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# ueensman

**Periodic newsletter of the Queen's Regimental Association (PWR)**

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**'UNCONQUERED I SERVE'**



**WINTER EDITION 2012/13**

## **AGM AND REUNION SUPPER – VICTORY SERVICES CLUB SAT 2 MAR 13**

The AGM and Reunion Supper will take place at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 2 Mar 13. The evening will follow the well established format of the AGM at 1700hrs in the El Alamein Room and supper at 1945hrs in the Carisbrooke Hall. The bar opens at 1800hrs and there will be a small 'short sharp' raffle. Attendees are requested to gather in the Carisbrooke Hall at 1930hrs for a short address by the President prior to supper being served. An attendance return forms part of this newsletter which should be submitted by 22 Feb 13

Attendance to the event is increasing each year and numbers are perilously close to the maximum licensed for the Carisbrooke Hall of 210 persons. Members are warned that unlike previous years last minute requests to attend may have to be declined.

Recipients of this newsletter who pass on information regarding the event to members whose details are not held on the database are asked to include a copy of the Attendance Return or Maj Bream's contact number (01227-818857) so a copy can be sent out.

The dress code for the evening is jacket, collar and tie. The Regimental PRI Shop has moved from Howe Barracks Canterbury to 3 PWRR in Leros Barracks. The shop assistants are Shelly or Lesley on 01227 – 817945.

### **ASSOCIATION BRANCHES**

All Queen's Association Branches are in good spirits and ticking over quite nicely. They are always looking for new members, especially the London Branch so if you feel inclined to re connect with the Regiment - join a branch. Contact details by geographical areas are:

#### London

Maj Richard Thornton      01424 434002      [thorntonrgc@hotmail.com](mailto:thorntonrgc@hotmail.com)

#### Middlesex

Mr Trevor Pidgeon      01923661101      [pidgeon.home@btopenworld.com](mailto:pidgeon.home@btopenworld.com)

#### Horsham

Mr Jonathan Purdy      07790324622      [j.purdy1@btopenworld.com](mailto:j.purdy1@btopenworld.com)

#### Shepway

Mr Charlie Miller      01797362508      [charles@cmiller1.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:charles@cmiller1.orangehome.co.uk)

#### Farnham

Mrs Anne Bowden      01252 711304      [annericky@aol.com](mailto:annericky@aol.com)

#### Chichester

Mr Paul Daines      01633872132      [paul.556daines@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.556daines@btinternet.com)

Enfield Branch of the Middlesex Regiment Association (Affiliated Branch)

Mr Alfie Burford                      01323 733983

East Kent Branch of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Association (Affiliated Branch)

Mr Bill Gawler                      01227 637241                      billgawler@talktalk.net

**DEPARTED FRIENDS**

Sadly a number of Queensman have passed away in 2012. Those notified to RHQ were:

**GWILLIAM** – Major Patrick Gwilliam on 14 Dec 2011 late Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The Queen's Own Buffs and The Queen's Regiment

**AKEHURST** – Kevin Akehurst on 24 Jan 2012 late Queen's Own Buffs and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Queen's Regiment

**DORAN** – Maj John Doran on 15 Feb 12 late Middlesex Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Queen's Regiment (WO2 (ORQMS) 1975 – 1977) and Royal Logistics Corps.

**CAIRNS** – Sgt Frank Cairns on 17 Feb 12 late Middlesex Regiment and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

**SPICE** – Cpl Peter Spice on 21 Feb 12 late Queen's Own Buffs and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment

**COLLYER** – Lt Col Peter Collyer on 22 Feb 12 late Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment and Int Corps

**HILTON** – CSgt Sid Hilton on 20 Mar 12 late Middlesex Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions the Queen's Regiment (Assault Pioneer Platoon - Werl)

**HARE** – Maj Mike (Bunny) Hare on 10 April 12 late The Queen's Royal Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

**REYNOLDS** – LCpl Terry (Bert) Reynolds on 18 Apr 12 late 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment (MT Pl)

**COWLARD** – CSgt Len Cowlard on 8 May 12 late B Coy 6/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment

**PARTRIDGE** – Maj John Partridge on 10 May 12 late 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment

**EBBENS** – Maj Vic Ebbens MBE on 11 May 12 late the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the Queen's Regiment and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

**GARDNER** – CSgt Derek (Del) Gardner on 3 Jun 12 late the East Surrey Regiment, the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment.

**RIDDLESTONE-HOLMES** – WO2 Robert Riddlestone-Holmes (Noddy) on 25 Jun 12 late the Buffs, Queen's Own Buffs, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions the Queen's Regiment.

**GATEHOUSE** – Sgt David Gatehouse on 17 July 12 late the Middlesex Regiment and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment (1966 – 1973)

**LAWRENCE** - Maj Chris Lawrence on 25 July 12 late the Middlesex and Queen's Regiments

**CHARLTON** – WO2 (CSM) John Charlton on 29 July 12 late 5 Queen's, 5 PWRR and 3 PWRR.

**CHICOT** – Cpl Richard Chicot on 2 Sep 12 late A Coy 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment

**MACKENZIE** – Sgt Albert Mackenzie on 10 Sep late 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment (Anti Tnk Pl)

**BASS** – Maj Joe Bass on 21 Sep 12 late the Royal Marines, The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Queen's Regiment and Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

**SMITH** – Sgt Stuart (Canada) Smith on 25 Sep 12 late 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Queen's Regt

**WICKENDEN** – Pte Mitchell Wickenden 7 Oct 12 late 1 PWRR

**PIELOW** – Brigadier B A M (Tony) Pielow on 20 Oct 12 late Middlesex and Queen's Regiments

**GARDINER** – Pte Robert (Bob) Gardiner on 25 Oct 12 late Queen's Own Buffs and Shepway Branch of the Queen's Regiment Association

**SMITH** – Cpl Adrian Smith on 31 Oct late 6/7 Queen's and 6/7 PWRR

**WHEELER** – Pte Mike Wheeler on 22 Nov 12 late 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Queen's Regiment 1970 - 1976

## **BATTALION REPORTS**

1 PWRR – Barker Bks Paderborn

The Battalion returned from Operation Herrick 15 Afghanistan in May 2012. Sadly on 20 Nov Pte Tom Lake of B Coy was killed by an IED and Lt Robert Coates, Cpl Oliver Kennedy, L/Cpl Timothy Jones were wounded in the blast. Pte Nicholas Franklin also of B Coy was seriously injured in a separate incident which resulted in him losing his left foot. Cpl Jay Baldwin of C Coy lost both his legs in an IED explosion, as did Cpl Ben Stoten again in an IED blast whilst going to the aid of a fellow soldier seriously injured in an earlier blast.

The Battalion were recognised in the honours list on return from Op Herrick 15 with the following:

### **OBE**

Lieutenant Colonel James COOTE DSO

### **MC**

Corporal Sean JONES

### **MiD**

Lieutenant Robert COATES

Corporal Jamie KENNEDY

Private Morales MATTHEWS

Acting Sergeant Mark MOFFITT

## **JCC**

Captain Paul CHARLESWORTH

Colour Sergeant CROSS

Corporal Oliver KENNEDY

Captain Christopher GARDINER

Corporal James PEARCE

Sergeant Gary STEWART

## **QCVS**

Major Richard BREDIN MBE

Major Marcus MYLES

A Battalion day was held on our return from theatre which consisted of a medals parade for both Op Herrick 15 and the Queens Diamond Jubilee medals. The day also consisted of a memorial for Tom, a cross brief by the Companies of their tasks on the tour and a brief by the CO to the families. The day was rounded off with a party in the park type celebration.

The summer of 2012 was supposed to be a recuperation period for the Battalion but due to unforeseen circumstances the Battalion was called upon to assist in the smooth running of the Olympics and helping to ensure the UK's Main Effort of a successful Games was met. We supplied 318 involved in a number of tasks ranging from guarding Olympic venues to augmenting the LOCOG HQ in Canary Wharf.

On return from leave the Battalion began its transition to Light Role from their Armoured role which they have been in since early 2000. However less than 6 months into our transition the Battalion have been informed to be prepared to re-role back to Armoured. This is not expected to take effect until after our Op Herrick 20 tour.

Conclusion: The Battalion has risen to the challenges of deploying to Afghanistan and has given a good account of itself. We continued in the same vein on return to Germany by taking part in a 'once in a lifetime' experience to support the success of the London Olympics. Training and transition now continues in preparation for deployment on exercise next year to Kenya and Canada.

## 2PWRR – Artillery Bks, Woolwich.

It has been a busy year of state Ceremonial and UK Operations for the Second Battalion. The Battalion had the privilege of lining the route for Her Majesty the Queen on her Diamond Jubilee. We then became the Military Contingency Force for the 2012 Olympic Games which saw the Battalion deploy to many of the venues in support of their safe delivery. The Battalion has now switched it's focus back onto Public Duties. We have recently had the honour of hosting the Colonel of the Regiment, at Buckingham Palace to watch A Coy mount the Queen's Guard. On the operational front B Coy is preparing to deploy to the Falkland Islands for two months.

Although It has been a very busy period, the soldiers have still excelled at various sports and activities across London District. The Battalion is currently London district cross-country, hockey, orienteering, athletics and GOC cup champions, as well as 6 a-side football runners up. We also held inter-coy boxing which saw some fantastic bouts and allowed us to enter soldiers into the Army Boxing individual finals, we have also deployed soldiers onto two adventure training exercises, skiing and skydiving in California for the second year running.

In February 13 the Battalion will resubordinate to 20<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade, but will remain in London, continuing as a light role infantry Battalion. We are currently planning to deploy on a

battalion exercise in February with the focus being on a return to 'basic infantry skills' after completing our tour on the 'blue line'.

The Battalion is looking forward to resubordinating in the New Year but, work is still to be done before we depart London District and we will maintain the highest standards prior to our departure. We also now have our long term focus, Cyprus, as Theatre Reserve Battalion. To train towards this, the Battalion will embark on a major exercise later in the year to Kenya which will be both demanding and testing at all levels.

### 3 PWRR – Leros TA Centre Canterbury

The Battalion has had a full and busy year which has included a Lion Star tour to Cyprus, a Training Team to Uganda, and the deployment of 50 soldiers with 4 Bde to Afghanistan with SG, 1 Mercian, 1 Lincs and various other Units currently in theatre. 3 PWRR also had the honour of providing a composite company for OP Olympics.

The Bn was selected to provide a Training Team to train the Ugandan Army prior to its operational deployment, this is the second time the honour has fallen to the Battalion and this time a greater quantity of TA soldiers were taken. The Cyprus exercise occurred in April and was aimed at providing the troops deploying on Herrick 17 with a large amount of field firing and other operational training prior to going to RTMC Chillwell. This was a very hectic period for those troops but gave them some idea of the tempo they would be operating at once they joined the Units they were deploying with. The OP Olympics deployment lasted for a month from mid July to mid August 12. The Pre-Operational training took place in Grantham and lasted a week; it consisted of many lectures and practical lessons. 3 PWRR was very lucky as we were tasked to Eton Dorney (Near Windsor) where we had the honour of providing venue security for the rowing events with the perk of watching the very successful British Rowing Team. We also fared well with the accommodation as we were billeted in a newly refurbished block within the HCR Barracks in Windsor.

The Bn's social life has continued apace with Sobraon day being celebrated in Canterbury. This year Sgt Lavery was selected for this unique and prestigious honour. The Kohima Cpl and Albuhera were also celebrated in keeping with tradition as well as the usual mess functions which included the WO's & Sgt's Mess summer Ball taking place on the MV Pocahontas as it sailed up the river Thames, this was made even more memorable with the Olympics being in town.

The Battalion has been warned of to provide troops for an OP Tosca tour next year and some of our soldiers will deploy on OP Herrick 18, so we continue to prepare soldiers for operations.

With some changes coming the Reserves way we will continue to prepare and train are soldiers accordingly. We have shown flexibility in our capability whether it be generating troops for Herrick or providing security for the Olympics. We will be saying farewell to the Commanding Officer in the New year LT Col G Minton MBE, on behalf of all Ranks in the Battalion we would like to thank him for all the work he has put in and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

### QUEEN'S REGIMENT BENEVOLENCE

Maj (Retd) John Rogerson continues to process all requests for benevolence from former members of the Regiment. The Charity paid out £33,941 as individual grants-in-aid for 108 cases and the ABF provided a further £27,786 in general grants over the period Jan – Dec 12.