

The King's Regiment Association *Liverpool Branch*

A Branch of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association



'Nec Aspera Terrent'

OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 28 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:

*JOSEPH ARMSTRONG, TOM BAKER, HENRY BECKETT, RON BOARDMAN,
CHARLES CULLEN, JOHN FARLAM, DANIEL FULHAM, DAVID GEE,
BRIAN HOUGH, WILLIAM R HUGHES, JAMES JOHNSON, EDDIE McMAHON,
JOE MATHER, FRANK NUNEZ, NORMAN PICKLES, VICTOR QUARMBY,
DON ROSE, BERNIE SMITH, BRINLEY SMITH, RAY TAYLOR, JOHN THOMAS,
RAYMOND WAIT, ROY WILDMAN*

YOUR GENEROSITY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2012 & '100 CLUB' RENEWAL 2012

**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN
THE APPLICATIONS FORMS FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND '100 CLUB'
RENEWAL WITH CHEQUES, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO ME AT THE
ADDRESS GIVEN ON PAGE 2.**

**IT WOULD GREATLY ASSIST ME IN PLANNING HOW MANY COPIES ETC TO
ORDER FROM THE PRINTER IF ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE TO
REACH ME BEFORE THE 31ST DECEMBER 2011.**

Eric Roper (Newsletter Editor)





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

DECEMBER 2011.

The closing date for submission is:

FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2011.

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 August 2011 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 2nd August 2011 by Committee member Terry Caffrey, and the winner is:

MR K HERBERT - 1ST PRIZE (£43)

The September 2011 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 6th September 2011 by Committee member Alan Meaker, and the winner is:

DEREK THOROLD - 1ST PRIZE (£43)



THE LIVERPOOL PALS MEMORIAL FUND

are holding a Charity Night on **Friday 14th Oct 2011** at The Dockers Club Townsend Lane Liverpool L6 0BB, which is just down the road from Townsend Barracks. We will be having 2 Live Acts, Fire Bird Smith (which is a nine piece band) & Liverpool's answer to Dolly Parton, Ms Chrissy Byrne and of course the Disco/Karaoke which is being supplied by Phil of The American Bar Lime Street. We will also be holding 2 Raffles which would be better explained on the night, Tickets will be £5 pp and are available from:
Keith 07915432595 or Chas Riley 07907088179.

The Bar will open at 1930hrs (7.30pm) and Close at 0030hrs Kick Out time is 0200hrs, if any of you would like to attend please ask them to contact either myself or Chas.



† LAST POST †

WILLIAM (BILLY) CARLSON (EX 5/8 KINGS & LUOTC)

Billy, aged 61, passed away on Saturday 23rd July 2011 after a long battle with prostate cancer. He is survived by his wife Viv, son Neil, Daughter Paula and his grandchildren.

His funeral service took place at Springwood Crematorium, Allerton, Liverpool on Tuesday 2nd August 2011 and afterwards at the Royal British Legion, Rose Lane, Mossley Hill, Liverpool. Stan Castell (Standard Bearer) was in attendance along with some 20+ ex Kingsmen.

EDWARD (EDDIE) FRENCH (EX 1 KINGS)

Eddie passed away on Monday 1st August 2011 after a long illness bravely fought.

His funeral service took place at St Michael & All Angels C Of E Church, Hightown, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 9AN, on Tuesday 9th August 2011 at 1400 hrs followed by Cremation at Crewe Crematorium, Market Close, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2NA at 1520 hrs and afterwards at the Royal British Legion, Lewin Street, Middlewich.

CAPTAIN RICHARD BRIDGES (EX 1 KINGS)

Captain Richard Bridges passed away on the 9th September 2011 after a short illness fighting cancer.

Richard was cremated following a family service on Monday 19th September 2011.

A Service of Thanksgiving took place at Great Somerford Church at 2.30 on Thursday 22nd September, and afterwards at Rookery House.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT LIVERPOOL JOHN LENNON AIRPORT

This years Remembrance Service will take place on
FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

starting at 10:50 am in the Garden of Remembrance at John Lennon Airport, which is located at the southern corner of the main airport building. All are welcome to attend.

This service has been going since 2005 and involves the Airport staff, the Friends of Liverpool Airport, the pupils of St Christopher's School and members of The King's Regiment Association, Liverpool Branch. Joe McLoughlin has been instrumental in involving the Branch and other ex servicemen working at The Airport.

The service is led by the Reverend Nicky Lees (Airport Chaplain) and starts with a Remembrance poem and prayers. The pupils of St Christopher's then give a short reading. This is followed by the Remembrance Day prayer 'We Will Remember Them'. A bugler, sounds the Last Post. Passers by stop. 2 Minutes later Reveille is sounded over the Airport followed by the Kohima Epitaph.

SERGEANT PETER RAYNER AWARDED COMMANDERS' JOINT OPERATIONS COMMENDATION



A Bradford soldier, described by his commanding officer as “a true lion of England” after he was killed in an explosion in Afghanistan, has been recognised for his exceptional service.

Sergeant Peter Rayner, aged 34, of Odsal, who died while on patrol with the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment in Helmand Province last year, has been awarded the Commanders’ Joint Operations Commendation.

His father, also called Peter, will collect the medal from Brigadier Mike Griffiths at a ceremony at Weeton Barracks in Lancashire on Saturday, September 24.

Sgt Rayner’s widow Wendy, who will also attend the ceremony along with his mother Bernadette, said she and her husband’s commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robbie Boyd, had urged the Ministry of Defence to award him the medal. She said: “He was one of the best soldiers of his battalion and I thought he needed some recognition for what he did.”

Mrs Rayner, who also called on Bradford Council to create a memorial to carry the names of the district’s war dead after her husband’s death, said she was delighted the authority had decided to install one near the Cenotaph, as reported in the Telegraph & Argus earlier this month. She said: “I think it’s important they don’t get forgotten because if it wasn’t for people like my husband who are prepared to go out and lose their lives, people wouldn’t be as they are in this country.”

Acknowledgement: Bradford Telegraph and Argus



A SURPRISE 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR GEOFF HORNER
was held at the Marco Pierre White's 'The Swan Inn', in Aughton, Ormskirk on
Saturday 20th August 2011.

The party was organised by Geoff’s sons Craig (Jack) & Troy, ably assisted by Craig’s wife Laura, who according to Geoff’s wife Sheila, did most of the planning and work! A great evening was had by all.



Pictured left to right: Mick Hunt, Geoff Horner, Jock Bonnar & Eric Roper



JÜRGEN LANDSBERGER WRITES (TO COLONEL M G C AMLÔT OBE DL):



Dear Sirs,

On the 23rd of July 2011 I visited the Gardens of Hannover Herrenhausen. In the Berggarten, in front of the Mausoleum, I noticed your poppy wreath (photo attached).

It touched me deeply to see how close the English people live with their history.

We Germans should learn from you .

Thank you very much for your visit.

**My best regards,
Jürgen Landsberger**

COLONEL AMLÔT REPLIED:

Dear Herr Landsberger,
Thank you very much for taking these photographs and for sending your kind message. It is very much appreciated.

**Kind regards,
Martin Amlôt**

Editors Note:

The inscription with the Poppy wreath reads:

To the Memory of H.M. King George I of Hannover & England - Who in 1716 honoured us with the name, 'The King's Regiment' and gave us the right to wear 'The White Horse of Hannover' as our cap badge.

Nec Aspera Terrent

(The Poppy Wreath was placed by the Old Comrades of the King's Regiment (1716-2006) - May 2011)

JOE VOGEL, USA WRITES:

Eric,

Thank you very much for sending the electronic newsletter. I appreciate the results of your efforts on behalf of the King's Regiment Association.

I wish you the very best of health, and much success in all that you set out to accomplish!

Joe Vogel
Email: joebirdv@hotmail.com

LETTERS PAGE



LT COL ROBIN HODGES, WRITES:

Eric,

I have recently met a former National Service officer, Richard PA Smith, who served with 1 KINGS from 1961-62. He is looking for a copy of a photograph taken of the officers in Saighton Camp in 1962.

I wonder if anyone can help either with a copy or with a scan which we could then print out for him. If anyone remembers him and would like to get in touch, he now lives in Worton near Devizes on the edge of Salisbury Plain and his contact number is 07757700299.

Thank you.

Robin

COLONEL MALCOLM GRANT HAWORTH WRITES:

Eric,

Another outstanding issue (August 2011) which I greatly enjoyed reading.

Well done,

Malcolm Grant Haworth

MAJOR PETER OAKLEY MBE, WRITES:

Eric,

Many thanks for the usual very full and very interesting newsletter (August 2011)

Kind regards,

Peter.

DON CROSS, WRITES:

I am looking for any info on a mate who joined The King's Regiment in the 1960's - a Douglas Manson from the Speke area of Liverpool.

Regards

Don Cross

Tele: 01782644880

Email: dough.ware@o2.co.uk

TONY HUYHE, WRITES:

1st Battalion the King's Regiment (Manchester & Liverpool), Charlie Company, 7 Platoon (Muthaiga Camp, Nairobi, Kenya).

I would like to be able to contact: Joe Davies, Bill Davies, Bobby Jones, Bill Horton, Chris Noon, Paddy Mulvaney (names I remember).

Regards

Tony Huyhe

Regimental Number : 23761114

Email: a.huyae@sky.com

LETTERS PAGE



JACK FARLAM, LIVERPOOL, WRITES:

1st Battalion The King's Regiment (Liverpool)

I Served in India ; Meerut and Dehra Dun 1945-47 - Regimental Number : 14858571

I am looking for anyone who served with me in C Company.

Best regards

Jack (John) Farlam

Tele: 0151 678 3524

Email: follance@talktalk.net

**1ST BATTALION THE KING'S REGIMENT (LIVERPOOL) - C COMPANY
MEERUT, INDIA 1946**



BARRY REID WRITES:

My father's name was Andrew Reid, he died 3 years ago. He never talk about what he did in the army. He served in the King's (Liverpool) Regiment during the Berlin air lift & the Korean war. My dad was also on the King's boxing team.

Any help/information would be much appreciated.

Regards,

Barry Reid

Telephone: 07773175942

FRASER PHILLIPS, WRITES:

I'm trying to piece together my Great Grandfathers life Story, from Barbados to Whitley Bay. He served with the 8th King's Regiment (Liverpool) . I believed he transferred on commission from RSM to an Officer with the East Lancs Regt.

Any info Pictures or help in direction to finding the same would be appreciated.

Regards,

Fraser Phillips

Telephone: 07736254014

Email: Fraser_Phillips@sky.Com

LETTERS PAGE



CHARLES COOPER, WANDILIGONG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, WRITES:

Dear Eric,

Just a short note and money order enclosed for subs. Trusting this will put me on the receiving end. No idea of the exchange rate?

I note that not too many of us oldies grace the pages. Eric, you are a plus to the regiment, I can only be grateful for the contacts I've made through you and the newsletter that you send out, which I am sure is gratefully received by the scattering of life members wherever.

Here with sincere wishes, I hopefully trust you are holding steady.

**With deepest respect
Charles Cooper**

Ed Note:

Charles, it is always good to hear from one of our more senior veterans. I am sure you will enjoy reading the article by David Shonfield, which you contributed to, on pages 19-23 of this extended newsletter.

Kindest regards

Eric

E. ROSSITER WRITES:

My father's name was, Peter Riley, his Regimental Number - R/22633137 ACC.
Regiment/Battalion: King's 7th? His date of birth is 10th July 1931. I was born in 1952 and my father was in Korea That's as much as I know about his time in the Army. I would love to know more,

Kind regards,
Lil Rossiter
Telephone: 0151 343 5368
Email: lil_rossiter@hotmail.com

ALAN SHAW WRITES:

Enlisted 1 KINGS April 1958 (23547793).
Served in Formby, Brentwood, Kenya, Chester, Berlin, Ballykinler, British Guiana.

Was in A Company. Played football for the regiment when they reached the army cup final.

Demobbed 1970. I would like to contact Jonny Shea from Liverpool and Kenny Styles from Bolton.

Regards
Alan Shaw
Email: alanshaw14@talktalk.net

DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT TO GET FREEDOM OF WEST LANCASHIRE IN OCTOBER 2011



The Freedom of West Lancashire is to be presented to the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment at an event in Ormskirk on the 22nd October 2011.

The Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Rob Bailey, will mark the event with the presentation of a ceremonial scroll to Brigadier Mike Griffiths CBE.

This will be followed by a march through the town centre by the troops, supported by the Band of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

The Freedom entitles the regiment the right, privilege and honour of marching through the streets of West Lancashire on ceremonial occasions with "swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying."

There will be a special service at Ormskirk Parish Church. Soldiers will be presented with a commemorative illuminated scroll and a specially-commissioned drum major's sash featuring an embroidered West Lancashire crest and regimental badge.

West Lancashire Mayor, Councillor Rob Bailey, said: "The people of West Lancs are enormously proud of the efforts made by our brave armed forces. This is a gesture the council and local community can make to our troops and in particular our local regiment, which has many soldiers from West Lancs."

Colonel Martin Amlôt, the Regimental Secretary, said: "The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment is very moved by the obviously genuine affection and esteem in which it is held by the people of West Lancashire. We are immensely proud of the fact that the borough council has chosen to grant us the Freedom of West Lancashire with its traditional military 'rights' of marching through with 'colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.' This is one of the first 'Freedoms' that the regiment has earned in its own right, since it was formed in 2006, rather than the renewal of a Freedom granted to one of our predecessors. We will do our best to live up to the honour in the future."

Freedom of the Borough dates from the Middle Ages, when troops were not allowed to march through without the permission of the local council. The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment was formed in 2006 following a merger between the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, the King's Regiment and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, together with their respective companies of the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers and the King's Cheshire Regiment.

Acknowledgement:

Michael Byrne, Ormskirk & Skelmersdale Advertiser

FORT GEORGE, NEAR INVERNESS TO MARK LINKS TO LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's military links to the Highlands are to be remembered in a new museum display.

The museum at Fort George, near Inverness, is being upgraded a cost of £3.2m. So far £2.5m has been raised.

A donation of £1,500 covers the cost of a display dedicated to the Liverpool Scottish, which was raised to fight in the Second Boer War in 1900.

In 1937, it became a territorial battalion of the Cameron Highlanders, based in Inverness.

The Highlands Museum is dedicated to the Cameron Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders, Queen's Own Highlanders and their affiliated regiments.

The Liverpool Scottish, whose soldiers wore the Forbes tartan and saw action during World War I, later became part of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

Money for the display was donated by the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Trustees.

When first raised, the regiment recruited mainly from Scots living in the city.

The revamped museum at Fort George, a 1700s artillery fort which remains a working barracks, is scheduled to open in 2012.

Actor Hugh Grant launched the public appeal to help raise funds for the project in November 2010.

His grandfather Col James Murray Grant, from Inverness, received the Distinguished Service Order for bravery during World War II.

The Seaforth Highlander was depot commander at Fort George after the war.

Grant's father Capt James Murray Grant also served with a Highlands regiment.

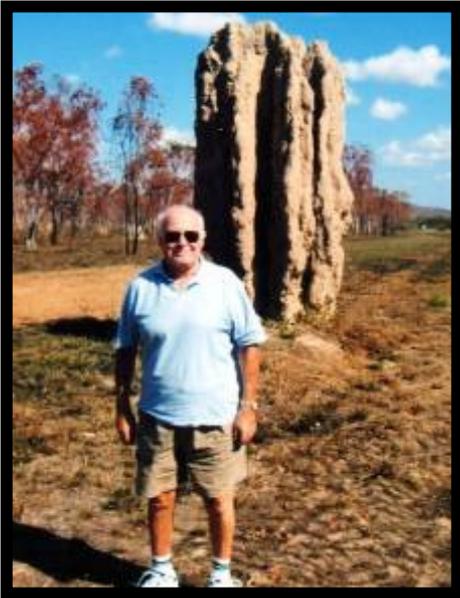
'SAFE KEEPING'

Museum chairman, Maj Gen Seymour Monro, said he was thrilled by the Liverpool Scottish support.

Col Ian Paterson, president of the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association, added: "The Liverpool Scottish was an important and valued member of the regimental family in the Highlands for the major part of the 20th Century.

"As such it is appropriate that we support this splendid museum at Fort George and that we place here notable items reflecting that great history for display and safe keeping."

MY AUSTRALIAN VISIT 17TH JULY – 18TH AUGUST 2011



Jimmy - sightseeing in the Northern Territories

My son James having completed 22 years service in the British Army as a WO1 (ASM) in the REME, applied for and was accepted into the Australian Army in 2008 and is presently based in Darwin in the north of the country.

Having been invited to spend a holiday there with James and his family, I departed from London – Singapore – Darwin. The journey, despite the huge distance was very pleasant. I was met at Darwin Airport by James and his wife Lisa.



Son James

The family home in Darwin having a swimming pool, a barbie area, a garden and four bedrooms. Air conditioning is a “must have” as temperatures reach 32° to 40° during the daytime.

James spent most mornings at his barracks. During the afternoons we visited tourist areas around Darwin including the Crocodile Marina in the city centre. One of the highlights was a trip down to the Adelaide River, feeding the really large crocodiles.



Regular evenings spent in Darwin visiting the excellent restaurants, especially those overlooking Darwin Bay. Watching the sun go down was really special.

One of the strange things that I did notice was that although many people were on the beach, no one was in the water. I was told that this is due to the large number of crocodiles, sharks and very large jellyfish that are found in the sea!

September is the start of the wet season. It is not, I am told the best time to visit Northern Australia. I really enjoyed my visit to see my son and his family again. Hopefully I will visit again in 2012.

Best regards to all Kingsmen wherever you may be.

**Jimmy O'Carroll
(Ex 1 KINGS)**



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM



BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR

Two Kingsmen are adrift in a lifeboat.

While rummaging through the boat's provisions one of them finds an old lamp. He rubs the lamp and a genie suddenly appears. This genie tells them that he only grants one wish.

Without giving much thought to the matter, the first Kingsman blurts out, "Turn the entire ocean into Fosters!"

The genie claps his hands with a deafening crash, and immediately the entire sea turns into beer.

The genie disappears and only the gentle lapping of beer on the hull breaks the stillness as the two Kingsmen considered their circumstances.

The second Kingsman turns to the first and says, "Nice going mate! Now we're going to have to pee in the boat."

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR II

An ex Kingsman walking down the beach and comes across an old bottle. He picks it up, pulls out the cork and out pops a genie. The genie says "Thank you for freeing me from the bottle. In return I will grant you three wishes."

The man says "Great. I always dreamed of this and I know exactly what I want. First, I want 1 Billion pounds in a Swiss bank account." Phoof! There is a flash of light and a piece of paper with account numbers appears in his hand.

He continues, "Next, I want a brand new red Ferrari right here." Phoof! There is a flash of light and a bright red brand-new Ferrari appears right next to him.

He continues, "Finally, I want to be irresistible to women." Phoof! There is a flash of light and he turns into a box of chocolates.

JOIN THE ARMY

Having passed the recruiting tests and interview John was asked by the doctor, "Why do you want to join the Army, lad?"

"My father said it'd be a good idea, Sir."

"Oh? And what does your father do?"

"He's in the Navy, Sir."

WISHFUL THINKING

An old Korean Veteran ex D Company, and not in the best of shape, was working out in a gym when he spotted a sexy and beautiful young woman.

He asked the nearby trainer "What machine should I use to impress that cute young thing over there"

The trainer looked him up and down and said. "Try the cash machine in the wall of the bank next door."



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM



SCOUSERS – DON'T YOU JUST LOVE 'EM

Two Kingsmen sitting on their beds writing home.

1st Kingsman - "eh lar how do you spell darrell"?

2nd Kingsman - "why, what are you trying to say"?

1st Kingsman - "I'm writing to me mam to ask her to send a pair of socks darrell fit me."

2nd Kingsman - "that's not right lar - you mean worrall fit me."

ADVICE TO A YOUNG KINGSMAN ABOUT TO TAKE UP WITH A LIVERPOOL GIRL:-

You can tell a girl from Norway,

You can tell a girl whose Swiss.

You can tell a girl from France just by the way she will kiss.

You can tell a girl from Belgium,

You can tell a girl whose Dutch,

You can tell a girl from Liverpool,

But you can't tell her much.

DUMB AND DUMBER

A Priest, a Kingsman and a Parachute regiment Senior officer are in a plane. Suddenly the pilot suffers a fatal heart attack and its game over.

They then notice there are only two parachutes remaining.

The Para officer jumps up, runs over to the door, grabs a chute and says:

"I am the country's leading authority on airborne assault tactics, a master tactician, and have an IQ of 200 making me the most intelligent man in the UK", and then he jumps.

The priest goes over and tells the young Kingsman, "I am old, I already have a place in heaven, and I will be pleased to meet God."

"No need", says the Kingsman, "that Para officer took my knap sack."

MY DOG

An ex Kingsman went down to the Benefits Office, to sign on his Dog.

The woman said, "Dogs are not eligible to draw benefit."

The ex Kingsman explained to her that his Dog is unemployed, idle, can't speak English and has no clue who his dad is.

She looked in her policy book to see what it takes to qualify.

The woman said: "He gets his first cheque on Friday."

**THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
FORMBY GOLF CLUB - THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2011**

Some of the regiments past and present golfers assembled at Formby Golf Club (FGC) on Friday 2nd September 2011, a not so beautiful summer's day to pit their skills against this fantastic championship course. Grateful thanks go to Captain Mick Hunt, our City Secretary, for all his hard work in organising a fantastic day of golf. "He was also celebrating his 40th year of entering junior service at Park Hall Camp, Oswestry as a boy soldier. " It showed!"

In primitive society, when native tribes beat the ground with clubs and yelled, it was called witchcraft; today, in civilised society, it is called Golf. Formby Golf Club is a course which the expert may study and play with everything exacted from the best of their game while the average player, indeed the plain duffer, may still enjoy it in some masochistic way..... a walk in the park? I think not!

A few memorable moments and players that stand out: Cpl Alex Connor reckons there's no game like golf, he went out with three friends, played 18 holes, and returned with three enemies! Sgt Danny Keegan knows more ways to slice a golf ball than a food processor. Major John Harker was told by his playing partner that if he wanted to get better at golf to go back and take it up at a much earlier age. Cpl Steve Ford when asked how he made an eight on a par three hole. "It's simple" he said – "I missed a four foot putt for a seven". Mr Carl Martin has achieved immortality by his ability to grace our golf society with the full repertoire of golfing fashion; he is to golfing apparel what 'Eddie the Eagle' was to ski slopes! Still, a great day, dry weather and great companionship. What more could one ask for?

WINNER – THE KING'S CUP:

RUNNER UP:

THIRD:

LES LARSEN TROPHY:

NEAREST THE PIN (6TH):

NEAREST THE PIN 16TH):

LONGEST DRIVE (9TH):

LONGEST DRIVE (17TH):

MOST GOLF PLAYED:

TWO SWEEP:

Kgn S Farnworth (38 Points)

Captain M Hunt (34 Points)

Cpl A Connor (33 Points)

Kgn S Farnworth (38 Points)

Mr N Southeran (2.3M)

Cpl K Lawler (3.8M)

Mr B Harrison

Sgt D Smalley

Cpl S Ford

Major N Bulmer (£40)



Mr David Cheetham (Formby GC Captain) presents Kgn Steven Farnworth with the King's Cup (left) and the Les Larson Trophy (right)

EARBY SOLDIER COMMEMORATED AT TRIBUTE WEEKEND



A community came together to remember a Lion of England one year after his death serving in the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in Afghanistan.

Family and friends of Lance Corporal Jordan Bancroft staged a series of events this weekend to remember the life of the 25-year-old, who was shot dead by insurgents while protecting a meeting between local elders and international troops in Helmand Province.

Since then his parents Tony and Sheila, and aunt Mandy Paul, have been instrumental in keeping his memory alive through a series of events in aid of his former comrades.

Supporters have bared all for a charity calendar and a sponsored walk between Barnoldswick centre and the Cross Keys pub at East Marton is planned for next Sunday from 9.30am.

But the focus of events this weekend on those who wanted to remember the former West Craven High pupil in their own way.

The church where his funeral took place, All Saint's CE in Earby, opened each day, and the original book of condolence, first opened a year ago, was returned – and former comrades were among those leaving messages.

Candles could be left, and prayers said, at a special display in the church of Jordan's medals, treasured family mementoes and his uniform.

Photos of Jordan through his life were on display, as was the shell fired at Camp Bastion when he was repatriated and a certificate paying tribute to his sacrifice, signed by The Queen.

Before the commemorations dad Tony, of Kenilworth Drive, Earby, said: "It's going to be a very emotional weekend for all of the family."

Yesterday saw a service of commemoration, led by the Rev Hugh Fielden, and the church remained open until 3pm for visitors to pay their respects.

***Acknowledgement: Peter Magill, Lancashire Telegraph
(22nd August 2011)***

TO BOLDLY GO.....

An account of the Liverpool Scottish Old and Bold's trip to see the 2011 Trooping of The Colour by Colin Langeveld (Colin is pictured below on the right)



I had the good fortune to attend the Trooping of the Colour in June. Thanks to some splendid organisation the fourteen of us travelled first class for a very reasonable sum. Not for us the usual waiting on some windy platform, but instead, seated comfortably in a spacious waiting room with soft drinks, tea, coffee and snacks, all freely available. We were met with similar conditions on the train which included a huge breakfast.

We were stationed at the Victory Service Club where I was pleasantly surprised at the quality of the place. Every facility, as good as any hotel I've stayed in, in the past. The only exception was the lack of a toilet and bath in the room but plenty of them were available on our floor. I never had to wait to use one. On an interesting note, The Victory Club sits in walking distance from Tony Blair's house where two armed policemen are on permanent duty. By coincidence, one of them recognised those of us who had passed by last year.

As soon as our old bones had rested, we set off for The Chelsea Pensioner's Barracks which proved to be an interesting and fascinating place. The chapel alone is worth a visit with every prayer cushion sporting a regimental badge. Displayed on all four walls of the huge mess hall are battle honours that must commemorate every battle fought by the British army. The long table at the entrance to the mess was where the Duke of Wellington's body was laid out in 1852. I also later, discovered an allotment where all the vegetables for the kitchen are grown..

The evening was spent at *The Windsor Castle* off the Edgware Road where a close inspection of the new landlady was made. She passed!

As the youngest member I was given the responsibility to give a few of the lads a 'wake up call' at 7.00 the following morning. Sufficient to say, they were all up and ready for our expedition to the Trooping of the Colour. Four of us were given the opportunity to have seats for what can only be described as THE best military parade in the world.

It was interesting to see the proceedings that occur before the royals make their appearance, something not usually seen on the television coverage.

We were shown to our seats by a well mannered squaddie. As we sat waiting, the gentle buzz of conversation was suddenly broken as, from a distance and gradually increasing in volume, is what I can only compare to the type of screaming heard when pop stars appear in public. A few minutes later, the carriage conveying Duchess of Cambridge drove onto Horse Guards Parade.

The ceremony of the Scots Guards trooping their colours was performed without fault. As London District Garrison Sergeant Major WO1 Bill Mott of the Welsh Guards, and old friend of the Old and Bold, marched past in full ceremonials, he noticed those of our members who were standing at the edge of Horse Guards Parade, he greeted them with a, "Good morning gentlemen."

All in all, a most enjoyable weekend where we were all well received wherever we went. I have my name down for next year!

**TURNING THE LEAVES – LIVERPOOL ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2011**



1914-1918

**PTE W HOGES
PTE G T HULL
PTE R IRVINE**

**Turned By
JOHN BUTLER
Ex 1 KORB**



1939-1945

**PTE AE BAYLISS
PTE AJ BEARD
PTE PJ BEAZLEY**

**Turned By
JAMES SKIDMORE
Ex 1 KINGS**



NORTHERN IRELAND

**KGN JJ JONES
KGN B THOMAS
KGN R LAYFIELD**

**Turned By
TONY CANAVAN
Ex 1 KINGS**

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE SEPTEMBER 2011
TURNING OF THE LEAVES.**

**FUTURE TURNING OF THE LEAVES CEREMONIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT
THE LIVERPOOL ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL ON:**

THURSDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2011 AT 5.30 PM

THURSDAY 22ND MARCH 2012 AT 5.30 PM

THURSDAY 28TH JUNE 2012 AT 5.30 PM

THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 5.30 PM

THURSDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2012 AT 5.30 PM

BLAST FROM THE PAST III

I have attached the latest 'blast from the past' and a favourite photograph of mine.

One of the great delights in regimental traditions - the Officers Mess v Warrant Officers & Sergeants Mess cricket match. This photograph was taken at Colchester, c1978. The cricket match was also a family day out for the messes and lunch was provided for all.

I get very nostalgic when I look at it as there are so many really great and true Kingsmen, of all ranks in it. Men I counted as true friends, greatly respected and admired and sadly so many now gone.

Regards
Peter Oakley



Top row left to right:-

John Coward, Pat Grimes, Malcolm Grant Howarth, Officer?, Officer?, Les Larsen, John Wilkinson, Andy Phythian, ?, Mick (Spud) Murphy, Jimmy Hill.

Bottom row left to right:-

Dave Dawes, Harry Bridson, Jeremy Gaskell, Don Watson, Colin Denning (CO), Peter Oakley (RSM), John Andrews, Bernie Richards, Officer? , REME?, Officer?

Below

From: Tony Ritson:

**MORTAR PLATOON, 1 KINGS - CLIFTON BARRACKS, RINGSTRASSE,
MINDEN, BFPO 29 - c1969-1971**



ORDINARY HEROES - BY DAVID SHONFIELD

INTRODUCTION: SAN LEOLINO, 16 JULY 1944

There have been some huge battles in the history of King's Regiment. This is an account of small one. San Leolino gets just a line in the official history. Yet in the 2nd Battalion notes in The Kingsman written in 1945 we read:

"Gioiella, Montagnano, Tuori, San Leolino and Meleto are to many people who read these notes merely Italian names which are difficult to pronounce but to the men who were there they bring back memories of the hard-fought battles where endurance, cunning courage and efficient planning defeated a determined and ruthless enemy."

It is because of Charles Cooper, one of those men who were there, that this story can be properly told today: My thanks are due to him and also to the families of Leonard Baker and Charles Taylor, who were killed in the battle, and of Clarence Welsby who was awarded the Military Medal for his actions.

One other man should be mentioned. Major Rory Reynolds (full name John Arnold De Vere Reynolds) who led the attack by "A" Company on 16 July and was by all accounts an inspirational leader. His shout of "Bash on, Bash on" (often accompanied by various expletives) became a Battalion war cry. Wounded later on during one of battles on the Gothic Line, he was heard to shout "Fight, you bastards. No prisoner of war camp for me".

It was a soldier's tale: a tale of the war in Italy. The soldier's name was Kenneth Kingsley, a private in the King's Regiment (Liverpool), one of the thousands of Allied troops who fought their way north in 1944.

His story was full of drama, tenderness, tragedy and most of all humour. But the words that caught my eye on the Telegraph website were "There's a lovely little village in Tuscany called San Leolino".

It was a surprise to see the name of the village I have known for the past 40 years, ever since my family bought a house nearby. It has hardly changed for 400. But nothing compared to the story that began to unfold after I read his account of a battle that had been forgotten for more than half a century.

Lovely San Leolino certainly is. Perched on a rocky spur, surrounded by olive groves and vineyards, 1,000 feet up on the edge of the Chianti hills, the village enjoys a stupendous view across the Arno Valley and on to a vast mountain called the Pratomagno.

One narrow street runs along the spur, lined with strangely grand mansions, once the summer homes of wealthy merchants from Florence. At the end are the remains of a castle, with houses and church built into the old walls.

Two other fortresses, Cennina and Galatrona, crown the adjacent hilltops. The solitary Galatrona watch-tower, once ruined recently restored, commands the landscape for miles around.

It is a peaceful, romantic landscape, but it hides a grim story.

Every year in July San Leolino remembers a massacre. At dawn on Sunday 9 July 1944, soldiers of the Hermann-Göring Panzer Division, accompanied by the German army's most fearsome weapon, a Tiger tank, invaded the village. They pushed people out of their homes at gunpoint, rounded up all the men in the square by the church and then launched a series of attacks on nearby farms and shelters.

The Martinelli family were forced from their beds, lined up in the farmyard and sprayed with machine-gun fire, the father shot dead in front of his daughters Marisa and Gina who miraculously survived. At a farm on the ridge above the village the men were put up against a wall and shot. Six were killed. Somehow three escaped by rolling away and playing dead.

Back in the village the men were informed they would all be shot unless they provided information on partisans. But even had they been willing to do so, they had no information to give. Their fate seemed to hang in the balance when suddenly Allied aircraft appeared overhead and the Germans decided to withdraw.

San Leolino was fortunate. Only 9 were killed, together with another 12 in the surrounding area. Over a period of three weeks in that summer of 1944, as Allied troops were held up during their advance towards Florence, hundreds of civilians were murdered in the areas immediately behind the German defensive lines.

It was a strategy of terror carried out by one of the most infamous units of the German army.

Sixty were killed at San Pancrazio across the valley from San Leolino, another 52 at Cornia and 92 at Civitella.. The smoke from burning buildings was visible for miles. Just further north around Cavriglia another 191 people were slaughtered.

British and Canadian soldiers arrived in these shattered villages only days later and inquiries into the atrocities began almost immediately. The Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police set up a dedicated war crimes section, and within 12 months the SIB had completed around 30 meticulous reports, some of them hundreds of pages long.

But it took 50 years for people to discover about these reports let alone get to read them. In 1947 the files were handed over to the Italian government and almost immediately buried for political reasons. They only came to light in 1994 thanks to the assiduous work of a military prosecutor named Antonio Intelisano.

Even then, and even after a three-year parliamentary inquiry, most of the SIB files remained inaccessible in Italy. They were, however, available in Britain.

Maurice Nash was researching a book on his wartime experiences with the REME when he stumbled across the file on the Cavriglia massacres in the National Archives at Kew. In 1944, at the age of 21, he had witnessed the devastation and grief at first hand, arriving shortly after the area had been liberated.

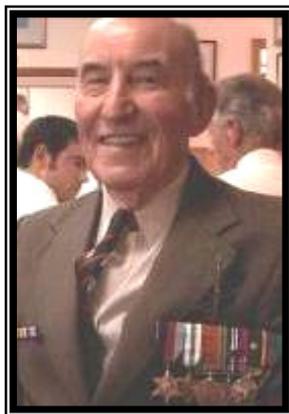
The experience marked him for life. But only now could he appreciate the way the slaughter was planned, the full scale and horror of what had happened, and exactly who directed the killings. When he copied the file – all 529 pages - and took it to Italy for local historians to translate and then publish, it allowed people to understand their own history for the first time.

It was an inspiring example for me, and simple enough to follow. War Office file 204/11478 covering the killings at San Leolino even happens to be right next to the Cavriglia file in the National Archives index. Last year it too was painstakingly translated by local people and published for the first time: another piece of memory preserved.

But in the process of recovering the truth about a forgotten massacre it slowly became apparent that there was also a forgotten battle to rediscover, and eventually forgotten heroes as well.

Kenneth Kingsley's account on the Telegraph website revealed there had been a battle to free San Leolino and at least one man had been killed. The official history of the King's Regiment tersely states that "an enemy observation post manned by men of the Hermann Goering Regiment was captured by A Company".

The 2nd Battalion war diary records that after a slow seven-hour advance, supported by tanks of the 11th Canadian Armoured Regiment there was an engagement which finished with the capture of the village shortly after 10pm.



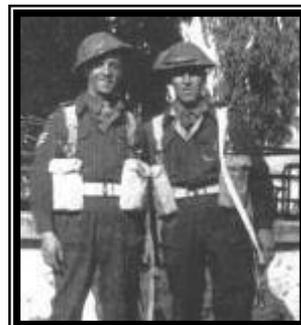
It was more in hope than expectation that I contacted the King's Regiment Association in Liverpool. They didn't know of Kingsley but the secretary Eric Roper kindly published my appeal for information through their newsletter.

The response arrived just three weeks later.

The letter was from Australia. It included a newspaper cutting with a photograph of a cheerful old soldier wearing his medals (**pictured left on ANZAC Day 2006 Age 85**) - and a vivid six-page description of a battle and a village still remembered with total clarity after 66 years.

"It was just on dusk when the order came to dismount and take San Leolino, my Platoon leading for the Company. The road is only a narrow unmade one leading uphill into the village, winding round to the right through some trees.

"Suddenly it's machine gun fire and grenades going off. My Platoon has caught the lot, the leading section disintegrated, my new Platoon Commander badly wounded. I can only rally 13 men out of 26..."



Photograph right: Tony McColough and Charles Cooper in Athens, January 1946

"Advancing using street-fighting tactics, cover and move, cover and move... I'm ordered to hold the left flank and dig in ready for a counter attack. You never have to tell a man to dig in: he only has to be stopped when he's nearly under the Old Kent Road."

Sergeant Charles (Chas) Cooper will be 90 this summer and he still recalls every incident as if in a film – most horrific, a few comic. The tension before the second attack that caused him to fire his Tommy-gun into the ground, narrowly missing his foot. The badly-wounded German he rescued down the slope on the far side of the village. Pushing one of his Platoon, a man named Ruddell, up a steep bank before carrying him to the aid post, not realising that blood was pouring all down the back of his trousers. Ruddell was one of the ten wounded who survived the carnage. Two men did not.



Corporal Leonard Baker (**pictured top left**) from Sittingbourne was killed instantly when both his legs were blown off by a mine. Private Charles Taylor (**pictured bottom left**) from Pontypool was mortally wounded early on in the attack.

I know them now as Len and Charlie, having had the good fortune to see their photographs and learn who they were. With the help of local newspaper journalists in Kent and South Wales I was able to contact their relatives. Neither of them had children. Len's nephew Dennis remembers him as a tall, handsome, intelligent man with a commanding presence. Charlie's niece Gwynneth thought of him as her older brother and she still remembers how he loved to dance and had a beautiful singing voice.



Both men have their graves in the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Arezzo, along with 1,265 other soldiers: most of them from Britain and India, others from South Africa, New Zealand and Canada.

Chas Cooper's remarkable memory has enabled me to trace almost the exact course of events on that bloody evening in July. He even sent me a sketch map of the village as he remembers it, a diagram that includes the spot where he stole a chicken in front of an outraged Italian housewife, as well as minefields and the defensive positions of the Hermann Goering Regiment. "I still feel bad about that chicken" he told me. "I've always thought I should have gone back and apologised."

But even Chas was unaware of the other two remarkable stories of that day.

Concealed among the San Leolino parish records for almost 60 years was a 22-page handwritten account of the events of July 1944 by the parish priest Don Luigi Fabbri. The document gave details of the massacre of 9 July and the brutal behaviour of the German forces and then went on to describe the liberation of San Leolino seven days later.

“The English army was close by on the heights of Cennina... the Germans were panicking and preparing to scatter. A patrol was already on the slopes of Galatrona when a young man of San Leolino, by name Giuseppe Franci, courageously ran to meet the English, informed them of the locations and numbers of Germans in the village and, having positioned units with the commander at three different points to surround them, approached San Leolino with the same commander”.

After getting back into the village Franci then had the presence of mind to leap on top of a German soldier who was attempting to detonate explosives and bring down buildings to block the advance.

Many people remember him, no one has a bad word to say. The story that he “helped the English” is part of local folklore, but turned out to be true. After the war he worked for the local council in the town of Bucine. Some of his personal papers are still in the archive, among them a yellowing document dated 16 November 1945 referring to letters of commendation from the “commanders of Allied troops, Major Comd OC A Coy 2/King’s Regt and Lt Col Comd 2nd Bn The King’s Regt”.

There is also a letter from the Allied Screening Commission thanking him for helping escaped POWs from the nearby camp at Laterina. Other documents showed that he had left his village for Genoa in 1936, left Italy illegally in 1937 and was sentenced in his absence to a two-year jail term for desertion. Evidently an unusual man.

One of the great things about the Italians is their sense of history, and thus their archives. In Milan the National Institute for the History of the Liberation Movement in Italy (INSMLI) provided me with documents showing that Giuseppe had left Genoa for Marseille and then gone to Spain to join the International Brigades.

In Rome the Italian state archives include the secret police files of the Mussolini era – the Casellario Politico Centrale - and they produced a whole dossier, including intercepted letters and surveillance reports. Giuseppe had spent over two years in Spain, first as an ambulance driver then working with munitions, and another two years interned in France. Deported back to Italy he was drafted into the infantry. Wounded in an Allied bombing raid he eventually made his way back home in November 1943, having been away for almost eight years.

None of this was known to people in the village, nor even to his family. But the story that really surprised them – and me – concerned that ancient tower on the Galatrona hill-top.

Today it's a tourist attraction having been restored and reopened in 2007. It was once a watch-tower for the Florentine Republic. In July 1944 it was being used to direct German anti-aircraft and artillery batteries.

As the main body of troops and tanks approached San Leolino, a small reconnaissance patrol under the command of Sergeant Clarence Welsby was moving along the ridge above the village towards Galatrona. They had advanced 11 miles across hilly, thickly wooded terrain through the heat of the day. The official account explains:

“At the end of this arduous advance Sgt Welsby's patrol found that on their objective was a German observation post situated in a strongly-fortified house. Sgt Welsby's patrol was quite inadequate to attack such an objective and he would have been conforming with his Company Commander's intentions had he waited for the remainder of the Company to join him. However Sgt Welsby realised that such an action would prejudice the element of surprise which his small party had achieved, so that without hesitation and in the face of great odds he assaulted the strong point. The Germans withstood his attack but Sgt Welsby alone ran to the door of the tower and burst in on them; they then surrendered.

“His gallant action resulted in the capture of one troop Sergeant Major, one Sergeant and two Lance-Corporals, together with many valuable documents.”

It took a while to trace Sergeant Welsby's background, but as with Len Baker and Charlie Taylor the genealogical websites that now exist provided enough clues to narrow the search. Eventually, thanks to Carmel Nolan in Liverpool, a fellow-journalist who has worked with me throughout, we had the information to place an article in the Liverpool Echo – and within hours Welsby's daughter got in touch.

Clarrie Welsby as everyone knew him was a modest hero, like Giuseppe Franci. He never made a fuss about his decoration for gallantry – he was awarded the Military Medal for his actions at Galatrona – and the proudest moment in his life was probably when he returned to Italy in 1977 to watch Liverpool win the European Cup in Rome.

Clarrie Welsby died in 1982, Giuseppe Franci in 1986. I like to think they might have met on the ridge above San Leolino that leads to Galatrona, although that encounter probably didn't take place. But they, like Len Baker and Charlie Taylor – and like the story of San Leolino – could stand as examples of what the war in Italy was about.

There were some vast and hideous battles – Salerno, Anzio, Monte Cassino and Ortona among them. It was also a war of uncounted nameless savage engagements, in which thousands more died – and in which tens of thousands of Italians, both civilians and partisans, also lost their lives. It was also genuinely a war of liberation.

Sergio Cerri Vestri was a boy of 13 at the time. In later life he became a school teacher in Ambra, a village just up the valley from San Leolino. His aunt lost three of her brothers in the massacre at San Pancrazio. He and his family and their neighbours then fled their homes and hid out on the hillsides for two weeks waiting for the Allied troops to arrive. Recently he wrote the following account of the moment they met the men of the King's Regiment that Sunday in July:

"For a moment we heard ... it seemed that we heard... the sound of a bell. The great church bell of Ambra, made with the bronze of Austrian guns captured after the first world war. Then, startling like thunder in a clear sky, we heard the voice of Ligio above us, from the track in the woods, shouting ... yelling ... with all the strength he could muster

"Here... Up here... Come and greet the LIBERATORS... I'm here ... I'm here ... Come up here!!!"

What was it? A dream! A miracle! We could not have heard more beautiful, joyous, uplifting words...

In an instant we are all on our feet, men and women alike transformed, hurling themselves up the path toward the track... and there before my eyes is a breathtaking sight, unimaginable, an extraordinary vision.

There is Ligio, overjoyed, in the middle of a group of soldiers in khaki uniform ... and just behind him are Renato and Faliero followed by many others ... all in helmets ... a long column as far as the eye can see.

In a moment all the people are with us, swarming around these young soldiers, smiling, drenched in sweat, red in the face. Holding out their arms, touching them, kissing them, caressing them ... and they, perhaps surprised by so much enthusiasm, are saying over and over again: "Ciao mama ... ciao ... ciao mama ... ciao..."

A woman, I think perhaps it was Gina, caught midway between laughter and tears, holds out her hands to them: "We've been waiting for you so long... we've been waiting for you so long... you never arrived ... we were so afraid ... it took you so long ... and finally... finally"

And she hugs them and kisses them... And they say to her: "Coraggio, mama, Coraggio, ciao, ciao ..."

We have nothing to offer them but then someone arrives with a bottle of fresh water, soon followed by others ... and these wonderful young soldiers, more and more bewildered by the warmth of our welcome, accept the drink and for a few moments they pause to catch their breath, and they have a smile for everyone.

A few seconds halt and then it's already time to resume their march. They salute us. They march away between us as we put our hands together in long, loving and fervent burst of applause. To them we owe our lives."

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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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.

© Published by the King's Regiment Association, Liverpool Branch

<http://www.kral.org.uk/>

Printed Version By:

The Print & Copy Centre, 7A Rose Lane, Mossley Hill, Liverpool L18 8AD
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