

The King's Regiment Association Liverpool Branch

A Branch of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association



'Nec Aspera Terrent'

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 42

ADOBE ELECTRONIC EDITION



HAPPY NEW YEAR



DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

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

**B DOHERTY, J FARLAM, M FREEMAN, D GEE, W GIBB, S HUGHES, T LYON,
J MATHER, G McCLELLAND, J McLOUGHLIN, K MEEK, N J PERKINS,
A RITSON, G SLATOR, C R THOMAS, M TUPPEN, R WILDMAN,
E WILLIAMS, J WILLS.**

YOUR GENEROSITY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.



NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST 2014

OBE

**Lieutenant Colonel George Alexander Maund
Commanding Officer
1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment**





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

APRIL 2014.

The closing date for submission is:

MONDAY 24TH MARCH 2014.

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 December 2013 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 10th December 2013 by E McMahon, and the winner is:

**1ST PRIZE (£40)
D VICKERS**

The Christmas Bonus 2013 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 10th December 2013 by J Schofield, and the winner is:

**£100 CHRISTMAS BONUS PRIZE (£100)
R MITCHELL**

The January 2014 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 7th January 2014 by J Schofield, and the winner is:

**1ST PRIZE (£40)
C CULLEN**



FAMOUS MILITARY QUOTES

**"When other Generals make mistakes their armies are beaten;
when I get into a hole, my men pull me out of it".
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON - AFTER WATERLOO**

NEW COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT



Brigadier Peter Rafferty MBE, late the King's Regiment, is stepping into the role of Colonel of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

With more than 20 years of military experience under his belt, Brigadier Rafferty is optimistic about the future of the regiment which has earned itself a reputation of the Lions of the Army.

Brigadier Rafferty, took up his role, effective from Friday 6th December 2013, as the head of the regimental family. This not only includes the two regular and one reserve battalion, but the wider regimental family of cadets and veterans.

Brigadier Rafferty has seen active service in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as Northern Ireland, London and the Falkland Islands.

Recent years have seen the regiment serving tours of duty in war zones such Afghanistan and Iraq but with no tours planned before 2016 the new Colonel of the Regiment, says he will be strengthening the army's links to the region.

Brigadier Rafferty has only been in the post for a matter of months but as a serving soldier he sees a bright future for the North West's regiment.

For the next five years, he will be charged with overseeing the health of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and with the troops at home he says now is the time to really put down roots. "We are looking forward to the opportunity to bring all the regimental family together in a way we have not been able to recently because of our commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our main focus will be to ensure we offer exciting careers to the best of the North West's young people. "We are very optimistic - we have established a strong reputation for professionalism. We are strong on the battlefield and have achieved a reputation that is second to none as the Lions of the Regiment."

With major restructuring of the armed forces underway, Brigadier Rafferty is taking to the role at a time of great challenges. The Army Reserves - formerly known as the Territorial Army - will not only be increasing in numbers but increasing in responsibilities to bring their duties closer to those of the regimental troops. Unlike full-time soldiers, reserves also have civilian jobs but Brigadier Rafferty says the future army will see a greater blend of reserves and full-time soldiers.

He says: "Many of our reserves have already served with the regimental soldiers in conflict including Iraq and Afghanistan. "There is very little difference between their roles. If you ask a Kingsman of his experiences of our reserves in Afghanistan, they will ask 'how can you tell the difference?' "We bring the reserves up to the same standard as our regular soldiers but where the regular soldier juggles their career and family, the reserve juggles his career in the army, his career in civvy street and his family life."

† LAST POST †

JAMES DISLEY (LATE 1 KINGS – KOREAN VETERAN)

It is with regret that I have to inform you that James Disley, passed away on Friday 29th November 2013, in Bangor, North Wales, aged 83.

His funeral service and cremation took place at Bangor Crematorium, on 9th December 2013.

JIMMY LING (LATE 1 KINGS)

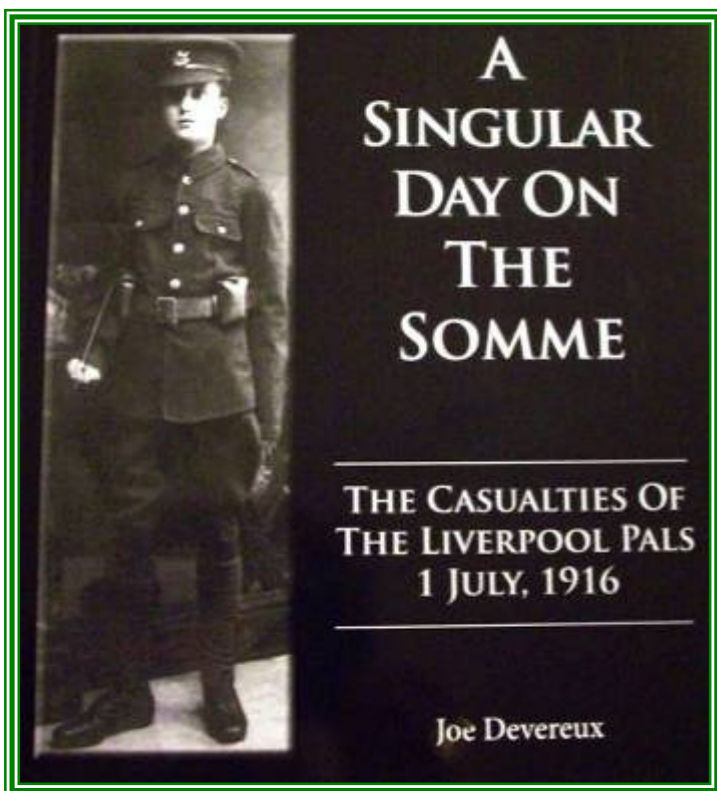
It is with regret that I have to inform you that Jimmy Ling passed away on 20th December 2013.

Jimmy's funeral service and cremation took place at Anfield Crematorium at 1030hrs on Friday 3rd January 2014.

RIP Jimmy.



A SINGULAR DAY ON THE SOMME (A BOOK BY JOE DEVEREUX)



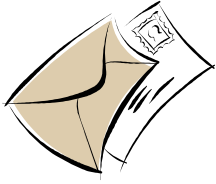
1st July 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Somme, is etched on people's memories as the blackest day for the British Army. On that day the Liverpool Pals were one of very few successes as they took their objective, the heavily fortified village of Montauban, alongside the Manchester Pals. In doing so however, 257 Liverpool Pals lost their lives. Joe Devereux's admirable book puts their loss into the context of that day's events and reminds us of each and every one of them with photographs & biographical accounts.

Joe has generously decided that all proceeds from the sale of the book will go to The Liverpool Pals Memorial Fund.

The book contains 216 pages including Battalion diaries of the days events and many photographs.

It is very reasonably priced at £12.00 plus postage and packaging if required. Copies can be bought directly from The Liverpool Pals Memorial Fund via email to billtanat8@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 0151 724 3171. It is also available from the Information Centre at Liverpool One.

LETTERS PAGE



JIMMY SEVILLE, NEW ZEALAND, WRITES:

Hi Eric,
Great December Newsletter.

Do you hear from Jimmy Weir? I often think about him as he was my favourite CSM in my army career; commanded respect. Johnny Jobes was another one I looked up too. A lot of good soldiers.

I think the association is a forum for putting stuff out there that serving members are unable to due to rules and military discipline. It is an integral part of the Regiment. It keeps comradeship going when soldiers leave. It plays a part in keeping memories alive. It supports social activities within communities. It supports ex soldiers that are having hard times, it supports soldiers that are getting over physical wounds and psychological wounds. It takes a lot of effort, dedication and skill to keep a regimental association going. Peter Oakley is one who speaks up that's what leaders do, enough said.

It is always sad to hear of younger men dying and the two officers brought that home to me in the news letter and the Irish memorial too.

I had a bad year last year fighting with management ending up with a collapsed lung brought on by stress, now fully recovered. Summer is here in New Zealand. The garden is going very well. I have my memories of the King's Regiment, they were my grounding in self discipline and laughs, its always the funny bits we remember and look to. I will dig a story out for you from my personal archives for the Newsletter.

Take care for now Eric.
Jimmy

TED LANGLEY, CANADA, WRITES

Hello Eric,
I have just read the latest newsletter and as usual I enjoyed it.

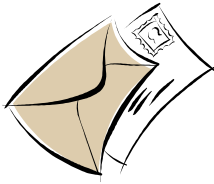
I missed the chance to let you know that I took the salute at the Remembrance Day ceremony in West Vancouver. I was waiting for photographs which I still have not received, but I must tell you that in the programme, I was listed as reviewing officer - a giddy promotion for a mere corporal! This honour was bestowed because I am a rare breed known as Korea Veterans.

As I speak about Korea Veterans I must mention the tremendous respect shown by the local Korean community and by the Government of South Korea to the remaining veterans in this area. Not just at Christmas time but through out the year. We are showered with gifts and invited to fancy meals. This Christmas the newly appointed South Korean Consul General is inviting us to a lunch so he can meet us personally and express his gratitude.

It leaves a pleasant taste in my mouth during these formal lunches to know that my National Service was not for nothing!

Have a good Christmas and New Year
Ted

LETTERS PAGE



ALAN RICHARDS, WRITES:

Dear Eric,

Thank you for yet another quality production newsletter which I always look forward to.

may you find the strength, enthusiasm and support to continue for many years to come.

Kind regards

Alan

TONY DUCKWORTH, WRITES:

Eric,

Great December 2013 newsletter, thanks.

Thanks also for including the piece on the 'Four Kingo's'!!

Regards,

Tony

FRANK BROWN, WRITES:

Eric,

First of all, it was really nice talking to you today, it has been such a long time.

I have enclosed a cheque to cover two years subscription to the Newsletter, which, by the way makes excellent reading. Only problem is that too many people I know seem to be on the 'Last Post' pages. Still we can't go on forever can we?

I will let you know nearer the date about attending the Turning of the Leaves, as to whether I can make it or not. Thanks for the offer of a room.

Have a great Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Regards as always

Frank

ALAN SMITH, WRITES:

Hi Eric,

I would just like to congratulate everybody that was involved in the organising of the Christmas function at Townsend last weekend (Sunday 8th December 2013). The food, company and camaraderie was of an excellent standard and both my wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

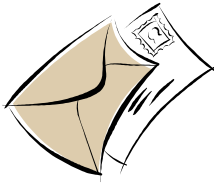
It would be an absolute travesty if this was to be the last Christmas function to be celebrated here.

Wishing you all a Happy and healthy 2014.

Regards

Alan & Pat Smith

LETTERS PAGE



LT COL NEIL UNSWORTH OBE, COMMANDING OFFICER 2 LANCS, WRITES:



Eric,

I wonder if you would be kind enough to publicise my thanks to everyone who supported 2 LANCS during our recent operational tour in Afghanistan and on our homecoming parade in Knowsley. The reception in Knowsley was incredible. It felt great to know how much local people support us and, personally, marching through the cheering crowds in the town centre is a memory I'll cherish for the rest of my life. I'm the first to admit that the soldiers I command are no angels (I wouldn't want them to be) but as you know, they do an incredible job in very dangerous conditions for their country - it was

so good for them to feel so appreciated. The link between us, your County Regiment, and the people of Liverpool has always been incredibly strong. I can't emphasise enough how important it is: long may it continue.

**Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,
Neil**

ERIC ROPER, WRITES:

I would like to say many, many thanks to Mick & Christine Dooley and their committee members for arranging a superb Christmas Social at Townsend Avenue TAC on Sunday 8th December 2013.

Thanks also to A (Ladysmith) Company 4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment for allowing the use of the facilities and to the Chefs of 4 LANCS for providing an excellent and extremely tasty buffet.

Additional thanks to all those association members who supported the Christmas Social and who donated prizes for the raffle. Without your support, this event would not happen.

With best wishes to you all for 2014.

Eric

GORDON SLATOR, KENDAL, WRITES:

Eric,

Enclosed is a cheque towards the cost of the Newsletter, which always makes interesting reading, plus small donation.

I was 80 on 19th September, the same date and month in 1952 when I landed at Pusan.

Expecting a new knee soon, then hopefully a few more years walking the fells around here.

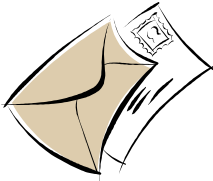
I haven't developed computer skills yet, missing out on keeping in touch with people.

Give my regards to anyone who remembers me, ie Support Company, Mortar Platoon.

Regards

Gordon Slator

LETTERS PAGE



GEORGE WYNN, WRITES:

I served in 1st Battalion The King's (Liverpool) Regiment in Korea.

I am trying to find where I can purchase an association tie with the 'White Horse' on it.

I live in Australia and this enquiry is been made via a family member in the UK

George

Telephone : 01772467934

Email: jimwaite2@aol.com

STEVE FARAGHER, WRITES:

This year I have received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to produce a project called "Korea - The Forgotten War". I would like to interview soldiers from Liverpool (not exclusively) who fought in the Korean conflict, there will be audio recordings and they will be used to produce a website which will archive the recordings. We will be producing an educational resource for use in schools and also, an audio visual exhibition, used to produce programmes for broadcast on Liverpool Community Radio.

If you would like to be one of the people involved in the project, interviews would take place in your home (elsewhere if you wish). The interview should take about one and a half hours.

In return from us, for your participation, you will receive a full copy of the interview on CD, copies of any photos we take, an invitation to the opening of the exhibition for you and your relatives.

If you are interested in taking part or want more details you can contact me on

Telephone: 07792854307

Email: steve@l-c-r.co.uk

Regards

Steve Faragher

53 Holt Road

Kensington

Liverpool L7 2PN

Telephone: 0151 345 1290

NORMAN PICKLES, WRITES:

Just like to say a word of thanks to Peter Prescott, on behalf of all the committee members who attended the Christmas Social at Townsend Avenue TAC in December 2013, for his generosity in proving each committee member present with a Christmas drink.

Regards

Norman

CHARITY'S LEGACY TO CANCER SUFFERERS

The Marie Curie Cancer Care Hospice in Woolton (Liverpool) has received a donation of £42, 374.44 from the local Woolton and District Aid in Sickness Fund (WDASF) which is a registered charity founded in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

The charity was originally set up by the gentry of Woolton, who donated money to celebrate the Jubilee with a bonfire on Woolton Hill, a treat for the children and the elderly and also to provide a district nurse to care for the sick. After the celebrations the remaining money was placed into the care of the Charity Commission. For many years the income from the investment continued to pay the salary of a district nurse who rode her bicycle around the districts of Much Woolton, Little Woolton, Allerton, Childwall and Halewood. The introduction of the National Health Service took over paying the nurse's salary while the charity provided food hampers for the elderly and sick at Christmas.

Joe Mather (a senior member of the King's Regiment Association, Liverpool and a WW2 veteran), chairman of the WDASF, took over from Anthony McVeigh MBE and has been running the charity for more than 30 years. Joe has recently been diagnosed with cancer and decided to wind down the charity and donate the remainder of the funds to support the terminally ill.

Joe said: "This presentation is a dedication to both Queen Victoria and our present Monarch Queen Elizabeth II who both served our country for 60 years. Many friends and family have been cared for by the Marie Curie Hospice in Woolton and it has been the decision of the WDASF Trustees to donate all the money held by the charity to them."

Sally Kirby, District Nurse for Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust, who is providing on-going nursing care to Joe, was invited by the Mather family to present the cheque to Diane Barker, hospice manager. Diane said: "Around 60% of our charity's income comes from the generous support of thousands of individuals, organisations and businesses



(Front row, left to right) Sally Kirby (LCH District Nurse), Diane Barker (Hospice Manager) and Joe Mather (Chairman of Woolton and District Aid in Sickness Fund) pictured with family, friends, hospice staff and LCH nurses.

Editors Note:

I visited Joe at his home just prior to Christmas. I took Joe a bottle of 'Red' to enjoy at his leisure. It was great to see Joe looking so well and full of enthusiasm and spirit. Joe asked me to pass on his best wishes to all his fellow association members



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM

GOLF FENCE

Pat, a Kingsmans wife, was walking down the street dragging two large plastic rubbish bags behind her. One of the bags was ripped and every once in a while a £20 fell out onto the pavement.

Noticing this, a policeman stopped her, and said, "Ma'am, there are £20 notes falling out of that bag."

"Oh, really? Darn it!" said Pat. "I'd better go back and see if I can find them.. Thanks for telling me officer."

Well, now, not so fast," said the Policeman. Where did you get all that money? You didn't steal it, did you?"

"Oh, no, no", said Pat. "You see, my back garden is right next to Catterick Golf Course. A lot of Golfers come and pee through a knot hole in my fence, right into my flower garden. It used to really tick me off. Kills the flowers, you know. Then I thought, 'why not make the best of it?'

So, now, I stand behind the fence by the knot hole, real quiet, with my hedge clippers. Every time some guy sticks his thing through my fence, I surprise him, grab hold of it and say, 'OK, matey! Give me £20, or off it comes.'

"Well, that seems only fair," said the Policeman, laughing. "OK. Good luck! Oh, by the way, what's in the other bag?"

"Not everybody pays!"

WHERE TO GO FOR LUNCH?

A group of friends, all ex Kingsmen, all aged 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch. It was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons because the waitresses had big breasts and wore a mini skirt.

Ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. It was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons because the food and service was good and the beer was excellent.

Ten years later, at age 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch. It was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons because they could dine in peace and quiet and it was good value for money.

Ten years later, at age 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. It was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had a lift for the disabled.

Ten years later, at age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. It was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons because they had never been there before.



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OFFICERS & NCOS

A young Army officer was severely wounded in the head by a grenade, but the only visible, permanent injury was that both of his ears were amputated. Since his remaining hearing was sufficient, he remained in the Army. Many years later he eventually rose to the rank of Major General. He was, however, very sensitive about his appearance. One day the General was interviewing three servicemen who were candidates for his headquarters staff.

The first was a Captain, a tactical helicopter pilot, and it was a great interview. At the end of the interview the General asked him, "Do you notice anything different about me?" The young officer answered, "Why, yes, Sir, I couldn't help but notice that you have no ears." The general was displeased with his lack of tact and threw him out.

The second interview was with a Navy Lieutenant, and he was even better. The General then asked him the same question, "Do you notice anything different about me?" He replied sheepishly, "Well, sir, you have no ears." The General threw him out also.

The third interview was with a Sergeant Major, an Infantryman from the King's Regiment and staff-trained. He was smart, articulate, fit, looked sharp, and seemed to know more than the two officers combined. The General liked this guy, and went ahead with the same question, "Do you notice anything different about me?"

To his surprise the Sergeant Major said, "Yes, sir, you wear contact lenses."

The General was very impressed and thought, 'What an incredibly observant soldier, and he didn't mention my ears.' He asked, "Sergeant Major, how do you know I wear contacts?"

"Well, sir," the Warrant Officer replied, "it's pretty hard to wear glasses with no ears!"

PAR FOR THE COURSE

Captain Hick Munt decided to tie the knot with his long time girlfriend Sally.

One evening, after the honeymoon, Hick was cleaning his golf clubs for his Saturday game.

Sally was standing at the bench watching him. After a long period of silence she finally speaks.

"Hick, I've been thinking, now that we are married I think it's time you quit playing so much golf. Maybe you should sell your clubs and cancel your membership at the golf club."

Hick gets this horrified look on his face.

Sally says, "Darling, what's wrong?"

Hick says, "There for a minute you were sounding like my ex-wife."

"Ex wife!" Sally screams, "I didn't know you were married before!"

Hick replies, "I wasn't."

The Kings' Regiment (Liverpool) 2014 Korean Veterans Reunion

The reunion will take place this year at our usual venue. The TA Centre, Townsend Avenue Liverpool, (the cheapest pint in town) on **FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2014**, commencing 7.30pm.

This year marks 61 years since the "Battle Of The Hook" the last Battle Honour to be awarded to the King's. This is an episode of national and regimental history and a battle in which many of us took part. It would be sad to let the occasion pass without making an effort to meet and remember the good and bad times we spent together many years ago. The youngest of us are now 80 years old and many of our friends have passed on. To those who have not attended a reunion, I urge you to come along and meet your old comrades. Non Korean Veterans are also welcome to attend.

Please pass the information in this notice to any King's Korean veterans you may know and are not on my mailing list. We hope to get a plug from the Merseyside media, as we usually do. The cost of this year's event is £5.00 including supper.

Please let me know if you are attending as soon as possible in order that I can plan the event.

Please enclose cheque/postal order for **£5 made payable to J Weir and post to:**

Captain J Weir, 18 Janice Drive, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs, PR2 9YE

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FAMOUS MILITARY QUOTES

"Nothing is so good for the morale of the troops as occasionally to see a dead General".

Field Marshal Slim

FAMOUS MILITARY QUOTES

"The purpose of war is not to die for your country. The purpose of war is to ensure that the other guy dies for his country".

General Patton.

ADOPT A TERRORIST (Sent to me by Association Member Mr Alan Meaker)

The Canadians know how to handle complaints. Here is an example:

A Canadian female liberal wrote a lot of letters to the Canadian government, complaining about the treatment of captive insurgents (terrorists) being held in Afghanistan National Correctional System facilities. She demanded a response to her letter. She received back the following reply:

**National Defense Headquarters
M Gen George R. Pearkes Bldg., 15 NT
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2
CANADA**

Dear Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your profound concern of treatment of the Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists captured by Canadian Forces, who were subsequently transferred to the Afghanistan Government and are currently being held by Afghan officials in Afghanistan National Correctional System facilities.

Our administration takes these matters seriously and your opinions were heard loud and clear here in Ottawa. You will be pleased to learn, thanks to the concerns of citizens like yourself, we are creating a new department here at the Department of National Defense, to be called 'Liberals Accept Responsibility for Killers' program, or L.A.R.K. for short.

In accordance with the guidelines of this new program, we have decided, on a trial basis, to divert several terrorists and place them in homes of concerned citizens such as yourself, around the country, under those citizens personal care. Your personal detainee has been selected and is scheduled for transportation under heavily armed guard to your residence in Toronto next Monday.

Ali Mohammed Ahmed bin Mahmud is your detainee, and is to be cared for pursuant to the standards you personally demanded in your letter of complaint. You will be pleased to know that we will conduct weekly inspections to ensure that your standards of care for Ahmed are commensurate with your recommendations.

Although Ahmed is a sociopath and extremely violent, we hope that your sensitivity to what you described as his 'attitudinal problem' will help him overcome those character flaws. Perhaps you are correct in describing these problems as mere cultural differences. We understand that you plan to offer counselling and home schooling, however, we strongly recommend that you hire some assistant caretakers.

Please advise any Jewish friends, neighbours or relatives about your house guest, as he might get agitated or even violent, but we are sure you can reason with him. He is also expert at making a wide variety of explosive devices from common household products, so you may wish to keep those items locked up, unless in your opinion, this might offend him. Your adopted terrorist is extremely proficient in hand-to-hand combat and can extinguish human life with such simple items as a pencil or nail clippers. We advise that you do not ask him to demonstrate these skills either in your home or wherever you choose to take him while helping him adjust to life in our country.

Ahmed will not wish to interact with you or your daughters except sexually, since he views females as a form of property, thereby having no rights, including refusal of his sexual demands. This is a particularly sensitive subject for him.

You also should know that he has shown violent tendencies around women who fail to comply with the dress code that he will recommend as more appropriate attire. I'm sure you will come to enjoy the anonymity offered by the burka over time. Just remember that it is all part of 'respecting his culture and religious beliefs' as described in your letter.

You take good care of Ahmed and remember that we will try to have a counsellor available to help you over any difficulties you encounter while Ahmed is adjusting to Canadian culture.

Thanks again for your concern. We truly appreciate it when folks like you keep us informed of the proper way to do our job and care for our fellow man. Good luck and God bless you.

**Cordially,
Gordon O'Connor
Minister of National Defense**



KINGSMAN JAMIE HANCOCK: WIGAN ROAD NAMED AFTER SOLDIER



Kingsman Jamie Hancock was killed on duty in Basra in 2006 - just weeks after he arrived.

Wigan Council said the road in a new housing estate in Hindley Green, near to where the 19-year-old lived, will be named Hancock Close. The council said it was "rare" for a road to be named after an individual.

A memorial stone will also be unveiled in Hancock Close in March, once the homes in the road are completed. The stone will include an inscription describing the former Hesketh Fletcher High School pupil as a "Lion of England".

Lord Peter Smith, leader of Wigan Council, said: "Kingsman Hancock gave his life in service to his country. It's our duty to honour and remember him and his sacrifice." "The council has statutory street naming powers. It's unusual for us to name a road after an individual but in this case I think it is entirely appropriate."

A ceremony which will feature a bugler playing the last post is being planned for the official unveiling of the memorial stone.



FAMOUS MILITARY QUOTES
What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the size of the fight in the dog.
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

DUKE OF WESTMINSTER TO TAKE PART ON WWI CENTENARY EVENT AT LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL

The Duke of Westminster will take part in a centenary event organised by Liverpool Welsh Choral.

Remember, will remember all who fought and fell in World War I.

The Welsh Choral will be joined by The Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Band; The Manchester Camerata Orchestra; representatives from The King's Liverpool Regimental Association; The Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association; The Liverpool Irish Regimental Association; The Liverpool Pals Memorial Fund, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and staff from the Museum of Liverpool.

"The commemoration ends with Vaughan Williams' hauntingly moving Dona Nobis Pacem to be sung in English.

A special souvenir programme will include original photos and writings, and a collection will be made in support of the Liverpool Pals Memorial.

1914-2014 REMEMBER FRIDAY 28TH MARCH 2014 AT 7.30PM IN THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL, LIVERPOOL

Remember will be a unique tribute to all who fought and fell in WW1. It will have a special emphasis on men and women from the North West and it will be the only commemoration that the Associations participate in during 2014. The programme will include Edwardian music by Elgar, regimental songs, popular songs of the period, Vaughan Williams' hauntingly beautiful Dona Nobis Pacem (sung in English) and original diary readings from WW1 soldiers including Noel Chavasse VC. The Turning of the Leaves ceremony will be included and there will be a parade of standards.

Pals Memorial Fund, RAMC, serving soldiers and the Museum of Liverpool.

Guests will include the Duke of Westminster and Brigadier and Mrs P S Rafferty.

Charitable aims: To support the Regimental Associations, to provide an opportunity to remember all veterans and families, to aid the British Legion and Pals Memorial Fund.

TICKETS:

£20, £15, £10 with group discounts.

Box office: 0151 652 6374

or: mavis@lwcu.freeseve.co.uk

or at the Cathedral shop.

You are advised to book early to avoid disappointment, already, many of the £20 tickets have been sold.

The event will be covered by CCTV with TV screens along the inner side walls of the Cathedral

See: www.lwcu.co.uk

THE KING'S OTTER HOUNDS BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBIN HODGES

The King's Otter Hounds were a privately owned pack started by Captain George Campbell when 1st King's was stationed in Dublin between 1885 and 1889. In about 1898 the pack was taken on by Captain Thomas Sheppard. When he deployed to South Africa, Lieutenant Bernard Hastings a brother Officer who had been commissioned at the same time in 1893, became acting Master.

A diary note about the pack was published in The Badminton Magazine Of Sports And Pastimes in November 1900:

"It was a tempting offer made me by Captain Hastings, the acting master of The King's Otter Hounds; indeed, what could a poor mortal wish for better, after being boxed up in barracks in Dublin? 'The King's' pack, now owned by Captain Shepherd of The King's Regiment, who is unfortunately hunting the Boers with a machine gun instead of otters this season, was originally started by Major (then Captain) Campbell of The King's Regiment when the battalion now serving in South Africa was quartered in Dublin. The meet being at Humphrystown Bridge on the King's River, truly an appropriate river for the pack to hunt, a jolting journey of an hour and a half had to be done to bring us to Blessington, Co. Wicklow, where the hounds have had their winter quarters in the old Kildare Harriers' kennels."

In 1897 2nd Kings was stationed in Ireland and in 1900 moved to Dublin. In the same year the 3rd and 4th Battalions were formed in Dublin from the 2nd Battalion and each soon reached a strength of 500. There were therefore plenty of Regimental officers who could have supported the pack.

It is known that in 1900 there were two Whips, Private Jones and Mr Harford although the days of spare manpower were coming to an end with the demands for reinforcements for the war in South Africa and disbandment of the two new Battalions on 1 Nov 1901. The situation was such that the 3rd and 4th (Militia) Battalions were embodied in Liverpool and deployed to South Africa in 1902.

It is assumed that the pack's links to The King's were broken by 1904 when 2nd King's left Ireland for Farnboro'. It is possible that the hounds were taken on locally as a pack survives in Co Kildare and Co Wicklow.

Capt Warren Hastings who had been Adjutant of 2nd Kings in Ireland in 1899 resigned the appointment in 1902 and was posted to the Royal Military College Sandhurst and was therefore unable to continue as acting Master.

Captain Thomas Sheppard, the owner of the pack, served in South Africa throughout the Boer War commanding the Machine Gun and Pom Pom Section of 1st Kings. In 1902 the Battalion moved to India.

Major George Campbell, the original owner of the pack died at Middleberg, Transvaal in March 1902 shortly before the end of the war.

The only known surviving artefact of the King's Otter Hounds is a gilt 14 mm button engraved KOH, marked on the back, FIRMINS LD.LONDON; the backmark being used by the company from 1882. Hunt buttons are presented rather than bought and as few as five hunting jackets each with three buttons may have been made, for Captains Campbell and Shepherd, Lieutenant Hastings, and Private Jones and Mr Harford, the two Whips).



Lt Thomas Sheppard owner of the King's Otter Hounds handing the pack over to the acting Master Lt and Adjutant Warren Hastings in November 1899.



Private Jones, Whip of the King's Otter Hounds in Ireland in 1899. He is wearing the Field Service Cap (FSC) which had been issued to 2nd Kings in 1894 and for which the first modern cap badge was issued in 1896.



LT COL ROBIN HODGES, WRITES (TO CAPTAIN MICK HUNT):

Mick,

During the summer I was asked to research the background to a Kingsman who the family believed had been killed during the Great War. The result of my quick search is attached.

The reason that I am sending you this note is because the family have after a 5 month gap, acknowledged my research and report that they sent it to Liverpool City Council, which has in turn acknowledged that the soldier was from Liverpool and that his name is to be added to the wall plaques in the basement of the Town Hall. Two members of the family are to be invited to a short ceremony with the Lord Mayor at the "Hall of Remembrance" in February 2014. You may know about the event already, if not it might be a useful opportunity for the Regiment and the Museum.

Eric,

The research may be of interest for the Newsletter, as I describe how recruiting was organised at the outbreak of war in 1914.

Robin Hodges

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201148 RIFLEMAN JOSEPH THOMLEY 2ND/5TH BATTALION THE KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)

The British Army was reorganised in 1908 based upon four types of recruitment. Those wishing to serve as a soldier joined the Army. Those interested in part-time voluntary service joined the Territorial Army. Those who had some form of reserve liability were enrolled in either the Special Reserve or the National Reserve. Although there had been discussion about the need for a scheme of national conscription, by 1914 this had not come about and Britain's army was entirely voluntary.

All parts of the Army were mobilised in August 1914 and at the same time thousands of men volunteered to enlist. They could enlist as regular soldiers, on the short-service Group Scheme (also known as the Derby Scheme) or in to the TA. There is little evidence that volunteers knew the difference and the majority enlisted at the nearest recruiting office. Statistically it was to make little difference as almost all Infantrymen became casualties at the rate of an average of 5,000 a day for four years.

Joseph Thomley enlisted aged 18 at the Drill Hall at 65 St Anne Street, Liverpool into the 5th Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment) in 1916. The Battalion was known in Liverpool as 'The Rifles' although it was not officially a Rifle Battalion. The soldiers wore blackened King's Regiment badges and buttons. In 1924 as a result of its Service during the War it was awarded a 'Rifle' designation.

The 5th Battalion was enrolling so many volunteers that those exceeding the official established strength of the Battalion were formed into the 2nd/5th Battalion.

In May 1915 a 3rd/5th Battalion was formed as volunteers continued to enrol and reinforcements were sent from this Reserve Battalion to the original Battalion on active service in France. Since May 1915 it had been designated the 1st/5th Battalion. The title was abbreviated as 1st/5th KLR.

In February 1917 the 2nd/5th KLR, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J Stanley Cohen, deployed to France. The Battalion moved into trenches in the Fleurbaix sector which was later extended northwards as far as Armentières. 2nd/5th KLR occupied the right sub-sector at La Boutillerie on 21 February, suffering their first casualty the next day. On 1st March the Battalion came out of the Line, moving up to the Bois Grenier sector from 28th March to 5 May. From then until the end of June the Battalion occupied front-line or support trenches in the L'Épinette Sector or were in Reserve in Armentières.

There is no reference in any Regimental record to the death of Rfn Joseph Thomley. This would suggest that he died in hospital or behind the Battalion Lines rather than in the trenches as his death would have been recorded by the Company Clerk had he known about it. He died on 9th June 1917 aged 19 and was buried in a cemetery behind the Lines.

The original cemetery was described by a Regimental officer at the time as, "*A few minutes brought us to Wye Farm, in front of which was a large pond, and round this we skirted on duck-boards. On the right lay the military cemetery, where several figures were lying wrapped in blankets. We had met the walking wounded from the night's raid as we marched to Fleurbaix. These silent figures were those whose luck had not brought a 'Blighty' (a wound sufficiently serious to require evacuation to hospital in England), but more permanent rest in a foreign land.*"

At the time of his death Joseph Thomley had no known Next of Kin although after the War his parents came forward. By that time 2nd/5th KLR had been disbanded and their records lost in the confusion of the German's spring offensive in 1918. He was 'found' when the Army advertised in the London Gazette on 31st May 1918 that there was a balance of 18/4d in 'Credits' which could be claimed by his Next of Kin.

In recognition of his four months serving in France Joseph Thomley was posthumously awarded two medals, the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal.

In the years after the war the battle Lines were cleared and bodies brought together to be reburied in official cemeteries. Joseph Thomley's remains were reburied in the Merville Communal Cemetery Extension.

Robin Hodges



2014 TURNING OF THE LEAVES DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



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

THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2014 AT 5.30 PM

Followed by:

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 2014 AT 5.30 PM

THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 5.30 PM

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2014 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.

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Any of the above committee member can be contacted through:

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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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