

# WELSH GUARDS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2008

Issue No 74

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## Welsh Guards Move to Aldershot

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### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel: Colonel A J E Malcolm OBE  
Regimental Adjutant: Colonel T C S Bonas  
Assistant Regimental Adjutant: Major K Oultram  
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant: WO2 W J Williams

### 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION WELSH GUARDS

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel R J A Stanford MBE  
Second in Command: Major A P Speed (Scots Guards)  
Adjutant: Captain M L Lewis  
Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 (RSM) M Monaghan

The end of 2007 and the start of 2008 has been characterised by huge variety and change, and as ever, the Battalion has been flexible and adaptable to meet the full spectrum of challenges that the modern infantry has had to offer. From the jungles of Belize and the beaches of Mexico at the end of the year, to swift preparation to being 'on standby' for deployment to Kosovo, and the preparations for the Queen's Birthday Parade. The Battalion now looks ahead to a move to Aldershot, and a busy training period in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan in April 2009.

Exercise Tropical Storm in Belize proved a huge success on many levels. The military training in one of the world's toughest environments was challenging and enjoyed by all ranks, with the majority of personnel deployed into the jungle not seeing civilization for five weeks. The exercise was polished off by an excellent adventure training and R&R package, with some 120 men gaining scuba diving qualifications.

No sooner as the wheels touched the ground in the UK, the Battalion was required to prepare for a possible deployment to Kosovo. We had been tasked as the UK reserve battalion to prepare to be on short notice to move during the Kosovo declaration of independence. However, the deployment did not take place, and only a small G4 team made it into Pristine to sort out the stores in theatre. During this same period, 23 men were deployed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards in Afghanistan, and fortunately returned back safely in April.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May HRH The Prince of Wales reviewed his Company in the gardens of Clarence House. The Prince of Wales took the opportunity to present Afghanistan medals to those who had just returned, and graciously invited the families and members of the Association to watch the Review on a glorious spring day.

With the Kosovo deployment uninitiated, attention turned towards the Queen's Birthday Parade, and for the second year running, the Battalion provided three of the six guards. The sale of Chelsea Barracks meant that the only square large enough to practice on was at D Lines Pirbright, which added further pressure to the preparation time. The Commanding Officer commanded his 2<sup>nd</sup> parade on the trot, but this year was particularly special as it was a Welsh Guards Troop. The Parade drew widespread praise for the excellent Welsh music and the sharpness of all aspects of the drill.

Amongst all this, the Battalion has continued to benefit from some high adventure training. In February, around 60 guardsmen went skiing in the French Alps, with sailing and trekking expeditions planned for the summer.

On the sports field the Welsh Guards continues to make a valuable contribution to Army rugby. WO2 Price 80 successfully engineered another defeat of the Royal Navy as the Army's head coach. LCpls Dwyer, Lewis 23 and Gdsm Sweeney all played key roles in the game. LSgt Scarf was also in the squad, but was injured just before the Army Navy game. In the early part of the summer, Major Ben Ramsey organised a highly successful charity boxing evening, raising over £45,000 for Service charities. Major Henry Bettinson organised a Families Day in Wellington Barracks following the Major General's Review – a small way of thanking the loyalty and support of the wider Welsh Guards family.

The year ahead will be filled with challenges aplenty as the Battalion prepares for deployment to Afghanistan. It will be busy, and once again a great deal will be asked of all Guardsmen and their families. The excellent standards displayed on the Queen's Birthday Parade are now to be transposed to an operational setting. To achieve this, all ranks will continue to rely on the outstanding support from family, friends and members of the Association. For this, we are hugely grateful.

### REGIMENTAL BAND

Director of Music: Major D Cresswell BBCMpsm  
Band Master: WO1 J Matthews  
Band Sergeant Major: WO2 R J Kirk

2007 ended with the Band taking its turn on Christmas duties, both on Queen's Guard, in the Guards Chapel, and in its new location at Wellington Barracks following the closure of Chelsea. The Band's future location remains uncertain, as plans for an eventual move to Regents Park Barracks has been shelved. The current facilities at Wellington are far from ideal, lacking a practice room, and enduring seriously cramped stores, offices and changing facilities.

The Band has completed many different duties and engagements since the start of the year. Following a two-week training period at Kneller hall early in January, a memorable first performance in the Millennium Centre Cardiff, with the Treochy Male Voice Choir took place at the end of the month the event raised significant funds for a 'young people's cancer fund' as well as for Service charities. This was followed by a number of orchestral duties throughout England and Wales.

The Band has supported many Regimental functions, the first being St David's Day at the Guards Chapel and Wellington Barracks. This was a fitting occasion for former Band Sergeant Major WO1 Keith Evans to be presented his Exemplary Service Medal.

After the spring session of Classical Spectacular concerts at the Albert Hall, the Band presented the selection of music for the 2008 Welsh Guards Troop. An agreeable format was selected, and will be heard at Horse Guards in June.

Shortly after this, the Band took delivery of its latest recording, the music of Leslie Statham, a former Director of Music. Around this time we heard of the death of Major Derek Taylor, another former Director of Music, residing in Australia. His emotional memorial service was held on 12<sup>th</sup> May in the Guards Chapel. Later in the month the Band marched the Price of Wales's Company to Clarence House for the traditional inspection by HRH. We were blessed with most agreeable weather on the day, plus generous hospitality by Prince Charles. The following weekend was the Major General's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade, followed by a Regimental Families Day, which the ever popular Dance Band provided suitable entertainment. Troop follows, and the Band will as usual remain in London, but bid a sad farewell to the Battalion later in the year, on their posting to Aldershot.

### WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION

President: Colonel T C S Bonas  
Vice Presidents: Brigadier J F Rickett CBE  
Mr R E Lewis  
Treasurer: Major K Oultram  
Secretary General: Mr B Keane  
Welsh Guards Association  
Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road  
Cardiff CF14 3YE  
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### ASSOCIATION DARTS & SHOOT

The Association Darts & Shooting Competition will take place at the T A Centre, Llanelli on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2008. All Association members are welcome to participate, and teams are made up by individual Branches. Meals and overnight accommodation will be available at a nominal cost. Further details from Branch Secretaries.

### ASSOCIATION GOLF SOCIETY

The remaining Golf days this year are at the Arscott Golf Club, Shrewsbury on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August, and The Aberdare Golf Club on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Everyone is welcome.

If you are interested in joining the Golf Society then please contact the Association office Tel: 029 20781219. We would be delighted to see you.

## WEB PAGES

### Maindy Barracks, Cardiff

The office can now be contacted by e-mail using the following address:

[welshguardsassociation@live.co.uk](mailto:welshguardsassociation@live.co.uk)

### Association web site

This site contains past Association Newsletters, Memorabilia and relevant information regarding Branches as well as important news items. There are also interesting links to other sites. If any member wishes to include an item then please contact the Web Master.

The address is:

[www.welshguardsassociation.com](http://www.welshguardsassociation.com)

### Welsh Guards On Line

A free site which enables past and present members of the Regiment to keep in touch. There are many old Squad photographs and many other items of interest available.

The address is;

[www.welshguardsonline.co.uk](http://www.welshguardsonline.co.uk)

### Welsh Guards Reunited

This web site is another contact point for serving and non-serving members of the Welsh Guards. It has a huge gallery index, videos, arcade section and a large database on the web for contacting Welsh Guardsmen past and present. All member groups can access the database free of charge, with no restrictions.

The address is:

[www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk](http://www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk)

## WELSH GUARDS CALENDAR

A superb calendar depicting various photographs of the Regiment and Association members was produced for the first time by Regimental Headquarters this year. Due to its success, a further calendar is planned for 2009, and can be pre-ordered through RHQ, Wellington Barracks from October this year. The cost will be £9.99 plus post & package.

## UNION JACK CLUB

An ideal place to stay for all Members and Ex-Members of the British Armed Services and their families. It is easy to reach by train and underground, and only 2 minutes from Waterloo Station.

For any Serving or Non –Serving Member of the Welsh Guards, a 10% discount is kindly offered by the Comptroller, Brigadier J.F Rickett, so why not use this as a base for forthcoming events?

For reservations, phone 020 7928 4814

Web page –[www.ujclub.co.uk](http://www.ujclub.co.uk)

## POPPY'S TEA ROOMS & MUSEUM FRANCE

David and Jeanette Mabbutt are opening a museum, tea room and Battlefield tours organization in the village of Montchamp, Normandy, Northern France, at the centre of one of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Welsh Guards most successful Second World War battles. They propose to dedicate the museum to the Welsh Guards in honour of their success in liberating the village from the 9<sup>th</sup> Panzer Battalion. It is planned to open the 1940's themed Tea room in June, and the museum shortly after, with some artefacts being kindly loaned by Stan Evans from the Welsh Guards Collection.

Further details can be found on their web site:

[www.poppysnormandy.com](http://www.poppysnormandy.com), or telephone from the UK – 00 33 231 092422

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### July

Montgomery & Shropshire Branch Luncheon (Date and venue to be decided)

### October

11. Association Darts & Shooting Competition, Llanelli
18. Swansea & West Glamorgan Annual Reunion Dinner, The Red Lion, Morriston.
25. Monmouthshire Annual Reunion Dinner, The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny.

### December

9. North Wales Christmas Luncheon, Llandrillo College, Rhos on Sea.

## BRANCH SECRETARIES

### ABERDARE

Mike Williams, 33 Tre Gwilym, Cwmbach, Aberdare, CF44 044  
Tel: 01685 877786

### CARDIFF

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### CARDIGANSHIRE

Nigel Owen, Station Chambers, Alexandra Road, Aberystwyth SY23 1LH  
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### EAST GLAMORGAN

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### LONDON

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### MERTHYR TYDFIL

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### MIDLANDS

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### MONMOUTHSHIRE

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### MONTGOMERYSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE

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### NORTH AMERICA

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### NORTH WALES

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### OGMORE

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### PEMBROKESHIRE

Trevor Warr, 11 Shakespeare Close, Priory Estate, Haverfordwest, Pems.  
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### SWANSEA & WEST GLAMORGAN

Steve Fisher, 436 Llangyfelach Road, Brynhyfryd, Swansea SA5 9LN  
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