

The King's Regiment Association Liverpool Branch A Branch of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association



FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 24

ELECTRONIC EDITION



DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

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

J ASPINALL, W BELL, F BURNELL, T CAFFREY, G A EDWARDS, A HITCHEN,
C HOLMES, R HUGHES, P LOVETT, E LASHAM, J McLOUGHLIN, N J PERKINS,
D ROSE, B & L SMITH, R START, C R THOMAS, D THOROLD, A UWINS,

YOUR GENEROSITY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.



VISIT TO NORMANDY 7TH-10TH JULY 2011

As you will know the Branch arranged in 2009 for markers to be placed on Sword and Gold beaches to commemorate the part played by 5th Kings and 8th Irish in the D Day Landings. The 2011 trip is to revisit the markers, local cemeteries and the parish church at Graye sur Mer as well as some of the key D Day sites in Normandy

A full programme will be issued when this is complete. Travel out will be on Thursday 7th July starting from Townsend Avenue, Liverpool (probably via Portsmouth) and returning on Sunday 10th July. We will be staying at the Mercure Hotel Ouistreham for the nights of 7th-9th July.

The trip from Liverpool will be in a self-drive minibus with 14 places allocated on a first come first served basis. The cost will be £325 per person, which will cover travel and hotel half board but not insurance. A deposit of £75 (non returnable in the case of you cancelling) will be needed with the booking and the balance by 15 May.

If you wish to attend please contact Lt Col David Chadwick, as soon as possible by:

Telephone: 0151 342 4627 or by email: chadwick550@btinternet.com

Bookings and transport arrangements will then be confirmed.

Cheques should be made payable to:

THE KING'S REGIMENT ASSOCIATION LIVERPOOL





We require your letters, comments, photographs, stories etc for inclusion in the next Newsletter

which will be published in April 2011.

The closing date for submission is:

FRIDAY 25TH MARCH 2011.

Please forward to:

Eric Roper
171 Queens Drive
Mossley Hill
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).

2010 '100' CLUB

The December 2010 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 14th December 2010 by A Meaker, and the winners are:

**1ST PRIZE (£37)
D G THOROLD**

**2nd Prize (£21)
G BRADY**

2011 100' CLUB

Only 43 members purchased shares for the 2011 '100 Club' totalling £516.

At the AGM on 16th January 2011, because of the lack of shares purchased, the Committee decided that the draw each month should have just one monthly prize of £43.

The January 2011 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 25th January 2011 by Major (Ret'd) E McMahon, and the winner is:

**1ST PRIZE (£43)
MR K HERBERT**

† LAST POST †

CAPTAIN DANIEL (DANNY) ARTHUR CORKERY



Aged 72 years of Grange-Over-Sands, passed away peacefully at home on 8th December 2010 after an illness bravely borne.

The funeral took place on Thursday 16th December 2010 at St. Paul's Church, Grange Over Sands. All enquiries and donations in Danny's memory for BLESMA (British Limbless Ex Service Men's Association) to Little and Caine, Beech Cross, Kents Bank Road, Grange-Over-Sands.

Maj (Ret'd) Eddie McMahon writes:

So sad to hear the last post has sounded for Captain Danny Corkery.

Danny served with 5/8 KINGS with great distinction as Regimental Sergeant Major, Quartermaster and his last appointment as Permanent Staff Administration Officer at Townsend Avenue, Liverpool. An adopted son of the Regiment. He had a great love of the King's and it was an honour and privilege to have served with him.

DAVID (DAVE) APPLETON

Dave Appleton aged 62, ex WO2 (TQMS) 1 KINGS passed away from a heart attack in Spain on the 12th November 2010. Funeral service and cremation took place in Spain.

WILLIAM STRAND 1920 – 2011

Ex Sergeant William (Billy) Strand died on Thursday 6th January 2011 in his 91st year.

Billy joined the regiment in 1956 at Townsend Avenue and reached the rank of Sergeant with 5 KINGS before deciding to leave when his company was embodied in the new 1st Battalion, The Lancastrian Volunteers in 1967.

Sgt Strand's funeral took place at St Helens Crematorium at 1600hrs on Wednesday 19th January 2011.

TED TOLLEY

'Ted' Tolley, long time loyal member of 5 Kings/2 T Force, Germany and Denmark and a great supporter of the OCA passed away peacefully on 14th January 2011 (Further details not yet known).

SIDNEY (SID) TRAN (226400127)

D COMPANY 1ST BATTALION, THE KING'S REGIMENT

Ex Sergeant Sidney Tran a Korean Veteran and supporter of the Regimental Association died on Tuesday 4th January 2011.

Sid's funeral took place at Anfield Crematorium at 1230hrs on Thursday 20th January 2011.

IAN MYLCREEST

Ex Sergeant Ian Mylcreest died at home of a heart attack on Sunday 16th January 2011.

Ian's funeral service took place on Thursday 26th January 2011 in Overpool Cemetery Chapel, Rivacre Road, Ellesmere Port. The committal followed immediately after the service

LETTERS PAGE



DAVE PLAYER WRITES:

Dear Sirs

The Legasee war veterans project is looking for volunteers who want to tell their stories.

As part of an exciting social history project, the film company Legasee is looking for war veterans who would like to have their stories filmed for posterity.

This footage will be used to launch a unique online archive of interviews for use by schools, colleges and members of the public.

To kick-start the project, we're looking for war veterans of any age who wish to recall their experiences in front of the camera for the benefit of future generations.

It doesn't matter what campaign or country they served in, or what role they played. The Legasee war veterans project is completely free of charge, with any travel expenses paid – all we need is their knowledge, enthusiasm and a small amount of their time to take part in the filming.

If you know anyone that's interested, please ask them to email me giving their name, age, daytime phone number and brief details of their wartime service so we can contact them to discuss this further.

We hope to hear from you, and please feel free to forward this email to any war veterans that you think might be interested.

Please visit our web site for more information about Legasee - www.Legasee.org.uk

Click here to read about Legasee on [The British Legion web site](#).

Kind regards

Dave Player

Ex-Royal Engineer

E mail: dave@legasee.org.uk

CAPTAIN (RET'D) ERIC JONES, LONDON WRITES:

THE ASHES....

What do you call a great Australian cricketer? Retired!

What do you call an Aussie that can catch? A fisherman!

What do you call an Aussie with a bottle of champagne in his hand? A waiter!

What's the definition of optimism? An Aussie batsmen applying sun cream!

Just thought I would rub it in!

Regards

Eric Jones

LETTERS PAGE



TREVOR JOHN, CARDIFF WRITES:

Dear Eric,

Please find enclosed 100 Club and 2011 membership applications and cheque, sorry for being late.

My very best wishes to you, your family and all members of the association for Christmas and the new year.

Yours sincerely
Trevor John

GEORGE TREBLE, LIVERPOOL WRITES:

Eric,

Please find enclosed a cheque for £50 - a donation for the associations funds.

I would like to say thank you to the kind gentleman in the office in Water Street, who gave me a King's Cap Badge free of charge. Should any ex Kingsmen spot me, they will see me wearing it with pride.

To all the Kingsmen, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes
George Treble.

ERIC PATERNOSTER, AYLESBURY, WRITES:

Another cracking issue of the Newsletter (issue 23, December 2010). Many thanks. I don't know how you do it. I haven't finished reading it yet, but I know the rest will be good.

I've just received my heating allowance and it is going to help quite a bit. We try to keep warm! I have COPD so I have to keep warm. Up to now, we have only had a light sprinkling of snow. Lets hope that's all we get!

Best seasons wishes to you and yours and to all ex Kingsmen wherever they may be.

Yours sincerely
Eric

MAJOR (RET'D) PETER OAKLEY MBE, NORTH WALES, WRITES:

Morning Eric,

I thought the funniest page of anything I have read for ages, was the comments made on personal reports - page 11 of the December 2010 Newsletter.

During my time at RMA Sandhurst I saw many reports written on Officer Cadets (some of which were for officers of 1 KINGS, but my lips are sealed).

One comment for the list is "Perception - pushes doors marked pull".

Best wishes,
Peter.

LETTERS PAGE



NIGEL PERKINS, ISLE OF MAN, WRITES:

Dear Eric,

Thank you ever so much for sending The Associations Newsletter, which I have enjoyed reading. There are many names mentioned in your various articles who I served with during my time with the Regiment.

I keep in touch with the odd chat with Ken Duggan who lives in Preston. He has such a strong memory and is well informed of local Regimental news. Poor health restricts my travel from the Island and I appreciate that I and Joyce miss out in not attending Regimental social events.

I will send you the £6 requirement membership fee.

I consider your newsletter excellent and only sorry that I was not aware of the publication before now. I do get the Regimental journal in January each year. Pleased that Ron Boardman is back, having made a good recovery from his recent operation.

Yes I do sincerely recall your name, I think of you, as a young Corporal in the Orderly Room in 1967 in Ballykinler (Northern Ireland). I joined 1 KINGS as MTO late July 1967, from 4th South Lancashire Regt, TA in Warrington. During 1967 to 1977 I enjoyed my service with the Bn. I stayed with the Bn until I was posted to 4 QLR, Preston in 1977 as QM retiring in Jul 1981.

That's all a few years ago. I enjoyed my army career with the Regt and with a super wife. We celebrated with members of the sergeants mess my wife's 21st birthday in Honk Kong, Nov 1953. Our 25th wedding anniversary in Londonderry with the Officers Mess.

Next year all being well we celebrate our Diamond wedding in May. Joyce and I, along with family have a planned cruise in the Med. Yes its all water under the bridge and like you and many past members of the Regiment, we all have memories, some we do not want to remember, but a great many that we treasure and never part with.

Proud to be connected to the history of the past and salute our Regimental soldiers of today's army, they are a credit to our country and it is great to see them receiving the Freedom of local towns, marching with bayonets fixed and their Colours flying.

I Remember when we marched through Liverpool on return from Hong Kong, 1954. People of this great City lined the streets for miles, four to five deep. I was a member of the Colour Party.

Enough of my memories. Yes I would be delighted to receive a CD of past issues, of your Newsletters. I congratulate you on producing a most interesting Newsletter with modern computer programmes involved. Please convey my warmest regards to all who knew me, during past years. Again thank you.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Nigel Perkins (Ex King's Regiment)

LETTERS PAGE



MAJOR (RET'D) RAY TAYLOR, WARRINGTON, WRITES:

Hi Eric,

Thanks for another superb newsletter. Congratulations on receiving your Silver Medal. I was not aware there was such an award but if anyone deserved recognition it was you. I take it Eileen received the same!

The posting from Paddy Lenaghan about me finding the fountain of youth made me smile. It certainly came as a surprise to Sue. Actually I have a confession to make. I looked old as a young man, so now that I am old I look just the same. Good trick eh?

Also, I must apologise to Paddy and Josie. When we met at Townsend Avenue during their visit to UK I could only spend an hour with them due to a prior engagement later that day. They deserved more of my time having travelled half way across the world to meet up. There again, perhaps an hour of my company is more than enough.

I will make no comment on your disparaging remarks about my Golf play at Formby, other than to say anyone can play boring golf by going down the middle of the fairway on every hole. Having paid a large amount of money to play the course, the least I could do was to see most of it and enjoy the scenery, some of which no one had ever seen before.

Look forward to the next Newsletter.

Have a great Christmas and see you in the new year.

Cheers

Ray

TED LANGLEY, CANADA, WRITES:

Dear Eric,

Thanks for the recent Newsletter (printed version). I have enclosed an International Money Order to cover the cost of the 2011 Newsletters.

At our recent Remembrance Day parade, I wore my Regimental Badge on my beret and laid a wreath at the local cenotaph honouring local Korean Veterans.

The Korean Consul organised a lavish lunch for veterans from our local unit. He (and other dignitaries) expressed gratitude for our contribution – and enquired if any of us would like to re-enlist. There were no takers!

Regards and best wishes to you and all Kingsmen, wherever they may be, for Christmas and the New Year

Ted Langley

langleyhomestead@shaw.ca

LETTERS PAGE



GLYN ROBERTS WRITES:

I served in Kenya 1961-62 at Muthaiga Camp also at Kahawa. I was in HQ Company for the last 12 months as driver to Brig Horsford.

Just like to say hello and we are still out there!! Happy Christmas from California.

Glyn (Army Number: 23755338)

Email: glyn1938@earthlink.net

MALCOLM LAMB WRITES

I was at the rehabilitation centre in Chessington in 1975 with Paul Beaumont from the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment. He later became best man at my wedding the same year.

I moved back to Manchester after getting married and lost contact with Paul.

He would be approximately 57 years of age now and lived in Upton, Huntingdon.

I would appreciate it if anyone could help me to contact Paul. I have tried through Facebook and Forces Reunited but to no avail.

Many thanks for your help.

Malcolm Lamb (formerly of the Cheshire Regiment)

Email: gina.lamb@hotmail.co.uk

THOMAS BIBBY WRITES:

Hi Eric

Thanks for all your news letter. It was very enjoyable. Please keep sending it to me.

The following ex Kingo's send their best wishes to you and all the other Kingo's:-
Arthur Cunliffe, John Rowlands, Ronnie Horrucks? (not to sure of surname, ex MT Driver),
Frank Smith, Barry Beswick, Joe Brady.

On an other note sadly Eric MacInstosh passed away last year, don't know date. He was one of the 'King Tone's'.

I wish you and all ex Kingsmen a very Happy New Year and best of luck for the future. Look forward to hearing from you in the new year.

Kind regards

Thomas Bibby

VIC QUARMBY WRITES:

Hi Eric,

I am hoping you may be able to help me. I am looking for a ex Kingo called Chris Gains who was in Minden with me in 1969/1971. I don't know if you have him on your books. I am also trying to contact Pete Leigh, same year.

I hope you or one of your members can help me.

Thanks.

VIC

Email: vicquarmby@msn.com

LETTERS PAGE



MIKE GREGSON WRITES:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been trying to contact someone who served with the 1st East Lancs Regiment between 1932 - 47 and knew of my Grandfather, Harold Gregson from Preston. He served in France as part of the BEF and was evacuated through Dunkirk. On return to UK he attended a Provost course and was posted to Jamaica until 1945.

Can I please ask that you ask branch members if they knew Harold and would like to help with my research.

Thank you in anticipation
Mike Gregson

Tel: 07890337973 or 016973 22353
Email: mike.gregs@gmail.com

PADDY LENAGHAN, SOUTHPORT, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA WRITES:

G'day all,

I decided to give you an update on our very wet and water logged 'sunshine state'. At the moment there are 36 towns and settlements declared as disaster areas, they are either under water or about to go underwater, it is still raining, in places - 100 mm in a two hour period. The water surge which destroyed the central business district of Toowoomba yesterday afternoon wiped out two further towns during the night. All that water in the rivers are now heading towards the town of Ipswich just out of Brisbane. Low lying areas of Brisbane are starting to flood. The most crucial time will be Thursday (13th January) when the waters of two rivers and the overspill of a major dam are expected to converge and put Brisbane in danger of flooding as it did back in 1974.

Most TV stations have cancelled all their programmes and are on continual coverage of the flooding. At the moment there are 8 confirmed deaths, but 75 persons are unaccounted for and it's still raining. By Thursday 6,500 homes in Brisbane are expected to be flooded. 16,000 residents will be affected and all roads North and West of Brisbane are cut, the same goes for rail services.

Our Prime minister has pledged the full support of the defence force, manpower, medical, aircraft etc and the tropical depression is still dropping 50mm an hour on the flooded areas. It is still raining here, but we are not in any way, apart from the drains having problems carrying the water away, in danger.

Well that's all for now. We will try to stay dry and will keep you informed.

Regards to all
Paddy and Josie
Email: jlenaghan@bigpond.com

ps: it's still bloody raining!

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT WEAPONS THAT DID NOT QUITE MAKE IT TO FINAL PRODUCTION



THE BIG BANG THEORY?



SMILE PLEASE!



MORE BUDGET CUTS TO FLIGHT TRAINING



MORE FUEL SHORTAGES & BUDGET CUTS



REGIMENTAL EVENTS/DAYS - FEBRUARY TO MAY 2011

FEBRUARY

- 4 5th Anniversary Ball Committee Meeting – 1130hrs NZH
KRAK P & Y – The Railway
- 8 King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH
- 8/9 Post Op Presentation - Townsend Ave TAC 1 LANCS
- 12 Liverpool Pals Memorial Charity Evening - 1930hrs The Broadway Club L11 1AJ
- 14 KORBR Liverpool Branch Meeting - 1400hrs Spencers Bar London Road
- 15 Kimberley Day 1900 (LANCS)
- 19 LS Old & Bold Burns Supper
- 22 King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH
- 25 Preston Branch Ladysmith Dinner - WO's & Sgt's Mess Fulwood Bks Area Sec
- 26 Liverpool Branch Ladysmith Dinner - Adelphi Hotel Area Sec
Help for Hero's Concert - Philharmonic Hall
- 28 Ladysmith Day 1900
IKRA Committee Meeting 2000hrs

MARCH

- 2 1 LANCS Homecoming Parade – Carlisle
- 4 KRAK P & Y – The Railway
- 7-11 Area Sec on leave
- 8 King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH
- 10 Receive Freedom of Ribble Valley at Clitheroe
- 14 KORBR Liverpool Branch Meeting - 1400hrs Spencers Bar London Road
- 16 Italy Day 1944
King's Regiment Museum Committee Meeting - 1100hrs in the Athenaeum
- 22 King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH
- 23 KRAK Committee Meeting - 2000hrs Railway Kirkby
IKRA Committee Meeting 2000hrs
- 24 Turning of the Leaves - 1730hrs Liverpool Cathedral Area Sec

APRIL

- 2 Francilly Selency Day 1917
- 5 King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH
- 11 KORBR Liverpool Branch Meeting - 1400hrs Spencers Bar London Road
- 19 Area Sec in Cyprus for 2 LANCS Trooping the Colour
King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH
- 22 KRAK Liverpool Pals Fundraiser – The Railway
- 23 St Georges Day
Family History Day with BBC Radio - Regimental input - St George's Hall L'pool

MAY

- 1-11 5 King's (No 2 T Force) OCA trip to Germany and Denmark – Ken Moore
- 3 King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH
- 7 Receive Freedom of Ulverston
- 9 KORBR Liverpool Branch Meeting - 1400hrs Spencers Bar London Road
- 11 Fontenoy Day 1745
- 15 Burma Day 1943/45
- 17 King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH
- 18 KRAK Committee Meeting - 2000hrs Railway Kirkby
- 20 KRAK Escort for Knowsley Mayor Making Day
- 31 King's Regiment Association Committee Meeting 1200hrs NZH

ALLONBY SOLDIER LENDS A HAND TO HELP FOR HEROES FUND RAISING



A West Cumbrian soldier who has served his country in Afghanistan has helped to raise £1,003 for Help for Heroes.

Corporal Scott Little of the 1st Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, was in Workington's ASDA store on Friday selling arm bands to raise money for the wounded soldiers' charity.

The 37-year-old, of Allonby, said: "I have got friends who have lost limbs while serving in Afghanistan and Help for Heroes makes life a lot easier for them.

"If it wasn't for the generosity of the public Help for Heroes wouldn't exist."

Sheila Pahlsson event organiser and community colleague for ASDA, pictured above with Corporal Little, said: "This is about giving a little bit back and showing the boys that we appreciate what they are doing for us."

Her son Roger Swinburne, a friend of Cpl Little, has served in the army for 25 years and works as a family liaison officer in Windsor.

Mrs Pahlsson said: "I asked Scott if he would come and help me sell the bands and he was happy to come along.

"The support and generosity from the public has been amazing.

"It took me three hours to sell 100 arm bands but with Scott standing here in his uniform it took me an hour and a half." Between them they have sold 400 arm bands.

NOTE FROM BRANCH SECRETARY – ERIC ROPER

I have to inform you all that because of ongoing health problems I have reluctantly had to resign my position as your Branch Secretary.

As some of you will know, I had by-pass surgery in August 1988 and all was well until I had a heart attack (MI) in November 2000. I recovered well from this MI but since the middle of September 2010 my heart problems have returned.

I was taken into the Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital (Broadgreen) on Tuesday 11th January 2011 to undergo Angioplasty and to have a Stent fitted into a blocked coronary artery. Unfortunately, the blockage to the artery was more severe than anticipated and the artery too small for a stent to be fitted. The Cardiologist was able to use the angioplasty balloon to create a small opening in this artery.

I will continue to produce the Newsletter and maintain the Branch Membership Data Base for the time being.

If there is anyone out there who feels that they are able to undertake the duties of Branch Secretary, please contact:

Major (Ret'd) E McMahon, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, New Zealand House, Water Street, Liverpool L2 8TD

Kindest regards to you all and best wishes for the future.

'AFGHANISTAN - THE REAL STORY' REVEALED



Most people's perception of the war in Afghanistan is the all-too-frequent TV news pictures of British service personnel returning in coffins or with terrible injuries.

While that is certainly a tragic part of the story, there is a much bigger story to be told, as Clitheroe Rotary Club members and guests learnt.

Their guest speaker was Major Marc Steventon, of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, whose presentation, entitled "Afghanistan – the Real Story", was both enlightening and thought-provoking. .

A career soldier who joined the Army at 16 and now has more than 30 years' service under his belt, Major Steventon has first hand experience of serving in Afghanistan and many other parts of the world.

He is currently based at the Army Careers Office in Preston, where he has developed his presentation primarily for schools, but also for more adult audiences.

It looks at the troubled history and tribal culture of Afghanistan, focusing on the place, the people and what the British Army and other international forces are actually doing there. While part of that role is fighting terrorism, the Army – encompassing a vast array of skills and roles – is actively rebuilding communities and the country's shattered infrastructure, providing new schools, hospitals and medical centres, and vital utilities in areas where there are none.

It also has a crucial role in training the Afghan National Army to take over operations as and when the international forces pull out.

Major Steventon spoke frankly and with an authority that can only come from experience of having served on the front line. He also answered a range of questions and was warmly thanked by the Rotarians for a very illuminating presentation which left them with a much greater understanding of the situation in Afghanistan.

Major Steventon is willing to give his presentation to a range of interested groups and can be contacted through the Army Careers Office on 01772 203030.

**Courtesy of:
The Clitheroe Advertiser and Times**

BRAVE NELSON SOLDIER VOWS TO RETURN TO ARMY



A BRAVE soldier whose legs were blown off in an Afghanistan bomb blast has vowed to return to the army and compete in the Paralympics.

Kingsman Jack Plant, 20, relived the moment he was thrown into the air by an improvised explosive device (IED) and the 'indescribable pain' that followed.

Speaking for the first time about his ordeal, he revealed he spent two weeks in a coma, and is undergoing intensive physiotherapy as he bids to walk again using prosthetic legs.

Jack, who lives in Nelson and served in Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, said: "Naturally I regret getting blown up but I love my job. "Getting injured makes it dawn on you just how professional and well trained soldiers are to deal with incidents like this.

"The army has been amazing, anything I have needed they have given me. "When I have learnt to use my prosthetic legs I will go back to work for the army even if it means a desk or stores job.

"I am hoping to be able to use my new prosthetic limbs on my 21st birthday in April and then I will look to start training for the Paralympics."

Jack stepped on the bomb on July 6, around four months into the tour of duty, which also claimed the life of Earby soldier Lance Corporal Jordan Bancroft.

He told of the day he was injured, saying: "On patrol we took a left turn down the side of a building near to the river and my mate Anthony Cooper stood on an IED. "Immediately the whole platoon realised the seriousness of what had happened. "My instincts told me to run to him and help but you just can't do that. "Once we got to him and we knew the helicopter was on its way we were told to take cover.

"On the route back to the safe zone, there was another massive explosion. "As I flew through the air I knew what had happened, I had stepped on an IED. "As the dust settled I just prayed my legs were OK, but when I looked down and saw all the blood I knew they weren't.

"The pain was indescribable. It was the worst I have ever felt. "But I knew I needed to do something otherwise I would die. "I reached for my torque to try and stem the bleeding and as I reached for my morphine pen I realised my thumb was hanging off." Jack lost both legs from above the knee, fractured his pelvis, dislocated two fingers, lost his left thumb and sustained major scarring for which he has had to have several skin grafts.

To cope with the pain, Jack, a rap music fan, sang an Eminem song as he was winched up into the rescue helicopter. He received emergency treatment from American medics while airborne and at Camp Bastion before being flown back to Britain.

Jack spent two weeks in an induced coma at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham. He still faces a long road of further treatment ahead. Jack said: "As I came round I saw my brother at the end of the bed, but the medication and the stress of the whole thing made me think I was still in Afghanistan. "I went mad at him telling him to get down because he wasn't trained and would get hurt." Despite his injuries, Jack is making fantastic progress thanks to the help of Headley Court Rehab Centre in Surrey and his family including his brother Conan, 28, sister Rachel, 21, mum Jill, and dad David.

He said: "I am having physio every day to build the strength in my legs and I am also doing gym work. "I have decided I am definitely going to go for the Paralympics when I get used to my prosthetics legs. "I am going to try some sort of running event but I am not sure which one yet. "I am also going to sit my driving test in the new year."

The former St John Southworth RC Primary School pupil had the idea of joining the army from leaving school. At just 17 he sat the British Army Recruitment Battery test (BARB) and joined the infantry. After selection in Scotland, Jack spent six months training at Catterick before passing out with the 1st Battalion Duke of Lancaster Regiment. He then spent a year in training before being posted to Afghanistan. Jack has no regrets about signing up to the army, despite his life-changing injuries. He said: "I was pleased when I found out we were going to Afghanistan as it was what we had been training for. "I did have doubts but so did everyone else because it is such a dangerous place."

When Jack and his Battalion first landed at Camp Bastion they undertook daily patrols delivering food and water to the Afghan locals and gathering intelligence on the Taliban. Jack was out there for three months, including his 20th birthday, before he returned home on rest and recuperation leave. When he came back from leave he noticed the atmosphere had changed and the threat from the Taliban had ominously increased. He said: "All the patrols were really well organised but when I returned from R&R I noticed the frequency of the gunfights were closer and the Afghan locals were becoming more nervous."

**Courtesy: Vanessa Cornall
Burnley and Pendle Citizen**

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1ST BATTALION THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT (1 LANCS) ON OPERATION HERRICK 12

Operation Herrick is the name given to the deployment of British Forces in Afghanistan. Each deployment is numbered and following a demanding period of pre-deployment training, the lead elements of 1 LANCS deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation HERRICK 12 in February 2010. The remainder of the Battalion followed closely and on 30th March 2010 the Battalion took command of the Nad-e-Ali area of Helmand province.

Nad-e-Ali is the southernmost area in Helmand Province for which the British are responsible for securing and it borders the American secured area of Marjeh to the south. Nad-e-Ali district forms part of the area known as the 'Green Zone'. It is dominated by a network of canals that were built with American aid in the 1950s. Whilst the canals provide vital water for irrigation, they also make vehicle movement difficult and the possibility of a vehicle rolling into one of these waterways was a daily threat.

As a result of Operation MOSHTARAK the insurgents were pushed further away from the population centres and 1 LANCS consolidated and furthered these gains throughout the summer.

As well as numerous smaller operations, the Battalion conducted three significant battlegroup operations - Operation TOR MAHKE ZI (Operation BLACK PUSH SOUTH), Operation TOR LARI PAKAWAL (Operation BLACK CLEARAWAY) and Operation TOR SHEZADA (Operation BLACK PRINCE) – all of which were designed to push the insurgents further from the population centres and increase freedom of movement for the population and security forces.

Operation TOR MAHKE ZI was conducted in May 2010 and effectively established three new patrol bases to the south of our existing, most southerly patrol bases, further dislocating the insurgents from the population. Operation TOR LARI PAKAWAL was conducted in June and July 2010 and re-opened a major route in the northeast of our area of operations.

The most significant operation conducted by the battlegroup during Operation HERRICK 12 was Operation TOR SHEZADA (conducted during August and September 2010), this was also the most significant operation conducted by the 4th Brigade and attracted significant media coverage. Operation TOR SHEZADA succeeded in seizing and securing the previous insurgents stronghold in the town of Saidabad (the most southerly population centre in our area of operations).

Significant progress was made during our time in Nad-e-Ali, the insurgents were further dislocated from the population centre across the whole of our operations, free and fair District Community Council elections were held (resulting in a newly elected District Council), turnout for the Afghan National Parliamentary Elections was significantly increased from previous numbers and the bazaars across the operations increased – most significantly the bazaar in the Nad-e-Ali District Centre experienced huge growth. In December 2009 there were less than 10 shops; by September 2010 there were more than 500!

Sadly this progress was not achieved without loss. The Battalion suffered three fatalities (Corporal Rogoiruwai, Lance Corporal Bancroft and Kingsman Tagitaginimoce), six life changing injuries and a number of other serious injuries. All the casualties that the Battalion suffered are making good progress and receiving all the physical and emotional support that can be provided.

The last elements of the Battalion arrived back in Catterick on 15th October 2010 bringing to an end the Battalion's deployment to Afghanistan.

Since returning from Operation HERRICK 12, members of the Battalion have been awarded their Operational Service Medal at a medals parade held in Catterick prior to undertaking four weeks of well earned post operational tour leave.

The Battalion is now very much looking forward to conducting homecoming parades in Manchester, Warrington, Blackburn, Lancaster and Carlisle.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ACTION AT MARICOURT BY 17TH KING'S (PALS) AND 135 REGIMENT (FRENCH ARMY) DURING THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME IN JULY 1916



On 1 July 1916, during the Battle of the Somme Captain Lepetit at the head of the 153rd Infantry Regiment, and Lt. Fairfax Colonel commanding the 17th King's Liverpool Regiment, a Pals battalion, made a joint assault on German positions at Maricourt on the Somme. To mark their entente cordiale, the two men left their respective trenches side by side and crossed no man's land together with the second assault wave. This was one of the few successful attacks on that day.

In commemoration of this joint effort The Somme Remembrance Association wanted to salute the site of the battle by planting an information panel and two flagpoles for the flags of both nations.

On Sunday morning 7 May 2010, the Mayor M. Bernard Guillemont, the Sub Prefect M. Jean-Marc Bassaget, and local residents opened the information panel commemorating that joint attack with representatives of French and British regimental associations in attendance. M. Phillipe Drouin, President of Somme Remembrance Association, the organiser of the event, made a speech in both languages. The panel embodies the brotherhood between the two countries and recalls the courage of the soldiers of both regiments

The ceremonies were brought to life by French and British re enactment societies who provided a guard of honour in uniforms of WW1 and by two pipers, one British and one French wearing a special British and French tartan.

Before the inauguration of elected representatives, residents and association members together, laid wreaths of flowers on the two memorials of the town in the British and French cemeteries. Lt Col (Ret'd) D Chadwick laid a King's Liverpool Regiment wreath as part of the ceremony.

All were subsequently retired to the village hall for the cup of friendship around an exhibition on Maricourt, conducted by the villagers, with the assistance of 3 students from in Vaux-Éclusier as part of an educational project on the First World War.

Details of the action by 17 King's and its history throughout WW! Can be found in 'The Liverpool Pals' by G Maddocks (1991)

More details of the above event and photos are on:

<http://www.somme-remembrance.com/maricourt-point-de-jonction-des-lignes-fran%C3%A7aises-et-britanniques/>

Lt Col (Ret'd) Dave Chadwick

ME? TOO LOUD?



A Street trader who has sold his wares to the people of Liverpool for more than half a century was told to pipe down by city council officers.

Terry Bennett, 67, was left stunned when ordered to curb his banter with customers in the city centre's Clayton Square.

The great-granddad was working on his grandson's stall as a favour, helping him to sell hats, scarves and gloves to those

braving the winter chill, when he was stopped in his tracks. "This bloke just came over to me and asked me to stop shouting out and touting for business. "For the past 51 years though I have sold things on the streets of Liverpool, and the banter I have with people is what makes them feel welcome, then they tell me to be quiet. "I'm an ambassador for this city, and at this time of year people like to hear street traders," said Mr Bennett, who lives in Shakespeare Close, Everton

Liverpool City Council told the Echo Mr Bennett was spoken to informally after his sales patter was judged to be "a bit loud and forceful".

Mr Bennett said his banter with the customers was friendly and, in his experience, has met with a similar reaction. He said he flirts a bit with the women, flatters, has a laugh with people who stop and talk and is a well known, well liked figure. "Nobody should be cold in Liverpool today!", he bellowed when the ECHO arrived, and recommended glove and scarves combinations to some ladies out Christmas shopping.

"At this time of year, when Christmas is coming, people like to hear a street trader, it adds to the festive atmosphere and makes everyone feel a bit happier," said Mr Bennett, who stopped selling fruit and vegetables, his key product between 1959 and 1973, when he served in the Army with the King's Regiment, rising to the rank of Colour Sergeant.

He added one of the other reasons he needs to be vocal in advertising is the new Christmas Market stalls that have sprung up around the city centre. "There is a lot of competition this time of year, so you have to make sure you stand out. It adds to the friendly atmosphere too, I want people to come here and feel like this is a bustling place."

The trader is in no danger of losing his licence to trade, as the stall belongs to his grandson, Tony Bennett, and the council have said they consider the matter closed with the verbal warning. A spokesman for Liverpool City Council said: "On Tuesday morning we felt the noise caused on the street was a bit loud. We've asked the stallholder and his assistant if they could tone it down and as far as we were concerned that is the end of the matter."

Courtesy: Liverpool Echo

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

Maj (Retd) Eddie McMahon

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Eric Roper

0151 733 5946

Email: eric_roper@blueyonder.co.uk

TREASURER

Maj (Ret'd) Dennis Vickers

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Norman Pickles

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Captain John Cashen, Joe McLoughlin,
Alan Meaker, Roy Mitchell, Russell Start

STANDARD BEARERS

John Schofield (KINGS)

Stan Castell BEM (LANCS)

Any of the above committee member can be contacted through:

c/o City Office Liverpool

The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, New Zealand House,
Water Street, Liverpool L2 8TD

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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