and still remains in a care home in Cypress Court, Crewe.

Mr Charles Sullivan with his Chavilier Legion d’Honneur

Our branch goes from strength to strength in our meetings, our presentations, raising funds for charity and we hope to continue in this vein in the future.

Dave Beech

SNIPPE TS – GEMS FROM TOMMY COOPER

So I was getting into my car, and this bloke says to me, “Can you give me a lift?” I said, “Sure, you look great, the world’s your oyster, go for it.”

Andy Wood

Stockport Branch

Firstly, in continuation of our local WW1 historical connections, several of our members attended the Commonwealth Day and Commemorative act marking the Centenary of WW1 at the local Art Gallery and Museum. The Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport conducted the occasion with the extinguishing of four candles in memory of the darkening clouds of war descending over Europe 100 years ago. After the dropping of our RBL Standards two candles were lit to be indicative of hope. The candles are to remain lit until the anniversary of cessation of hostilities when the remaining two are to be relit indicating the triumph of light over darkness.

Next for note, we held a Guest Beer tasting evening with various continental beers on sale here at the Armatory Bar with a possible return ‘BierFest.’ With a forthcoming St George’s Dinner courtesy of the Stockport Men of War, a couple of weeks to catch our breath then back into ‘battle.’

It was a blow indeed to learn of the death of our “Father of the Branch” Ivan Vaughan ex 22nd and staunch member of the Royal British Legion. Ivan’s funeral was well attended with family, friends and both the County and Stockport RBL Standards paraded.

The funeral (yes another one) of ex Cheshire Chris Perkins took place at St Mark’s Church, Bredbury on Friday 8th April. We also enjoyed the hospitality of the 2nd Battalion at the Dale for a weekend’s relax and meet with serving members. A Curry supper on the Saturday evening also. Many thanks indeed gentlemen for the welcome shown to us old salts.

Next we had the occasion to attend the funeral of ex 22nd Les Sutton (HQ Signals) at Wolvehampton. Les was the guiding light behind the Malaya Veterans Reunions where many of us enjoyed the event. It won’t be the same without him.

Next the Regimental Race Day and yet again more beer. Our proposed visit to St Julian in 2017 is well under way and fully booked through Stockport AC. A fundraising event at the Duke of Lancasters’ Association in the form of a 50s and 60s Music Night. Next on our agenda was a visit to our friends down at the Walsall Branch for another Malaya Veterans Reunion. Regrets were shown in memory of Les Sutton then the usual lamp swinging, fish and chips etc etc.

We attended the E.G.M at the Regimental Club where a poor turnout we feared over 100 people had held. The Armed Forces Day Dinner Dance was as usual well attended, this followed a day of displays etc on Castle Street.

To commemorate the Battle of the Somme several members attended the Stockport War Memorial where the RBL Standards were in attendance. Our Association Standard was duly paraded at Manchester Cathedral. We quickly followed this up with parading our Standards in our ‘Mother City’ of Chester with the 2nd RN The Monarch’s Reunion parade. On this occasion we ‘blooded’ two new Standard Bearers also. Later we were duly fed and watered at the Cheshire Ex Services Club. A venue we frequent each time we visit Chirch.

In the words of our annual St Julians Day Church Parade where The Bishop of Stockport (The Right Reverend Libby Lane) took the service. Many thanks to those...
WORD FROM THE BRANCHES (continued)

who attended with Association Standards on this our special day.
Our bi-annual visit to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of St Julian’s Pilgrimage is now full.
The first leg of our now-to-be-annual Bowls Tournament v Burnley Ex Services resulted in a home win with a 33 point advantage for the second leg. This event has now taken place of the annual Birkenhead Tournament unfortunately for the majority of the Northern awful a victory. Many thanks for the good
occasions in the past Birkenhead CRA. The return leg of the Bowls tournament resulted in an impressive overall win but the result is academic. Our sincere thanks to ‘Hogans’ Heroes’ and all who took part.
As usual August is the time of the year when many of us partake in holidays etc hence the lack of activity in our Branch. As our annual Mons Day Parade fast approached and plans for the annual East Cheshire Reunion were set, then Branch affairs needed to be addressed i.e the new proposed Mercian Regiment Association Standard design was discussed and the wording agreed upon. This being ‘The Mercian Regimental Association Stockport Branch’ in our case.
Many of the C.R.A. members and families attended the Fylde Coast Arborfleet Wreath Laying as guests of the Northern Malaya and Borneo Veterans and enjoyed a full day with lunch provided and a visit to Blackpool RBL for liquid refreshments on September 4th.
The annual Mons Day Parade was a well attended event with warm sunny weather helping. We commemorated Mons, the Battle of Jutland and the Battle of the Somme that day with a huge appreciative crowd of onlookers. A buffet and a few beers rounded off a great day. Next year’s event is to be considered carefully as we learned, but rest assured it will be commemorated in some way or other.
Our Branch Standard along with the MVRA (Stockport)’s then attended yet another funeral; this being a 7th Battalion Cyprus and Suez Veteran Alan Houldcroft.
The local Veterans’ Breakfast Club has exceeded all expectations and thanks to Pete Mills for his efforts.
A visit to the Halton Branch CRA took place with a small party making the journey. This being a meet and welcome occasion with the plans for us to visit in branch strength next year.
The annual Passendale Dinner was well supported as the guests of the local Duke of Lancaster Association.
A question posed recently was, “Name the Last and First Right Marker who represented the 1st Bn Cheshire Regiment at the Formation Day in Tamworth and also the Right Marker of the 1st Bn Mercian (Cheshire) on the Amalgamation parade in Worcester.” It turned out to be Sgt Liam Kennedy, Son of Alan and Rose Kennedy (see photo below).

regarding the St Julian’s Day Commemorations as our connection with the 6th Bn will be well publicised and plans are being formulated. A question posed recently was, “Name the Last and First Right Marker who represented the 1st Bn Cheshire Regiment at the Formation Day in Tamworth and also the Right Marker of the 1st Bn Mercian (Cheshire) on the Amalgamation parade in Worcester.” It turned out to be Sgt Liam Kennedy, Son of Alan and Rose Kennedy (see photo below).

WALSALL BRANCH

We start our final newsletter with sad news of the passing of our president Major Mike Turkbech’s wife Jean. The branch offers their sincere condolences to Mike and his family.

Our programme of events are: October 29th East Cheshire Reunion, Stockport, which we always look forward to.

November 3rd will be our monthly meeting at the Victoria social club, Bloxwich. This used to have 20+ in attendance but we now only had 11 to the last meeting with 4 apologies. At our November meeting we will finalize our itinerary for our trip to Nottingham Christmas markets. We are taking a full 53 seater coach to this event. Fingers crossed for good weather.
Next will be Remembrance at Walsall Civic Hall, which includes our march through the town centre.
December 16th is our Christmas cabaret dinner dance at the Rushall Labour Club. It will be a four course dinner with wine and entertainment. The artist comes with excellent reports.
Our Malaya reunion will be special as it is the 60 year since deployment to the Far East. We are hoping for a really good turnout to commemorate this achievement.
All at Walsall wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

Gordon (Smudge) Smith

The last Cheshire budged and first Mercian budged Right Marker

Now it’s time to offer our thanks to George and those who contributed over the years to our Newsletter. As we are possibly due to ‘go electronical’ and time is of the essence may all of us at the Stockport Branch CRA wish all our brothers in arms both veterans and serving servicemen/women a happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Reg Smith

THE OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION

On the terrace at the Palace of Westminster

The Officers’ Association is alive and well, despite rumours to the contrary! There was an excellent Wellington Lunch. A group of intrepid members attended the Mercian Officers’ dinner at Worcester Rugby Club, forming a Cheshire table which we hope might grow in number for future events and then Bob Stewart kindly invited his “3 permitted guests” to the Houses of Parliament for the customary tour with some sample “Horrible Histories” thrown in for good measure. Lunch and a few jars on the terrace put ideas of attending a debate in the House on hold for the majority!

Keith Skempton

MARION BEIRNE

From LT COLONEL DAVID OAK

Please, if possible, include this ‘blast from the past’ in the last hard copy of the Newsletter. If for no other reason than to remind us of those superb Fijians who served in the 1st Bn during the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Extract from HQ Croy December 31 1984. HQ Croy commanded at that time by Maj Philip Brown, himself a proud Fijian.

Tusiti 1 January (Tuesday 1 January)

1. TASS [Routine]
   Vaka na ka da cakava ena vei Siga Vakarauwai kei na Siga Tahu [Weekend Routine.]

2. SOO (Parades)
   0745hrs Sasamaki [Area Cleaning]
   0815hrs RSM s Staff

3. 1985
   [The OC would like to wish All Ranks and their families a Happy and Prosperous New Year. He reminds all of the Commanding Officer’s message on drinking.]

The CO’s message on drinking was not included. “Bottom’s up!”, perhaps?

Our friends the Fijians

Marion Beirne

From the five Hong Kong company Commanders

Mrossl Beirne

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Shells Shock Walk

PTSD Resolution supporters, including several ex-xx2nd, met at the Waterfront pub in Wandsworth on Saturday 17th September in order to walk to Tower Bridge, some eight miles. The walk was to highlight the issues of veterans’ mental health resulting from military trauma, and to raise funds for therapy through PTSD Resolution, which provides free treatment through a network of 200 therapist. The walk set off at 1:30 following a short introduction by the chairman of Resolution, Tony Gauvain.

If you know of any ex-service men or women struggling with nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety, depression, anger issues, or any of their families being affected by their behaviour, please help them contact the charity PTSD Resolution (charity number 1133188) on telephone number 02084530178. They will be put in touch with a local counsellor trained to deal with the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, and other general mental conditions. Treatment is free, local, confidential, brief, immediate, non-intrusive and delivered through a network of 200 therapists UK-wide.
Sad I have been told that this edition of our beloved Newtown book will probably be the last. The thought of trying to try and have published a reminder of what we got up to and what life was like in the Army of the 1950s / 1960s.

HIGH NOON

It had been a long, hot, exhausting exercise in the Arabian Desert. We had been training with a troop of Centurion tanks and on the journey back to Hodgens Camp we were allowed to ride on the tanks. The route followed led past a large Egyptian army base which was situated on the outskirts of Suez.

It was high noon, and from my precarious position on the lead tank I could see that the daily siesta was well underway in the confines of that camp. Indeed in the shade of the building that hazy the only person visible was the sentry on the main gate. This smartly dressed descendant of Saladin was leaning in the shade of his box with his rifle propped at his side and was undoubtedly fast asleep. He appeared to notice the noise of their tanks on the metalled road gradually permeated his unconscious state. I saw him stir, slowly open his eyes, and look straight down the barrel of the leading tank’s gun. In that terrifying split second he could not fail to notice also that the armoured monster was festooned with heavily armed battle stained indelibles. His reaction was instinctive and totally understandable. He fled.

In the blinking of an eye the only sign that he had ever been there was his rifle leaning forlornly against the side of the sentry box. Then, suddenly, from somewhere in the camp a frantic bugle sounded the alarm and hundreds of numbers of men in various stages of undress erupted and, taking rapid note of the approach of the troop laden panzers, each bed his attitude and comments were exactly as mine had done. But to his absolute horror and subsequent heavy reluctance and so, leaving the wedding gift nestling in its box on the luggage rack, I joined my comrades for a cold beer….

Many will recall the poem that Violet Szabo had to learn in order to encrypt messages, “The Life That I Have.” It may be of interest that it was written by Leo Marks in memory of his girlfriend, who was killed in a plane crash. Leo Marks was a cryptographer who realised that published poems could not be used to encrypt messages, because the enemy would always have access to them. The yet unpublished poem was made famous because in the film Leo Marks allowed it to be attributed to Violette’s husband, Ettiene on the condition that Marks would not be identified as the real author.

I think that the best description of this book can be found in the Foreword, written by Virginia McKenna:

“Of all the tributes to the valiant, selfless - and yes, beautiful - Violet Szabo, none can be more poignant than this …It is everything one could wish for in a biography: unique in its factual detail, its brave re-telling of Violette’s last months and, above all, the author’s courage in sharing with us the deep and lasting love of a daughter for an extraordinary mother.”

The Life That I Have

Tania Szabo

I think that anybody with an interest in the Second World War will know the story of Violet Szabo GC. Her deeds were made public in the film “Carve Her Name With Pride”, released in 1997. The story of her mission to destroy an Italian key road. You will no doubt recall that the film finishes with Violette’s daughter, Tania receiving the George Cross from King George VI. Tania was then four years of age, having never met her father (killed at El Alamein) and having only a blurred recollection of her mother.

Young, Brave and Beautiful is written by Tania, now in her seventies and living in Malawi. The book is a detailed account of her mother’s two missions into occupied France. She dramatically re-creates the two 1944 missions, retracing each step she took in the danger zones of German held France. The book returns on a mission to destroy an hell,(include role). You will no doubt recall that the film finishes with Violette’s daughter, Tania receiving the George Cross from King George VI. Tania was then four years of age, having never met her father (killed at El Alamein) and having only a blurred recollection of her mother.

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Memories of an Octogenarian - October 2016

Memorable times I recall far more frequently now, as my memory reduces at a consistent annual rate. I think of friends from decades ago, now departed and where we went and what we did. Their faces as fresh as ever, their mannerisms, their kindness, their companionship remind me of experiences that never fade. The laughter and the smiles. They could laugh at their misfortunes and certainly others would laugh with them. Experiences that were life threatening in far away lands could now be told with humour. Their names and faces are still vivid in my mind for there are moments that still remain permanently with me. I reflect on the days when money was short, when beer was 9d a pint and men smoked Woodhisses and Park Drive, maybe twenty a day. And many smoked a pipe as they relaxed. Waiters with pocket watches and Albert’s were an accepted form of dress. They all enjoyed a pint or three and a drop of “knockout” to end the session. Cloth caps were the norm and open coal fires with the poker in attendance to poke the coals as they faded and then flickered. They could see faces and places in those flickering flames. They recalled their oft told stories and brought back recollections of ordeals, discomforts and pleasures during overseas postings to India and the Sudan, to North Africa, Malta during the siege, and landings in Italy and Sicily and North West Europe as the final battles of the war raged. Of rationing and shortages, of comradeships formed that lasted a lifetime. People known by their regimental numbers Jones 06 and Smith 09, or as Chalky, Taffy, Paddy, Jock and Tommy. Stories change as the memory, like coal fires, flickers and fades, and often embellishes the story for the better as reminiscences are brought up to date as they recall and enhance tales of regimental folk law and derring-do that sometimes have no bearing on real life situations but may have been subject to influences and improvements that only age can bring. These are people from a bygone age who were brought up and lived in completely different circumstances. They regularly wrote home from abroad, hand written letters and cards. Some described their circumstances in good descriptive prose while others would write poetry that conveyed their situation to their loved ones many hundreds of miles away. There was no TV, mobile phones or Twitter in those days. Men lived in barrack rooms, twenty four men to a billet, formulating and relating stories that have stood the test of time. Your bed mate usually was your mate for ever. These men were old age pensioners when I first met them, they have seen life and death and served for many years. I was the new Chairman of Stockport Branch and at first they treated me with suspicion. I was unknown, and I lived in Athlone. I delighted in talking to and laughing with them. I accepted their idiosyncrasies and they took mine on board. After two meetings we were in step. These were real men who had done their bit. I was happy in their company. Their drinking habits were more as outlined above. After meetings I would take a couple of them home. The natter and laughter continued throughout the journey. Happy days and I hope that I have remembered their characters as they were.

Excellent examples of sons of the Regiment. These raconteurs became my older and wiser friends. George Parrot, Tommy Blinkhorn, Tommy Dawson, Fred “Bucksho” Bedson, and George Jones DCM were some their names. I listened to their tales of soldiering from pre war India, the Sudan, North Africa, Malta, Sicily, Italy (‘D’ Day Dodgers) and Europe. These friends; sincere, warm, humorous and genuine men formed the backbone of the branch when it replaced the WW1 Cheshire Regiment Old Comrades Association, Stockport Branch. They had given faithful and loyal service to their King, Country and County Regiment the 22nd. Of course and my memories are still vivid today. These old codgers have now been replaced by the Suz, Malay, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghan veterans, whose stories, experiences, wit and humour are based on the same Regimental paradigms.

In this my last article for the newsletter, I am sorry for rambling on, as an octogenarian does, about the nostalgic past and some of the people I knew and my very happy memories of yesteryear.

Alan Jennings

Brigadier Mike Dauncey DSO

At the beginning of October Tony and Hermione Twiss dropped in to visit Brigadier Mike Dauncey DSO at his home in Dursley, Gloucestershire. Although Brigadier Mike is now 96 years young, he is well looked after and in good spirits. Tony and Hermione took the liberty of passing on best wishes from all the people I knew and my very happy memories of yesteryear.

In this my last article for the newsletter, I am sorry for rambling on, as an octogenarian does, about the nostalgic past and some of the people I knew and my very happy memories of yesteryear.

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The Royal British Legion, at the behest of the late John Holden, amongst others.

John Fairbanks, Bill Helliwell, Ron Goodwin, Pete Gresty and Derek Sykes, Gordon Smith, Harry Harvey, Keith Mort.

Alan Jennings

This year the Royal British Legion, at the behest of the Metropolitan Police, have tightened up security for the annual parade at the Cenotaph in London. It has required the early collection and collation of personal information in respect of all prospective attendees. This is to be the case in future years and with the loss of this newsletter it may be more difficult for anybody wishing to participate in future years to make themselves known. With this in mind, the Southern Region Branch would be interested to hear from anybody who might be interested in taking part in the Remembrance Parade in future years. We can send you the necessary information and check whether you wish to take part.

In the first instance you can contact the secretary by e-mail at george.szwejkowski@btconnect.com, or by writing to George Szwejkowski, 86 Edward Road, London SE20 7JS.

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FROM BRIGADIER JAMES PERCIVAL

I believe that the forthcoming issue of the Newsletter will be the last one in its current hard copy format so I just wanted to mark the occasion by thanking you very much for all you, and of course Alan Jennings before you too, have done to produce such an excellent publication for us since the demise of the Oak Tree.

I’m sure many of your readers will wish to join me in this sentiment. It really has been a lifetime for the Association in recent years, particularly as a way of keeping members to date with what is going on in a fast changing regimental world.

If I may say so my own written skills have been a notable feature of the Newsletter too be they either in your perceptive editorials and reviews or our octogenarian memorises. These recollections now over sixty plus years literary ability has rarely been prominent in the 22nd, although of course there are some excellent regular contributors to the present Newsletter. I think back to when I joined as a young subaltern and a full Oak Tree was published by RHQ four times a year. Almost unbelievable. We were continually under pressure for platoon whatever else was going on, and having opened with the repetitive “since we last went to press the following have joined the platoon…..” words soon dried up as one searched for something original to say that might be of real interest or inspiration to our readers. We were also under double literacy pressure as subsalterns from something called the George Knight Clowes Memorial Essay. I cannot recall now the finer details of this annual literacy exercise, but throughout the Army young officers were entered into a prize essay competition on some military subject with the winner having the opportunity to improve in knowledge through research and to stimulate our literary ability. Google has been little help now in confirming the background to this and merely produces a plethora of websites offering assistance on essay writing. My goodness we could have done with Google then as we sought to catch up with the task as the deadline for submission approached, having done nothing about it at all up until very late in the day. I do recall that it was wise to keep what little one might have written firmly under lock and key as plagiarism was rife amongst all. Certainly I do not remember anyone in the 22nd getting anywhere near a prize and indeed I cannot remember the last one. It is perhaps a measure of the present writers that there is a possibility that the Newsletter might continue in on line format and I am sure we would all welcome that if it can be done.

Yours sincerely,

James Percival

Stoll - Housing for Veterans

Stoll is a unique community providing support to some of the most vulnerable ex-servicemen and women. Formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation, they were founded in 1916 as the result of a bequest from Sir Oswald Stoll. They have been prominent in the 22nd, although of course there are some excellent regular contributors to the present Newsletter. I think back to when I joined as a young subaltern and a full Oak Tree was published by RHQ four times a year. Almost unbelievable. We were continually under pressure for platoon whatever else was going on, and having opened with the repetitive “since we last went to press the following have joined the platoon…..” words soon dried up as one searched for something original to say that might be of real interest or inspiration to our readers. We were also under double literacy pressure as subsalterns from something called the George Knight Clowes Memorial Essay. I cannot recall now the finer details of this annual literacy exercise, but throughout the Army young officers were entered into a prize essay competition on some military subject with the winner having the opportunity to improve in knowledge through research and to stimulate our literary ability. Google has been little help now in confirming the background to this and merely produces a plethora of websites offering assistance on essay writing. My goodness we could have done with Google then as we sought to catch up with the task as the deadline for submission approached, having done nothing about it at all up until very late in the day. I do recall that it was wise to keep what little one might have written firmly under lock and key as plagiarism was rife amongst all. Certainly I do not remember anyone in the 22nd getting anywhere near a prize and indeed I cannot remember the last one. It is perhaps a measure of the present writers that there is a possibility that the Newsletter might continue in on line format and I am sure we would all welcome that if it can be done.
It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of my wife Jean Mary Tarbuck on the 11th October 2016, as a result of her second stroke. Jean joined the Cheshire Regiment family in February 1955 in Colchester, accompanying the 1st Battalion to Berlin, Barnard Castle, Singapore, Carlisle, Ballykinlar, Munster, Warminster, Weeton and Minden, plus other postings meaning a total of 29 addresses when we made the final move to Whittington village in 1984, before I retired in 1986 from the regular army.

Jean has always been a devoted wife, a wonderful mother to our seven children and loving Grandma to our 11 grandchildren – she is greatly missed and will always be fondly remembered.

HMT

OBITUARY

MRS JEAN TARBUCK

The opinions expressed in the articles in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise of RHQ or the CRA.

The CRA webpage is at: www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk/regimental-associations/the-cheshire-regiment-association.aspx

The Mercian Regiment website is: http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/23998.aspx

News of major events is published on the CRA page of www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk and also on the CRA facebook page.

Golf Dates are as follows:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>24/25 May</td>
<td>Hill Valley</td>
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<td>23 June</td>
<td>Hawarden</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>Eastham Lodge</td>
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<td>22 September</td>
<td>Sutton Hall</td>
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<td>20 October</td>
<td>Wigan</td>
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The Club can be used for Branch Events and Private Parties by arrangement. A concessionary hire rate for CRA members’ private use applies. Branches do not pay to use the Club.

Normal opening times are:

Wednesday 1200-1400
Friday 1900-2330
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday by prior arrangement.

For all Club enquiries, contact Mike Smith on 07906 753699

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2016
Sunday 13 November: Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 04 December: Droppin’ Well Memorial Service, Ballykelly
Friday 09 December: Regimental Golf - Portal Golf & Country Club, Tarporley

2017
Saturday 21 January: CRAMC and Branch Officials’ meeting, Chester.
Friday 17 February: Meeanee Day
Saturday 18 February: CRA AGM, Chester
Saturday 18 March: Spring Dinner, Chester
Saturday 04 March: CRA AGM, Chester

CLUB NEWS

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REGIMENTAL GOLF

April

Mr Terry (Snowy) Ball died 16 June 2016. Served 1st Bn Berlin.
Mr Warwick Paul Barlow died 19 August 2016
Mr A D Blyth died 20 October 2016
Mr John Bushell died 19 July 2016. Served Suez
Reverend Arthur Clarke died 26 Mar 2016 - 1st Bn 1952-54
Suez Canal Zone (later padre to Suez Veterans’ Association)
Mr W J Cottis died 6 July 2016
Mr B W A Dean died 6 July 2016
Mr Keith Doyle died 15 July 2016
Mr W E Fishwick died 2015
Mr M H Holbrook died 5 August 2016
Mr Alan Houldcroft died 26 August 2016 served Suez
Mr Charles Johnson died 14 Mar 2016
Served Malaya 1955-58
Mr W C Nield died May 2016
Arthur Parton died 15th June 2016 - Home Guard Bn WW2
Mrs Jean Tarbuck died 11 October 2016
Mr Ivan Vaughan died 1 Apr 2016, 1st and 7th Bn
Mr J Wood died 27 May 2016

The opinions expressed in the articles in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise of RHQ or the CRA.

The CRA webpage is at: www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk/regimental-associations/the-cheshire-regiment-association.aspx

The Mercian Regiment website is: http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/23998.aspx

May was the last ever draw

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Newsletter printed by Alvis Printing Services, Altrincham. 0161 926 9444