



# THE CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 23

AUGUST 2015

## EDITORIAL

I cannot remember a sadder time than the last few months. It is difficult to write about the loss of individuals, because there can be a tendency to over or under sell their achievements, depending upon your point of view. What cannot be denied is that we have lost some remarkable members of the regimental family in the past few months. Some of them have obituaries towards the end of this newsletter.

The subject of obituaries is giving me some concern, as they vary considerably in length and can, perhaps overshadow other newsletter content. Conversely, there are sadly occasions when no obituary appears following the loss of a well-known regimental personality. As a guideline may I ask that in future obituaries are restricted to between 300 and 500 words?

We are still not yet saying a final goodbye to Major Eddie Pickering MBE. Although he has already gone well beyond the call of duty he continues to hold things together whilst we look for volunteers to fill the posts of CRA secretary and CRA treasurer. Thank-you Eddie.

Whilst attending the recent CRAMC meeting at Chester it was good to hear WO1 (RSM) J Rollins, the RSM of 2 Mercian speak about encouraging a closer integration between CRA members and soldiers of the Mercian Regiment. Whilst lauding his intentions, I believe that many members of the CRA would prefer to use the word "collaboration" or perhaps "involvement," as integration suggests a certain loss of identity.

Finally it was reassuring to see that our political leaders have made the commitment to spend 2% of GDP on Defence. In today's uncertain world, this really is a bare minimum to be spent on what is the first priority of government.

The deadline for the next issue will be 10th November 2015. Please send your contributions to me at: 86 Edward Road, Penge, London SE20 7JS. My telephone number is 07721 660471. You can also e-mail me at: [george.szwejkowski@btconnect.com](mailto:george.szwejkowski@btconnect.com)

Please note that this is a new e-mail address.

*George Szwejkowski*

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 link for the CRA webpage is:

<http://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>

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

One of the more satisfying aspects of being Chairman is visiting well run and well attended branch meetings. Such a visit was made recently to Sandbach, where the hostelry used for the meeting was all things cerise and buff. Particularly enjoyable was to sit, listen to and chat with two nonagenarians; Albert Gregory, ex-Grenadier Guards, and our own Percy Cooke. To have the privilege of sharing a beer with them was wonderful and humbling at the same time - both bright as a button, with no problem getting to the bar and getting served. Remarkable.

My visit lightened the gloom on learning of the closure of Tranmere Branch. Sad, yet understandable. It was previously a very active branch with a varied programme enjoyed by numerous members but the loss of three stalwart members in a short space of time simply made the branch unsustainable. It is to be hoped that members of the branch will link up with other branches in close proximity; Birkenhead, Ellesmere Port or South Wirral. A sincere thank you to Alan Rowe for all his commitment to the branch and for the cheque in the sum of £2,000 to the Association on closure of the branch.

To matters secretarial. No doubt the word has got round the lines that the new Assistant Regimental Secretary (Cheshire), Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) Andy Manktelow is now in post. This is good news for us of course and, in particular, for Eddie who should realistically have retired last December. Andy has been made most welcome and comes across as a very personable individual. As an ex-ranker with a vast experience of Service life, I think he will prove to be a

*continued over...*

### CONTENTS

Minutes of the CRAMC Meeting 25.03.15	2-3
Splendid Wirral Monument	3
Meeting of Branch Officials 25.03.15	4
Minutes of the CRAMC Meeting 04.07.15	5
Meeting of Branch Officials 04.07.15	6
Word from the Branches	7-10
John Fairbanks Writes	11
Use Your Head by Andrew Sharpe	12
Correspondence	13
RBL Conference	13
Dates for Your Diary, Club News	13
Obituary Major Sidney Burton TD MA	14
Obituary Major Bill Jones TD	14
Obituary WO2 Jim Robinson	14-15
Obituary WO1 'Tiny' Lawson	15
Obituary Thomas Jones	16
Last Post	16

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

real asset. Slightly unfortunate that Andy's job spec, as issued by Mercian RHQ, differs appreciably from what the previous CRA Secretaries actually did. I am reminded of my own words way back in the June 2014 edition:- *It is unlikely that the new incumbent of this Civil Service post will be an ex-Cheshire, an ex-Mercian or even an ex-soldier. For certain, he or she will have the responsibility of ensuring both continued support for the CRA as well as for the Mercian Regiment. Something of a balancing act.* What none of us had allowed for was the Mercian Regiment's decision to separate the duties of the Assistant Regimental Secretary (Cheshire) role from things Mercian and things CRA. (This will explain the advertisement shown elsewhere in the Newsletter for the recruitment of a treasurer!)

So, a little bedding-in period is required to establish exactly who does what, when and how. In the meantime, Eddie has yet

again stepped into the breach to hold things together, certainly until the end of October, which obviously includes the Mons parade on 06 September. Eddie should be mentioned in despatches.

The club seems to have taken on a new lease of life and thank you, race-goers, for boosting the club profits. Mike Smith's only comment, "you ain't seen nothing yet," could be viewed either way .....! However, I am optimistic that with the active co-operation of 2 MERCIAN, which is already taking place, the club will become less of a drain on the Association's funds.

Hopefully, see you all on Mons Day or at the East Cheshire Reunion (Stockport, 31 October) – or indeed, both.

*Wha wadna fecht for Charlie.*

**David Oak**  
**Chairman**

## MINUTES OF THE CRAMC MEETING 25.03.2015

### THE CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2015

Present: Lt Col D M Oak, MBE (Chairman), Mr D Clark, Mr T Finlay BEM, Mr P L Jackson, Mr A Kennedy, Mr D J Murphy, Maj J Salisbury, Mr D Sykes, Mr G Szwejkowski, Mr D J Waring, Maj T E Pickering MBE (Secretary).

Apologies were entered on behalf of Mr D Mapley.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and welcomed the newly elected members of the committee.

2. The Record of Proceedings of the meeting held on 15 January 2015, were reviewed. One matter is outstanding – the Peal Board for St Mary's Church. The Secretary explained that the Guild of Bell-ringers have had to put the project on hold because of a requirement for planning permission. It was proposed by Mr P Jackson and seconded by Mr D Waring that they be accepted as a true record. Carried.

3. The Chairman gave his report, mentioning the events which have taken place since January. He also reported that a new Assistant Regimental Secretary has been appointed and is due to take post in mid-May.

4. The minutes of the AGM were reviewed.

5. The Secretary circulated a resume of the current financial state of the CRA and the CRA Club he described income, expenditure and explained debtors and creditors. He reported that Club trading is poor, the number of hirings is down, but it is hoped that things may improve. He answered questions from the Chairman with regard to the MRA grant, explaining that the half year bid was still awaited. Maj Salisbury pointed out that the MRA Grant was a commitment made on amalgamation and he felt that it should be shown in the financial statements as a debtor. Mr Clarke asked about the outstanding debt of the Serjeants' Club, the Secretary replied that he has spoken to the Club Chairman and has been promised payment.

6. The Chairman drew attention to the previous year's Trustees Report and outlined several points for the benefit of new Trustees.

7. Financial Support to events. The Chairman spoke about financial assistance for events and reminded the meeting of the 2014 levels:

- Malaya Reunion – up to £250
- Mons Day – up to £500
- East Cheshire Reunion – up to £500
- Ballykelly Memorial – up to £300

following discussion, Mr Terry Finlay proposed and Mr Joe Murphy seconded the proposal that funding be earmarked to support those same events at the 2014 levels. Carried.

8. The Chairman spoke about a request from the newly formed Halton Branch for financial assistance to help with start-up costs. After some discussion, Maj Jim Salisbury proposed and Mr George Szwejkowski seconded the proposal that the sum of £250 be granted to Halton Branch to assist with start-up costs. Carried.

The Chairman announced that he had been informed verbally that Tranmere Branch has closed. Mr Dave Clark stated that the planned visit to Ypres may still go ahead if there were sufficient numbers. The Chairman suggested that Birkenhead Branch make contact with Tranmere members. The Secretary said that if someone from Tranmere would supply their branch data, he would write to members with contact details of nearby branches.

9. The Forecast of Events was discussed:

- Friday 8 May Race Day, Chester
- Saturday 13 June Malaya Reunion, Walsall
- Saturday 20 June Veterans' Day, South Wirral
- Saturday 27 June Armed Forces Day
- Sunday 5 July Crich Pilgrimage, Derbyshire
- Sunday 12 July E Port Branch memorials
- Sunday 26 July St Julien Memorial Service, Stockport
- Sunday 6 September Mons Day, Chester
- Saturday 31 October East Cheshire Reunion, Stockport
- Sunday 8 November Remembrance Sunday services
- Sunday 6 December Droppin' Well Memorial Service, Ballykelly

## MINUTES OF THE CRAMC MEETING 25.03.2015 (continued)

The Secretary reported that arrangements for Race day were well in hand with 2 MERCIAN. He further reported that the Cathedral have yet to confirm Mons Day, despite being asked several times. He suggested that if we cannot go the Chester Cathedral, 2 MERCIAN be asked to assist with a Drumhead Service in The Dale.

He announced that a Service to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day is planned in Chester Cathedral on Sunday 10th May at 1530hrs.

10. Other Business.

a. Mr Szwejkowski asked about 2 MERCIAN support to Mons Day, the Secretary confirmed that it is an event in the Regiment's calendar and pointed out that the anniversary of the signing of the Japanese Surrender is 2nd September and there may be a request to incorporate that into the Mons service. He also said that the Newsletter is with the printers. The deadline for the next edition will be 12 July.

b. The Chairman asked Mr Szwejkowski about the proposed commemoration in honour of Edith Cavell. The service will be held in London on 12 Oct 2015. It was felt that the CRA should be represented and that Southern Region Branch would be best placed to fill that role.

c. Maj Salisbury:

- asked about a policy for the parading of Standards at funerals. The Secretary replied that there is no formal policy, branches will always respond when a member dies and quite often, neighbouring branches will also send theirs. A problem arises when a CRA member who is not a branch member, dies. Any requests are passed to the nearest branch who may be able to attend, but it is at the discretion of the branch and always depends on the availability and willingness of the Standard Bearer to do it. The Chairman expressed the opinion that the current system works and to introduce formal guidelines is not practical because in the end, it depends on the willingness and capabilities of individual volunteers.
- suggested that a committee should be formed to review the operation the Club. The Secretary explained the historical context of Chester Branch's use on Fridays for meetings and stated that this use in no way excludes the remainder of the CRA from using the Club at the same time.
- said that he felt that the CRA is not trying to engage with younger members with regard to reunions.
- suggested that a reunion could be held on the Saturday following Race Day, in Chester.

d. Mr Murphy offered to organise a 2016 Meeanee Ball in Chester. It was agreed that he could do so and report back.

11. The date of the next meeting was set for Saturday 4 July.

## SPLENDID WIRRAL MONUMENT

On Saturday 9th May, the weekend closest to VE Day, our Branch Standard was paraded at West Kirby in NW Wirral, carried by Standard Bearer, Dave Kennedy and accompanied by Dave's wife, Ruth, Graham Ball and myself. We were able to represent the CRA at rather short notice at an event organised by the Friends of Grange Hill. Not the TV school but the open space on a sandstone ridge, with fine views of the peninsula, the Dee estuary and Liverpool Bay.



Here stands the impressive Hoylake & West Kirby War Memorial, designed by British sculptor Charles Sergeant Jagger, who also designed the Royal Artillery Memorial at Hyde Park Corner. It consists of a 48ft high obelisk, with bronze figures at the base. Among the names on the memorial is that of Charles E. Fairbanks, uncle of the Newsletter's indefatigable contributor,

John. The Friends are a local group, who raised funds, organised working parties and improved the area surrounding the memorial. In particular, they renovated the path which now enables the less agile and wheelchair users to gain access.

The King's Regiment and the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment Associations' standards were also paraded and there were contingents from the Cadet Forces and Guides, together with a good number of local residents braving the cold. The march up to the site against a very chilly wind off the Irish Sea was led by a piper. A short Thanksgiving Service followed, the bugler coping well with 'the wind up the pipe.' The ribbon to the path was formally cut, and salute taken by Col. Amlóit Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Merseyside. All then repaired to the shelter of the Hoylake SCC HQ for refreshments.

All in all, a worthy effort by the people of Hoylake and West Kirby past and present, this landmark memorial stands on a splendid viewpoint and is well worth a visit. Perhaps, too, it could provide an opportunity to reflect on Kipling's words engraved on the memorial above the bronze figures - WHO DIES IF ENGLAND LIVE, WHO STANDS IF FREEDOM FALL.

*Gordon Kipps*

### SNIPPETS

The snippets in this edition are all taken from:  
IN CONFIDENCE – The British Armed Forces Guide to Personnel & Fitness Reporting – compiled by Rick Jolly

*In evolutionary terms, this man is on the return trip.  
This man doesn't only encroach on your time, he also trespasses on eternity.*

MEETING OF BRANCH OFFICIALS HELD AT  
RHQ CHESTER ON 25TH MARCH 2015

Chairman: Lt Col D M Oak MBE  
Secretary: Maj T E Pickering MBE

Representatives from Birkenhead, Chester, Halton, Sandbach, Stockport, Southern Region and Winsford Branches were present.

Apologies were received from Stoke on Trent and Walsall Branches.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those attending for making the journey.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22 October 2014 were reviewed. There were no matters arising. Mr John Fairbanks proposed and Mr Dave Beech seconded the proposal that they be passed as a true record. Carried.
3. The minutes of the AGM held on 21 February 2015 were reviewed, there were no comments.
4. The Secretary read out the current financial statement, reporting that the CRA has £41698 available. The Club has £4869 available. He reported that Club trading in the first 4 months has been very slow and outgoings exceeded income by a large margin. March was slightly better. He then gave a breakdown of Income and Expenditure in the current Financial Year for the CRA. MBNA have terminated the Credit Card contract because there are very few members now signed up to it.
5. The Chairman asked the Secretary to update the meeting on the progress recruiting a new Assistant Regimental Secretary. The Secretary reported that he was given to understand that someone has been recruited and should be in place by mid-May.
6. Branch Reports:
  - a. **Birkenhead.** Mr Peter Jackson reported that the Branch is solvent. He has been in contact with neighbouring branches with a view to sharing expenses on such things as transport to functions.
  - b. **Southern Region.** Mr George Szwejkowski reported that the Meeanee Dinner at Brown's in Covent Garden was a success with 55 people attending. A number of visits to sporting events are planned for the summer. He spoke about the Remembrance weekend and stated that tickets for the Cenotaph Parade are limited to 24 and anyone wanting to attend should make an early bid to him.
  - c. **Winsford.** Mr Steve Pugh reported that due to the illness of the Secretary, they have only held one meeting this year.
  - d. **Sandbach.** Mr Dave Beech reported that the Branch is solvent, they have between 10 and 12 members at most meetings (they hold 2 per month). He outlined the plans for a coach trip to Stratford on Avon in July and NMA on 19 September. They have recruited a couple of younger new members.

- e. **Chester.** Mr John Fairbanks reported that a full programme of events is planned for the summer, including a Race Night on 3rd April, a visit to NMA on 13th June – any surplus seats will be advertised to other branches.
  - f. **Halton.** Mr John Donaldson reported that they have made contact with 29 people so far. The Branch is making progress.
7. The Chairman outlined the financial support for functions approved by CRAMC:
    - a. Malaya Reunion – up to £250.
    - b. Mons Day – up to £500
    - c. East Cheshire Reunion – up to £500
    - d. Ballykelly Memorial – up to £300
 and informed the Chairman of Halton Branch that the sum of £250 has been granted to assist with start-up costs. He asked him to liaise with the Secretary on the subject.
  8. Forecast of Events.
    - a. The Secretary spoke about plans for the Mercian Regiment Race Day. 2 MERCIAN are providing the facilities on the Racecourse, as in recent years, Beer Tokens are the only method used to obtain drinks. The bar at Chester Castle is being set up and will accept both cash and tokens. Snacks at the Castle will be provided by a mobile caterer.
    - b. The Secretary gave advance warning of a service being held in Chester Cathedral to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day. It will take place on 10th May at 1530hrs. Details will be published when known.
    - c. Saturday 13 June Malaya Reunion, Walsall.
    - d. Saturday 20 June Veterans' Day, South Wirral
    - e. Saturday 27 June Armed Forces Day (afternote: and Sephton Memorial Trophy day at Crossfields Rugby Ground, Warrington)
    - f. Sunday 5 July Crich Pilgrimage, Derbyshire
    - g. Sunday 12 July E Port Branch memorials.
    - h. Sunday 26 July St Julien Memorial Service, Stockport
    - i. Sunday 6 September Mons Day, Chester
    - j. Saturday 31 October East Cheshire Reunion, Stockport
    - k. Sunday 8 November Remembrance Sunday services
    - l. Sunday 6 December Droppin' Well Memorial Service, Ballykelly.
  9. Other Business
    - a. Mr Finlay spoke about South Wirral branch's wish to erect their tent on the Racecourse alongside the Regimental enclosure. The Secretary undertook to ask QM 2 MERCIAN to speak with S Wirral.
    - b. Armed Forces Day – Mr Beech drew attention to Sandbach Council's Family Fun event on AFD. Mr Jackson said that Wirral Borough Council do not seem to have plans for anything.
    - c. Mr Szwejkowski mentioned that numbers attending the Mons Parade and Service are dwindling. He also said that some Newsletter articles from branches always seemed to be the same, all that appeared to change was the date – he asked members to consider the quality of submissions.
  10. Date of the next meeting. 4 July at a time to be notified.

THE CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON  
4 JULY 2015

Present: Lt Col D M Oak, MBE (Chairman), Mr D Clark, Mr T Finlay BEM, Mr P L Jackson, Mr A Kennedy, Mr D J Murphy, Maj J Salisbury, Mr G Szwejkowski, Mr D J Waring, Maj T E Pickering MBE, WO1 (RSM) J Rollins, WO2 (RQMS) L Kennedy, A J Manktelow (Acting Secretary).

Apologies were entered on behalf of Mr D Mapley and Mr D Sykes.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and welcomed the RSM and RQMS from 2 MERCIAN. He then went on to welcome the new Assistant Regimental Secretary (Cheshire), Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) A J Manktelow. Members of the Committee then introduced themselves to the new Assistant Regimental Secretary (Cheshire).
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2015 were reviewed. It was proposed by Mr G Szwejkowski and seconded by Mr D Waring that they be accepted as a true record. Carried. There were no matters arising.
3. The Chairman gave his report outlining the CRA events since the previous meeting. He mentioned in particular the passing of both Maj Bill Jones and WO1 (RSM) 'Tiny' Lawson.
4. CRA Spring Reunion. Mr Murphy, the organiser of the Spring Reunion dinner, briefed the Committee on the following proposed details:-
  - Date. Saturday 19 March 2016.
  - Location. Mill Hotel, Chester
  - Cost. Probably £35 per head.
  - Dress. Lounge suits.
  - Capacity. Approximately 160 seats would be available. 10 have been offered to 2 MERCIAN should they be in Chester and not on operations.
 Full details will be published in the newsletter.
5. AGM 2016. After a short discussion and vote, it was accepted that the AGM for 2016 would be on the afternoon of 19 March at either the Mill Hotel or RHQ club (tbc).
6. Mons Weekend. Maj Pickering stated that negotiations with the cathedral were ongoing but there would be a parade and service on 06 September.
 

*Post-meeting: Final details yet to be confirmed. However, 10.30hrs gather on the Castle Square. 11.00 step off. 11.15 arrive at Regimental Memorial Garden, adjacent to the cathedral. This will be followed by a short service in the Memorial Garden ground. NLT 11.40 march back to the Castle past the Lord Mayor, who will take the salute, arriving 11.55, followed by the Mons lunch at St Mary's at 12.30. It is to be hoped that both a band and at least a Company of 2 MERCIAN will be marching with us.*

7. The Forecast of Events was discussed:
  - a. Sunday 5 July - Crich Pilgrimage, Derbyshire
  - b. Sunday 12 July - Ellesmere Port Branch memorials
  - c. Sunday 26 July - St Julien Memorial Service, Stockport
  - d. Sunday 6 September - Mons Day, Chester
  - e. Monday 12 October - Edith Cavell Service, London
  - f. Wednesday 28 October - CRAMC and Branch Officials' meetings
  - g. Saturday 31 October - East Cheshire Reunion, Stockport
  - h. Sunday 8 November - Remembrance Sunday services
  - i. Sunday 6 December - Droppin' Well Memorial Service (tbc).
8. Any Other Business.
  - a. The Chairman would not be attending the Crich pilgrimage but thanked Mr A Kennedy for representing him.
  - b. George Szwejkowski reminded members that the deadline for the submission of articles for the Newsletter was 15 July 2015.
  - c. The Chairman circulated a copy of the proposed Mercian Association Standard to members and informed them that he had accepted the design.
  - d. WO1 (RSM) Rollins asked the members for support with the integration of the CRA and MRA and the importance of encouraging a next generation membership of the associations, particularly at the junior levels.
  - e. The Assistant Regimental Secretary (Cheshire) clarified his role within the CRA as per his job specification. The Chairman passed a copy of the Assistant Regimental Secretary's Mission Directive for members to read. The exact areas of responsibilities are still being determined.
  - f. Dave Clark made a call for nominations for the CRAMC Awards. There was a discussion about when the awards should be presented, either the AGM or Mons Day. It was agreed that it was more appropriate to present the awards at the AGM.
9. Maj Pickering circulated a résumé of the current financial state of the CRA and the CRA Club. He described income, expenditure and explained debtors and creditors. He reported that whilst Club trading is poor overall, the bar takings for the race day were above expectation.
10. The Chairman then briefed the committee at some length on the probable changes of responsibility within CRAMC. Previous CRA Secretaries accepted within their remit the role of Treasurer but this simply was not in the outline given by the Mercian Regiment to our new ARS (Cheshire). These roles will almost certainly now have to be undertaken by volunteers. These volunteers will, by necessity, need to become members of the Management Committee. Discussion is still taking place to determine exactly who does what.
11. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 28 October 2015 commencing at 1100 hours.

### MEETING OF BRANCH OFFICIALS HELD AT RHQ CHESTER ON 4th JULY 2015

Chairman: Lt Col D M Oak MBE  
Acting Secretary: Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) A J Manktelow

Present: Representatives from Birkenhead, Chester, Halton, Nantwich, Sandbach, Stockport, Southern Region, and Walsall Branches, Maj Pickering MBE and from 2 MERCIAN, WO1 (RSM) J Rollins & WO2 (RQMS) L Kennedy.

Apologies were received from Stoke on Trent, Winsford and the Limavady Branch.

*Nothing heard from Kirkham, Macclesfield, South Wirral or Ellesmere Port.*

*Retune and send again. Over.*

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those attending for making the journey.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 25 March 2015 were reviewed. There were no matters arising. Mr John Fairbanks proposed and Mr Peter Jackson seconded the proposal that they be passed as a true record. Carried.
3. Maj Pickering gave a résumé of the current financial statement of both the CRA and the CRA Club. He reported that Club trading had been very slow but had been boosted by bar takings for Race Day and two 2 Mercian functions during May and June. He then gave a breakdown of income and expenditure in the current financial year for the CRA, mentioning that the Tranmere Branch had closed and that a balance of £2k had been transferred to the CRA.
4. The Chairman introduced the new Assistant Regimental Secretary (Cheshire) and with time honoured good manners each of the Branch representatives introduced themselves to Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) A J Manktelow.
5. Branch Reports:
  - a. **Birkenhead.** Mr Peter Jackson reported that the number of members is dwindling. Members had been involved in the rededication of the Birkenhead memorial. They had also visited the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) and been present for Armed Forces Day (AFD) commemorations. He then outlined forthcoming events planned by the Branch.
  - b. **Southern Region.** After a résumé of the Branch activities, Mr George Szwejkowski outlined the proposed memorial service in October for Edith Cavell. He then went on to ask for any articles for the newsletter to be submitted by 15 July 2015. The Chairman asked the RSM for a short article for inclusion and encouraged other branch representatives to submit articles for publication.
  - c. **Walsall.** Mr Joe Sadler reported that members had attended AFD at Weston-super-Mare. He then outlined forthcoming events planned by the Branch.
  - d. **Sandbach.** Mr Dave Beech reported that the Branch has

between 10 and 12 members at most meetings and gave details of a forthcoming trip to the NMA in September.

e. **Stockport.** Mr Kennedy would be representing the Chairman at the Crich Pilgrimage. He stated that 150 members attended AFD commemorations and outlined forthcoming branch events.

f. **Chester.** Mr John Fairbanks reported that a programme of events is planned for the summer, including a Branch family BBQ and outlined arrangements for the Christmas Draw.

g. **Halton.** Mr John Donaldson reported that they were approaching their first anniversary and the award of their Branch standard. They were working closely with the RBL and RN Association. They outlined a programme of future events.

*Full details of Branch activities will be found in their respective Branch Notes within the body of the Newsletter.*

6. Forecast of Events:
  - a. Sunday 05 July. Crich Pilgrimage, Derbyshire
  - b. Sunday 12 July Ellesmere Port Branch memorials
  - c. Sunday 26 July St Julien Memorial Service, Stockport
  - d. Sunday 6 September Mons Day, Chester
  - e. Monday 12 October, Edith Cavell service, London
  - f. Wednesday 28 October, CRAMAC and Branch Officials' meetings, Chester
  - g. Saturday 31 October East Cheshire Reunion, Stockport
  - h. Sunday 8 November Remembrance Sunday services
  - i. Sunday 6 December Droppin' Well Memorial Service, Ballykelly (tbc)
  - j. Saturday 19 March 2016 : AGM at Mill Hotel or RHQ, Chester. Spring Reunion, Mill Hotel, Chester

*For details of the Mons Day parade and the Spring Reunion see, in the first instance, CRAMC notes.*

7. Any Other Business.
  - a. The RSM of 2 MERCIAN then spoke to the meeting requesting that members of the CRA lend support with the integration of the Mercian Regimental Association. He emphasised the importance of encouraging a next generation membership of the associations, particularly at junior levels.
  - b. The Chairman briefed members on the changes of responsibility within the CRA with the arrival of a new Assistant Regimental Secretary (Cheshire). Whilst the CRA had been well served by previous Secretaries, they had the role of Treasurer within their Terms of Reference. This is not now the case and as dictated by the Mercian Regiment HQ, official appointments within the CRA will, in future, have to be carried out by its membership. The detail of these decisions is still being promulgated but the 'wolf nearest the sledge' is the need for a Treasurer. More anon.

8. Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 28 October 2015, 13.00 for 13.30, RHQ Chester.

*Excepting, obviously, Limavady, it would be good to see at least one Branch official from each of the 15 branches.*

### BIRKENHEAD BRANCH

The death of Major Bill Jones on 15th April cast a shadow over the Branch. Bill invariably supported CRA activities and, in spite of his health problems and his many other commitments, always found time for Birkenhead Branch. We shall miss him, and his amusing anecdotes, whether from his time as a subaltern in Malaya or his recollections of the more bibulous members of the 4th Battalion. Branch members attended Bill's funeral on 28th April.

On Saturday 9th May Dave Kennedy carried our Branch Standard at West Kirby in NW Wirral, accompanied by Ruth Kennedy, Graham Ball and myself (see elsewhere).

On 13th June, six of us travelled to the National Memorial Arboretum. Our thanks go to John Fairbanks and Chester Branch for organising this trip. It turned to be a very damp experience and the Birkenhead party resorted to the 'train' to view the memorials. NMA facilities are strained during inclement weather but it must be remembered that its purpose is to be a national memorial. Staff maintain the Memorials and the planted areas to a high standard and year on year the NMA looks better. This will be a spectacular place when the trees reach full maturity.

The celebration of Armed Forces Day /Week in June was very low-key in Wirral, being confined to a brief flag-raising ceremony at the Wirral Town Hall on 22nd June. Information about Armed Forces Week was poorly communicated by Wirral Council for yet another year. By contrast, a well organised and well-publicised event took place in Liverpool, which several Birkenhead Branch members attended. Following a drumhead service at Exchange Flags the parade of Armed Forces personnel, Veterans, Cadets and youth organisations was led by the Band Of The Duke Of Lancaster's Regiment to the Albert Dock area. Attractions here included static military displays, DoLR Band and pipe band performances and vintage vehicle display. This was an opportunity for many Merseysiders and visitors to appreciate the work of our Armed Forces.

The Branch Standard and Branch members will support Ellesmere Port Branch at the annual Commemoration on Sunday 12 July. This takes place first at the Waterways Museum and later at Whitby Copse. The host Branch always provide us with a substantial buffet lunch.

As we look forward to summer events and the Mons weekend, we remind readers that we meet on the first Tuesday of each month and would like to repeat our invitation to former Tranmere members and indeed to all CRA members that they would be welcome to join us.

*Peter Jackson*

### BOWLS NOTES

*by Tony Brandon*

The first leg of the annual Birkenhead /Stockport bowls match took place on Sunday 17th May. Birkenhead Branch enjoyed an excellent day out. For once, the Birkenhead contingent arrived on time. Not, I hasten to add, due to map-reading ability but by means of modern technology –the sat-nav. Birkenhead now takes a slender lead into the second leg. This will be at the Lever Club, Port Sunlight on Sunday 2nd August

### CHESTER BRANCH

The annual May invasion is over. The newly impoverished racegoers have departed in search of replacement shirts and peace and tranquillity reign once more in the hallowed precincts

of the Castle. Which is why the Branch committee decided it was time to organise a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum just to keep the members on their toes. To this end a coach was hired and the event was published on line, e-mail, and snail mail. A few days before the trip was due to depart the passenger list was filling nicely, and we had high hopes of a good turnout. On June 13, the day of departure, readers with long memories will recall the heavens opened, and stayed open all day. But despite the almost biblical deluge the eighteen persons who turned out (thirty had promised to travel) enjoyed a truly memorable day. Needless to say we chalked up a considerable loss to Branch funds on the day due mainly to those who promised to attend, and did not do so. Needless to say the committee are now wary about organising another such event.

We welcome the new Reg Secretary Andy Manktelow to the Castle and assure him of our co-operation and support. We wish him much job satisfaction and a long and happy stay. Andy is welcome to call in any Friday evening for drink, or a war story or two!! Indeed anyone who wishes to visit us is welcome. All we ask is that you let us know in advance so that we can buy an extra packet of cheese and onion crisps. We look forward to such visits and hope we will get lots of them.

*John Fairbanks*

### ELLESMERE PORT BRANCH

Summer Greetings from Ellesmere Port. I start with an item I missed from my last bulletin. At our Branch AGM this year, in response to a proposal from a member, voted on and approved, the branch officers agreed to serve a minimum of two years. i.e. Branch President and chairman - John (Tiny) Davies, Secretary - Gordon Kipps, Treasurer - Mike Dempsey.

On June 20th, twenty-nine members, families and friends boarded a coach and spent a very enjoyable day out in York. Raffles, on the outward and inward journey raised a considerable amount, which subsidized the initial transport cost. The prizes being donated by travellers. Well done all of you!!

On the evening of that day, I attended a Gala Concert at Civic Hall Ellesmere Port, (a prelude to Armed Forces / Veterans Day.) The opening and finale was "Parade of Standards," and I was proud to carry/present our Branch Standard.

Next - Annual Services of Commemoration. Our "special" guests were Mayor of Ellesmere Port and consort, Justin Madders, MP Ellesmere Port and Neston, and wife, CRAMC chairman David Oak and wife. Due to a family "crisis" I received apologies from Brig John Thomson. Due to me "performing" duty as Padre, our Branch standard was carried by a member of Chester Home Guard Association, appropriately dressed in WWI uniform. Harry Goodenough stepped forward and presented a faultless rendering of Last Post and Reveille. Another outstanding feature was the attendance of Terry Finlay with



## WORD FROM THE BRANCHES

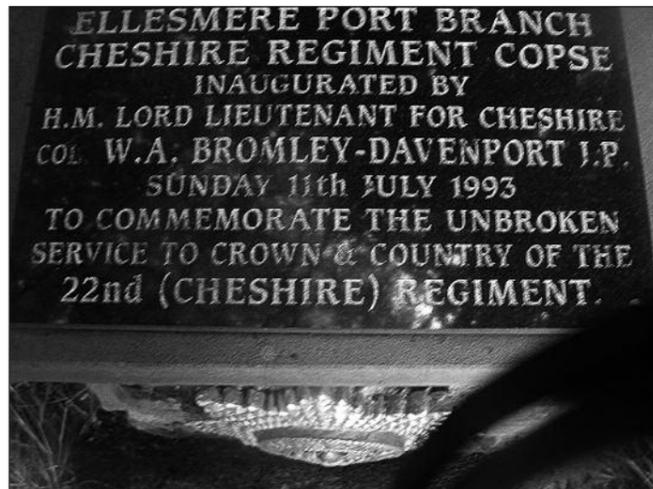
County Standard. At the reception/buffet event David gave a brief "insight" into his thoughts on the future of CRA Branches, (the jury is still "out" on this.)

Finally, I would like to thank all who gave their support on the day, a SPECIAL thank you to Birkenhead Branch who, as usual, sent a large contingent.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank most whole-heartedly my own Branch members, who, despite some having "mobility" issues, are strong in their support at monthly Branch meetings. (Standing Firm, Like the Oak).

### CHESHIRE REGIMENT COPSE

On Sunday 12th July we held our annual service of Commemoration at Cheshire Regiment Copse in Whitby Park, Ellesmere Port. Some 30 members attended the memorial services, with representatives from Ellesmere Port, Chester and South Wirral with a strong contingent from Birkenhead, Also attending was the Chairman accompanied by his wife, and the newly-elected Member of Parliament, Justin Madders, with his wife. The event was further enhanced by attendance of the Mayor of Ellesmere Port, who laid the customary wreath.



When it became apparent that the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment was to merge, becoming the Mercian Regiment, the Copse, of 22 Oak Trees was planned and planted, in anticipation of the merger which took place in July 2007. We parade annually to commemorate the fact that, prior to the merger, the Regiment gave 318 years unbroken service to Crown and Country, (1689-2007).

*Gordon Kipps*

### HALTON BRANCH

The Branch is now into its 10th month. Firstly members and partners attended the races on a wet 8th May, but the weather didn't put us off having a fun day meeting up with old and new comrades. We have a lot coming up over the next few months.

On Friday 14th August and Saturday 15th August 2015 we have been asked by Halton Royal British Legion to help to organise a VJ Commemoration night and day.

The plan so far is to have a Show Night on Friday 14th August 2015 at Halton RBL. The tickets are £3 each with a fantastic female singing group booked and a buffet. Also for the night it will be £2 on any pint and £1.50 for a double of the house spirits. This will be a great night to invite our wives /partners.

Tickets for the show night will be offered to all the Branches of the CRA, Mercian Regiment. The dress for Friday evening will be Smart Casuals.

Then a parade will be held at Halton Royal British Legion on Saturday 15th August 2015 at 1100hours. The parade will consist of a couple of readings, prayers and a 2 minute silence, followed by the release of 70 balloons by members of the cadet forces and young volunteers. Dress will be blazer / Regimental tie. This will be a fantastic opportunity to bring the family and the children can help with the balloon release and maybe win a prize.

On Friday 6th November 2015 a Rally Night will be held at Halton Royal British Legion, this is also a ticket night. The tickets are £5, for this you get two free pints, buffet (hotpot), bottles of beer on the table and entertainment. Tickets for the night will be offered to all Branches of the CRA, Mercian Regiment. Dress will be blazer / Regimental tie.

On Sunday 8th November Halton holds two Remembrance Parades, one in the morning at 1100 hours at Halton Royal British Legion, and one in Greenway Road Runcorn at 1400 hours.

Halton Branch will be attending both these parades, in addition to this Halton Branch will be laying a wreath at the statue of Todger Jones VC DCM.

*John Donaldson*

### KIRKHAM BRANCH

On 8th May Kirkham Branch members, families and friends all met up at the Kirkham café, where a full English breakfast and a big mug of tea or coffee went down a treat. A big thank you to the family of Paul Marshall for looking after us all.

At 10am our MTO arrived to take us to Chester for the regimental race day. The sun was out as we left Kirkham, but on arrival in Chester it looked very much like rain. We made our way to the regimental club where we made contact with many of our old comrades and had a few pints and a good chat as well. Then it was down to the race course and into the tent run by the Mercian Regiment. I must say that they did a first class job looking after us.

Whilst in the beer tent I met up with the Walsall Branch members, Reg Smith, Jim, Len and a few other lads from the branch. Being a Manchester City season ticket holder for over 60 years, it was nice to have a chat with the great Peter Barnes (what a player he was), as well as his dad, Ken Barnes. We managed a couple of winners and two second places then back to the regimental club to have one for the road. The rain was lashing down as we made our way back and nobody had a coat to their name, so we just started singing in the rain and a good time was had by all. At 7pm Tommy Davies arrived to take us all back to Kirkham. Thank you to all the club staff for looking after us all, and to Tommy for getting us all home safe.

Our treasurer and good friend Bill Birkett has been in Blackpool Victoria Hospital for over a month and it was great to see him and his wife Jean at the Kirkham Café on the day of the races. I am pleased to say that Bill is back with us at branch meetings and I am also glad to see our chairman Noel Brookes has managed to find his long lost umbrella, thanks to the regimental club staff.

With thanks to our secretary, Ricky Burchett we managed to get to the Malaya Reunion on the right day after a short-notice change of date and venue. What a good weekend we had. It was

## WORD FROM THE BRANCHES (continued)

good to see old MT comrades Paul Hadfield, Eric Thompson, Bill Bastin, John Eddowes and Vic Parker. Roy Turner did not make it this year as he has been in and out of hospital. Get well soon Roy from all your comrades. We also met up with Bryn Jones and Len Hurcombe, with their wives Sheila and Yvonne. The Walsall Branch members made us most welcome and we enjoyed the entertainment and the fish and chips were first class. It was also nice to see Alan Kennedy and the Stockport lads again.

On a sad note we all missed our great friend Major Bill Jones, who never missed a Malaya Reunion. RIP Bill and our sincere condolences to his family on their sad loss.

*John Gibson*

### NANTWICH AND DISTRICT

Members of the branch continue to meet once monthly with a fairly good membership and attendance. Over the past couple of months attendance has been a bit lower due to holidays and illness. Nevertheless the meetings continue with much lively discussion and good humour. With thanks to our almoner, members unable to attend are kept informed with "Thinking of you" cards.

Future events are to be finalised at our July meeting and these would possibly include a day's outing to Llandudno, the Mons Day Parade, the East Cheshire Reunion at Stockport and a visit to the National Arboretum.

The branch continues to meet in the Crosville Social Club in Chester Street, Crewe on the last Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm. New members are always welcome, do come and join us. The next meeting will be on 28th July.

*Ray Stafford*

### SANDBACH BRANCH

It was suggested that our contributions to the newsletters were a bit same old same old, you must not forget that we are not all journalists but just ordinary people putting together snippets of branch news and events that happen within the branch to let other branches know what is happening.

We held our A.G.M on the 30th April we had the pleasure of Lt Col David Oak Chairman of the C.R.A. at our meeting. After all the niceties the speeches and the committee remaining the same, David asked if he could say a few words, he was quite impressed by the way that our branch was we were not formal in the way we allowed members from other ex members of other branches of the Armed Services he also said that we were unique within the C.R.A because we were the only to have the Cheshire badge at the entrance of the hostelry where held our meetings at the Swan & Chequers Sandbach, and so by his request a photo of the said badge with branch members.

When the meeting was over sandwiches were presented by our Landlord Simon free of charge, and our Chairman requested the branch by a round of drinks for all members present. Cheeeeeers. Up and coming events include the annual day out to Stratford upon Avon Sunday 12th July and then a trip to the Arboretum on the 19th September 2015 for the N.I.V.A service of Remembrance.

We would like to wish all members and families of the C.R.A. all the very best of health and God bless all members of the Armed Services.

*Dave Beech*



*Sandbach members outside The Swan & Chequers*

### SOUTHERN REGION

For those able to attend Chester Race Day it was a day of mixed fortunes. It was wonderful to have such a well organised regimental enclosure, but once again the weather intervened ensuring that maximum use was made of the marquees. Nevertheless it was a pleasure to meet up again with so many others both on the racecourse and at the regimental club.

Some of us made it to Twickenham the following day where once again the Royal Navy was sunk without trace by a rampant Army at the annual rugby match.

Les Stelfox celebrated his 102nd birthday during May and he was very touched to receive so many cards and wishes from members of the 22nd family.

In June we enjoyed the annual inter services T20 cricket competition at Lords. With thanks once again to our president, Tony Twiss, we enjoyed the best seats in the house in the members' pavilion. It was a great day out with the added bonus of another Army win.

We now look forward to supporting the East Cheshire Reunion and to our usual duties at the Field of Remembrance and the Cenotaph. These last two events straddle our usual visit to the Tower of London, which takes place on 7th November.

Our next branch meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 22nd October 2015 in the Mess of 256 (City of London) Field Hospital, 71 Braganza Street, Walworth, London, SE17 3RF.

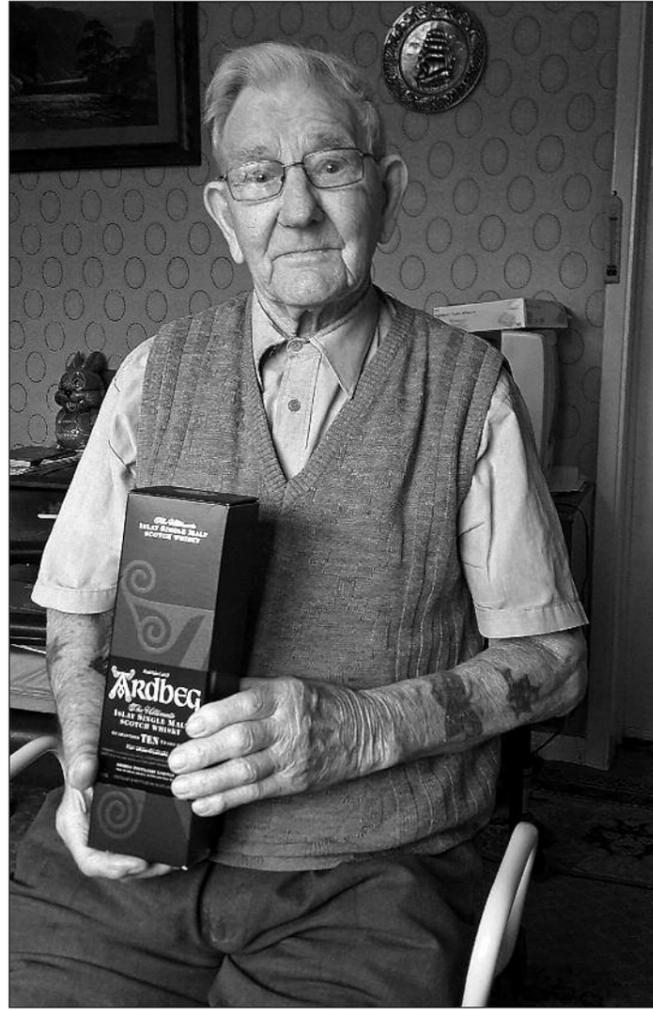
Finally an early "heads up" for our Meeanee Ladies Dinner next year. We look forward to holding it again at Browns of Covent Garden on Saturday 5th March 2016. Put it in your diary now.

*George Szejkowski*

### SNIPPETS

*One always senses that there are a few cogs missing from this man's intellectual gearbox.*

*The final candidate, a Mr Woodhead, was most aptly named.*



Les Stelfox celebrates his 102nd birthday with a Scotch

**STOCKPORT BRANCH**

The old saying ‘Hit the ground running’ certainly applied to us in Stockport. First the news of the funeral of Tony Cannon and his funeral in Lichfield then also the funeral of Bradley Paul both came in rapid succession giving us little time to catch our breath after such a hectic winter period. Bradley’s funeral was extremely well attended with Old Comrades of all ranks paying their respects.

Next came the funeral of Tony Griffin ex 22nd MT Platoon in Malaya. Yet again a fantastic turnout in Stockport Crematorium with standing room only. I sometimes wonder why it is that so many people turn out for a 22nd’s funeral. Do as many people attend the funerals of other Regiments? I wonder.

Then on to our annual visit to the 13th Volunteer Astley Cheshire Rifleman Inn where we enjoyed great hospitality with the now mandatory hotpot. The day was enhanced with the Football result between Liverpool and Manchester United.

Next came the news of the death of yet another CRA member, Eddie Coram RE’s and long-time stalwart of the local Royal British Legion. He was also, as a child, one of the many who were refugees from the Channel Islands in escaping the clutches of the German occupation.

Sad news filtered through concerning the folding of the Tranmere Branch CRA. This highlights the need to increase our

branch memberships urgently. We at Stockport are in the process of a ‘recruiting’ campaign as I write.

Following on with our WWI theme, a party of us attended a concert held at the Hazel Grove Methodist Church where we were entertained by a choir and a jazz band. The music was the usual WWI songs in which we all joined in. A wreath and a cross were paraded and laid on the altar in between the verses of Silent Night (sang in German) and so moving and so apt. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Next on to a recce of our new home bowls team to be followed by a lecture on the Battle of Pilkiem Ridge and St Julian at the Stockport Museum. We took this opportunity to sell our St Julian commemorative pins and advertise our Annual St Julian’s Day Service. Should anyone wish to purchase one of these then please contact me on our Facebook page or on 0161 430 4100, or from the Regimental Museum.

We were then invited to attend the Annual St Georges Day Dinner hosted by the Mercian Volunteers Association (Stockport) at Reddish Vale Golf Club – great evening and in good company. We were saddened to hear of the Death of Major Bill Jones. It goes without saying really that we send our sincere condolences to his family.

This was followed by a V.E. Day Commemoration at Stockport War Museum where, in the company of the Deputy Mayor and his entourage, we duly dipped our Standard. Then in the evening we repeated the performance to a very appreciative public. Sunday and a full house at St Marys Church complete with Standards we attended yet another V.E. Day Celebration Church Service. This being followed by a daylight fireworks display, then an invitation to the Mayors Parlour for tea and cakes. Some of us saw the need for something a little stronger so a rapid swerve into the ‘Cocked Hat’ was deemed in order. Stockport really was full that day with displays, period dress, military vehicles and the obligatory sing song.

A grand day out at Chester Races where some of our branch attended and from the report back it would appear that some of us never even saw a horse. Needless to say the Regimental Bar did well despite the appalling weather (or maybe that helped?)

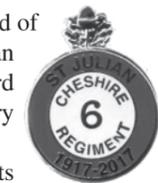
Next our bowls match against Birkenhead CRA, which resulted in Birkenhead running out clear winners (for a change) 241-191 leaving us with a mountain to climb on the return leg. Too few of us managed the tricky green, myself included, but I did get a consolation kiss and cuddle off the lady that beat me (more than anyone else did I may say).

Then yet another funeral to attend, this being Colonel Scott’s who was ex Cameronians then C.O of the 7th Battalion (Cheshire). Our Standards were on parade at St Peters Church, Prestbury then at the Macclesfield Crematorium.

Our notes could be read as an obituary column as next came the funeral of ‘Tiny’ Rowland, late 1st Bn, and some of our branch were in attendance.

As I search for some good news we learned of slight developments in our 2017 St Julian Pilgrimage. With two years to go forward planning is essential in this 100th anniversary commemoration.

Many thanks go to the Walsall Malaya vets for a great evening – lovely fish and chip supper, entertainment and beer made a long journey worthwhile. It was great to catch up with old comrades again. Till the next time.



St Julian Commemorative Pin  
Gordon H Smith

**AND THREE CAME BACK**

I have it on good authority that Birkenhead Branch recently visited the imposing and highly visible War Memorial at West Kirby. My informant was non-other than Peter Jackson, the Birkenhead Branch secretary, who appeared somewhat intrigued when I asked him if he had happened to spot the name ‘Charles E Fairbanks’ on the monument. I know it is there because every year, as far back as I can remember and certainly until I was eighteen I accompanied my father and brothers to the remembrance services. So for Peter, and anyone else who may be interested, this is the story of my uncles but especially of Charles whom I am named after.

At the time that war was declared in 1914 of the six Fairbanks brothers four were living in Thurstaston, Wirral. The youngest, Richard, was unfit for military service because of epilepsy. Ernest, the second eldest had joined the Merchant Navy at an early age and at the outbreak of war was somewhere on the high seas. Harry, James and George were gardeners and stockmen employed by the Ismay family, builders of the ill-fated Titanic and owners of the White Star Line. When the call to arms came the three of them did not hesitate and enlisted in the Cheshire Regiment, at Frodsham, on 1st September 1914.

At that time Charles, the eldest, was living and working in Dorset as an ostler and also lost no time in enlisting in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He went off to France with his horses but what happened in the ensuing carnage is not certain. What we do know is that he served in many hot spots on the Western Front in a variety of units. He went through the entire war without getting so much as a scratch and by August 1918 was serving in the 11th Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) in the Balkans. Charles’s luck ran out just two months before the armistice. At the Battle of Doiran, Greece (present day Macedonia) he was badly injured and died of his wounds on 19th September 1918. He is buried in the Doiran Military Cemetery where his grave is tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The remaining three brothers had differing experiences. George was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and was badly wounded on Hill 60. He recovered and post war became a policeman. James served through the entire conflict completely unscathed and on being de-mobbed became a gamekeeper. Harry, my father, won the MM on the first day of the Somme, was wounded later, but recovered and ended the war serving in the South Wales Borderers as a bombing instructor. A posting which, to a dyed in the wool Cheshire, must have seemed like a fate worse than death!!

**PROSIT**

When not trying to ski, or receiving first aid, or making love skiers are usually to be found drinking. In fact they are required to do little else with their spare time. In most Alpine resorts it is common to see the schnapps flask in continual use for both medicinal and social reasons. And in the cafes and bars steins of beer are perpetually being raised in response to a variety of toasts for innumerable reasons. Which means it is the norm to stumble over paralytic skiers, at all altitudes, at any time of the day or night. Therefore, if only as an aid to survival, the skier needs to have a cast iron constitution and, above all, the ability to drink a Liverpool Docker under the table.

I have no doubt in my mind that in the skiing world the most popular drink is beer. This fact can but please the majority of sportsmen whom, apart from being inordinately proud of their ability to drink gallons of the stuff, only look the part when

clutching foaming tankards of ale.

However there are two things to keep in mind when thinking about having a session with the local ski instructors. First, it is a proven fact that foreign beer is far stronger than ours. The second thing to remember, when drinking in the company of the local inhabitants, is that they were probably weaned on alcohol. Most of them probably cut their first teeth on the rim of a litre glass, and they drink lager with the frequency that we drink tea and with as much concern, or effect.

There are many alternatives to beer drinking. Red wine is plentiful and cheap and therefore consumed in great quantities. It is the main ingredient in the making of that extremely popular spicy mulled wine called ‘Gluhwein.’ This is a delicious drink, with a kick like a mule, which is often used as an opiate by those faced with the alarming prospect of a moonlit toboggan ride or other icy hazards.

White wine, though more expensive than red, is plentiful, smooth, and strong. In the haunts of the toppers it is known as ‘White Lightning’ a name that derives from the flashes before the eyes one gets the morning after indulging in a bottle or two. I can vouch from personal experience that such a hangover is not only vividly illuminated but also monumental in size and duration. Which is one reason why white wine is not quite as popular as red.

The most dangerous, but also most useful drink is schnapps. This rough (in every sense of the word) liquor is distilled from a variety of ingredients such as apples, pears, and potatoes. In the Alpine lands much is made at home, sometimes in the family bath, and it is not against the law to do so. In my opinion it should be because even when brewed commercially schnapps has an octane content that makes drinking and smoking at the same time a distinct fire hazard. But it is popular because it does have several useful benefits. It gives courage to the cowardly, warms the body rapidly, kills pain instantly but can, on occasion, cause the vocal chords to seize up for a while. Ski teachers, long ago, in the course of searching for successful amorous liaisons discovered that when given to young ladies schnapps makes the pure of mind eager to experiment, and turns those of doubtful virtue into dead certainties.

In the winter sports resorts most of the activities I have mentioned, and a few I’ve kept quiet about, are normally performed under the influence of, after indulgence in, or in order to obtain copious supplies of alcohol. This is why many skiers are often found in what I can only describe as a ‘euphoric’ condition. I can support this sweeping statement by relating an incident that occurred after an evening spent ten pin bowling. I was driving the extremely happy group back to their hotel along an icy road. On rounding a corner I braked a trifle too sharply. This caused the mini bus to spin round twice. No-one noticed.

**SNIPPETS**

*This officer works eight hours and sleeps eight hours a day; the only problem is that these are the same eight hours.*

*This man is good for peoples’ health, because when they see him coming they tend to go for long walks.*

*This officer should go far – and the sooner the better.*

*Throughout this course he has been the human equivalent of a haemorrhoid.*

*This man is of few words. The trouble is that he keeps repeating them.*

## USE YOUR HEAD by Andrew Sharpe

Stationed in Hong Kong I thought that I would manage to see the tour out hidden away in the comfortable surroundings of the Anti-tank platoon, surrounded by a cast of the most colourful, fun and yet wonderfully proficient and capable rogues that the 22nd could provide. Alas it was not to be: towards the end of our two years in Stanley Fort someone in BHQ remembered that I existed and I was invited to spend two weeks as the acting Adjutant as the incumbent was away on some career-enhancing course or other. His handover was a single sheet of A4 wishing me well and telling me just to do whatever the RSM and Chief Clerk told me to do, explaining the famous and complex 'Adjutant's-In-Trays' system and explaining where the pencils were kept.

Day one in post and I was awoken in the wee small hours of the night at home in my idyllic quarter overlooking the South China Sea by the duty officer, to be informed that there had been a 'serious altercation' in Stanley village involving most of B Company and a number of ex-pats. After a sleepless night I paraded on the square with everyone else for a Battalion bollocking by the CO who, foaming with rage and waving his cane in the air, explained to the assembled multitude that the reputation of the Battalion had been besmirched, that receiving the fighting attentions of the 22nd was a privilege to be confined to the Queen's enemies, not her citizens living abroad, and that, in any case, it took much more wisdom and courage for a man faced with provocation to use their head, show some sense and integrity and walk away from the provoking party. With which he stalked off parade leaving the RSM to explain in slightly more graphic terms what would happen to anyone else involved in fighting with civilians, including, I remember, the promise to 'pull future offenders through with a lightly salted Christmas tree.'

A quiet day followed as a suitably cowed battalion (and bruised B Company) went about their business in the humid air and I sharpened the Adjutant's pencils. Imagine my surprise when I was awoken that very night in the wee small hours in my idyllic quarter overlooking the South China Sea by a call from the Duty Officer who informed me that a 'well-known Senior NCO' had just handed himself in to the guardroom for fighting with an ex-pat in Stanley village. I promised to give the matter my serious attention the following morning and turned the fan up higher in an attempt to get back to sleep.

The next morning a sufficiently apologetic Colour Sergeant was standing at an approximation of attention outside my office. I will give no clue as to his actual identity but let's just say that he was a (very) big bloke with a wizard's surname and a canine nickname. He was also a man who, in a past life, had been one of my platoon sergeants and for whom I had considerable affection.

"What have you done you idiot?" I asked with my traditional formality.

"I shall reserve my explanation for the Commanding Officer, Sir, if I may, Sir" replied the Colour Sergeant with an offended air.

I was about to try to winkle some facts from him in an attempt to speak to the CO on his behalf when the RSM arrived. He seemed to me to be rather cross and, standing on tip-toe so as to get as close as he could to the Colour Sergeant's face, reminded him that he had an appointment with a Christmas tree. We adjourned to the CO's office, leaving the Colour Sergeant at a sweaty attention in the corridor.

The CO was surprisingly calm as he read through the evidence from the Regimental policeman. It seemed that, in the Smugglers' Bar on the Stanley waterfront, a civilian of unknown identity but in possession of 'an aggressive and mardy attitude' had engaged the Colour Sergeant in conversation after both

parties had imbibed several refreshing San Miguels. The civilian in question had, it seemed, not only suggested that the 22nd were 'not up for it' but also made some remarks about the Ballykelly bomb. He had completed his tirade with an explanation that he felt that the Colour Sergeant, by not reacting to the taunts, was clearly not a man, but a mouse, and had emphasised his view on the matter by pulling a buck-toothed expression, putting his face 'in the Colour Sergeant's personal space' and going "squeak squeak." At which point the Colour Sergeant had delivered a single well-directed head-butt, rendering the said civilian instantly and fairly lastingly unconscious and unable, in future, to pull a buck-toothed expression. The SNCO had then calmly finished off his beer (shame to waste it) and caught a taxi back up Stanley Hill, where he had handed himself in at the guardroom.

This all seemed pretty clear to the CO who complimented me on identifying Section 69 of the Army Act as appropriate on this occasion for the charge sheet.

The Colour Sergeant was then wheeled in by the RSM "LoftDiteLoftDiteLoftDite" etc. The charges and evidence were read to a beetle-browed Colour Sergeant, face furrowed with concentration as he concurred that the explanation of events appeared to be accurate.

The CO, having pointed out that it was only the previous morning that he had made his views on fighting in Stanley perfectly clear, and wondered what the hell the Colour Sergeant had thought he was doing? Did he have an explanation?

His large face a picture of sweaty concentration and innocence the Colour Sergeant replied that he did, indeed have an explanation. "Well, speak up man!" exclaimed the exasperated CO.

"Well Sir, it's like you said Sir. I did just what you ordered us to do Sir."

"What on earth are you talking about?" said a confused CO.

"You were quite clear on the square yesterday Sir. You said that in the face of provocation from an ex-pat, or other some-such civvie, Sir, we were to be a man, and try to avoid a fight, but, in the face of extreme provocation, we were to use our head and walk away. So that's what I did, Sir."

**ARDS**

Perhaps the Colour Sergeant with the wizard's surname and the canine nickname would like to respond – (Ed).

### SNIPPETS

*If this officer ever said what he thought, he would suddenly become speechless.*

*This man is so cold-blooded that if a mosquito bit him, it would succumb to pneumonia.*

*This man is so lazy that he won't even exercise discretion.*

*The only person who drinks more beer in the Mess than this officer is his wife.*

*Officers like him make you wish that birth control could be retrospective.*

*With a little more effort on this man's part, he could become a total non-entity.*

*His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.*

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Dear Editor,**

Whilst at the Cheshire County Show with my family I was walking round the various stands when I came across a painting that I instantly recognised. It was the picture used for the CRA Christmas cards of the 1914 truce by David Thorp. The painting was being raffled to raise funds which will be shared between the Mercian Regimental Benevolent Fund and the Royal British Legion. I got chatting to one of the re-enactors dressed in WWI uniform and bought a book of tickets from him. Before leaving I asked if I might take a photo of him standing next to the painting as I had a vague idea you might be able to use it in the next newsletter. At this point I asked him his name and discovered that he was David Thorp - the artist. It was a good job I'd been complimentary about the painting!

*Ian Griffiths*



*David Thorp with his painting*

### MALAYA 1957

We disembarked at Singapore, then on to Transit camp at Nee-Soon. We spent about a week there, being introduced to basic jungle training/tactics. We then moved north to our base - Semagat. A tented camp, in the middle of a large coconut grove, it became quite a "novelty" to knock down and enjoy the "fruit of the tree." As we "explored" we discovered that next door to camp was a banana plantation. At the time, bananas were in short supply in the UK, so quite a few members of my platoon absolutely "gorged" themselves on the fruit. Very soon they found themselves on sick parade, reporting with stomach disorders – can't spell the word but it begins with D! Soon, on Company Orders, the plantation was placed "out of bounds."

Later on, I discovered the real cause of the problem. The company latrines were a basic row of wood sheds, with a simple seat installed, and a plastic bucket. In the "small hours," the owner of the plantation would open a trapdoor at rear, and remove the bucket of "night soil" which he would use to fertilize his banana crop.

After being Company clerk in Barnard Castle I thought my Malaya tour would be a "doddle." My CSM, WOII Macintyre, soon dispelled that dream by saying, "Corporal, don't think that you are going to sit in the office for the duration. I give you one month to set up the office and train another clerk, then I want you in a platoon." (But that is another story).

*Gordon Kipps*

## RBL CONFERENCE

It's amazing where Cheshires meet up! Southport at the RBL National Conference. Hos Cartwright was also in Southport from Poland at the same time.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2015

- 14 Aug Regimental Golf Day Eastham Lodge
- 4 Sep Regimental Golf Day - Frodsham
- 5 Sep Officers Association Ladies Dinner - Chester
- 6 Sep Mons Day Parade and Lunch - Chester
- 31 Oct East Cheshire Reunion - Stockport
- 8 Nov Remembrance Sunday Services
- 6 Dec Droppin Well Memorial Service

### 2016

- 19 Mar Spring Reunion - Chester

News of major events is published on the CRA page of [www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk](http://www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk) and also on the CRA facebook page.

## CLUB NEWS

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

## 22 CLUB WINNERS

### April

£100

£50

£25

### May

£100

£50

£25

### June

£100

£50

£25

Mr D R Cornes, Nantwich

Mr D Dixon, Babcary

Mr M R West, Cullercoats

Mr P E Potter, Kimberley

Mr R Goode, Sandbach

Colonel J Lane, Aldershot

Mr J R James, Irby

Miss K A Jones, Dudley

Mr A Williams, Holyhead (who kindly donated his prize to the Association)

**MAJOR SIDNEY CHARLES RICHARD BURTON TD MA**

Major Sidney Burton was born in Stockport on 9th March 1931 and as a pupil of Stockport Grammar School was awarded a scholarship to Queen's College Cambridge.

He started his National Service in 1949 with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He was commissioned and after his National Service he continued serving in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment on a short service commission, at the conclusion of which he joined the 7th Battalion Cheshire Regiment. He was posted to Support Company at Stockport in the rank of Captain. He also served at D Company in Cheadle and in due course was promoted Major. He then commanded C Company based at Hale. Sidney was always proud of his service with the 7th Battalion and he received his Territorial Decoration having completed 12 years with the battalion.

Whilst serving with C Company Major Burton went to Nova Scotia, taking the regimental silver, which he presented to the 2nd Battalion Cape Breton Highlanders. In return he came home with a stone presented by the Cape Breton Highlanders as a memento of the site where General Wolfe died. Whilst there, Major Burton was given the freedom of Louisburgh.

He was a strict disciplinarian in the mould of pre-second world war officers. He was always immaculate in his appearance, whether in civvies or uniform, on parade or in the field, sometimes in a manner that could have been depicted in Punch magazine.

With the demise of the 7th Battalion, the Mercian Volunteers took over at Stockport. The CRA welcomed ex-members of the regiment and the TA. The branch at Stockport became functional in 1974 on the demise of the Stockport Old Comrades Branch (1st World War veterans) as their members had become much respected senior old age pensioners. Sidney was a member of both the Stockport Branch from those early days, and also the Officers' Association. He was president of the Stockport Branch from 2006 until 2010. He gave some delightful parties in Wilmslow for the branch members, who much appreciated his generosity. At one such party Sidney christened Roy Porter as "Two Soups Porter." However due to old age and recurring medical conditions, Sidney relinquished the branch presidency in 2010, but on the rare appearances he made at the Armoury after 2010 he was always well received. Sidney was a practiced raconteur who could hold his audience for the whole of any event. Sidney fully supported the 7th Battalion Reunion and also served as a trustee of Stockport Armoury for some four decades.

He had his standards and he maintained them to the end. Sidney was one of the notable characters of the 7th Battalion and I am sure that he will be remembered for years to come. On a personal note, I will never forget the occasional phone call "Alan, would you care to visit on Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. and we will share a bottle of wine, and please bring your darling wife?"

I will never forget Major SCR Burton TD MA – a true gentleman.

*Alan Kennedy*

**MAJOR BILL JONES TD**

Bill Jones joined the Regiment as a National Service Officer from Eaton Hall at Barnard Castle just prior to moving to Malaya with the Battalion in 1957. He was very much a Cheshire man, attending school there, living in the County all his life except when working overseas. He was one of ten National Service Officers in Malaya, and the one who maintained the strongest

links with the Regiment. He joined C Company, then commanded by Peter Martin, with whom he remained lifelong friends, stationed at Labis and then Bedok in Johore. He was involved in the first contact by the Battalion against the Communist Terrorists (CTs) and personally shot and killed one. He had fond memories of Malaya and in later years returned to Malaya on a CRA visit which included another great friend, John Withey, our RMO from jungle days.

Bill joined the TA on leaving the Regular Army in 1959, as a platoon commander in the Birkenhead Coy of 4 Cheshire, rising to command it in 1965. He remained there until the Company was disbanded with the amalgamation of the 4th and 7th Bns. He returned to the Regiment in 1971 as the OC of the new Company at Ellesmere Port and was awarded the TD in 1972, and appropriately was CO of the Guard of Honour for the visit of the Queen to Runcorn in that year.

Business commitments, including work in the United States and Belgium, curtailed his involvement with the TA, until his return in 1998 when he became Chairman of the CRA Management Committee for the next eight years. He was an outstanding Chairman and visited all the branches throughout the County on many occasions. At his funeral service at Blacon Crematorium on 25th April 2015, the support from all the branches, many with their standards, showed the high regard with which he was held by the 22nd.

He was predeceased by his wife, Brenda, five years ago, and is survived by his three sons. He died aged 80 on 15th April 2015.

*WKLP*

**WO2 JIM ROBINSON**

Jim Robinson joined the Band in Ballykinler in about 1961. He didn't play an instrument on his enlistment, but was accepted into the Band on the understanding he would learn to play the trombone. He was an intelligent man and had a natural flair for music and, coupled with his own self-discipline it didn't take him long to make a reasonable sound and become an asset in the trombone section.

Jim's elder brother Stan was a senior NCO in the Band and this must have been difficult for him, having to perform a balancing act being one of the lads and yet at the same time toeing the line. None the less this did not stop him from having fun. He had a wonderful sense of humour and loved joining in all the practical jokes.

I joined the band in the autumn of 1962, having completed my Boy's Service at Lichfield and then a year at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. On my first New Year's Eve in Munster in 1962, Jim and I ploughed through the snow to wish the Dance Band in the Officers' Mess a Happy New Year, also in the hope that we might get a free drink. We couldn't hear the Band playing so we peered through an open window to see if the Band was having a break or was away from the stand. It was at this point that we heard the voice of "Big" Alf Harding shouting "got you – peeping toms." We were then bundled unceremoniously into the back of a three-quarter tonner and driven to the Guard Room. We were then put into a communal cell and advised by one of our fellow inmates to hit the floor if Alf thumped us and not to get up again (fortunately this wasn't necessary).

Alf Harding returned to the Sgts. Mess who were holding a function, found Stan Robinson and informed him that he had two Bandies in the Digger. Stan naturally asked who it was that he

had got in and Alf, beaming with pride announced "ones Caine and the other is your kid!" Needless to say, Stan was not too pleased.

Our punishment for this crime was to spend two weeks repairing damaged music from the Band Library in the evenings. A tedious job to say the least – Jankers with sticky tape. This incident was mentioned at Jim's funeral so it must have had a lasting effect on him. Perhaps it was Big Alf the Provo Sergeant, a heavyweight boxer.

Jim was a laid back easy going man, however, when he put on a pair of football boots his character changed completely. When it came to sport he was extremely competitive, an avid Everton supporter which used to wind his brother up who was a Liverpool fan. That coupled with numerous United supporters, it was like World War Three on Wednesday sports afternoons, but by Friday they were all friends again.

Jim was generous to a fault and would always lend an ear to younger members of the Band, however, he would not offer advice unless it was asked for.

During a Beating Retreat Ceremony at the SHAPE Headquarters in Paris in 1963, Jim brought his Trombone up to the playing position not realising there was a wasp in the cup of his mouthpiece. As a result Jim was stung at the back of his throat and had to be carted off to hospital, but not before he finished the performance, despite being in great discomfort.

In both the Weeton and Bahrain postings, Jim and I shared the same accommodation as Band Storemen in the Band Practice Room and Library. In Bahrain it was also shared with his brother-in-law young Battler Britain. He also had another brother-in-law in the Band – Dave Hudak.

The Bandmaster's Office was part of the Band Practice Room and after tea most days, Jim would disappear into the office and write home to his wife Carol. For those of you who served in Bahrain you wonder what he could possibly write about every night – nothing ever happened! These letter writing sessions would last invariably for 3 hours or more and even then he would be on the last minute to catch the last post at 10.00pm he just about had time to stick a stamp on and run to the post in flip-flops.

Jim and I parted company on 1971 when I left the Band in Berlin and transferred into the Grenadier Guards. We always kept in touch and in particular when I was Band Sgt. Major of the Lancashire Artillery Band and Jim the NRPS of the Royal Signals Band in Middlesbrough. This is a Band which he helped to survive during the cuts to military bands. If you needed any help or advice Jim was always there willing to help.

I consider myself lucky to have served with him and call him a friend. I still refer to him as Gentleman Jim.

*David Caine*

I first met Jim Robinson when I was serving in the Alamein Staff Band RTR in the 1970s. My Director of Music would always ask for the Cheshire Regiment Band and Drums services if he had to organise any Massed Bands event in BAOR. The 2 bands got on very well, so you can imagine my delight when I was appointed as Regimental Bandmaster, thinking that the incomparable Jim Robinson was going to be there as Band Sergeant Major, only to find that he had been posted to the Apprentices College at Chepstow for his last couple of year's service to run the band there. He did come back though, in the middle of the Ballykelly tour and stayed for most of our time in Hong Kong.

Jim was a versatile musician and played the trombone well in both the Military Band and the Dance Band and knowing how much he enjoyed the Dance Band side of things, I asked him to take on the leadership of it, which he did with aplomb, playing trombone or drums and sometimes singing. Under his leadership, the Dance Band was in great demand, especially in Hong Kong. His reputation spread a bit further and when the Commandant of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps wanted to form a band, he recruited local musicians from the Dance Bands of the Colony and requested that Jim be seconded to HKMSC to train them. Jim was in his element and worked hard to make them into a successful musical showcase for HKMSC, so much so, they rivalled the Cheshire Regiment's Dance Band.

As Band Sergeant Major, Jim was the rock on whom I relied, he knew the Regiment and its traditions and tried hard to get me to embrace and enjoy some of them, such as the Pearson Trophy. He always gave me sound advice and whenever we disagreed about something, he would come in to my office, sit down and we would discuss it at length until I agreed to do it his way, which was usually right. He looked after the interests of all members of the band and guided and encouraged them.

I will remember Jim for his professionalism, his loyalty to the Regiment, his wicked sense of humour and above all for his support and friendship to me while we served together.

*TEP*

**WO1 (RSM) IVAN PAUL "TINY" LAWSON**

This is how I remember Regimental Sergeant Major Tiny Lawson: always there, always dependable, always calm, always cheerful, always honest, always kind and always loyal, both to me and to the Regiment. He kept me safe when I had other things on my mind and I will never forget him. What a man!

*Bob Stewart*

I didn't really know 'Tiny' Lawson. I knew of him, obviously, but not having served in the same Company he was always a regimental personality rather than a closer colleague.

All the more surprising, then, that whilst reading the following poem with, I will admit a small malt, WO1 (RSM) 'Tiny' Lawson came to mind.

*David Oak*

**Relieving Guard**

Came the relief, 'What, sentry, ho!  
How passed the night through thy long waking?'  
'Cold, cheerless, dark - as may befit  
The hour before the dawn is breaking.'

'No sight?' 'No sound?' 'No, nothing save  
The plover from the marshes calling  
And in yon Western sky, about  
An hour ago, a star was falling.'

'A star? There's nothing strange in that.'  
'No, nothing; but, above the thicket  
Somehow it seemed to me that God  
Somewhere had just relieved a picket.'

*Francis Bret Harte*

## OBITUARIES (continued)

### THOMAS EDWARD JONES

By his Daughter Karen

Tom was born on the 18th May, 1916 in Beacon Street, Cinder Hill, not far from Wolverhampton. At a very early age, Tom loved football and used to play on the football field opposite Pantry Row, he played for Beacon Rovers. He went to St Mary's School and played for the football team there too. The passion for football lasted throughout his life and watching the scores come through in the afternoon and then staying up until the small hours watching football were regular activities for him...even at 98!

Tom was always extremely hard-working, honest and ambitious; he worked locally and eventually physically built, established and was the Director of his own company with a former army colleague. Tom served in World War 2, initially in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry- when the D Day Invasion took place Tom was on a course in the Lake District- however, sadly many of his comrades were killed on the beaches of Northern France and Tom was transferred to the Cheshire Regiment. He served in Northern Europe- France, Holland, Belgium, Germany and Denmark; he had taught himself German some years before war was declared as he had plans to travel to Germany on holiday. His love of the German language stayed with him throughout his life and he would count to 10 or 20 very quickly which fascinated his great grandchildren. Tom was very proud to serve in the Cheshire Regiment and recalled many outstanding comrades; his love of sport was put to good use in the army, he participated in many different sports although football was his overriding passion. He scored a hat trick in the Olympic Stadium in Berlin playing against the Black Watch and said that it was an incredible experience. If the pay had not been so good in Civilian life he would have stayed in the army and been a PT instructor.

In his 90s Tom has taken part in the Remembrance Day Parade past the Cenotaph in London - 5 times. The Southern Region of the Cheshire Regiment Association organised this for him and Tom considered it an absolute privilege. He always remarked on how well they looked after him, they have been an inspiration and incredibly supportive. These weekends in London were some of his most precious, unforgettable times – staying at the Rubens, private tours of the Tower of London including the Ceremony of the Keys, paying tribute at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, and taking part in the parade itself with his fellow Cheshires, the best of the best. On one occasion, after the two minutes silence, he turned to me and said 'I'm thinking of all the ones who didn't come back.' He never forgot them. It was an honour to have George and Lynne Szwejkowski representing the regiment at his funeral; thank you for everything.

Most of all, Tom loved mountains and fells, in his 70s, he climbed Skiddaw, Helvellyn, Snowdon and Great Gable all twice! A favourite walk was Catbells Ridge in Keswick. In his 80s he ascended Pen Y Fan in the Brecon Beacons and Buckden Pike in the Yorkshire Dales at the grand age of 89! He loved the feeling of being free on the summits and the stunning panoramic views.

Tom adored the warm welcome, love and respect that he always received from the residents of Buckden and relished joining in the events and celebrations in the village. Fancy dress on New Year's Eve was a favourite; he dressed as a Rubik cube and Captain Mainwaring, winning 2 holidays! As the world welcomed 2015 at midnight, Tom sang 'Auld Lang Syne' and danced to The

Proclaimers 'I would walk 500 miles.' Back at the cottage, after the party, he wanted to watch the fireworks from around the world on the TV and have some supper! At 98 years old!!!

Tom, always handsome with a dazzling smile, always well-dressed, a devoted husband, an inspirational Dad, a much loved brother, uncle, grand-dad and great-grand-dad, a loyal friend, he enhanced the lives of all who met him. A remarkable man who has led an amazing life, now reunited with his darling Alma.

### SYLVIA CLAPPERTON

Although it has not been customary to include spouses of CRA members I could not allow the passing of Sylvia Clapperton to go without mention. The part played by the wives and families is very often over-looked, but Sylvia certainly played her part in supporting both Phil and the 22nd since their first married quarter in Germany in the early 70s, until Phil's retirement from the Army only a few months ago. Her courage and fortitude whilst fighting her illness was immense, yet still she found time to think of others. The wonderful attendance at her funeral tells you all that you need to know about the esteem in which she was held within the 22nd.

## PTSD RESOLUTION

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 0845 021 7873. 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.

## LAST POST

**Frank Barrow** died 26 January 2015 aged 83 served Suez

**Ernest Bloomer** died 3 November 2014 National Service

**Sylvia Clapperton** died 13th July 2015

**Capt Frank Dwight** died 30 April 2015 aged 85 Served 1949-60 Malaya

**Paddy Foulkes** died 8 December 2014 served 1948-51 Welsh Guards & Cheshire ACF Sgt Maj / Drum Maj

**Chris Hughes** died 18 Mar 2015 Ex 1st Bn 1961-74

**Maj Bill Jones** died 15 April 2015 aged 80

**Paul (Tiny) Lawson** died 17 May 2015 Ex RSM 3 Cheshire

**William Massey** died 7 March 2015 WW2 Veteran

**D Oldham** died August 2014

**Lt Col David Owen** died 27 May 2015 aged 87 Ex 1st Bn 1948-73

**Col Edward Scott TD** died 6 May 2015 Ex 7th Bn

**Roy Turner** died 9th July 2015 Aged 77. 1st.Bn.MT. Malaya '57/'59.

**Ernest Wharton** died 19 May 2015 Ex 1st Bn