

The King's Regiment Association Liverpool Branch

A Branch of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association



'Nec Aspera Terrent'

AUGUST 2012 NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 33

ELECTRONIC EDITION



DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

The Committee would like to thank the following who have made a cash donation to the general association funds:

PAUL GREENLEES, VINCENT MALONEY, BRIAN UWINS MC, MR & MRS R WRIGHT,

YOUR GENEROSITY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2012

**OBE: LT COL DAVID MICHAEL THORPE
THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT**

**MBE: MAJ HAMISH GEORGE GORDON CORMACK
THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT**

**QVRM: MAJ EDMUND LINCOLN BYRNE, TD
THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT
TERRITORIAL ARMY**

KRAL 2013 NEWSLETTER – PRINTED VERSION

With the rising costs of stamps, printing and envelopes etc., we have had to increase the costs of the newsletter for 2013.

It will cost the Branch £8 to produce and send out the printed newsletter 6 times a year for UK members and £15 per year for overseas members.

2013 Application forms are enclosed for your convenience.



We require your letters, comments, photographs, stories etc., for inclusion in the next Newsletter which will be published in:

OCTOBER 2012.

The closing date for submission is:

MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2012.

Please forward to:

Eric Roper
171 Queens Drive
Liverpool
L18 1JP

email: eric_roper@blueyonder.co.uk

I can scan photographs and return the originals, but please provide a **SAE**.

Please enclose a detailed description, ie, names, dates etc., of any photograph(s).

'100' CLUB

The JUNE 2012 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 12th June 2012 by Committee member John Butler, and the winner is:

1ST PRIZE (£50) - MR JOE MATHER

The JULY 2012 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 3rd July 2012 by Lt Col David Chadwick TD, and the winner is:

1ST PRIZE (£50) – MR KEN HERBERT

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

SSAFA are appealing for volunteers to train as case workers and identify and visit those in need of support and access to appropriate assistance.

Note well: No RHQ can release or indeed seek funding without a case report from SSAFA.

If you are interested, the point of contact is

ROBIN MCGRATH

Telephone 0151 928 5936

Email: merseyside@ssafa.org.uk

† LAST POST †

ROBERT BRIGHOUSE 12.04.25 – 29.06.12 (Ex KINGS, Ex T FORCE)



Robert Brighthouse, passed away on Friday 29th June 2012, aged 87 years.

His funeral service and cremation took place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 5th July 2012 at 1.20pm.

Major Dennis Vickers, Captain Mick Hunt, Mr Eric Roper and Mr John Schofield, who carried the KRAL branch standard, attended the service.



Bob was born on the 12th of April 1925 in Ormskirk to Annie and Jim; he was brother to George, Jimmy, Ruth, Barbara and Brenda. Bob went to Aughton Street Boys School and enjoyed it.

With the war on Bob also did his bit in the Home Guard until he was old enough to join up. He joined the 8th (Liverpool Irish) Battalion, The King's Regiment. and landed on Juno Beach on D-Day.

Bob returned to places he'd been through during the war and Bob wrote the following about - **Bob's Last Invasion.**

Bob, Mark, Paul and myself (Bob T) went on a mission to Normandy to find all of Bob's lost comrades and with the splendid navigation of Mark we found every one of Bob's fallen mates. We zig zagged through all the back lanes of Normandy finding small neat and well tended resting places of British and German troops and sailors killed in the action of the D day landings and the weeks after. At each grave we found, Bob would tell us the names and circumstances of his mate's death and family's history. As we traced each of Bob's mates we were following the route Bob fought his way inland. Bob was in the second wave and told he us how he and his comrades had waited four days at sea and how they were all sea sick, with the rolling heavy seas and with the fear of what was to come. Several men died in the disembarkation from ship to landing craft, as they were so weak from sea sickness, causing them to fall from the climbing ropes. They hit the beach, to the sound of a lone bagpipe player leading the way. Bob told us, as he was so little and carrying so much equipment he had sunk below the waves nearly drowning. By the time they crossed the beach to the sand dunes, out of the thirty or so men, he was the only one still alive. He was under the overall command of the Third Canadian Division in the Liverpool Irish Regiment; they were decimated so much the remnants were transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers. They too where decimated, he was then transferred to the Royal Staffordshire's and yet again through their slaughter, he was transferred to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

† LAST POST †

After several weeks of fighting they came to a halt outside Cean, where they were pounded by the whole of the German Panzer tank division. They had managed to travel less than two miles inland. We found a plaque dedicated to the Liverpool Irish in a niche in a small church and we also found the church that had its spire blown off by the Canadian gunners to dislodge three German snipers.

Bob's war didn't stop in France though. His regiments kept being depleted. He was in the Lancashire Fusiliers and then the King's Regiment. He was part of a special task force (T Force) who's job it was to capture scientists and professors in Germany. He was also part of a task force that was the only land unit to capture a pocket battleship and submarine pens. He went through Auschwitz and saw the horror of the Nazi Death Camps. Bob never let this get in the way of his humanity to the Germans. Most of them saw the British as liberators.



JOHN (JOHNNY) TERENCE EVANS (Ex KINGS)

Johnny Evans, passed away, aged 79 years, at The Royal Liverpool Hospital on the 24th June 2012.

His Funeral Service took place at St. Anne's Church, Overbury Street, Liverpool on Tuesday, 3rd July at 10.00am, followed by Cremation at Springwood Crematorium, Liverpool.

Johnny served with the King's Regiment in both Berlin and then Korea 1951-1953.



JOHN ERNEST GARNER (Ex 5 KINGS)

John Garner passed away peacefully at The Beaufort Nursing Home, Burscough, Ormskirk, aged 89 years. on the 1st July 2012.

His funeral Service took place at Thornton Crematorium on Friday, 20th July 2012 at 12.40 pm.



DAVID ALLAN McHOUL (Ex KINGS)

David Allan McHoul, passed away on the 19th July 2012, aged .88 years.

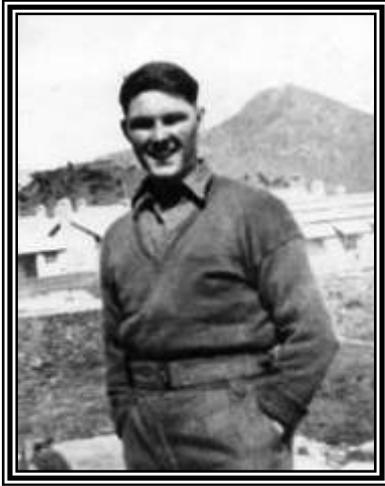
David served in the King's Regiment during WW2, in France and Germany (1939-1945).

His Funeral tool place at Landican Cemetery, Wirral on Friday 27th July 2012 at 2pm.

LETTERS PAGE



VINCENT MALONEY, WRITES:



Dear Eric,

It was my great pleasure to be elected the President of the Liverpool Branch of the Korean Veterans at the monthly meeting held recently at the Royal British Legion Branch, Fazakerley. My pleasure was further increased by being the only former Kingsman (National Service) serving on the committee, joining long standing members John Smith (Chairman), Margaret Berkley (Secretary) and Ivan Williams (Treasurer).

With a regular 15-20 members at the monthly meetings, we would welcome any new members. Meetings are held on the first Monday on the month at 2pm.

I have enclosed a photograph of myself, aged 18 in Hong Kong in 1952/1953.

**Kindest regards
Vince Maloney**

COLONEL MARTIN AMLÔT OBE DL, WRITES

Eric,

Thank you very much for your very kind good wishes on my retirement, published in your June 2012 newsletter. I very much appreciate it. Although as you can imagine, it doesn't feel a lot like retirement at the moment, with sometimes three or even four engagements a day!

**Best wishes,
Martin Amlôt**

ALAN GUY MBE, WRITES:

Eric.

Thank you for your newsletter which is very interesting.

Regrettably I was not a Kingsman but Terry probably thought that I was and asked you to send it to me, so it was very kind of you,

**Regards
Alan Guy MBE
Korean Liaison Officer BKVA**

MAJOR JULIAN WHITE, WRITES:

Excellent Eric,

As always - a very professional Newsletter.

**Regards
Julian**

LETTERS PAGE



JOE VOGEL, USA, WRITES:

Good evening Mr Roper, thank you kindly for forwarding the latest KRAL Newsletter (June 2012) to me. I do enjoy reading about the many interesting activities of the Liverpool branch.

I wish you a good day and great summer ahead. May God bless you and yours.

**Joe Vogel, LR 06011, Korean War Vets Assn.
USA Secretary, Monroe County Chapter #1**

CAPTAIN PHIL SWEENEY, 2 LANCS, WRITES:

Hi Eric,

Hope everything is OK back in UK

2 LANCS are currently in Canada for four months, training for our next Op Herrick Tour in April 2013.

This is just to inform everyone that 2 LANCS have just retained the Army Individuals Trophy for the third year in a row and winning four individual belts.

WINNERS:

- Corporal Cohoon - Light Middle Weight Champion**
- Kingsman Burge - Featherweight Champion**
- Kingsman Leighton - Lightweight Champion**
- Kingsman Booth Light weight Champion Class B**

RUNNERS UP:

- Kingsman Rafferty - Lightweight**
- Kingsman Cohoon - Light Middle Weight**

2 LANCS will be doing their last charity Boxing Night against a 'Ricky Hatton Select' on the 9th November 2012, at the Reebok Stadium. All monies for Forces Charity. 2 LANCS hope to raise the £120,000 to help them raise an amazing £1,000,000 for forces charity - more details to follow on the night. Will hopefully see you all there and great news for the Boxers .

**Regards and best wishes
Phil**



Notice

WOODVALE SHOW – 4TH/5TH AUGUST 2012

Please note that the Woodvale Show has been cancelled

LETTERS PAGE



TAM FOWLER, WRITES:

Dear Eric,

Very many thanks for your support and the support of you comrades, we have had two individual orders already. You will be pleased to know that we have sold 3500 rosettes already and our overheads are coming down rapidly.

Again our thanks,

Tam

Email: veteransrosette@gmail.com

BRIGADIER PETER RAFFERTY, WRITES:

Eric,

Once again a very representative and engaging newsletter, thanks for copying me in. I trust that you are well.

I have written to Margrete Moore (thanks for passing on her details) just to see how she is and to thank her for her careful and considerate winding down of the T Force OCA.

Hope to see you soon.

Peter

JANET SMITH, WRITES:

Eric,

Update on the death of Private Reginald Leak 8th Battalion The Liverpool Irish.

I have just received some excellent documents from Norman Pickles which not only names my Uncle Reg but describes the circumstances of his death on the 7th June 1944.

Reg was killed along with Captain Stanley Foster also of A Coy in the incident that so devastated the Anti-Tank Platoon, when a bomb was dropped on their assembly point.

Thanks to Norman and the others that have made contact, Reg's story can now be told and the families mystery surrounding his death is no more.

Thank you once again to the members of your excellent Association for all their help.

Janet Smith

Email: cliff.janet1@btinternet.com

TED LANGLEY, CANADA, WRITES

Eric.

I have just found time to read the recent Newsletter – I found it very interesting and amusing.

We have been downsizing from our homestead to an apartment and the many problems involved almost overwhelmed us. They are not over yet but at least but I have found time to contact you and in due course I will send you a more coherent letter.

Ted

Email: langleyhomestead@shaw.ca

LETTERS PAGE



SEAN HURLEY, WRITES:

My father, **JOHN EDWARD HURLEY**, passed away on the morning of the 30th May 2012.

He was a member of the King's Regiment some time back. He was also involved with the ACF.

Any information you could provide would be fantastic.

Regards

Sean

Telephone: 0437233805

Email: sphur1s1970@hotmail.com

ROY HUGHES, WRITES:

Hi Eric

I have tendered my resignation to the Regimental Secretary as Chairman of the Preston Branch, I will chair the July meeting, that will be my last.

I have suggested to the Regimental Secretary that a retired officer should be an ideal replacement, Ron, Tony Bennett and Seretse Graphine will look after the branch until a new Chairman is appointed.

Jean and I will be hopefully moving into a retirement apartment in Gloucester, I will update you with my new address etc., once contracts have been exchanged.

Please keep me posted with the Newsletter, my email address has not changed. The Newsletter is a marvellous read and so full of interesting and humorous articles.

Best Wishes to you and all in Liverpool.

Roy

Email: artyhughes@talktalk.net

ASHLEY LEIGH, WRITES:

I don't have very much information about my Dad **JAMES (JAY) LEIGH**,

All I know is that he served in the King's Regiment and he was living in the Old Swan area of Liverpool.

I was born in 1995 and my Mum says he went to Cyprus after I was born.

I am looking for him because I have not seen him for 16 years.

If you can help me I will really appreciate it.

Regards

Ashley Leigh

Telephone: 07943 873937

Email: ashleyleigh95@live.co.uk

LETTERS PAGE



TONY JOHNS, WRITES:

Hi Mr Roper,
I wonder if you can help.

On page 8 of your February 2011 Newsletter, there is a Malcolm Lamb trying to contact a Paul Beaumont. The contact email address is

gina.lamb@hotmail.co.uk

When I attempt to email this address, it fails to be received.

I know Paul, I spoke with him last night and he is keen to get in touch with Malcolm and has asked me to see if I can find any other way of getting back in touch with his old friend.

Do you have any other contact details for Malcolm? If you do, I would appreciate you passing my email address to him and I can then help these two get back in touch with each other.

Thanks for any help you may be able to offer

Regards

Tony

My Email address is: tony.johns1@ntlworld.com

My mobile number is: 07927308624

JOE DAVIES, WRITES:

Dear sir,

I served in Hong Kong and Northern Ireland with 1 KINGS (24332084).

I had some photos taken in Australia while we were on exercise and they made my local newspaper. I also had photos taken in Northern Ireland with the Lord Mayor, but I've lost them.

I was wondering if there is anyone out there who knew me and may possibly have copies of these photos. I was in Australia in 1974 and Northern Ireland in 1975/76.

Thank you.

Joe

My Telephone No is: 07864240380

My Email address is: joedefc@live.co.uk

CAPTAIN MICK HUNT, CITY SECRETARY, LIVERPOOL, WRITES:

For your diaries, next year's Armed Forces Day Service and Parade at the Anglican Cathedral, Liverpool, is:

SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2013.

Michael R Hunt

Captain (Retd), City Secretary



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM



IN THE MILITARY, IS SEX WORK OR PLEASURE?

A Major was about to start the morning briefing to his staff.

While waiting for the coffee machine to finish its brewing, the Major decided to pose a question to all assembled. He explained that his wife had been a bit frisky the night before and he failed to get his usual amount of sound sleep.

He posed the question of just how much of sex was "work" and how much of it was "pleasure?"

A Captain chimed in with 75-25% in favour of work.

A Lieutenant said it was 50-50%.

A 2nd Lieutenant responded with 25-75% in favour of pleasure, depending upon his state of inebriation at the time.

There being no consensus, the Major turned to Kingsman McMahon, who was in charge of making the coffee.

What was his opinion?

Without any hesitation, the young Kingsman responded, "Sir, it has to be 100% pleasure."

The Major was surprised and, as you might guess, asked why?

"Well, Sir, if there was any work involved, the officers would have me doing it for them."

THE DREADED PHONE CALL

Colonel Chris, my boss telephoned me today, he said, "Is everything okay at the office?"

I said, "Yes, it's all under control. It's been a very busy day, I haven't stopped."

"Can you do me a favour Mick?" he asked.

I said, "Of course Colonel, what is it?"

"Speed it up a little, I'm in the fourball behind you!"

A KINGSMAN AND A CHAINSAW

A Kingsman buys a chainsaw which guarantees to cut down forty trees in an hour.

The Kingsman sets to work, but only cuts down twenty trees in the hour.

So he takes it back to the shop and says, "This chainsaw doesn't cut down forty trees in an hour, I've only managed twenty".

With that the shop owner starts up the chainsaw.

The Kingsman looks at him and says, "What the hell is that noise?"



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM



A KIND-HEARTED KINGSMAN

My wife and I walked past a swanky new restaurant last night.

"Did you smell that food?" she asked. "Incredible!"

Being the nice and kind-hearted Kingsman I am, I thought: "What the heck, I'll treat her!"

So we walked past it again!

FLIGHT OF FANCY

Bernie an ex Kingsman and his wife Lita go to the fair every year, and every year Lita would say, "Bernie, I'd like to ride in that helicopter." Bernie always replied, "I know Lita, but that helicopter ride is twenty quid, and twenty quid is twenty quid!"

They went to the fair again this year, and Lita said, "Bernie, I'm 55 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance."

To this, Bernie replied, "Lita, that helicopter ride is twenty quid, and twenty quid is twenty quid."

The pilot overheard the couple and said,

"Folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say a word I won't charge you a penny! But if you say one word it's twenty quid."

Bernie and Lita agreed and up they went.

The pilot did all kinds of fancy manoeuvres, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word...

When they landed, the pilot turned to Bernie and said, "I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!"

Bernie replied, "Well, to tell you the truth I almost said something when Lita fell out, but you know, twenty quid is twenty quid!"

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K...

After being married for twenty five years, a wife asked her Kingsman husband, Russell, to describe her.

He looked at her slowly... then said, "You're A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K."

She asks, "What does that mean?"

He said, "Adorable, Beautiful, Cute, Delightful, Elegant, Foxy, Gorgeous, Hot."

She smiled happily and said, "Oh, that's so lovely. ... What about I, J, K?"

He said, "I'm Just Kidding!"

Russell's eye is still swollen but it will get better!

LETTERS PAGE



ROBERT HILL (24479342), WRITES:

I served in the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment in Colchester and Germany (Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück).

I am just looking to see if there are any of the lads about that I used to know, ie:

DAVE WESTWATER, RAY CONNEARN, DAVE WORRALL, BILLY CROSSLAND.

Regards

Robert

Telephone : 01524 413895

Email: roberthill488@gmail.com

MARTI DEAN, WRITES:

Hello,

I'm attempting to learn more about my Granddad, **ALBERT CHALCROFT**, who served, I think, with the 2nd Battalion The King's Regiment.

One of his postings was at Landi Kotal, Khyber Pass.

I've just scanned some images of the King's Regiment at the Khyber Pass, there are some amazing images, which have never been in the public domain. I thought those interested in the regiment might enjoy them – please click on the web site link below to view them.

Regards

Marti

Telephone: 01424 423502

Email: marti.dean@btinternet.com

Web Site:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/62195418@N00/sets/72157630368570204/>

CAPTAIN MICK HUNT, WRITES:

Please note the intentions of a 70th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein Service at Westminster Abbey on Sunday 28th October 2012, which for ourselves is predominantly aimed at soldiers from 7th King's and 10th Manchester's.

The veterans will be approaching, if not already in their 90s and numbers will be small.

For further information, please contact me

Mick Hunt

City Secretary

City Headquarters Liverpool

Telephone: 0151 242 2322

Email: RHQLANCS-AreaSecLiverpool@mod.uk

2012 KRAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Over the last 10 years we have as a Branch made 6 Battlefield tours. For the last 3 trips we have been to Normandy to see where 5th Kings and 8th Irish fought on D Day, put a memorial in place on Sword Beach at Hermanville and improved the arrangements at Graye sur Mer.

This year we decided to focus on World War 1 in France and Belgium. This was potentially such a massive undertaking that we concentrated on the role played by 21 battalions of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment in the battles of the Somme, Arras and Passchendaele, a period of approximately 15 months, during which the Regiment lost some 10,000 men. I put together an outline programme late last year. 11 elected to go. I was joined by Peter Bamford, Terry Caffrey, Stan Castell, David Dunbabin, Sally Greenwood, Captain (Ret'd) Mick Hunt, Major (Ret'd) Eddie McMahon, Norman Pickles, John Schofield and Major (Ret'd) Dennis Vickers and his wife Lillian. We arranged a self drive van and booked the ferry and accommodation through Spirit of Remembrance. We met at Townsend Ave at 12.30 on 12 July in good weather. We caught the Hull to Zeebrugge ferry.

Pals Monument, Montauban



The area we were interested in was around Guillemont, Delville Wood, Montauban, and the Thiepval Memorial. Here over four months 16 battalions of the Regiment fought at some stage. We were struck by a number of things; the small area of the battlefield fought over for 4 months: the high proportion of missing believed dead to those with graves and the enormous losses suffered over that period. The fields and woods are green today but much of it was churned into mud over that period as the few photographs we had showed. More than half the fatal casualties are listed as missing believed dead as the monument at Thiepval illustrated. We found the

spot, close to Guillemont cemetery where Chavasse won his first VC. Sgt Jones won his on the edge of the village of Guillemont but we did not know exactly where.

We then went off to Thiepval to lay a wreath by the 2058 names of Kingsmen on the Memorial. This was followed by a quick look at the visitor centre. The next stop was Arras. The central part of the battle was Vimy Ridge, taken by the Canadians in April 1917. The King's fought in an area to SW of Vimy Ridge but there are no monuments there to show their presence so we went to the Canadian Centre, near the top of the Ridge where there were preserved trench systems and then onto the Ridge itself, where the view from the top over Lens and the surrounding area shows why it was such a significant feature. There is always on these trips whether Normandy or WWI a personal element for some of our party and this trip was no different. Lillian Vickers' grandfather was killed in 1915 at the Battle of Loos. We were able to find his grave in CWGC cemetery behind the local bar in Cambrin.

At last after a long day we drove off to Leper via Armentieres where we arrived at the Hotel Ariane, a firm favourite of the old hands. On the way we were able to see some signs of 56 Division which contained all the second TA battalions and who had occupied the Festubert/Givenchy area in the last year of the War. There had been links between Southport and Liverpool and these two villages until relatively recently.

Saturday 14 July was the day for the Battle of Passchendaele and participating in the Menin Gate Service later that night. We started with the Yorkshire trench, a preserved trench system in the middle of an industrial estate on the outskirts of Leper.

This or something like it would have been the jumping off point for the Battle of Pilkem Ridge. Next was Sanctuary Wood, another jumping off point for King's battalions as evidenced but the number of Kingsmen in the nearby cemetery. Polygon Wood was the next port of call, visited in torrential rain.

Then onto Duchy Farm Cemetery to see the grave of the last Kingsmen found, some 6 years ago, during building work in a near by village but still unidentified. The final stop of the day was Tyne Cot where we laid a wreath and looked around the new visitor centre. The rain was starting to dry off as we left the area to return to Leper.

Saturday pm was free for people to wander around Leper. Eddie McMahon with our Standards bearers and Wreath bearers were at the Menin Gate just after 19.30 to meet the officials of the Last Post Association, who organise the daily Last Post Ceremony. Dennis Vickers was i/c the Standards party with Stan and John as Standard bearers.

Dennis was asked at very short notice to say the Kohima Epitaph as part of the Ceremony. Terry, David and Terry shared the laying wreaths with the British Legion motor cyclists and Spurs Football Academy. Once the Ceremony was over we slowly retired to the hotels with the Standard and Wreath bearers happily explaining all about the King's Regiment to anyone who showed an interest.



Sunday 15 July. We said goodbye to the Hotel Ariane and its helpful staff, refuelled and set off for Mesen (Messines). The road works around Mesen meant it took us sometime to get around, ending up following the locals by driving around the no entry signs. We saw the church Hitler painted (don't ask) and the Irish Peace Tower (***pictured left***). This a product of the Northern Ireland peace process, an act of reconciliation between the two Irish traditions and a reminder to those of us who had served in Northern Ireland of more recent conflicts.

Our next stop on the programme was the Captain Noel Chavasse VCs' grave near Poperinghe but we made a brief stop at to see a small cemetery containing Lillian's great uncle. It was a remarkable cemetery in that it contained a gunner VC and a number of graves from 1940. The last visit was the Langemark Cemetery, containing the remains of 44,000 German soldiers. In contrast to the CWGC cemeteries is a dark and gloomy place but it now has a small visitor centre. It does seem to be well visited in the mainly by British school parties. On that sombre note we concluded our tour and headed off to the ferry at Zeebrugge now in good weather and had time for a quick visit to Bruges on the way.

16 July meant back to the UK and rain and a brief stop with the Border Agency as we had aroused their curiosity for some reason. We were all back on schedule by midday and van cleared and handed over shortly after.

The trip was the largest of the 6 and was certainly a success thanks to everyone playing their part from Stan as driver and standard bearer, John, Eric, Dennis, Norman and David with wreaths and Standards, Eddie organising the Standards party, Peter with the research and not forgetting the support Mick, Sally and Lillian gave us.

David Chadwick
Lt Col (Ret'd)

DENNIS & LILLIAN VICKERS A PERSONAL VISIT TO THE WAR GRAVES (JULY 2012)



The KRAL trip to France & Belgium, organised by David Chadwick, was particularly poignant for us and particularly my wife Lillian. We knew from the research I had done that her grandfather, Henry Louis Christian Blohm, had been killed at the Battle of Loos and was buried in Cambrin Military Cemetery. David had promised that he would try to get to that Cemetery during our trip.

(Lillian pictured above with Dennis at the grave of her grandfather)

Our last stop on the first day of the tour was at Cambrin Military Cemetery and we found the grave quite easily, in row D. Also buried there are 57 officers and men of the 1st King's (Liverpool Regiment) who died on the first day of the battle, 25th September, 1915".

Lillian (**also pictured below**) was able to lay a wreath, provided by my Captain Mick Hunt, and was quite moved by the occasion. She had never known her grandfather. Her own father was only 9 years old when his father was killed.

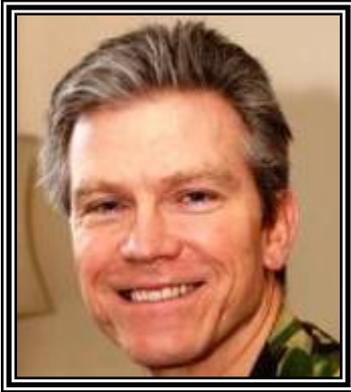
25002 Pte Henry Blohm was the eldest of five brothers fighting for the British Army. Their father had been interned on the Isle of Man as a German Alien but was released when the War office was informed that **ALL** his sons were fighting with the British Army.



8369 Pte Richard Blohm (spelled wrongly on some records as Bloham) was killed on 27th October 1914 having been posted overseas on 12th August, 1914 in the third reinforcement draft for 1 KLR 22/9/14 (1 KLR Bn Diary). His brother Frederick of the same Regiment was wounded soon afterwards by a bullet in the arm. The brothers were reservists and went out to the front together at the beginning of August (Liverpool Echo 17/3/1915).

The name of 8369 Pte R Bloham is on the list of officers and men of The King's Regiment on the Menin Gate - men who have no known grave. A fourth brother, John Blohm, was attested in the South Lancashire Regiment in October 1906 at the age of 18. He served in India with the South Lancashire Regiment with the number 8358 but he also served with the Machine Gun Corps with the number 94213. He was killed on 12th August 1918 and is buried in Westoutre British Military Cemetery. I knew the grave number and when I discussed it with David he said that we had passed the Cemetery on our second day but promised to try and get back to it on our last day. He did and we found the grave very quickly because it was the extreme 'Left' grave in the second row. Lillian was able to lay a cross on his grave. (her great uncle).

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT - BRIGADIER M T GRIFFITHS CBE

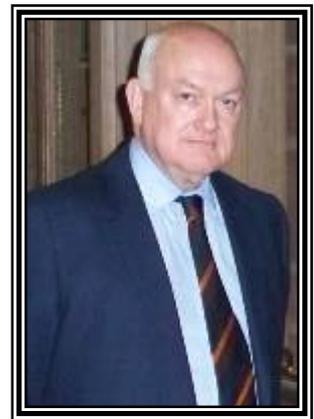


Brigadier Mike Griffiths is to leave the Army and become the next Chief Constable and Chief Executive of the Civil Nuclear Authority. This is a tremendous opportunity and a significant achievement in being selected from what would have been a very strong field. The selection was confirmed by Ministers late last week and announced on Friday 29th June 2012.

Brigadier Mike will take up his new post on 1st October 2012. It is his wish to remain as Colonel of the Regiment until 13th October 2013 in order to see the 2nd Battalion safely home from operations in Afghanistan.

REGIMENTAL SECRETARY - COLONEL C W OWEN

Colonel Chris Owen was born in Salford and educated at De La Salle College and the University of Manchester, where he read Psychology.



After leaving university in 1978, he attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was commissioned into the King's Regiment. He served with the 1st Battalion the King's Regiment (1 KINGS) in Northern Ireland, England and Germany. During his first tour with the battalion he served as a platoon commander, company second in command and operations officer. This was followed, in 1985, by a posting to 5/8 KINGS, in Warrington, as Adjutant.

He attended the technical training element of the Army Staff College at the Royal Military of Science in 1988 before completing his staff training at the RAF Staff College. Following this, he was posted to the MOD where he served in the Operational Requirements branch with responsibility for all infantry light armoured vehicles. He next commanded an Infantry company serving in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands and on public duties in London before working for the Military Secretary.

Following promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2006 he was posted back to the MOD as Chief of Staff for the Directorate of Army recruiting. In 2007 he assumed command of 1 KINGS in Cyprus. The battalion returned to Weeton Camp near Blackpool in 2008. During his time in command the battalion had operational deployments in Kuwait and Northern Ireland.

After command, Colonel Owen served on the Headquarters staff in Northern Ireland and then in the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. On promotion to Colonel in 2004 he was posted to Paderborn as the Deputy Commander of 20 Armoured Brigade. On leaving Germany in 2006 he served for 10 months in Baghdad on the planning staff of the Multi-National Corps (Iraq) for which he was awarded the US Bronze Star.

Returning to the UK, he joined the Directorate of Army Personnel Strategy in 2007 as an assistant director. He served in this post for 3 years before returning to the MOD in 2010 as Head of Service Discipline Policy. This was his final post before retiring from the Army. In June 2012 he formally became Regimental Secretary of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in Preston.

He is married to Meredith and they live in North Lancashire, near Kirkby Lonsdale.



**THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT 6TH ANNIVERSARY GOLF MEETING
FORMBY GOLF CLUB - FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

GENERAL

1. The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment 6th Anniversary Golf Competition will take place on Friday 7th September 2012, at Formby Golf Club (FGC); by kind permission of Brigadier M T Griffiths CBE Colonel of the Regiment and members of Formby Golf Club. The post code is L37 1LQ
2. The competition is open to serving members of the Regiment, its antecedent Regiments and paid up members of the Regimental Association.
3. There is a limit of 40 players. The maximum handicap is 24.

PROGRAMME

4. The programme for the day is as follows:
 - a. 1230hrs Registration in the Hall Bar
 - b. 1245hrs Coffee
 - c. 1315hrs Pre match photograph
 - d. 1338hrs Regimental Golf Championships – 18 Holes Stableford
 - e. 1930 hrs The Golfers supper and prize giving will take place in the main dining room.

ENTRY FORM AND REMITTANCE

5. For an entry form, please contact:

**Captain (Retired) Mick Hunt
City Headquarters
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment
Walker House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3YL
Telephone: 0151 242 2322**

6. The cost for the day is £55, which includes coffee and biscuits on arrival, 18 holes of golf, prizes and the golfer's supper. In order for FGC to make the necessary arrangements it would be appreciated if all entries with remittance be submitted by:

1200hrs Friday 24th August 2012

DID YOU KNOW?



Even though Bradley Wiggins had ridden ten miles in around only 18 minutes, on a push bike, my report just about made it onto the back pages of the local newspaper. I had to send my column with the word **EXCLUSIVE** written all over it for them to take any notice.

It was probably still seen as less important than that weeks' "Wirral Ladies Amateur Bowls" results! However, I do have some claim to fame in that I interviewed the first British Tour de France winner in

109 years, on par you could say with winning the Football World Cup.

On this day I travelled from Liverpool to Levens in Cumbria to take part in a ten miles time trial. I rode it in 26 minutes, OK for a lady! Afterwards, in the race headquarters, I spotted Wiggins and as I was the Cycling Correspondent for the Liverpool Daily Post, pushed my way up to him and asked for an interview. He gladly accepted and was very polite. I remember thinking what a nice, down to earth family man. I knew he was world class but **never** thought that he would win the Tour de France.

REPORT (edited version):

Cycling By Linda Tully - pictured above - Secretary To Captain Hunt, City Office, Liverpool - first published in The Liverpool Daily Post, 18th September 2006

Olympic gold medallist and world champion Bradley Wiggins (pictured below) broke the national competition record in the Wigan Wheelers 10 mile time trial at Levens.

He clocked an incredible 17 minutes 58 seconds, knocking 21 seconds off the existing record set in 2001 by Stuart Dangerfield.

Wiggins said: "I'm really pleased I broke the record today as I've had a couple of attempts at it this year but never had the right weather conditions. "I didn't feel too good at the start as I've had such a hectic schedule lately. "This is good news adding to the fact that my wife is expecting our second child."



NEW BRANCH STANDARD CARRIER BOX DONATED



Mr Tim Salter from the West Cheshire College, designed, made and donated a new Branch Standard (LANCS) Carrier box.

Mr John Schofield, King's Regiment Association, Liverpool Branch Standard Bearer, received the carrier box and thanked Mr Salter on behalf of the King's Regiment Association, Liverpool Branch members.

**TURNING THE LEAVES – LIVERPOOL ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
THURSDAY 28TH JUNE 2012**



1914-1918

LT J JONES
CAPT L G JUDE
PTE P KELLY

TURNED BY
MAJOR EDDIE MCMAHON TD
Ex 5/8 KINGS



1939-1945

PTE J E BOOTH
SGT C J BOTT
LCPL S BRADBURY

TURNED BY
JIMMY SKIDMORE
Ex 1 KINGS



NORTHERN IRELAND

KGN R CHRISTOPHER
KGN C R SHANLEY
LCPL S L RUMBLE

TURNED BY
NORMAN PICKLES
Ex 1 KINGS

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE
JUNE 2012 TURNING OF THE LEAVES.**

**THE NEXT TURNING OF THE LEAVES CEREMONY WILL TAKE
PLACE AT THE LIVERPOOL ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL ON:**

***THURSDAY
20TH SEPTEMBER 2012
AT 5.30 PM***

HOW THE BRANCH IS RUN

The Branch is managed by a management committee that meets quarterly at 11.30am on selected Sundays at Townsend Avenue.
Any member of the Branch is welcome to participate.
The committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting each year.

CURRENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Lieutenant Colonel Ray Hughes QVRM TD

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Major Eddie McMahon TD

SECRETARY

John Schofield

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TREASURER

Major Dennis Vickers TD

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Norman Pickles

CESRA REPRESENTATIVE

Terry Caffrey

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Butler, Terry Caffrey, Captain John Cashen, Brian Green,
Joe McLoughlin, Alan Meaker, Roy Mitchell, Russell Start

STANDARD BEARERS

John Schofield, Stan Castell BEM & Carl Martin

Any of the above committee member can be contacted through:

c/o City Office Liverpool

The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

Room 9, Walker House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3YL

Tele: 0151 242 2322 / 0151 242 2876

Association members meet at Townsend Avenue TA Centre between 12 pm and 4 pm on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of every month excluding Bank Holidays.
Please lend your support and meet up with old friends.

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www.army.mod.uk/lancs

**REGIMENTAL RACE DAY AT HAYDOCK PARK
THURSDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2012**

30th July 2012

The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment will sponsor the King's Regiment Cup Race at Haydock Park Racecourse on Thursday 6th September 2012.

Entrance to Haydock Park will be available from 1230 hrs; the first race is scheduled to start at 1430 hrs and the last race at 1710 hrs. The start time for the King's Regiment Cup is yet to be announced.

The Final Furlong Bar and the seating area in the Makerfield Stand will be reserved for our sole use and all members of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental family are invited to join us for the afternoon.

Tickets for the Tattersall Enclosure may be purchased at the entrance gates to the Race Course. However, discounted tickets may be purchased in advance from City HQ Manchester for £9.00. Please make cheques for tickets payable to "Manchester Office, LANCS".

Prizes will be awarded to the owner, jockey and the trainer of the winner. There will also be a prize of £50 for the stable lad/lass of the best turned out horse. Prize giving will take place at the Parade Ring immediately after the race.

It is the accepted custom for those attending to take picnic lunches, there are also several restaurants and food outlets in the racecourse grounds. However, please be aware that alcohol is not allowed to be taken into the race course. A bar is conveniently located within our stand.

Area Secretaries are requested to disseminate this letter to their respective Regimental Association Branches and to assist in the coordination of their transport requirements.

Haydock Park Race Course is signposted from Junction 23 on the M6. The postcode is WA12 0HQ. A large free car park is available.

For more details about the race course go to www.haydock-park.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Algy Turner

Area Secretary - Manchester