



The Newsletter of Central Scotland Branch
The Parachute Regimental Association

Issue No. 011

March 2005

OLD COMRADES

On Sunday 16th January nine of our members Jim Colquhoun, Terry McCourt, Dave McPhee, David Bothwell, Bill Fisher, Sam Brown, Bob McBride, Denis McCormack and Davie Murphy, attended the 176th meeting of the Lothian Branch.

Our members were given a warm welcome and were asked to pass on Lothian Branch's best wishes to all in our branch. Their hospitality extended to having a short meeting in order for David Bothwell to get his hand on and teeth round a big juicy pie and Davie Murphy to win the raffle.

The post-meeting light refreshments were accompanied by some bad jokes and photograph taking. Two photographs of Sam were taken but even with today's digital technology, neither turned out. He was definitely at the bar - honest! Tez Brennan, a Yorkshire Branch member was present but no contact details were taken. Should anyone wish to contact him then they may be able to do so via that branch's website.



TRIBUTE TO POLAND

POLISH 65TH COMMEMORATION

John McCormack

Sixty five years ago on 1st September 1939 the Germans invaded Poland. Nazi Germany had informed the world of their intentions to reclaim large parts of the Poland for the German Reich claiming that Poland had taken this territory after World War One.

Poland, however, had a pact with Great Britain and France who agreed to help if Germany invaded. The Polish Forces were no match for the Germans who were highly trained and well equipped with a strong air force and tank corps. Polish troops did their best and fought gallantly, even sending their horse cavalry against the infamous panzers (tanks). Many young men, some say the cream of the Polish nation, were slaughtered due to these actions.



John McCormack and Dave Parton at St. Simon's Chapel War Memorial (background)

Making matters worse, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east. Although portrayed by the Soviets as forming a protective buffer, it was generally thought to be a conspiracy with Germany.

Polish citizens on both sides of the new divide were to suffer badly from loss of liberty, persecution and death. Fifteen hundred Polish officers who had been taken



At the Cenotaph

prisoners of war by the Nazis were murdered at Katyn, Kharkov and Miednoie.

Organised Polish resistance ended on October 6th 1939 although some 100,000 Polish service men escaped to Britain to form a Free Polish Army, Air Force and Navy. The navy escaped, having been sent to Britain for safety and three destroyers, Blaskawica, Burza and Crom came to the Firth of Forth.

Great Britain honoured the peace pact with Poland and declared war with Germany on 3rd September.

To commemorate these events, about 100 people, including representatives of the Polish Forces, British Army (including two PRA members - John McCormack and Dave Parton), Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Air Force paid homage.

The parade consisted of a mass at St Simons RC Church at Partick Cross, then a service of remembrance at George Square. Standard bearers of all three services, regiments and corps were positioned around the Cenotaph, which was a thoughtful gesture.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Polish dignitaries and others spoke of the great sacrifices of the Polish people. A piper played laments, prayers were said, and the 'Last Post' and National Anthems of both countries closed the service.

After the service those taking part retired to the banquetting hall of the city chambers, where thanks was given followed by generous hospitality.

POLAR OR PARA - HE IS STILL A BEAR!

Paratroopers are used to being called “loonies” and other such names. Perhaps the odd (sic) member is more liable to receive such epithets. Jack Noon is an example. As a member of the Polar Bear Club, Jack thinks nothing of a winter dip in the Leven or Loch Lomond and positively looks forward to an icy dip in the Clyde off Rhu.

required them to dive into the Potomac River braving broken ice and strong currents.

Jack believes that his regular dips keep him healthy and his belief has received backing from scientific tests. Having returned to Scotland, settling down in Dumbarton he is looking for recruits to the club. One icy dip



Jack and Coney Island Bears in the snow

During his 26 years in the USA Jack joined the Polar Bear Club of Coney Island NY, eventually becoming their president. Their seeming imperviousness to the cold came in useful when Budweiser and Pepsi required people to swim amongst the ice. They even graced the silver screen in the movie *Suspect* starring Cher and Dennis Quaid. This

earns you a certificate but eleven are required for full membership.

Interested in joining? Contact Jack at:

: **Mr. J. Noon,
7, Pinewood Court,
Dumbarton. G82 3JA**



A pleasant dip at Rhu



Warming up -on hot coals!

BRANCH NEWS

Email

Would all members carefully consider the type of email they may wish to forward onto others. Some members have received infected emails whilst others have received mail which they or their family members deem offensive (attachments in particular). Maybe fore warning them of the content of the email or it's attachment before they open it up will save embarrassment. Please also note that some email accounts especially Hotmail, sometimes incorrectly diagnose a virus when none is present.

Entertainment

An Entertainment Committee was formed at the last meeting. Watch out for events etc that you may be interested in. Some will include wives/girlfriends.

Polish Naval Day

On Saturday 12th February 2005 our standard bearers were on parade at the RAFA Club Prestwick for a wreath laying ceremony in the club gardens.

A pleasant day was had by Bob Macbride, Dave Parton, and John McCormack who were made very welcome. The weather was very stormy to say the least and unfortunately there was a poor turnout by the PRA.

The following day the same trio attended St Simons church Partick, followed by a visit to the Katyn memorial at the Sikorski Polish Club in Glasgow where another wreath was laid.

PRA members are always welcome at these parades. You do not need to carry a standard all you require is a beret. You would be made most welcome. Unfortunately, the organisers are unable to send a

formal invitation to everyone. If you are interested get in touch with any of the standard bearers who will give you details.

Welcome

Big Joe (Ugly) Scott has now after 3 years plucked up the courage and asked his missus if he can GET OUT! He has though (behind her back) sent his branch application form with her money to our Membership Secretary, Martin. Bets are now being taken as to whether his wife will let him out, at least once a year. Current odds are: 4/7 on - **NO CHANCE!!**

Les Grave

Christine Hazel is seeking anyone who knows her father Les Graves. Les served in 16 Ind. Coy. and boxed in heavyweight for 44 Parachute Bde. He will turn 60 on 9th April and his family is organising a surprise birthday party for him. If you know Les and would like to attend or, if you have photographs, stories or messages you would like him to receive, please contact Christine on: 01795 664821.



***I don't know about the dog
but the handler is keen.***

CHEAPER FLIGHTS!

(and you don't get thrown out halfway through)



Concessionary Fares are available from the following Airlines for retired Servicemen/Women and their family members.

BRITISH AIRWAYS MOD LEISURE FLIGHTLINE (Worldwide & Domestic) :	0141 2264321
BRITISH MIDLAND (International & Domestic):	0870 607 0555
CONTINENTAL AIRLINES (USA Destinations only) (Please quote MOD Leisure Fares Scheme):	0800776464
GB AIRWAYS (Gibraltar & Spain):	0141 226 4321
AIR NEW ZEALAND (Worldwide):	02078391604
(Please quote MOD Leisure Fares Scheme):	0207 930 1333
ANSETT AUSTRALIA (Australia & NZ):	020 7835 8221
QANTAS AIRWAYS:	“ “ “
SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS (Africa):	02073125003
VIRGIN ATLANTIC AIRWAYS (Worldwide) (Please quote MOD Leisure Fares Scheme):	01293 747747

Once you have booked your flight make sure you call travel extras for all your travel requirements and find out how much time and money you can save with their guaranteed prices when you quote the MOD Leisure Fares Scheme.

Car Hire (Worldwide) - 10%: Discount Airport Parking - 5%:
Discount Travel Insurance - 10% Discount.

0800 161 3390

LOST TOUCH?

Some aids for those who are attempting to trace an old friend or relative:

Traceline	Salvation Army Tracing Service	Teletext Ltd.
PO Box 106, Southport. PR8 2WA Tel: 0151 471 4811. Fax: 01704 563354	101, Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN Tel (close relatives only) : 0207 367 4747	PO Box 297, London. SW6 1XT

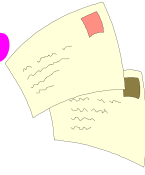
If you have a computer you can try friendsreunited.co.uk or:

www.servicepals.com

www.20thcenturycomrades

www.192.com

MAIL DROP



The End of the Scottish Regiments is Near

The days of the Scottish regiments or for that matter the British regiments are over. The air force, navy and army will be one unit in the near future.

With professional soldiers now, the regiments should be allowed to die as were the penal battalion, press gangs, and clan serfdom. Some regiments cannot entice volunteers to man one battalion let alone three which should be the strength of a regiment. The reason is simple – the conditions are not good enough and you are likely to be killed.

Why is it that civilian services have no problems selecting their employees? The police, fire, hospitals, prisons, civil, airports, custom, for example, only require a high standard of common sense. The same high standards are required for the modern army, navy and air force but for less wages and poorer conditions.

The reason is the army has no representative to support them. The army requires a professional body e.g. a trade union. To attract men and women you have to pay decent wages. Peanuts are for monkeys. Soldiers should be given the same rights as others under the

Human Rights Act. Not only the enemy soldiers, but our soldiers.

A day's pay (24 hours) nonsense - was voted out for the civilian services in the 19th century. I predict that in 25 years time soldiers shall work a 35 hour week with extra payment for: overtime; shift allowance; flexi-time allowance; weekend enhancement; subsistence and travel allowance; and disturbance allowance. There should be career management, full pension rights at the end of service and not at 60 years old as it is at present.

The people and the government should give the services these types of conditions and allow them to reside in their recruitment area, not miles away from their homes (there will never be unrest as in George Square in the 1920s again). We could have a new popular army who would assist with civil duties e.g. football matches, fires, pop concerts, airports, car and crowd control and any major incidents as the authorities require them.

They are now peace-keepers anyway why not use them properly?

John McCormack

Do you share John's views? Do you want a trade union for the armed forces like some of our European allies, or are you incensed by the very idea? Why not have **your say in the next issue.**

JUST FOR FUN

Upon hearing that her elderly grandfather had passed away, Katie went straight round to comfort her elderly grandmother.

She asked her 95 year old grandmother how her slightly older grandfather had died and was surprised at the reply, "He had a heart attack on Sunday morning when we were making love.

Horrified, Katie said that two people of that age were asking for trouble having sex. Granny replied, "Oh no dear, we realised years ago that we should take it easy. We decided that Sunday mornings were the best time, doing it in time with the bells. In with the *dong* and out with the *ding*. Nice and slow, not too energetic. He'd still be alive if that damned ice cream van hadn't come along"!

MORE FUN

Jack Aitken gives us an extract from one of Donald Finlay's (QC) after dinner speeches.

The scene is a Glasgow court and a witness (a ned) is being questioned by a rather plummy mouthed Advocate Depute (AD).

AD: "You say you went to your friend's house that night.
Why did you go there?"

WITNESS: "Tae get a tap."

AD: "Is your friend a plumber?"

WITNESS: "Naw."

AD: "Are you a plumber?"

WITNESS: "Naw."

The witness is a bit bewildered by this line of questioning and the AD realises it, but notices that the court police officer is rubbing his fingers of one hand together in the universal gesture of money. Daylight apparently dawns on the AD and he changes his line of questioning accordingly.

AD: "So you went to the house to borrow money?"

WITNESS: "Naw."

AD: "Ah. You went to the house to lend money?"

WITNESS: "Naw."

In exasperation the AD says, "You told the court you went to your friend's house for a tap. Exactly what kind of a tap was it?"

WITNESS: "A Sellick tap."

MORE SNAPS FROM ABF (Scotland) DAY

Who gave Sam that camera?

He's better with this type of SLR than he was with the 7.62 type!



SICK PARADE



The following members are suffering ill health:

- ◆ Sam Bovill
- ◆ Jack Ferguson
- ◆ John Bryson
- ◆ Tommy Dingwall
- ◆ Hugh Hyndford
- ◆ Walter Howatt

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.

Diary Dates

2005

JANUARY

May 4 - 5th

Commemoration of Denmark’s Liberation - Newcastle upon Tyne

May 7 - 8th

VE Day Commemoration Event - Spanhoe Airfield, Northamptonshire

May 15th

VE Day Commemoration Parade and Service - South Shields

June 5th

End of WWII Commemoration Parade - High Ongar, Essex

August 14th

VJ Day Commemoration Parade and Service - Sunderland

www.servicesreunited.com

YOUR FRIENDS NEED YOU

Services Reunited is set up by ex-services personnel to make it easier finding former or currently serving comrades.

SERVICES REUNITED: SUITE 9 - 14 CLIFTON SQUARE RD CLIFTON BRIGHTON BN1 9HT TEL: 01424 280 1444

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The next edition of SLIPSTREAM will be out on 5th June 2005. If you have any stories, photographs, etc., please pass them to Terry McCourt or e-mail or post direct to the editor.

Some items may require editing to fit the space available. If photos, etc., are posted then please include SAE. Computer images should, if possible be saved in TIF or GIF format.

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Thanks to all who contributed.

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