



SLIPSTREAM

The Newsletter of Central Scotland Branch
The Parachute Regimental Association

Issue No. 027

March 2009

POSH NOSH 'n' DOSH

On Thursday 11th December 2008, approximately 90 folk turned up at the Lincoln Inn public house in Knightswood, Glasgow for their Xmas dinner. The group was made up of Erskine Hospital residents, the local care home (Oakbridge) and Old age pensioners from the area, to name but a few.

The Central Scotland Branch of the Parachute Regimental Association again hosted this event, sponsoring Erskine and Oakbridge in the process for their dinners.

We also had staff from the Soldiers Sailors and Air-Force Association - Forces Help in attendance. They were the lucky recipients of a £1,000 donation from our branch to their worthy cause. The local amateur football team also managed to acquire £200 from the raffle to help them with equipment for this season.

A great day was had by all and it was made even better when a resident from Erskine Hospital won the top prize of a Microwave oven during the raffle. Everyone is already looking forward to next year.



Michael Mc Grory (Ex 2 PARA), Isabell Ryrie (SSAFA caseworker) Frank Cameron (Cent. Scot. Branch PRA Chairman), Elizabeth Mc Cready (SSAFA assistant secretary), Eddie Mac Lean (SSAFA caseworker) and Pat Harkins (Ex 15 PARA Scottish Volunteers).

Special thanks to the manageress of the Lincoln Inn, Denise Friar and her staff, especially John the Chef. Without their help this "SPECIAL" day would not have taken place. Thanks also to all the customers who sponsored an O.A.P for their dinner and the others that donated prizes for the raffle. Your generosity has no bounds.

HELP for HEROES

Support for our Wounded



I am the new Worcestershire Representative for HELP for HEROES and have pledged to raise £10,000 over the next two years.

By a 14 mile tab over the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire (Joe Harvey will be carrying my lunch) [Joe is not to be mistaken for a six-foot white rabbit, like he was in Germany - Ed].

Climbing Pen y Fan, Brecon (After a sat night session)

Coast to Coast (183 miles inspecting Hadrian's Wall, bloody Joe will be nipping my ears no doubt!)

I have also pledged to donate One Day's Pay per Month, can your readership pledge One Day's Pay a YEAR or as little or as much as they wish to this worthy cause?

A secure donation can be made at www.justgiving.com/wishbone and you can leave message's of support or Slander at www.pre6060.webs.com

Regards to all

Aye yours,

Pete Elcock, Airborne

JUST FOR FUN

AN ANONYMOUS WARNING

(from Gordon Bonar) [Oh, drat!] *Very posh!*

Over the last month I became a victim of a clever 'Eastern European' scam while out shopping.

Simply dropping into Sainsbury's for a bit of shopping has turned out to be quite traumatic. Don't be naive enough to think it couldn't happen to you or your friends.

Here's how the scam works:

Two seriously good-looking 20-21 year-old girls come over to your car as you are packing your shopping into the boot. They both start cleaning your windscreen, their breasts almost falling out of their skimpy T-shirts.

It's impossible not to look especially with all the rain we have been having.

When you thank them and offer them a tip, they'll say 'No' and instead ask you for a lift to another store.

You agree and they get in the backseat.

On the way, they start undressing. Then, when you pull over to remonstrate, one of them climbs over into the front seat and starts crawling all over you, while the other one steals your wallet!

I had my wallet stolen August 4th, 9th, 10th, twice on the 15th, 17th, 20th, & 24th 29th. Also September 1st, 4th, twice on the 8th, 16th, 23rd, 26th, 30th, three times last Saturday and very likely again this coming weekend.

You Have Been Warned!

A man seeking to join the British Police Border Control Department was being interviewed. The interviewing sergeant said, 'Your qualifications all look good, but there is an attitude suitability test that you must take before you can be accepted.'

Sliding a service pistol and spare bullets across the desk, he said, 'Take this pistol and go out and shoot six illegal aliens, six heroin dealers, six Muslim extremists, and a rabbit.'

'Why the rabbit?' asked the man. 'Great attitude,' said the Sergeant. '

When can you start?'



Jimmy Bishop (3 PARA), prior to the USA tour in 1969. You know he is upside down. I know he is upside down. But does he? Maybe he wanted to go to Australia!

GRENADE MACHINE GUN

JUST FOR FUN



The Heckler & Koch GMG is an automatic grenade launcher (AGL) that has been deployed in Afghanistan since the end of 2006. The extra firepower of the GMG gives our troops a welcome boost in their fight against the Taliban.

The weapon is a belt-fed AGL, firing 40mm grenades up to an effective range of 1.5km, at up to 350 rounds-per-minute. It is usually mounted on a vehicle using a WMIK mounting (below).



The grenades fired are devastating when fired against troops and also penetrate soft-skinned vehicles and light armour (up to 2 inches thick).

Calibre: 40x53mm High Velocity
Type: blowback operated, belt fed automatic grenade launcher
Overall length: 1180 mm
Weight: 28.8 kg gun body plus 10.7 kg tripod and 8 kg soft-mount
Effective range: up to 1500 meters against point targets, up to 2200 m maximum
Rate of fire: 350 rounds per minute

The train was quite crowded, and a US Para walked the entire length looking for a seat, but the only seat left was taken by a well dressed, middle-aged, French woman's poodle. The war-weary Para asked, 'Ma'am, may I have that seat?'

The French woman just sniffed and said to no one in particular 'Americans are so rude. My little Fifi is using that seat.'

The Para walked the entire train again, but the only seat left was under that dog.

'Please, ma'am. May I sit down? I'm very tired.'

She snorted, 'Not only are you Americans rude, you are also arrogant!'

This time the Para didn't say a word; he just picked up the little dog, tossed it out the train window, and sat down.

The woman shrieked, 'Someone must defend my honour! this American should be put in his place!'

A British gentleman sitting nearby spoke up, 'Sir, you Americans seem to have a penchant for doing the wrong thing. You hold the fork in the wrong hand. You drive your cars on the wrong side of the road. And now, sir, you seem to have thrown the wrong bitch out the window.'

The Sierra Club and the U.S. Forest Service were presenting an alternative to Wyoming ranchers for controlling the coyote population.

It seems that after years of the ranchers using the tried and true methods of shooting and/or trapping the predators, the tree-huggers had

A 'more humane' solution.

What they proposed was for the animals to be captured alive, the males would then be castrated and let loose again. Therefore the population would be controlled. This was ACTUALLY proposed to the Wyoming Wool and Sheep Grower's Association by the Sierra Club and the USFS.

All of the ranchers thought about this amazing idea for a couple of minutes. Finally, an old boy in the back of the conference room stood up, tipped his hat back and said, 'Son, I don't think you understand our problem. Those coyotes ain't f---in' our sheep - they're eatin' 'em!'

You should have been there to hear the roar of laughter.

1 PARA MEMORIES



Member, medical illustrator and photographer, Bob MacMillan has been going through old images from his 1 PARA days and making A3 posters from them. The project will take a while, "for ever" in Bob's words, and he has kindly offered them for use by the PRA.

Left: Live firing. Left centre: Patrolling the DZ. Left bottom: MMGs in action. Below: Heavy carry.

All have the "PARA REG" logo.



PARA REG

Nicknames in use that have been given to Glasgow characters.

Two Soups - his real name is Campbell Baxter.

Norrie Two Bunnets - the Glasgow taxi-driver who wears a wig under his cloth cap.

The Colostomy - the girlfriend of a married man (ie. the wee bag on the side).

The Boomerang Kid - whenever anyone asks a question, he replies: 'I'll get back to you on that.'

The Parachute - lets everyone down at the last minute.

Cashline - an experienced young lass who's open 24 hours a day.

Vaseline - his real name is Willie Burns.

Rembrandt - keeps saying to colleagues: 'Let me put you in the picture...'

Bo Derek - a chap called Derek with terrible B.O.

Brewer's Droop - his real name is Willie Falls.

The Genie - magically appears when a bottle is opened.

The Marksman - when it's his turn to buy a round, he always shoots the crow.

Dulux - his pals reckon he's only got one coat.

Soapy - washes his hands of any problems.

Captain Hook - continually late for work, it's believed he must be scared of the alarm clock.

The Yeti - always on the sick, there have been many unconfirmed sightings of this guy, but nobody can prove he actually exists.

The Gas Man - he's serviced loads of old boilers.

The Hostage - when anyone asks for help he always replies: 'Sorry, my hands are tied.'

The Chernobyl Jannie - during the mid-Eighties this guy had a really bad complexion.

The Woodpecker - he's always tapping.

Mussolini - a woman in an office in Glasgow who has rather loose morals (aka the great dick-taker)

London Times Obituary of the late Mr. Common Sense

JUST FOR FUN

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, and I'm A Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Pfizer Corp. announced today that Viagra will soon be available in liquid form. It will not help with sexual potency but will stop your biscuits from becoming soggy when dunked.

Thought for the day: There is more money being spent on breast implants and Viagra today than on Alzheimer's research. This means that by 2040, there should be a large elderly population with perky boobs and huge erections and absolutely no recollection of what to do with them.

A little boy was standing in front of a mirror in the toilets at Heathrow Airport, when in walked a Royal Marine staff sergeant, dressed in his dress blues. The little boy turned to the Marine and said, "Wow! Are you a Marine?"

The Marine replied, "Why, yes I am, young man. Would you like to wear my hat?"

"Boy, would I!," said the little boy. He took the hat and placed it on his head and turned to admire himself in the mirror.

As he was looking in the mirror, he heard the door open and through a ray of bright light, a man entered the room. But, this was not just a man, he was more than a man, an Emperor, He was a Paratrooper.

The little boy turned and went over to the soldier. As he approached him, he could see the reflection in his boots. His eyes widened as he stared up at the soldier's chest full of medals and at the wings on his shoulder. He tried to speak, but he couldn't. Finally, he took a deep breath, and managed to say, "Excuse me, Sir. Are you a Paratrooper?"

The Para replied with a thunderous voice, "Why yes, I am!! Would you like to shine my boots?"

The little boy smiled, and said, "Oh, no sir!! I'm not a Marine. I'm just wearing his hat!"

If the global economic crisis continues at the present, greed-fuelled rate, by the end of this year only two banks will be left operational ...

The Blood Bank and the Sperm Bank!

And don't you just know that when these two banks merge it would still be full of bloody wankers!

BRANCH NEWS

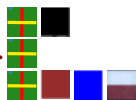
New Members

We warmly welcome three new members to the branch:

Mark Graham Ross

Edward Douglas Geissler

F. J Henvey



25th Anniversary

Next year will be the official 25th Anniversary of our branch. We would like members to give us some feedback on how we can celebrate this event. Members can give their ideas at the next meeting or contact Jim Colqhoun with anything they may see fit. Ideas received will be presented to the members allowing us to decide on the actions to be taken, and then start to prepare for the event in 2010.

Swing Dance

This year's Swing Dance will be held on Saturday 28th March at the Barrowland Ballroom. This event, in Aid of Poppy Scotland, was a huge success last year. Please support it. Contact Laura on 0131 550 1559 for tickets.

Road Race

On Saturday 7th March a 5km road race / 1k run or walk at Glasgow Green will take place. This event, commencing at noon is in aid of Combat Stress.

Twelve volunteers from the Branch will act as Marshall's, dressed in Beret, Blazer etc.. Why not come along and join with us in some Airborne camaraderie?

Presentation

On Sunday 8th March the Branch will present a plaque to the proprietors of the Steeps Bar, in Glassford Street. There is an open invitation to all Branch members

from our Master of Ceremonies for this occasion, Larry Williamson, to attend at 2pm. Dress as per Armistice day if you so wish. (Tims more than welcome? [I didnae write that!](#) [Terry rote it!](#) [He's the Sekritry!](#) [Honest!](#) [Ed](#)]

Odds and Sods

Anyone wishing new berets for the Arnhem Commemoration please get an order in now (state colour). [only kidding!]

The Branch has decided to donate £200 towards the APTC Appeal

Congratulations

On Tuesday 17th February 2009 John (Military Medal) and Peggy Bryson celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. (John is now in full time care in Erskine Hospital)

Peggy would like to thank the branch for the wonderful gift of a Lightweight Alloy Zimmer frame, with shopping basket and wheels - with BRAKES! This will help her enormously as she struggles to walk any distance with a walking stick. When informed that this gadget had brakes she was heard to say "Well" I may be 91 years old, but I am going to get a Crash Helmet!!

Note: John and Peggy's son Bobby was the British Side-car Champion in the early eighties. One wonders if she wore a Crash Helmet then?

On a sad note. Their eldest Son George died of Cancer, aged 69 years on the 30th January 2009. Our deep condolences to them both.

ABF Day (Scotland)

This event, sponsored by the Aberdeen Branch will be held on Sunday 28th June 2009. Note that some may travel up on the

Saturday and stay over. Are you interested? If so let the Branch Secretary know so that he can send you details of hotels in the area and the timings for the coach we may hire (if enough members show interest). Contact Terry on 0141 954 1213.

Can Collections

Volunteers are required for all collections please:

- Saturday 14th March - Central Station
- Friday 20th March - Sauchiehall Street
- Saturday 25th April - Central Station
- Saturday 30th May - Central Station
- ♯ Saturday 20th June - Central Station

PETITION

A petition receiving a considerable amount of military support:

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to Not reward Terrorists families in Northern Ireland with £12.000 for their past evil deeds.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/IRATerrorists>

Diary Dates

JANUARY	
7th March Road Race	Glasgow Green
8th March Presentation of plaque	Steeps Bar
28th March Swing Dance	Barrowland
7th June Armed Forces Day	TBC
28th June ABF Day (Scot.)	Aberdeen

BURNS SUPPER: AFTER ACTION REPORT

Thanks to everyone for a lovely weekend in bonnie Scotland.

Day One: Arrival

After the usual 4 or 5 hours needed to set my decoding machine, I was able to cope with most of the locals (I must confess that numerous pints of Guinness and a few wee drams helped a lot)... Mashed pints 'n drunks.... by the left.... quick ...MAAAAARCH!

Day two: The very purpose of my Glasgow trip: BURNS SUPPER

A moving moment as it was my first 100% Scottish Burns Supper, in let me say, a rather very special premises (for me, at least). An honour.

Great evening. Thanks to everyone for their warm welcome and the numerous drinks I could not get down my neck (I swear not to drink that much the previous evening if I attend next year).

Bravo to Dennis who, in true airborne fashion, started the favourite songs as soon as the green light was on (I have to teach you a few french airborne songs... you will do wonders, I'm sure).

Day Three: More shopping

And a great evening at the pub(s). More secrets revealed. Thanks again.

Day Four: Farewell

Thanks for the info about the parade. A trip to Scotland cannot be perfect wi' out Pipes and Drums.

I cannot thank you enough my friends for that lovely weekend.

(note : a special word to the Glasgow lassies: being a "legs" man, I also had my fair share sight seeing..... I will certainly come back)

Cheers, *Didier*



The real cause of the Hudson 'plane crash!

The Regiment in the Newspapers

The Regiment's prominent role in Afghanistan was noted in press articles and television clips. The following articles are typical. For obvious reasons, since 1 PARA forms the bulk of the Special Forces Support Group, it's role remains unpublished.

Back in the UK: Paras tell how they fought Taliban in Afghanistan

Returned British paratroopers have shared their stories of life in the harsh conditions of Afghanistan's conflict zone:

The two Paras were dead before they hit the ground.

The weight of fire from the Taliban sent the soldiers diving for cover as machine gun fire raked the ground beneath their feet and rocket-propelled grenades exploded above their heads.

"It was the best-initiated ambush I have experienced in 13 years of being in the Army. They opened fire in unison, we couldn't have done it better," said Corporal Matthew "Des" Desmond, a section commander with 2 Para. "The Taliban were brilliant that day."

The Taliban opened fire with both heavy and light machine guns, and rocket-propelled grenades, which were fired to create an "air burst" and spray the troops on the ground with shrapnel. In the opening salvo Lance Corporal James Bateman, 29, and Private Jeff Doherty, who was 20 two days earlier, were both killed instantly with shots to the head and neck. For the 80 soldiers who took part in the battle, June 12 2008 will be etched in their minds forever.

"We were hit by a wall of fire. Bateman and Doherty wouldn't have known a thing about it," said Cpl Desmond, who was in charge of the lead unit when the ambush was sprung.

"Over my radio I heard 'man down'. The sergeant major moved round to go and give first aid and he was shot in the leg, then I heard that there was another casualty and then one of young lads had his faced sliced open by a bullet. In times like that your training kicks in and I knew that the younger lads would look to me and that it was impor-

tant that my guys didn't see me flap. Inside you might be panicking but outside you must look like you're in control."

Cpl Paul Knapp, 26, another section commander in C Company, added: "We immediately fired back using everything we had, but it had no effect. We had mortars firing at rate 12 - that's the highest rate - and in 18 minutes of solid fighting we dropped 176 mortar bombs on their position and fired more than 9,000 rounds."



As the battle raged on the crops caught fire and eventually the Taliban began to withdraw. The Paras gathered their dead and injured and began to pull back to their base. Cpl Desmond carried the body of Pte Doherty on his back for 400 metres before commandeering a car and driving the dead soldier back to base.

June 12 ended in marked contrast to the early days of the tour which were relatively quiet. Instead of the much-anticipated fighting, the Paras seem to spend most of the time attempting to win the hearts and minds of the locals by handing out wind-up radios as the poppy harvest concentrated the minds of the Taliban.

Such was the disappointment at the lack of action that the Paras dubbed Operation Herrick, the code name for the war in Afghanistan, "Flop Herrick". But the phoney war ended on the day of the ambush and from

that moment on the Taliban attacked relentlessly.

Back in the safety of their compound, the Paras said goodbye to their dead colleagues as their bodies were flown away. There was little time to reflect on lost friends as the Paras prepared for the next battle in the knowledge that the war they had come to fight had finally arrived.

Captain Josh Jones, 32, the company's second in command, explained that the attack was the Taliban's "opening gambit" and from that moment on the militants attacked relentlessly. But he added: "After June 12, every time we confronted the Taliban we decisively defeated them on the ground of their choosing and 99 times out of a hundred we forced them to withdraw."

The battles were fought at close quarters with bayonets fixed, in temperatures in excess of 122F (50C). The average weight the soldiers carried as they marched through the swamp-like green zone often topped 90lbs (41kg). Cpl Desmond said fighting the Taliban was like "trying to kill ghosts, " they would just keep coming". He added: "It was guerrilla warfare, and once it started it didn't stop."

But despite the gruelling conditions and a diet based on Army rations, the soldiers maintain their morale never flagged.

"The more they attacked us, the stronger we became," said Cpl Bob Lewis, 25, a quietly-spoken Welshman from Swansea. "Everyone responded to the challenge, even the youngest soldiers."

The Paras learnt that the Taliban described the area patrolled by the Paras as the "Mouth of Hell" after somewhere between 150 and 300 Taliban were killed, according to what the Paras claim is a conservative estimate.

Although there was a certain amount of mutual respect, the Paras felt no pity or remorse for the Taliban. "I felt more emotional about shooting a baby rabbit than I did about killing the Taliban. It wasn't something the soldiers every really thought about."

The men of 2 Para and their parent unit 16 Air Assault Brigade are due to return to Helmand in the winter of 2010.

By Sean Rayment © The Telegraph

ARMY CHIEF 'HUMBLED' BY BRAVERY

A senior Army officer has said he was "humbled" by the bravery of the 21st Century British soldier.

As members of the 3rd Battalion returned from a six-month tour of duty in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Huw Williams, commander of the 3rd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, said modern paratroopers were a match for any British soldiers who had gone before them.

He said teenage boys volunteer for service knowing they would be fighting in foreign fields and facing death.

"They are a match for anybody who has gone before them in this regiment," said Lt Col Williams. "The Parachute Regiment has a 60-year history and the soldiers we have got today are as good as any generation. They are as good as the soldiers who fought at Arnhem or in the Falklands."

He added: "They are not angels. These men are an element of society that does a very dangerous job and it is humbling to be with them and in command of them.

"I have never once had to worry about them being scared. I know they are scared sometimes but that never prevents them going forward.

"These are young men of 18 and 19 going into situations where bullets are flying at them but they do not hesitate.

"They go into situations where other people would not go and they do that because they are disciplined and proud of their regiment."

Members of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, were welcomed back to their base in Colchester, Essex, after the tour of duty.

Some 120 British soldiers have died in Afghanistan since the American government launched a war on terror following the 9/11 attacks in New York in 2001.

© Daily Express

NZ PIX

Although numbers are dropping, the British Airborne Forces, New Zealand is still healthy and active, as the photographs below show. Many thanks to Frank for keeping in touch through Pete Elcock.



The 2007 reunion in Napier. The chap on the right with the two sticks is Pedro De Treend, our Spanish Civil War veteran and the chap standing next to him is Jack Sherlock one of our Arnhem veterans.



The Re-union Dinner



Burns Night or, where there's Frank, there's whisky!



The Boys Are Back In Town

The week beginning the 11th of May will see the Regiment's Parachute Display Team, The Red Devils (or as we affectionately know them - The Red Freds) operating at Strathallen Airfield in Perthshire. They will be offering the general public exclusive access to their World of Skydiving.

The team, fresh back from a gruelling pre season training camp will be fired up to deliver this incredible insight into what is one of the most prestigious jobs in today's modern forces.

The team already have fund-raisers jumping in aid of Erskine Poppy Scotland, Help for Heroes Capability Scotland Alzheimer Scotland, RNLI Scotland and the Scots Guards Fund to name but a few.

Do you know someone who is willing to do a tandem skydive to raise sponsorship for a worthy cause? If so, this is a once in a lifetime experience, back for one week only.

This exciting day will involve an introduction to the Red Devil's Team followed by 30 minutes of ground training. Attached to a qualified Red Devils Tandem Instructor the fund-raiser will jump from an altitude of 13,000 feet, experiencing the thrill of 45-seconds of freefall followed by an exhilarating canopy flight expertly guided to the ground.

Many thousands of pounds have been raised over the years with the Red Devils at Scottish drop zones.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.reddevilsonline.com> or
www.clickandjump.co.uk for bookings.

Alternatively you could speak to one of the booking team on: 0800 345 7468
or Email: info@clickandjump.co.uk

AUSSIE AIRBORNE BROTHERS APPEAL

A letter sent from *Dave Shearwood* to *Mike Collins* explains how severe the effects of the bush fires in Australia are:

Hi Mike,

Just to let you know that we are all safe and well from the terrible Bush fire that has been so very close to us over the weekend. We were very lucky as it was so very close. The little places called Kinglake and Maryville which were the worst hit so far, and I say so far as some fires are still running out of control but heading away slightly to Whittlesea and Yea which are a little North of us. It was because of such a hot day on Saturday 48 -50 and a wind blowing at 50mph that did it. We didnt even know the full extent until a friend phoned from Melbourne and asked if we were ok as it was so close, but luckily the wind changed and it passed us.

It really is terrible Mike to see the loss of life and people who have only the clothes they stand in as it happened so quickly and no time to get out. Most deaths at Kinglake (5 minutes away) were people in cars trying to outrun the fireball. Many of these places that are no more were little places that we've spent such lovely times having a cup of coffee or snack and just relaxing and they are not there anymore which is so very hard to come to terms with.

In Maryland it was only a few weeks ago that we were there seeing the local school children in their canoes on the lake and the beautiful rhododendrons in flower and now the poor kids have no school and homes - EVERYTHING is gone, buildings from 1800 and such a beautiful little place. But the real tragedy is that it appears these fires were started deliberately. Its beyond belief. Roll on June.

We at British Airborne Forces are trying to organise something to show that the Poms are alongside. One suggestion was to get hold of any Para Tee shirts, Hats , sweat shirts etc etc especially for the kids who we feel would feel would along with the adults appreciate this coming from the Airborne as the Aussies speak very highly of the lads in Afghanistan. The lads here are digging out all their WW11 and Dads Army gear to see if there's anything worthwhile.

So I now come to you Mike MATE any ideas from your end or stuff that you could lay your hands on that could be sent to us.

Regards to all, *Dave*

We may be veterans but there is some life left in us yet. **IT IS TIME FOR ACTION!!**

Please would each of you consider sending either a money donation or some clothing, especially Airborne material to help these unfortunate people who are going through HELL. Some of you no doubt have been there, so you know how they are feeling. Lets get that Airborne spirit brought back to life for a good cause. **Red ON, Green ON - GO!!!!**

Send any money (i.e. Cheque) donations to:

MR.PETER McPHEE. GENERAL MANAGER, PO BOX 256, HEALESVILLE, VICTORIA 3777, AUSTRALIA

Make sure you mention you are/were an airborne warrior, belonging to the Central Scotland Branch of the PRA here in Glasgow (or whatever branch you may be in), in your letter and acknowledge that you are responding to Dave Shearwood (Our Aussie Brother in Arms) request for assistance.

Send any clothing to:

Mr D.J.SHEARWOOD, 80 JUMPING CREEK ROAD, WONGA PARK, VICTORIA 3115, AUSTRALIA

Your help in this matter will make a difference to someones life, that can be sure.

Regards, *Terry*

ME MUDDER

When me prayers were poorly said
Who tucked me in me widdle bed
And spanked me till me arse was red,
[] Me Mudder! []

Who took me from me cosy cot
And put me on the ice cold pot
And made me pee when I could not,
[] Me Mudder! []

And when the morning light would come
And in me crib me dribbled some
Who wiped me tiny widdle bum,
[] Me Mudder! []

Who would me hair so neatly part
And hug me gently to her heart
Who sometimes squeezed me till me fart,
[] Me Mudder! []

Who looked at me with eyebrows knit
And nearly have a king size fit
When in me Sunday pants me s***,
[] Me Mudder! []

When at night her bed did squeak
Me raised me head to have a peek
Who yelled at me to go to sleep,
[] Me Fadder! []



A young Jimmy Bishop (one of the centre figures - you choose!) on the top plateau of Djebel Akdar in the Trucial States, in 1964. He was a newly promoted L/Cpl taking part in the Omex Patrol whose purpose was to intercept gun running. On his right is Maj. Kingston, later to be CO 10 PARA (V)

SICK PARADE



The following members are suffering ill health:

- ❖ John Bryson
- ❖ Sam Bovill
- ❖ Davie Bothwell
- ❖ Alex Todd
- ❖ Davie Mc Illroy
- ❖ Walter Howatt
- ❖ Ken Primrose
- ❖ Sam Brown
- ❖ Frank Cameron

All the members wish you well and hope to see you back "on parade" soon. If anyone knows of a member who is ill, or suffering financial problems, please contact the Welfare Secretary.



Editor's Contact Details:

Davie Howie,
11, Dunn Street, Dalmeir,
Clydebank. G81 4BQ

Tel: 0141 562 9185

Mob: 0753 110 3824

E-mail: d.howie@ntlworld.com



Thank you to all our contributors.

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