



The Royal Green Jackets Regimental Association

Ezine

15th June 2009

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Included In this issue

- The 2009 Winchester Reunion and members benefits.
- Officers Annual Dinner report.
- The RGJRA Forecast of Events.
- A hard week in Helmond (2Rifles)
- Branch and individual charity events.
- National Armed Forces Day 27th June 2009
- RGJ Ladies Guild new responsibilities and Committee.

Obituary Notices

[Please Click on the name below for more information](#)

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Eric Spencer | 5 April |
| Joe Simpson | 7 April |
| Michael Abbott | 7 April |
| G.H Maufe MC | 8 April |
| S.H Ingalls | 13 April |
| Alan Seal | 14 April |
| Benjamin Warren | NK |
| Brig OG Pratt MBE | 21 April |
| Colin Lowther | 22 April |
| Jim Summers | 25 April |
| Karl Johnson | 7 May |
| Rfn Adrian Sheldon | 7 May |
| Bill Rawlings | ? May |
| Roy Trustram Eve | 20 May |
| Rfn Cyrus Thatcher | 2 June |
| Frank Terroni | 4 June |
| Sidney Smith | 4 June |

Welcome to the first edition of the new RGJRA Ezine Newsletter published on or after 15th of each Quarter. This publication is only circulated to RGJRA members who have a registered email address on the Database. Make sure you keep your email address up to date and empty your mailbox frequently. **LATE NEWS! Lieutenant General Nick Parker CBE receives KCB in Birthday Honours List**

Forward

Welcome to this, the first edition, of the new Ezine Newsletter.

Hopefully this new venture will fill the information gap between branches and those individual members who are not branch members or perhaps not even aware of how close they are to a local branch.

Originally the plan was to produce this publication on a monthly basis but for practical reasons it will now appear in your mailbox on a quarterly

basis. So the next issue following this will be in September 2009.

As well as giving a gentle reminder of future Association events it will also review forthcoming branch events and provide a preview, three months in advance where possible. Hopefully, this will encourage closer and more integration between branches and individual members who may not be involved with branches but want to become so.

Once the publishing sequence is established I hope you will give your support to those taking part in events that support fund raising for those very deserving charities such as Help 4 Heroes and others. Providing I am informed about these events so will you be.

Please let me have feedback on this publication so that as time goes on we can tailor it to your needs.

The Winchester Reunion 2009

The Winchester reunion for this year will, as usual, be hosted by the ATR and take place at Sir John Moore Barracks on Saturday 11th July. The timings for the reunion are as follows;

- 13.00** Gates open.
- 13.00-1800** Bars open and static displays.
- 18.00** Fall in on Main Square.
- 18.30** Service, march past, sounding retreat.
- 19.00-0100** Bar opens.
- 01.00** Bar closes.

If you are not already a paying member of the Association there will be a £10 admission charge which you can convert to a one year membership subscription by completing an application form available at the gate. There is also an option to pay future

subscriptions by standing order or purchase a lifetime membership for a one off payment of £100.

The advantages of full membership are listed below.

- Free entry to the Winchester and Oxford reunions.
- Full access to the Association Database and a free Association email address on application.
- A free Association annual magazine.
- Free entry to the Museum for the Winchester reunion weekend and half price entry for the remainder of the year.
- The book Swift and Bold – A Portrait of the RGJ 1966 – 2007 is sold at half price (£16.50) to members.

“Gen Balfour’s speech was witty and amusing and as expected drew attention to those that did not attend! We hope to have 200 sitting down in 2010”.



Maj Gen Jamie Balfour CBE

RGJ Officers Dining Club 30th April 2009

The annual officers’ dinner was held on the 30th April 2009 at 56 Davies Street, London in the Drill Hall of F Coy 7 RIFLES, the old 4(V) RGJ location. It was a bumper dinner with 175 former RGJ officers attending. Maj Gen JMJ Balfour was in the chair flanked by Field Marshal Bramall and Gen Bob Pascoe and supported by the more junior home grown generals namely Lt Gen Anthony Palmer, Lt Gen Nick Parker (Col Comdt The Rifles) and Maj Gen

Nick Cottam. Major Generals Charles Vyvan, Andrew Pringle and Jamie Gordon (CBF Cyprus) shunned the top table for their peer group tables. For the second year running we had peer group/Bn/ location tables which proved to be successful in bringing together brother officers who had not seen each other for over 30 years. A very successful 2 RGJ Münster table was organised by Capt Charles Heathcote-Amory and even “Monty” and Dalby made it

without the help of their Ex CSM Roy Stanger getting a grip of them! Needless to say he was not only seen but as always heard! Maj Hugh Dumas organised a very successful 1RGJ Penang/ Borneo/ Berlin table whilst Ed Parker got a table of 14 together and Ed Peters organised a table of 17. Gen Balfour’s speech was witty and amusing and as expected drew attention to those that did not attend! We hope to have 200 sitting down in 2010. J-D v M

Association Forecast of Events (June/Sept 2009)

June

Wed 10th

Celer et Audax Club Ladies Lunch. The Cavalry & Guards Club, London

Sun 14th

Oxford Band Concert, 11.30am, Edward Brook Barracks, Cholswell Road, Shippon, Abingdon OX13 6HW.

Thurs-Fri 18th-19th

Rifles and Former RGJ officers Sailing Regatta.

July

**Fri-Sun 3rd – 5th
Sat 11th**

Rifles and Former RGJ officers Cricket Festival
Winchester sounding Retreat and Reunion, ATR, Sir John Moore Barracks.

**Wed 15th
Mon 20th**

KRRC AGM Davies Street. 1800hrs for 1830hrs.
Regents Park Memorial Service. No longer officially held but anyone wishing to attend is welcome to do so. Also attended on Remembrance Sunday.

Aug

Tues 25th

Rifle Brigade Regimental Birthday

Sept

Sun 13th

Rifles and Former RGJ officers Celer & Audax Stakes, Goodwood Racecourse. Details from London Rifles office.

MK Branch helps H4H Charity Event 10th May 2009

Sunday 10th May 2009 saw the Milton Keynes Branch taking part in one of the busiest days in the H4H charity’s history when over 3000 attended the FIT FOR HEROES DAY at Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire. Among the huge crowd were over 300

runners who turned up to take part in either the 5km or the 10km runs. On display to entertain the crowds were a huge variety of stands and stalls from inflatable’s, craft stalls, petting zoo and a Falconry display. Over £7500 was raised for the

H4H charity. The Trustees of PROJECT 65 would like to thank everyone who attended the event as well as His Grace the Duke of Bedford for the kind use of the estate and to all his staff who helped us throughout the build up to the event.



Help 4 Heroes at Woburn

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A Hard Week in Helmond from 2 Rifles - Afghanistan

It seems hard to believe how little time has passed since we lost Rifleman Sheldon, his death was one of four British fatalities that day, but many locals also lost their lives as the Taliban launched indiscriminate suicide bomb attacks against the local population as well as targeting members of the local security forces and British soldiers.

The members of B Company did not have long to wait to return to battle after the loss of Rifleman Sheldon as they fought off a further attack by insurgents that night. 24 hours later, and services of remembrance were held at all the Forward Operating Bases, as the service at Sangin was just about to finish, a

fusillade of small arms fire was heard. The Rifleman stood fast and the services concluded with the end of the service being marked by the bugler, sounding the advance and within minutes Rifleman of A Company were out of the camp to assist the Welsh Guards and local Afghan National Army soldiers who had come under attack from insurgents. The quick reaction of the A Company soldiers and the vicious amount of fire power put down by the Welsh Guards and the Afghan National Army led to the Taliban coming off worse in that engagement. Both Rifleman and Guardsman were very impressed by the bravery shown by the Afghan soldiers and as we are

called Rifleman, they are known as Warriors and from that short contact, it is a name they richly deserve.

The hard fighting is just part of the soldiers work-time is spent also trying to improve the lives of the local population in Sangin, and we should see the local clinic open soon, and in our spare time? We try to improve our own living standards, the Engineers are improving the Hesco Houses we live in and the Rifleman take on an almost 'Robinson Crusoe' lifestyle – as they make chairs, tables and other furniture out of discarded bits of wood. The Rifleman from the Signal Platoon have even managed to rig up an outdoor cinema.



A hard week in Helmond for 2 Rifles.

"The quick reaction of the A Company soldiers and the vicious amount of fire power put down by the Welsh Guards and the Afghan National Army led to the Taliban coming off worse in that engagement."

Help for Heroes Legion South Downs March

From 25-29th May 2009 Richard Dean and Ray Green, both formerly 1RGJ, completed a 100 mile march along the South Downs Way dressed as Roman soldiers.

Approximately 1600 years ago, the last of Rome's mighty legions left the province of Britannia forever. To Honour the legions of the past and raise money for the warriors of today, we have marched the 100 miles of the South Downs Way in full Roman armour. Covering around 20 miles each day, we consumed

only modern British Army rations along the way and completed the distance in 5 days. We started on Monday 25th May 2009 from our Regimental HQ, Peninsula Barracks in Winchester and finished on the afternoon of Friday 29th May very close to the main arrival and departure port of Roman Britain.

If you would like to support us and donate to H4H please visit my 'giving page' at <http://www.justgiving.com/h4hlegion> and give

what you can. H4H is a charity that has emerged from the chaos of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the 18 months of its existence it has raised enough money to massively improve the facilities available for injured service personnel through both Headley Court in Leatherhead Surrey, and now also for 'Battle Back' which helps people reintegrate in to society or in many cases back in to the military. The conflicts are ongoing, as is, therefore the fantastic work of this charity.

"Approximately 1600 years ago, the last of Rome's mighty legions left the province of Britannia forever. To Honour the legions of the past and raise money for the warriors of today, we have marched the 100 miles of the South Downs Way in full Roman armour."



Romans go walk-about!

Winchester and District Branch News Update



Winchester Branch Members

“Our annual forthcoming events have just about been confirmed and our first official function will be a quiz night involving the branch members and ATR Staff”

“Major Danny Hunt has now stood down as Chairman after 10 year`s,.....”



Danny Hunt and Brian Darvill

“Ticket request forms can be downloaded from the website www.thedockyard.co.uk;”



Band of HM Royal Marines

This year saw Andy Grey taking over from John Harper as the Entertainments Officer in order that John could concentrate on organising a Battlefield Tour for later in the year, the remainder of the Branch Officers remained in situ for the forthcoming year. It has to be said that the Chairman, Roy Stanger had already done some sterling groundwork in meeting with the staff of the ATR in order to secure the dates

for the Branch using Sir John Moore Barracks – thus maintaining a Green Jacket presence within the barracks and in starting the groundwork for this year’s reunion on 11th July 2009.

Our annual forthcoming events have just about been confirmed and our first official function will be a quiz night involving the branch members and ATR Staff – this usually is a good function with the winners claiming a small

pot of money for the winning team. At the time of writing this Vic Osmond is off doing his charity walk for Project 65 and when he returns hopefully will be able to give us an account of how it all went. Forthcoming social events are:
18th June - Quiz Night
12th July – BBQ
14th August– Racing Night.

Wiltshire Branch News Update

Major Danny Hunt has now stood down as Chairman after 10 years, Danny had been the driving force in getting the Branch off the ground and drove it forward to where it is today. He now feels it is time to stand down, Capt Brian Darvill was voted in as the new Chairman. Since last November the

Branch has been attending as many of the repatriation ceremonies as possible at Wootton Bassett.

On May 1st the Branch held an informal games night in The Organ Inn, Warminster. All the old games can be played here with plenty of real ale, and NO music, but we went for a more traditional

Wiltshire game of Skittles, played to the Phil Ashby rules. Thanks must be given to Phil and Val for the organisation and the provision of a Fish and Chip supper with all the trimmings. We now look forward to the RGJRA Reunion at Winchester, and our annual Branch BBQ on the 18th July with a Hollywood theme.

National Armed Forces Day June 27th 2009

The first Armed Forces Day national event, taking place at The Historic Dockyard Chatham on 27 June, will be a day packed with ceremony, excitement, have-a-go adventure and commemoration.

The event is free, but please apply for tickets in advance to ensure you can join us (including holders of The Historic Dockyard 12 month ticket), as tickets are not available on the day. Ticket request forms can be downloaded from the website www.thedockyard.co.uk; collected in person from Visitor Admissions at The Historic Dockyard, Tourist Information, centres around the county or

collected from Medway Council contact points. Armed Forces Day will commence with a Celebration Parade through Chatham town by the Navy, Army and RAF led by the band of Her Majesty’s Royal Marines. Veterans of all ages will join the parade as it proceeds along Dock Road.

Throughout the day, displays and activities will take place on land, water and in the air as some of the very best assets of the Armed Forces are put on show.

The heart of The Historic Dockyard, Museum Square will become the “Veterans’ Rendezvous” with music, food and drink.

At 6.00pm a separately

ticketed Beating Retreat and Ceremonial Sunset will be led by the Band of HM Royal Marines on the historic riverfront. Tickets for this event are available at £12 (for tiered grandstand seating) and £8 (for ‘stalls’ non-tiered seats). To purchase tickets call in person to The Historic Dockyard Ticket office, telephone 01634 823826 for tickets or use the Armed Forces Day Ticket Request Form. Beating Retreat & Ceremonial Sunset is a fund-raising event in aid of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, Help for Heroes and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA).

1st RIFLEMEN'S CLUB

For the attention of RGJ Association members living on Cyprus please note that the first RIFLEMEN'S CLUB of the Rifles Association (Cyprus), was launched on Thursday 28th May 2009 with the cooperation of the many Regimental Association contacts

around the United Kingdom. The Riflemen's Club, the 1st Rifles Association, was launched here on the Island of Cyprus, As the flagship to other "Rifles Associations". Members who have homes on the Island of Cyprus are welcomed into

the Brotherhood of Riflemen in order to share in our leisure, enjoyment and mutual support as well as staying in touch and giving support to the many Rifles & Infantry Associations in the United Kingdom.



1st Riflemen's Club members

Close Observation Platoon (COP) Commemoration Painting

The COPs were first formed in 1977 and throughout almost 30 years they provided static covert observation in support of the police throughout the Province. In August 2007, Op BANNER ended and the last Close Observation Platoon (COP) ceased to operate in Northern

Ireland. In recognition of their unique achievement, HQ Infantry have commissioned a painting which depicts soldiers deployed in a green field site observation post (OP). The painting now hangs in pride of place within HQ Infantry.

Copies of the painting (Please click [HERE](#) to

View, are available to buy. The prints are 56cm by 49cm and will be mounted but not framed. They will be signed by the artist: Chris Palmer. The cost will be £22.00 which includes postage and packing. £1 per print will be donated to Combat Stress; the leading UK charity; specialising in

the treatment of veterans suffering psychological trauma. Please send cheques and contact details to the following address:

Mrs Pippa Tyrer
Headquarters Infantry
Land Warfare Centre
WARMINSTER
Wiltshire BA12 0DJ

John Helbert and John Newman 3 Peaks Challenge

On Monday the 20th July 2009, John Helbert (RGJ) will walk the three peaks, Pen-y-Fan, Cribyn, Fan-y-Big, onto Graig Fan Ddu. The walk will start and finish at the Car Park, Storey Arms. He will be accompanied, by John Newman A Fellow swimming Teacher.

They will be doing the walk in aid of Help For Heroes and they have set up a Just Giving page. Photographs will be taken along the route, and will be published, on completion of the walk. They have

started training and are now doing three walks a week around the Cotswold's to prepare for the event.

If you would like to Sponsor them please visit their Just Giving page at <http://www.justgiving.com/johnhelbert> to make a donation. So please dig deep to help this very worthy cause which is so close to all our hearts.

Pete Manning, a fellow Rifleman, has also agreed to join us to adjudicate, (and no doubt kick

backsides (if there is any flagging.) We will keep you informed of progress and training in the next issue.

Thank you all in anticipation. Please push this information around the RGJ Branches.

Once again guys please dig deep.

Many thanks.

John Helbert,
(Herbie)

"On Monday the 20th July 2009, John Helbert (RGJ) and John Newman will walk the three peaks, Pen-y-Fan, Cribyn, Fan-y-Big, onto Graig Fan Ddu."



John Helbert on Pen-y-Fan

RGJRA Ezine Newsletter

Contact

TELEPHONE:
01296 711967

E-MAIL:
ken.ambrose1@btinternet.com

Editors Notes

Please remember that this publication is only intended for on screen viewing and that attempts to print out these pages are not likely to be successful.

We aim to draw the attention of all former members of the regiment to forthcoming events on a quarterly basis covering not only the main Association annual forecast but also news at officer club and branch level. In addition we will be providing the names of those who have sadly died and pointing you to their detailed obituaries where available.

To make this Ezine a success all branches and individuals are asked to contribute whenever possible. Please send articles for inclusion to the email address above before the 1st of each month.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rgjassociation.info

*"After reading Ken's first book, The Long, Long War, I am 100% sure this one will be as good if not better!!!! Did 2 Belfast Tours in 74 and 76 and these guys tell you what you have never heard before ** the truth and nothing but the truth"*

RGJ Ladies Guild – Committee Members change

The article on the Royal Green Jackets Ladies Guild, printed in the first issue of the RGJ Regimental Association's magazine Swift & Bold last year, reflected the role of the Ladies Guild before the development of the welfare capability within The Rifles. All new cases, from any of the former Regiments, that have arisen since the formation of The Rifles, and which will arise in the future, will be the responsibility of the new Regiment.

The Royal Green Jackets Ladies Guild will continue to exist and will remain available for the support of the 68 widows who are currently on its books. They will still receive a Christmas grant, a Christmas card and a personal letter from the Chairman of the

Committee. The role of the Ladies Guild has been the relief of wives, widows, children and other dependants of Riflemen and deceased Riflemen who are in need, hardship or distress. The Committee are able to make small additional grants for immediate relief in a financial crisis and are always there to help with advice or just to listen. Individual committee members remain in personal touch with individual widows, and the Committee will be there to help, if they can, with any future problems which may arise.

The Ladies Guild income comes from subscriptions from wives of serving and retired officers, and from income from its capital fund. It is run by a voluntary Executive

Committee of around 14 of these wives, who stand for re-election every three years. At the AGM in May four of the longstanding Committee Members retired from the Committee: Mrs. David Williams (Susie) after 27 years; Mrs George Elliot (Liz) who came onto the Committee in 1989 and was secretary from then until 1993; Mrs Sheila Jones after 11 years, and Mrs Charles Vyvyan (Liz) who joined 15 years ago and has been the Chairman for the last 8 years. Mrs. Jolyon Jackson (Serena) has taken over as Chairman.

The Ladies Guild will operate in tandem with the Rifles Benevolent Trust for the foreseeable future.

Liz Vyvyan

New Book: "Bullets, Bombs and Cups of Tea" by Ken Wharton (RGJ)

This is Ken Wharton's second oral history of the Northern Ireland troubles told again from the perspective of the ordinary British soldier. This book looks deeper into the conflict, utilising stories from new contributors providing revealing and long-forgotten stories of the troubles from the back streets of the Ardoyne to the bandit country of South Armagh. Ken Wharton - himself a former soldier - is now known and trusted by those who served and they are keen for their part in Britain's forgotten campaign to now be made

public. For the first time, he tells the stories of the 'unseen victims' - the loved ones who sat and dreaded a knock at the door from the Army telling them that their loved one had been killed on the streets of Northern Ireland. There are more firsthand accounts from the Rifleman, the Private, the Guardsman, the Driver, the Sapper and the Fusilier on the street as they recall the violence, the insults and the shock of seeing a comrade dying in the street in front of them. There is an explosive interview with a soldier who killed an IRA

gunman who was fresh from the murder of two Royal Artillerymen. Building on the huge success of Ken's first book, this second volume will provide plenty of new material for the reader to reconsider afresh the role of Britain's soldiers in Northern Ireland.

