



Spring 2007 Newsletter

South of England Branch of the King's Own Royal Border
Regimental Association



The Future is bright!!

So at last the amalgamation went ahead in July last year. A number of Branch members went to North Luffenham for the parade but many stayed away, not in protest, some for work, others for personal reasons or simply because it would have been too near to a very raw nerve. It was indeed a very sad day for us all when the Regiment we knew and loved was no more, has been consigned to the history books. They say that time is a great healer, let us all hope so.

The new Regiment, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (Kings, Lancashire, Border) is now carrying out its many duties here in the UK, Afghanistan and Iraq. Let us wish them all, God speed and a safe return home.

Since the last newsletter the Branch has gone on from strength to strength, with new members joining the Branch. As word permeates throughout the South of England more people are contacting us to join. As we travel around the country on our daily travels we are meeting old friends who are keen to join our Branch.

The Annual General Meeting and St George's Day lunch is fast approaching and we will all again meet At the Victory Services Club at Marble Arch. I know that many of you will be attending and I know there will be a few new faces appearing so our ranks no doubt will be swelling again. Our reputation goes before us as they say.

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Dates for the Diary

- 21st April – AGM and St Georges Day lunch, VSC
- 12 May – Kings Own Border Supper Dance, Carlisle
- 27 October – Arroyo Day Lunch, VSC
- 8 November – Opening of the Garden of Remembrance
- 11 November – Cenotaph Parade Whitehall



What a fantastic day. Our celebrations go from strength to strength. Even though one or two of our regulars were unable to make it, the numbers were made up by first-timers.

Our celebration fundraisers having raised enough funds, allowed us to offer free wine for the Reception prior to lunch, which was much appreciated by all attending, although I think the VSC's cash bar takings were probably down. This, coupled with a slip up by the caterers in not providing us with a starter for lunch and for which they compensated by putting an extra bottle of wine on each table. By the time we all retired to the club lounge bar at 17.00hrs, most people were already well 'happy'!

It was good to see how enthusiastically this date in our calendar has been received and supported by the membership, and though it was only our second Arroyo Reception, it looks as if it is going to have a very successful future.

A big thank you to all those whose efforts made it such a great occasion either by the work they did in preparing and delivering the event, or by turning up with such high spirits and the determination to make it a memorable occasion. Also, many thanks to Sebastian for bringing along his CD's and displaying the photos on his lap-top.

Michael Morgan - great graphics on the menus etc. and many thanks for bringing along the pewter lion.





Cenotaph Parade 2006

As the crowds gathered on Whitehall to witness the annual Cenotaph Parade, branch members were gathering on Horse Guards. It wasn't long before all were assembled and after exchanging greetings, began to catch up with those that they had not seen since the previous year. Joining our ranks for the first time was Dave Ellwood, who had travelled from the North West, together with his son, also named David, who resides in London.

It seemed like no time at all before we were forming ranks of six and marching through to Whitehall ready to join in the remembrance service.



Other branch members present were: Taffy Bowen, Bryan Evans, Squints Evans, Trevor Davis (I hadn't realized that we had so many Welshmen), Ted Hibbs, George Foreman and Tony Costigan, Eddy Cars. We seemed to have picked up a few other odd 'bods' over the years, as there were those that join us each year although they have no branch or even Regimental connection.



As the service finished the emotional part really began when we were given the order 'Quick March!' and off we went. I don't know anyone who isn't affected by the command 'Eyes Right!' and seeing the Cenotaph in large close-up. 'Eyes Front!' and wheel slightly to the right to avoid the massed bands, and then on to Parliament Square, making

our way back to Horse Guards. As we approached the entrance to Horse Guards, HRH Duke of Edinburgh could be seen on the saluting dais returning the salutations. I found it interesting to note how he tried to engage most of the veterans with eye contact as they marched by – no easy task.

Once back on the parade ground, we awaited the return of the other columns and clapped them in as they came to a halt. After that it was time to fall out and head to the Red Lion for some much needed refreshment. It's always a bit of a battle to get through the crowds on Whitehall. Many wait for the barriers to be taken down so that they can have a close-up look at the Cenotaph and the mass of wreaths which abound it. The police allow this for a couple of hours, but eventually the road has to be cleared of people in order to allow the traffic to return.





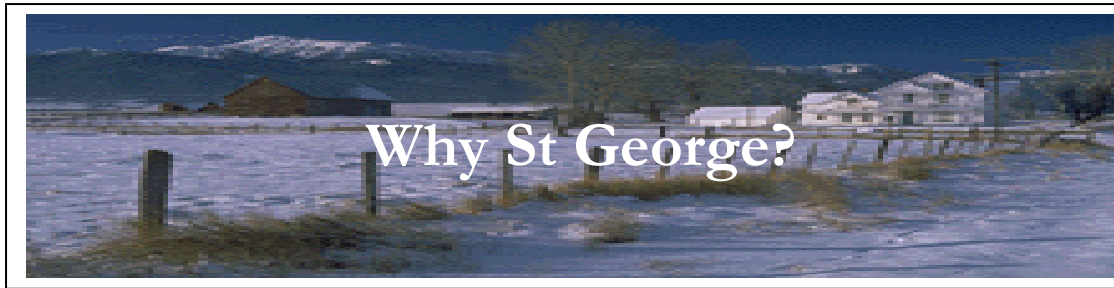
At 15.00hrs our party, now boosted by a number of wives, made it s way to the Field of Remembrance to join Keith Hood in paying our respects at the Regimental plots, but in the meantime, duty done, it was time to enjoy a little banter and exchange stories with other veterans from other units who had also made their way to the pub, of which there were not a few. Celebrities for a day, apart from the mobiles that began playing tunes with calls from families informing the lads that they had seen them on the tele, there was the added novelty of tourists wanting to pose with them to have their pictures taken. It was all done in good spirit, and it was also rather uplifting to see so many people many of them English tourists that had turned out to support the parade.



At 15.00hrs it was down to Westminster Abbey, where Keith said some dignified words and the lads stepped forwards one at a time, and made their salutes. Afterwards people disbursed for a while as they wandered about the field inspecting the various plots. It is somewhat satisfying to note the plots of regiments that have long since disappeared but here their badges are displayed proudly to commemorate their fallen. Again, this is a time for greeting others and hearing of their experiences. With some, it is the children of the fallen that we speak with and they are proud to learn that we are familiar with the history of their fallen relatives regiment, and at times they are children of people from our own regiment, which makes it even more special for them and us.

Eventually, we make our way back to the Red Lion and one-for-the-road, before we head off on our separate journeys back to our homes. Having said that, most of those present reside in Colchester and District and are able to travel home together, which rounds the day off nicely. So, it's a time of fond farewells and for those who have travelled from the North West, until next year, and for the rest of us, until the next reunion.





As with most saints, myth and legend surrounds St George and of how a Roman soldier came to be regarded as the essence of England. He is most famously known as the brave slayer of the dragon and saviour of the maiden but, although this story exists in a number of different medieval texts and art, it has no historical basis. There is very little information about the life St George, but it is known that he was not English. He is thought to have been an early Christian martyr from the area of modern day Turkey, who was executed in Palestine in the third century. Legends about his valorous deeds as a soldier-saint began in the 6th century and by the 12th century the famous story about his rescuing a king's daughter and slaying a dragon had become widespread. St George was popularised in England by Crusaders, Christian knights returning from religious wars in the Middle East. He was supposed to have appeared to the Knights dressed in white robes decorated with a red cross during the 11th century siege of Antioch. He became the official patron saint of England in 1425 after Henry V's victory at the Battle of Agincourt.

In the year 1348 King Edward III established the Knights of the Garter, which is the oldest order of Chivalry in Europe. The Order of the Garter was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Edward the Confessor and St George. The Insignia of the order consists of a collar and badge appendant known as the George, the Star, the Garter and the Sash with the Investment Badge called the lesser George. This is a gold and richly enamelled representation of St George on horseback, slaying the dragon.

St George's Day was traditionally celebrated by the King's Own because of the Regiment's close association with the Crown. In November 1688 William of Orange landed at Torbay and The King's Own was the first Regiment to join him on his arrival in England. Shortly after this King James II fled to France. For its support William of Orange bestowed upon the Regiment the right to wear the Lion of England as its badge.

The national flower of England is the rose. The flower has been adopted as England's emblem since the time of the Wars of the Roses - civil wars (1455-1485) between the royal house of Lancaster (whose emblem was a red rose) and the royal house of York (whose emblem was a white rose). It has long been our favourite bloom. Roses are scattered through English poetry, and have their own language

when exchanged between lovers, their varying colours carrying many different meanings.

The first record of St George's Day being celebrated by the Regiment was 1704, the day of the accession of Queen Anne. When not on operations, It as been customary to hold a ceremonial parade – all ranks wear the red rose of England their caps and a wreath of red roses also placed m both Colours. The drums are also garlanded with roses.

The practise of wearing the red rose in the cap is thought to come from the Battle of Minden (even though it was fought in August). Roses grew in profusion on the battlefield the British troops picked them and placed them in their hats.

For soldiers of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment it is also apt on this day to recall that William Shakespeare, who was born and died on 23 April, puts some of his most eloquent reflections on England into the mouth of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and gives his most rousing pre-battle oration to King Henry V, who was the first to inherit both the English Crown and the Duchy of Lancaster:

*'I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:
Follow your spirit; and, upon this charge
Cry God for Harry, England and St George!'*



Photo Gallery





Forthcoming Events



The Inaugural King's Own Border Supper Dance

There will be a supper dance for all members and their wives, partners, friends in the Shepherd's Inn Carlisle on the 13th May 2007.

This should be a very well attended event by lots of people you probably have not seen for years. So why not go a long?

Fill out the form on page 9 and book NOW!!!



South of England Branch Arroyo Day Lunch

The 2007 Arroyo Day will be held on Saturday 27th October 2007, in the Trafalgar Room at the Victory Services Club.

Come one, come All!!! Bring along an ex Battalion member.



THE 2007 KING'S OWN ROYAL BORDER REGIMENT
REUNION

Sunday 12 May 2007
1900 for 1930 hrs
The Shepherds Inn, Rosehill Estate, Carlisle, CA1 2RW
(just off junction 43, M6)

From :.....(Name in capitals please)

I wish to attend the Supper Dance.

I wish to bring the following guest(s):

.....
.....

I wish to reserve a table (of 10) or sit with a particular group:

.....
.....

I/We have the following dietary requirements*

I/We have no special dietary requirements*

.....

I enclose a cheque for £.....made payable to **The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment**

Please indicate if you intend coming to the Cathedral on Sun 13 May 07

Please indicate if you intend coming to the lunch on Sun 13 May 07

Please return the form with your cheque as soon as possible to:

**County Headquarters,
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment,
The Castle,
Carlisle, CA3 8UR**