



SLIPSTREAM

The Newsletter of Central Scotland Branch
The Parachute Regimental Association

Issue No. 013

September 2005

BEACHED

On Sunday 10th of July members of the branch visited the Troon branch. This gave the chance for old friendships to be renewed and old “war stories” retold, slightly exaggeratedly.

The welcome by the Troon members was warm in more than one fashion. Whilst the meeting was in progress, wives and children were able to take advantage of the scorching weather down on the beach. The children loved it, finding the effects of sunburn well worth the fun of seaside high-jinks and a plentiful supply of ice-cream.

Indeed the welcome was so warm and inviting that no less than ten of our members took out Troon branch membership. Talk about poaching!

Rumour has it that “Salty” Sam Clotworthy did not attend for fear of his running off to sea again - in spite of pleas from his wife.



Pat Lavelle presents Troon Branch Chairman, Eddie Gallacher (ex-2 PARA) with our branch plaque.

VE/VJ DAY LONDON

Bob McBride

Sunday morning saw us arrive at St James's Park in plenty of time to check in and show passports. We then met the drill instructors who were to show us what was required and what positions we would be taking up during the service. When enough of us had been vetted the RSM and his drill instructors took us down to Horse Guards Parade where we were formed up and marched on to our allotted positions.

About one-and-a-half hours after this we were taken back to the assembly area for dinner and a bit of a breather. More and more veterans had arrived in the meantime and we met Ian Spence and his standard bearer for Midlothian Branch. By this time it was getting very warm. At 2.30 in the afternoon we took up our positions for the parade itself. As we watched two large TV screens showing the Royal family leaving the palace, with an escort from the Household Cavalry, personnel from all three services went up and down the ranks with bottles of water which were gladly accepted by the sweltering veterans.

At long last we heard the order "**March On The Colours!**" and the band struck up with *Boys of the Old Brigade*. One could see them all step out with their heads held high and the VIPs cheering them on. Great stuff!



Once on the parade-ground we took our positions in the seated area reserved for the colour parties. At this stage of the proceedings hymns were sung, prayers were said and orations made by the various padres. Last Post was followed by a two-minute silence, ended by Reveille. The Colours were now brought down to form two ranks.

Her Majesty the Queen spoke to the audience, receiving three cheers at the end of her speech. Accompanied by Prince Philip, the Queen inspected the Colours, stopping now and then to talk to one of

the veterans before taking up her position on the saluting base. The Colour bearers then performed a march past to much cheering from the VIPs in the seated area.

Once back at the Mall we formed up again with more standard bearers. Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip in an open car then led the entire parade along the Mall with bands playing and crowds of spectators cheering non-stop all the way to the palace. Once in the palace grounds we were stood at ease and the Royal Party appeared on the balcony. We then watched the fly-past. Every 10 minutes or so a different aircraft flew over the crowds on the Mall and then over the palace. The climax to the fly-past came with the appearance of the Memorial Flight of the RAF, consisting of a Lancaster, Hurricane and Spitfire and a million poppies being dropped on the crowds below.



I think that thanks are due to all ranks of the services for making it such a great day for all of us. From the RSM and his drill instructors to the "water carriers" and the cooks and not forgetting our own wee veteran, Sammy Brown, for doing the full march from start to finish.

Well done Sam!



SNAP HAPPY



Top left: Bert Stone, Bill Gordon & Sam Brown enjoy an evening with their wives whilst prayers are said in the corner.

Top centre: Typical smiling "Red Devil", Sam Brown.

Top right: Bert Stone presents Branch Chairman Jim Carey with a Royal Signals Association plaque.

Left: See no evil, hear no evil. speak no evil and... evil? From left to right: Bob Esplin, James O'Hear, Jake Elliot and Dave Bothwell.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY AVIATION MUSEUM AIRBORNE FORCES COMMEMORATION



Robert Pringle (left) presents Peter Bates with a 7th (Galloway) Airborne Battalion roll of honour, to be hung in the museum.



Provost Ken Cameron has a joke with ex-paras.



Standard bearers on parade.



As we all know - it's a child's game.

One hundred war veterans were at a special dedication in Heathhall to the Airborne Forces. The day of dedication between 10am and 5pm was led by the Parachute Regiment's chaplain.

Freefall displays by the 4 PARA display kept the crowds from 6000 feet. There were also lots of brave souls who had a go at parachuting off the 30-foot jump tower brought by the Parachute Regiment. Extract and photographs © Dumfries Courier.

BRANCH NEWS

ABF (Scotland) Day

Are you traveling up to Aberdeen on the Saturday? If so, have you booked your hotel? Are you planning to attend the Food / Bar hall after the Parade on the Sunday? If so, have you placed an order for tickets for this function with the Secretary? If not, you wont get in.

Double Celebration?

Our branch has been asked to consider running Airborne Forces (Scotland) Day here in Glasgow in 2007. This is also the 60th Anniversary of the forming up of 15 PARA (SV).

Bad for the teeth?

Bert Stone presented the branch with a Royal Signals association plaque whilst John Boyle donated a 3 Para Suez Canal zone plaque. Thank you kindly gentlemen, They are very much appreciated.

Mail Drops

All monthly mail drops from RHQ and any other relevant info is now posted up on a notice board in the Club. Please make sure you read it before or after our meetings

Training

Soldiers from 15 Coy, 4 PARA are back in training for another tour of Iraq.

Welcome

A warm welcome to new honorary member, Ralph Murphy Ex 152 Lowland and RE.

Dumfries Parade

The Dumfries Parade on Saturday the 11th June was well attended and the Director Peter

Bates would like to thank all those members that attended. A CD is being compiled of the event.

In Brief

Richard Fry of the 101st American Airborne was a welcome visitor to the June meeting.

The Branch has put forward chairman Jim Carey as our nomination for post of Regional Secretary 2 i/c .

8 members from the branch are going to Sehested this year. It will in fact be a Highland Games affair.

Branch Plaques are now in stock. Twenty pounds each. Contact the QM.

The summer edition of the Pegasus journal is currently in the proof reading stages. Hopefully be distributed middle of July. The PEGASUS journal now offers former and serving soldiers very cost effective classified advertising rates. For just £20 per 30 words your goods or services can reach a large military readership. Very reasonable!

REGIMENTAL COMMITMENTS

1 PARA is deployed on Op BANNER (Northern Ireland) As directed by the Ministry of Defence, the battalion will take on a new role in support of the Special Forces.

2 PARA is currently in role as the Airborne Task Force (ABTF) and will deploy on Op TELIC (Iraq) later in 2005.

3 PARA is preparing to deploy on Op Telic.

4 PARA (V) is still providing soldiers for Op Telic.

Elsewhere, officers and soldiers from the Parachute Regiment are deployed in Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Northern Ireland. Others, on individual appointments are serving with NATO, on exchange or loan service and in observer/liason roles with the UN and deployed on British Military Advisory Training Teams (BMATT).

JUST FOR FUN

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy father and thy mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face." The children nodded in agreement. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?" Young Shuggie shouted out, "Cause your feet urnae empty."

One day a little girl was sitting, watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She

suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Mum, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Roman Catholic primary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples"

The Dedication to the Dumfries and Galloway Airborne Forces Museum

By John McCormack

About 1000 hours, Saturday 11th June 2005, a 35 seater coach left from the RAFA club, Glasgow, with 10 members of the west of Scotland branch of the PRA and 2 guests on board, to attend the dedication service of the first and only airborne forces museum in Scotland.

The Dumfries branch of the PRA went to great lengths to establish this museum which was helped by a donation from the National Lottery. It is housed in a portacabin type building within the aviation museum and has a good supply of weapons and material from the 2nd World war including, radio equipment, clothing and cooking utensils.

Many of the founder members of the Parachute Regiment volunteered from the King's Own Scottish Borders whilst their English neighbours, the Border Regiment performed heroically at Arnhem.

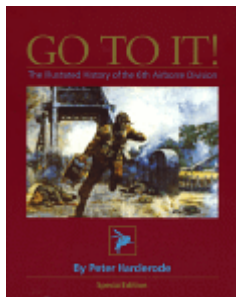
The aviation museum was also very interesting, they have many exhibits, including Rolls-Royce engines and a Spitfire, recently recovered from the Solway Firth, which is being rebuilt. If any engineers wish to give a hand (or a spanner) on this project they will be made most welcome.

A parachute training fan, shops with military goods, exhibitions of military vehicles and recruiting stations were also in attendance.

The Lothian PRA and Stirling PRA also attended. They, however, were in full strength and their 35 seater buses were filled with friends and family. A great turnout, with a good attendance from locals. It was a busy day, both for the stalls and the organisers, making it a day to remember.

Commemorative edition of **GO TO IT!**

SPECIAL OFFER TO SLIPSTREAM READERS!



First published in 1990, this book tells the unique story of the 6th Airborne Division and covers every unit that served with the formation, from the parachute battalions to the Devons, Royal Ulster Rifles and the Canadians.

Taking the author two years to research, and based on interviews with members of the division, the book is packed with more than 150 photographs with very detailed captions.

The usual price is ~~£25~~ but the book is available to Slipstream readers for the special price of **£20**, including post and packing.

Signed by the author, copies can be obtained from:

DRA, 8 Creykes Court, The Millfields, Plymouth. PL1 3JB Tel: 01752 312061

Please note that this is the last print run of GO TO IT! and that a small percentage of the price goes to charity.

"It is the only full and detailed history of the 6th Airborne Division" Major Jack Watson MC.

PLEASE WEAR A POPPY by Don Crawford

"Please wear a poppy," the lady said
And held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched as she offered
them there,
And her face was old and lined with care;
But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on care-free feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady," said he, "may I have one?"
When she'd pinned it on he turned to say,
"Why do we wear a poppy today?"

The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered, "This is Remembrance Day,
And the poppy there is the symbol for
The gallant men who died in war.
And because they did, you and I are free -
That's why we wear a poppy, you see."

"I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and grew
and became a man - as you will, too."

"He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day
When he smiled at me and said, Goodbye,
I'll be back soon, Mom, so please don't cry."

"But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight,
I can see it still in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and
fire."

"Till at last, at last, the war was won -
And that's why we wear a poppy son."
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said, "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son - did he come back all right?"

A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the same;
For our thanks, in giving, if oft delayed,
Thought our freedom was bought - and thousands
paid!

And so when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne,
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer their country's call
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy! Remember - and give!

LET'S ALL START AGAIN!

With the 60th commemoration of the end of World War II coming to an end perhaps you think that you know the date of the end of the war. You may be surprised to find out that you are wrong. World War 2 actually ended in 1951!

The Manual of Military Law: Part III (The Law Of War On Land) states that "In the case of Germany the hostilities were terminated on 8 May in 1945, by an instrument of surrender signed at Rheims on behalf of the German High Command in the presence of representatives of the allied forces." The formal state of war with Germany continued until 9th July 1951 when a notice appeared in the London Gazette stating: "the formal state of war with Germany is terminated as from 4 o'clock pm today, the 9th July, 1951."

The French view is that the state of war ended with Germany's unconditional surrender. In the United States, hostilities were declared at an end by a presidential proclamation on 31st December 1945 but the President did not declare the state of war ended until 24th October 1951. Berwick-upon-Tweed remained at war until 1987. Perhaps we should start preparing for the celebrations in July 2011.

Millport Drumhead Services Parade

By John McCormack

On Sunday 12th June 2005, Millport branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL) dedicated their annual parade to the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe.

The RBL and Millport pipe-bands joined together and put 50 pipers on parade for the march from the pier to the cenotaph. A splendid sight in brilliant sunshine.

A large turnout of veterans and colours were on parade. Bob McBride carried our PRA standard and Dave Parton and I were on the parade. A short service of remembrance was given at the cenotaph and a wreath was laid followed by a drill parade carried out by the RBL drill squad, which was well received.



A stunning backdrop to the service

The town's concert band gave a splendid mixed programme of music, including some Glen Miller marches. When the band played the tune from the film "The Flying Bomb", a cloud darkened the town, in a manner similar to the film, dropping a little rain. The rain ended as quickly as the film's bomb blast and the band played even louder in the sunshine.

For those who know it brought back memories. A great day was there for everyone who attended.

Diary Dates

JANUARY

15th - 19th September

Arnhem Commemoration

Arnhem

18th September

RBL Spectacular - Burnham on Sea.

This event will include: The Red Devils Freefall Parachute Display Team, The Royal Marine Band from the Commando Training Centre, Beating the Retreat and many other attractions.

25th September

ABF (Scotland) Day

6th October

Museum Lecture (TBA)

8-9th October

AGM and Committee meeting, Nottingham Venue (TBA)

15th October

47th Annual Wos' & Sgts' Past & Present Dinner - Colchester

21st October

Regimental Council Meeting, - London

9th November

Musical evening - Coventry Cathedral

11th November

St. Pauls & St. Lawrence Jewry - London

13th November

Remembrance Day

Contact Terry if you require more information on the above events.



SICK PARADE



The following members are suffering ill health:

♦ Alex Todd

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.

Submarine Base Reunion (Holy Loch, Dunoon)

On Sunday 15th May 2005, the Standard Bearers of the P.R.A: John McCormack, Bob McBride and Dave Parton were on Parade at Dunoon for the reunion of the crews of American Submarines formerly based at the Holy Loch, near Dunoon. During their tours of duty, many of the service men went to Vietnam, where several lost their lives. Many veterans, who have settled in Du-

noon and a party of service men with their families, visited from Dunoon. They were joined for the occasion by local dignitaries.

Wreaths were laid at the cairn built in the castle gardens adjacent to the pier, in commemoration of the men who served at the base, and a small service of remembrance, with a moving song from soloist Kirsten Easdale, was held. A very memorable day was had by all.



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Stan Connor

Obituary

A large amount of family, friends and colleagues attended Stan's funeral at St Kentigerns crematorium, Glasgow on the 28th of April 2005.

Stan, who leaves three sons and a daughter was the last of the Glider Troops in Central Scotland PRA, having volunteered for that service during World War II

As a boy, he attended Kelvinside Academy. He lived in Glasgow most of his life, finally settling in Hillfoot Bearsden

Most of his working life was spent as a well known and liked "tough guy" boss in the City of Glasgow Police. He had a colourful career, rising to the rank of Chief Superintendent, of the support unit. Stan retired several years ago.

Our Sympathy goes out to Stan's family.

The photograph below is from the dedication to the Newark Branch held recently. Jack Connor and our Standard Bearer Bob McBride attended with some others representing the branch.

Ex 15Para/Policeman Bert Oswald from Glasgow, is a member of our branch and also Assistant Secretary in the Newark branch.



The next edition of SLIP-STREAM will be out on 4th December 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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**Thank you to our
contributors**

25th November 2005