



THE SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

From: Capt MA Elliott
Hon Secretary

TA Centre
Cavendish Drive
Carlton
Nottingham NG4 3DX
20th Mar 2014

Dear Member,

AGM and ANNUAL DINNER - Saturday 26th April 2014

This year's Annual Reunion Dinner will be held at 6.30 for 7.00pm on Saturday 26th April at the TA Centre, Carlton, by kind permission of the Squadron Leader, Major Angus Jenkins.

The cost of the Dinner will be £16-50 per person and full details are enclosed on a separate sheet. I hope that as many members as possible will attend. Please apply to me (or to the SSM if you are a serving member) in good time. If you apply to me please use the correct form (attached). We will always try to accommodate latecomers but if a large number of people turn up at the last minute it makes life very difficult for the organisers.

Guests are welcome at the dinner but must be connected with the SRY or other regiments.

Free Tickets. Free tickets are available to those members over 65 who are in genuinely reduced circumstances and who would not otherwise be able to attend. If you are in this situation and cannot afford a ticket I still hope that you will come - please sign the declaration on the application form and I will send you a free one.

Serving members of S Sqn should, as usual, obtain their dinner tickets from the Squadron. However, if you put your name on the Squadron list, please don't order a ticket from me as well or you will have to pay twice.

At the Dinner, we shall again be holding a raffle and any donations of prizes will be gratefully received. Last year's raffle collected £136 and I am most grateful to all who contributed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held immediately before the dinner at 6.00pm. The Agenda and a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting are enclosed. The Accounts will be presented at the meeting.

OBITUARIES

I am sorry to have to report the deaths since my last circular of a number of members as follows:

Mr EG Calcut	- Ramsgate	Mr KR Nicholls	- Nottingham
Mr JA Davey	- Polegate	Mr FT Rixon	- Lichfield
Mr JA Mellor	- Stoke-On-Trent	Mr G White	- Northallerton
Mr D Newton	- Mansfield		

REPORT FROM THE MIDLANDS BRANCH

I attach a report from the Midlands Branch. The Branch is keen to establish contact with members living in the area who served in more recent years (1980s/90s) and who may have lost touch in the meantime. Please contact one of the Committee members on the telephone numbers shown.

S (SRY) Sqn THE ROYAL YEOMANRY

I enclose a report from the Sqn Leader on the Squadron's year and its new role as light cavalry.

Most significant has been the result of the recent defence review involving a reduction in the regular army to be balanced by an increase in the strength and contribution of the reserves. The challenge of this has not been made easier by a new recruiting system imposed by the MoD without much attention to how the needs of the TA differ from those of the regular army. However, in true yeomanry style, the Squadron has just got on with the job using its own ingenuity and resources where necessary and with some financial assistance from the Association. As can be seen from the Sqn Leader's report, the results are impressive but the work has been hard. The good news is that the Squadron has survived. The South Notts Hussars have been less fortunate, due to the changing priorities of the Royal Artillery, but will combine with the SRY so that, after 200 years of separation the two Nottinghamshire yeomanry regiments will be reunited. The regimental associations remain separate but links have already been made and the local branches of the SRY and SNH have begun to meet jointly at Carlton.

CAVALRY MEMORIAL PARADE - Sunday 11th May 2014

This year the Cavalry Memorial Parade will be held on Sunday 11th May in Hyde Park and I hope that the Regiment will again be well represented. Detailed arrangements will be co-ordinated through the Midlands Branch so, if you would like to attend, please contact the Branch Secretary. I assume that the RY will, as usual, be organising a lunch after the parade. This year the lunch will be held at The Rifles Club, cost £17-50 per head. If you would like to attend, please let me know as soon as possible.



The Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park

WESTMINSTER ABBEY 7th NOVEMBER 2013

The Regiment was represented at the Annual Field of Remembrance organised by the Royal British Legion at Westminster Abbey. My thanks to all who came



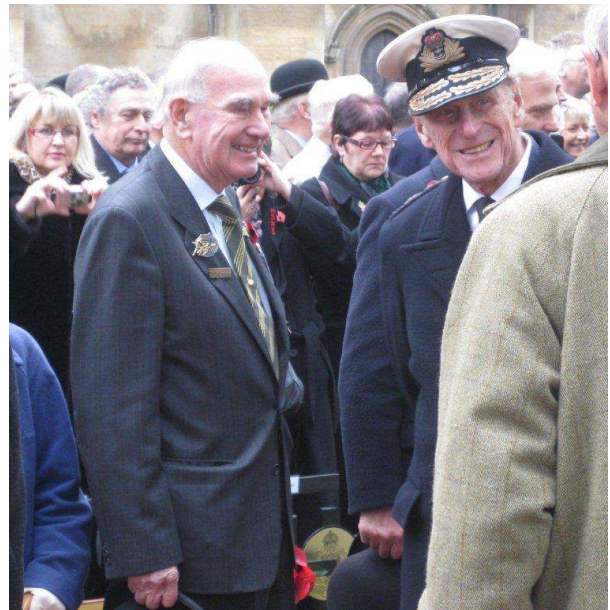
Graham Stevenson arrived early



Capt Nick Robinson, Bernard & Jan Andrews and Christopher Pike



State Trumpeters on the roof



Capt David Render with Prince Philip

This year the ceremony will be held on Thursday 6th November. Security is heightened these days and, if you would like to come you will need a ticket. However, it is a fine ceremony and I hope that anyone who would like to come will not be deterred, but please give me at least eight weeks notice so that I can make the necessary arrangements on your behalf.

NORMANDY JUNE 2013 and 2014

Our 2013 Normandy tour started on 6th June at Arromanches with a 360 degree film show of the landings - loud and confusing but a pale imitation of what it must really have been like in 1944. From the adjacent viewpoint one can also get a good overview of the beaches and the remains of the Mulberry harbour which are still visible after almost 70 years.

From there we moved down to Gold Beach where we heard from Bert Jenkins how he had landed in the first wave in an amphibious DD tank of B Squadron. His tank was knocked out almost immediately as it stopped to disengage its propellers and he was wounded. Also Capt David Render told us the story of his own landing a few days later.



Veterans at Gold Beach



Stan Cox

We then moved inland, following the route taken by the Regiment in the days following the landing, until we reached point 103, where Keith Douglas was killed, St Pierre where RHQ was knocked out and Tilly-sur-Seulles which was the scene of much fighting over several weeks in June 1944. After a visit to Tilly cemetery, where Douglas and those killed at St Pierre are buried, we visited Bricquessard. Here, David Render told us how his troop was left to take the village alone after the commander of the infantry that he was supporting was wounded.



Lunch at Audrieu



Tprs Bartlett & O'Connell and Musn Bradley
(RY Band) enjoying the local food



Tilly Cemetery



Lt Pepler's grave at Tilly

The day ended at Chateau du Molay, now a holiday centre for British schoolchildren. David Render, helped by his friend Vic Benson, gave one of his tank talks after which the children had the chance to talk in small groups to the veterans.

7th June is the anniversary of the liberation of Bayeux, the first town in Normandy to be liberated. In the morning we held our usual commemoration ceremony at our memorial at the Battle of Normandy Museum which was attended by the Mayor and other officials and a large crowd of veterans, visitors and local people. As we did not have a padre with us this year, the service was kindly taken by Father Laurent Berthout, Dean of Bayeux, for whose assistance in this and past years we are most grateful



The service at the regimental memorials at Bayeux Museum



Father Laurent, Dennis Buston
& Capt David Render



The SRY memorial

. In the afternoon, we attended ceremonies at Hottot, where we were favoured with an appearance by the local “Scottish” pipe band, and at St Pierre and Tilly where the day ended with cider and a chance to visit the Tilly Museum. We are always warmly welcomed at Bayeux and Tilly and, once again, we are grateful to all our French friends for their hospitality and assistance with our ceremonies.



The Pipes and Drums at Hottot



At the SRY memorial at St Pierre Farm

This year is the 70th Anniversary and we will be represented in force. If you are interested to come and still have not signed up, please contact the Secretary or Martin Kerry as soon as possible.

CAPT RENDER AT THORESBY – THURSDAY 15th MAY 2014

Normandy 1944 as seen by a 19 year-old SRY troop leader is the title of a talk to be given by Capt David Render at the regimental museum at Thoresby on Thursday 15 May 2014. (Time TBC). It promises to be a full and frank account in his inimitable style...

Admission includes a glass of wine and a finger buffet and is free to Friends of the Museum, or £10 for guests (for £10 a guest can also become a Friend himself of course).

Do come along, it promises to be a fascinating evening.

CHRISTOPHERSON DIARY

The wartime diary of Lt Col Stanley Christopherson entitled *An Englishman at War* and edited by James Holland will be published by Random House in April. Those, including the Secretary, that have been fortunate enough to read the manuscript can vouch that it is a fascinating story covering the author's progress from beginning to end of the War and well worth a read. We hope to have copies for sale at the dinner.

ITEMS FOR SALE

I enclose a list of books, ties, buttons and other items for sale together with details of how to order by post. Please send your order to Chris Woodward as shown on the form and not to me. As usual, these items will also be available at the Dinner.

We have also had some large (5ft x 3ft) SRY flags made and have a few available for sale at a price of £80 each. More details are given on the attached Items for Sale list.

UNIFORMS

If you have any items of uniform such as Greens or Mess Kit which either belong to the Regiment or which you would be prepared to donate, they would be much appreciated - please contact Capt Steve Goodwin (PSAO) at Carlton (0115 961 8722).

WELFARE

I should like to remind you that I rely entirely on members to keep me informed about other members, particularly those in need, so, if you know of someone who needs help or a visit, please inform me or one of the Branch representatives and we will do what we can to assist them, either practically or financially. I am sure that I speak for all members in saying that we continue to be most grateful for all the work done by Don Brown and others in visiting and supporting our less fortunate comrades.

The Association has also been funding the provision of welfare parcels to members of the Sqn serving on operations in Afghanistan. Each member receives a regular parcel containing small comforts and difficult-to-obtain items. These are much appreciated by the recipients and I am most grateful to Captains Turner and Goodwin and all those at Carlton who have helped in the assembly and despatch of the parcels.

WIDOWS' FUND

Thanks to the generosity of members, the Widows' Fund had another successful year. We again raised over £2,000 and were able to send out gift vouchers worth £40 to each of 54 widows at Christmas. I received numerous letters of sincere thanks and there is no doubt that this effort is appreciated. What is most important is that the recipients know that they are not forgotten.

As in previous years, I am extremely grateful to Capt David Render, who raised more than half the total through the proceeds of his popular lecture series, and to his friend Vic Benson (ex-RMP and City of London Police) who helps on these occasions. I would also like to thank the members of the Midlands Branch its contributions and all those individuals who made personal donations, large or small.

TAX RELIEF ON DONATIONS

As a registered charity, the Association can claim tax relief on the amount of any donation, however small, provided the donor signs a declaration that tax has been paid on the amount given. This also applies to donations to the Widows' Fund (see above). Hence, if you are a taxpayer and have not already signed such a declaration, please complete and sign the declaration on the proforma which will allow us to reclaim tax on any donation that you may make now or in the future.

FINALLY

Please also let me know when you move so that I can keep my address list up-to-date. It is difficult to keep track of everybody. Last year the circulars addressed to the following were returned:

Mr Bower	- Nottingham	Capt RLW Marsh	- Hurley
Mr R Bradder	- Nottingham	Mr P McGary	- Nottingham
Mr R Brocklehurst	- High Peak	SJ Norman Esq	- Great Chishill
Mr M Chapman	- Nottingham	Mr S Pezaro	- Nottingham
Mr DN Clarke	- Newark	Mr JS Tarling	- Bristol
Mr D Dewar	- Margate	Mr F Tinker	- Worksop
Mr RJ Dickson	- Nottingham	Mr CS Watts	- Nottingham
Mr Gartside	- Nottingham	WO2 D West	- Leicester
Mr WD Harris	- Edgeware	Mr MJ Whitehead	- Nottingham
Mr H Langsdale	- Nottingham	Mr JJ Willdig	- Chesterfield

If you have any news of them or of anyone who did not receive this circular, please let me know.

My thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter, particularly to Mrs Ann Barrow, Vic Benson and all the others who have supplied me with photographs. Also to Capt David Render, Mike Freeman and the Midlands Branch Committee, Chris Woodward and his helpers in the Museum, Martin Kerry, and Capt Steve Goodwin and SSM Karl Stone at Carlton for all their help throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing as many of possible of you at the Dinner and at other events during the year.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Elliott

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at Carlton at 6.00pm on Saturday 26th April 2014. The Agenda will be as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Apologies | 5. Officers and Trustees |
| 2. Minutes of last AGM | 6. Midlands Branch Report and Accounts |
| 3. Matters Arising | 7. Welfare Matters |
| 4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts | 8. Any Other Business |

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
HELD AT CARLTON ON 27th APRIL 2013**

Present: Col Hunt (Chairman), Maj Cornish (Treasurer), Capt Elliott (Secretary) and 31 other members

1. Apologies for Absence - Received from 12 members
2. Minutes of last AGM - The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
3. Matters Arising - None
4. Treasurer's Report

Maj Cornish presented the accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2012 which had been approved by the Trustees in their meeting just finished. These showed net incoming resources of £1,190.

The accounts were approved, proposed by Col Hunt and seconded by Mr Freeman.

5. Officers and Trustees

Capt Elliott reported that, since last year, Maj Jenkins and Cpl Hann had taken office as *ex-officio* trustees representing the Squadron. Also, Col Buchanan had succeeded the late Lt Col Allen as President.

6. Midlands Branch Report and Accounts

Mr Freeman presented the report of the Midlands Branch which had had another successful year. Mr Woodward presented the Branch accounts and confirmed that they had been approved by the Branch.

7. Welfare

Capt Elliott said that, over the past year, the Association had continued to make grants to members in need and to fund the sending of welfare parcels to those on operations. These appeared to have been well received and he thanked all those involved in this important effort.

He also thanked Mr Brown for his continued efforts as welfare visitor in looking after our less fortunate members.

Col Hunt said that recent budget cuts might be expected to put those of limited means under even more pressure and he asked all members to look out for those who might be in need.

9. Any Other Business

Capt Elliott thanked the SSM and members of the Squadron for their assistance in organising the Dinner.

MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Once again I am pleased to report that the Branch has had a very good year. I am also pleased to report that the branch is in a strong financial position due to the concerted efforts by the branch committee and the continued support from the membership. Currently we have 128 members subscribing to the branch newsletter which is posted out twice a year. If you wish to subscribe to the branch newsletter contact any of the committee members listed. At £3.50 per annum we think it is well worth it. We currently issue news letters to our branch widows and the veterans of the old Southern Branch free of charge. If you believe that you are eligible to receive free newsletters please let us know.

New members are always welcome. All ex members of the SRY, serving members or ex members of the RYR, or if you were, or are attached to either, you are automatically a member by right. We will always be pleased to see you at our monthly meetings, which are held on the fourth Wednesday each month at the TA Centre Carlton, by kind permission of the Squadron Leader Major A D Jenkins.

Visits and events during the year

We had a very busy 2013 starting with, the branch AGM in February, the Regimental OCA Annual dinner in April and in May, the OCA Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park. On June the 5th, we took a part in the annual visit to Normandy (see separate report above). Martin Kerry managed once again to obtain Lottery funding which enabled our Veterans to take part free of charge. Our Remembrance parade took place as usual in Newark on the 10th of November. The only negative point is that the number of ex-SRY comrades attending, seems to diminish every year and I would ask for those who are able to make a concerted effort to boost the numbers. If you have a problem with transport please would you make any of the branch committee aware? We will always try to assist whenever possible.

This year we were very pleased to be able to pay for two children from the Carlton Central School to visit Ypres in Belgium in 2014. This is part of our continuing commitment to support this school with their projects about WW1 and WW2 which the children are involved in. On December the 7th we held our branch Christmas “do” when we provided a buffet for 56 members and a few guests. A free drink was available on arrival, and at 2100 hours A Free Bar was declared. After allowing the food to be consumed and the pint pots to be topped up, we commenced with the Christmas prize draw. Over 100 prizes were available, which took almost 45 minutes to distribute. My personal thanks must go out to everyone who helped out in the organisation of all our events throughout 2013

Proposed trips 2014

On the 4th of June we will once again be taking a coach party to Normandy, if you are interested in any of our other trips which may be planned please contact Mike Freeman or one of the other committee members below.

The SRYA Midlands Branch Committee

Mike Freeman (Chairman/Secretary)
John Maltby (Vice Chairman)

Chris Woodward (Treasurer)
Donald Brown (Welfare Visitor)

On the Welfare side, if you are aware of anyone who has passed away, is suffering, or in need, please contact Donald Brown or any committee member. The Midlands Branch has always had special interest in the welfare of the Association members and widows, and we actively support the

widows' fund by way of a share from profits that we make from our Branch functions. Any donations to the widows' fund will be greatly appreciated.

For further information about the Branch, the membership and future events please contact any branch committee member.

Mike Freeman (Branch Chairman)

S (SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY) SQUADRON, THE ROYAL YEOMANRY

Training and Recruiting

This has, by its very nature, been a year of hard graft. Whilst the CO's directives are simple to understand they are complex to execute. We have had two objectives "Recruit" and "Convert to RWIMIK". Capt Beattie and WO2 Griffen have headed up the recruiting effort with energy and aplomb. We have added over 10% to the squadron strength and for the first time in a number of years we have the prospect of four troop leaders by September. The recruiting events come thick and fast. We attend all shapes and sizes from a couple of soldiers handing out flyers at a Notts county football match to a full troop sized team and a two WIMIKS at Armed Forces day, incidentally a fantastic day and the City Of Nottingham did the military proud. We will continue with a punishing recruiting tempo and with it will come a higher profile for the squadron.

Conversion to RWIMIK is very complex, given the vehicle is essentially a heavy Land Rover, unnecessarily requiring the ordinary Trooper to complete multiple phases including C Cat HGV license, the WIMIK drivers course, work place training and RODET armoured vehicle escape simulator to name but a few. Sadly gone are the days when you attested one Wednesday and then drove a Fox on the next with your Tp Cpl there to teach you. However, the SSM organised a superb run of five consecutive weekends which enabled the Squadron to train twenty four WIMIK drivers from three units. This excellent piece of organisation proved that we do not have to keep sending people away for weeks at a time to get this sort of training done. We can do a huge amount in house. We always did in the past but it is hard to get over the Regular Army's scepticism.

We are well on the way to achieving a full conversion to a RWIMIK light cavalry squadron by the target date of October 2014 and I would like to thank the soldiers and NCOs for their hard work and dogged attitude in qualifying as RWIMIK crews. When the full Squadron rolls out at Camp this year it will be an impressive sight.



RWIMIK in action

This year our Annual Camp (now called ATP) was down at the heart of the RAC at Bovington and Lulworth. I absolutely love being down in “tank country” and although we had, as one periodically has to do, quite a boring courses camp, we made the most of it and between lessons there were opportunities to have a little R and R down by the sea. We were also able to hold an outside memorial service for Cpl James Dunsby (A Sqn) who sadly was one of the three soldiers who died attempting SAS selection in the Brecon Beacons. It was a superb setting down in Lulworth Cove and an excellent service attended by his widow.



First Aid training



Weapon Training at Carlton

Operations

It has now been ten years since I deployed to Iraq as part of a substantial number from the Squadron. Whilst the nature of operations and deployment has varied hugely over that time, one thing has remained the same the squadron has met the call for IRs (individual replacements) to back fill regular regiments every time without fail. Once again, we have welcomed five soldiers back from Afghanistan where their performance was superb. Two of them attended the Sun Military awards with a soldier from HQ Sqn who won an award for his actions in an incident in which all three of them were involved. Even though the nature of operations is changing, I have no doubt we will be a permanent fixture in future operations working hand in hand with our regular counterparts in various of areas of the world as yet unknown.



RY (including SRY) members in Afghanistan



Capt Beattie painting in the field

The South Notts Hussars

With the sad disbandment of 307 (SNH) Bty and its transfer to suspended animation, the name South Notts Hussars was under threat. The Hon Colonels have been able to save the name by adding it to our nomenclature. Clearly this will be a challenging period for the OCAs as they try to conduct some kind of coming together. For the soldiers it is much easier: they will be looking at what jobs they would like to in the Reserve forces and, if they wish to join the Royal Yeomanry as Light Cavalry, then they will be most welcome.

The year ahead

As we look forward to this year I hope that my next article for the newsletter will announce that we deployed a full RWIMIK light cavalry squadron on ATP. In addition, after a year of rolled-up sleeve hard work, I hope to be able to report the Squadron as having had a lot more fun not just “on the field” but off it as well. If we achieve our target on ATP and also recruit the Squadron up to 100% then the we will have a huge amount to be proud of. We are not there yet but this year has been an excellent start.



RWIMIK on patrol

Maj A D Jenkins

THE SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 2014

The Dinner will be held at the TA Centre, Cavendish Drive, Carlton, Nottingham at 6.30 for 7.00 pm on Saturday 26th April 2014. Admission will be restricted to holders of tickets which must be obtained in advance using the form below, not later than 22nd April. PLEASE APPLY TO ME (or to the SSM if you are a serving member) IN GOOD TIME AND USE THE CORRECT FORM. We will always try to accommodate latecomers but if a large number of people turn up at the last minute it makes life very difficult for the organisers.

Tickets cost £16-50 each. Any member over 65 and who, due to restricted income, would genuinely not otherwise be able to afford to come may apply for a free ticket - please sign the declaration below.

To: Capt MA Elliott, TA Centre, Cavendish Drive, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 3DX

Please send me _____ ticket(s) for the annual dinner at £16-50 each. If ordering more than one ticket please give the name(s) of your guest(s) below

I enclose £ _____ for the above and £ _____ as a donation to the Association (please make cheques and PO's payable to: "SRY ASSOCIATION")

Please send me _____ free tickets(s). I declare that I am over 65, on a restricted income and would not otherwise be able to attend. Signed _____.

Name and Initials (BLOCK CAPITALS please) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of Guest(s) _____
(must be connected with _____
the SRY or other regiments) _____

GIFT AID DECLARATION. If you are a taxpayer, have made a donation and have not already completed a declaration, please complete, sign and date the declaration below in order to allow the Association to claim Income Tax relief on your gift:

Full Name _____ (address as above)

Please treat all my donations until further notice as Gift Aid. I will have paid an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Association reclaims from my donations in the relevant tax year. I will notify the Association if, in the future, I cease to be a taxpayer.

Signed _____ Date _____ (This form is invalid if it is not dated)

(Charity for the Benefit of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry No. 1069782)