

WELSH GUARDS NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2009

ISSUE 77

Welsh Guards Return Home

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 A Cambell

1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS

Commanding Officer: Lt/Col C K Antelme DSO
Second in Command: Major G C G R Stone
Adjutant: Captain J W Aldridge
Reg. Sergeant Major: WO1 M Monaghan

Afghanistan was the focus when my predecessor wrote his foreword in the Regimental Magazine a year ago, and he predicted that the Welsh Guards would 'step up to the considerable challenge that it presents – as the Battalion has always done in the past.'

Lt Colonel Rupert Thorneloe was absolutely right in predicting how difficult the task was going to be, and also how brilliantly the Welsh Guards would respond. He needed no crystal ball to work this out. Firstly he was wise enough to understand the complexities of Afghanistan. Secondly he knew he could trust himself to draw the very best out of those around him – which he did in style. When I arrived in Helmond Province, blinking in the sunlight. I found a very slick Battle Group Headquarters unperturbed by every imaginable friction and complication: young Welsh Guardsmen of eighteen, blooded in the highs and lows of combat and surging on: Officers with and without commission, leading from the front. In short, all was well and much credit for this lies with Colonel Rupert.

Though the cost was high, we firmly believe the price worth paying. Welsh Guardsmen stood firm in three of the most intensely dangerous and important parts of Afghanistan: Sanguin, Nad e Ali/Lashkar Gah District and Babaji. They fought with restraint and precision to improve the lives of people tired of oppression and intimidation. Schools, shops, roads, clinics and electricity grew as a result of their efforts – courage, humour, resilience and selfless sacrifice of young British soldiers serve as an example to us all. There is much to celebrate amongst the reflection and remembrance, as much laughter as there have been tears. Yet those who are injured or who have lost loved ones are never far from our thoughts and we, their friends, are with them wherever the road may lead.

Over the next year we look forward to rejoining 12 Mechanised Brigade and steadily climbing the hill again, back towards operations in 2012. We will ease the journey with some well earned leave, adventure training and sport – we aim to enjoy ourselves.

Finally, on behalf of the Battalion, I want to thank the wider Regimental family for the incredible support given to us all over the last months, it really is much appreciated.

REGIMENTAL BAND

Director of Music: Major S Barnwell BBCM PSM
Band Master: WO1 E E Frost MUSB (Hons) LRFM
Band Sergeant Major: WO2 S Charles

The Welsh Guards Band Kape Tour took place between the 13th -16th October. This was in aid of the Afghanistan Appeal, and included concerts in Brecon, Monmouth and Shrewsbury, as well as a variety of workshops and concerts for students and cadets during the day. The tour coincided with the 1st Battalion returning home from a very gruelling and costly six month OP tour of Afghanistan. The Band had participated in many funerals at the Guards Chapel for the fallen, so it was decided to use the opportunity of the KAPE Tour to raise as much money as possible for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Fund.

This idea was supported and helped by the fact that Theatre Brycheiniog in Brecon, and the Blake Theatre in Monmouth (part of the Monmouth Boys School) kindly offered their theatres for minimal cost, meaning the money raised would go directly to the Appeal. Similarly, St Chad's Church in Shrewsbury was made available at a minimal cost for the concert with the Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir, so that the Band could honour a request by Capt Ben Parry (Montgomery & Shropshire Branch of the Regimental Association) to perform in the town, and once again raise funds for the appeal.

The first important job of the tour began with members of the Band folding and stapling 500 programmes in readiness for the concerts. The programmes included important information about the purpose of the Afghanistan Fund and the vital work that it will be doing over the forthcoming years. The programmes were free, but the audience was invited to make a small donation in return, and this alone raised over £2000 for the fund.

Although the Band cannot give an exact figure on how much the tour raised (at the time of writing this article the box office receipts are not in), it is expected that with the help of the two Theatres plus a £500 donation from Monmouth School, as well as the programme sales, it is expected to be around £10,000

A final mention must go to those members of the Band who helped the concert tour to be the success it was. They are Colour Sergeant Beckett for the overall organisation, and for the concert in Brecon in particular, Lance Corporal Lockwood. Lance Sergeant Bartholomew must also be mentioned for driving the kit truck.

All members of the Band worked extremely hard to produce a memorable tour which will be remembered by all who attended these very important events in Wales.

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 / Mr B Keane
General: Welsh Guards Association
Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road
Cardiff CF14 3YE
Tel: 029 20781342
E-mail: brian_keane@yahoo.com

CHEPSTOW RACES

Meeting on Monday December 28th 2009 in aid of the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal. Further information can be found in this Newsletter. Please try to support this worthy cause.

ST DAVID'S DAY

To be held at the Garrison Church, Aldershot on Monday March 1st 2010.

Tickets available from Welsh Guards Association, Maindy Barracks Cardiff, and cost £8

Closing date for applications 19th February 2010.

ASSOCIATION RACE DAY

The next Race Day will be held at Ludlow Racecourse on Sunday April 25th 2010. Tickets will cost £38 (subject to confirmation) which includes a finger buffet and Member's Day Admission Badge. Please contact the Association Office (Tel:02920 781 219) before 27th March 2010.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE

Trooping The Colour for the Queen's Birthday Parade will be on Saturday June 12th 2010. Tickets will be allocated to Branches as per rota.

Major General's Review - May 29st - FREE.

Colonel's Review - June 5th £10 (to be confirmed)

Queen's Birthday Parade - June 12th £20 (to be confirmed)

AFGHANISTAN APPEAL CRICKHOWELL

A Welsh Guards Summer Ball is being held at the Glanusk Estate, Crickhowell on 17/18 July 2010. It will be a great opportunity for all past and present Welsh Guardsmen and their families to get together for a weekend of fun and entertainment for adults and children. Proceeds will be in aid of the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal. Tickets are available from Adrian (Swill) Hinder, 219 Tyle-Teg, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5EF. Home Tel: 01792 843089. Work: 0207 4953957. Email:105piccadilly@btconnect.co. Cost of tickets: Adult £10, Child £3. Please write your full name and address on the backs of cheques so that the tickets can be posted to you, and contact Adrian direct for further information.

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2009

This will be available for purchase in January 2010 from RHQ Welsh Guards, Birdcage Walk, London, SW1E 6HQ or contact the above on Tel: 0207 414 3291

ASSOCIATION WEB PAGE

The Association Newsletters, Memorabilia and relevant information regarding Branches can be found here. If any member wishes to include an item then please contact the Web Master.

The address is:

www.welshguardsassociation.com

WELSH GUARDS WEB SITE

Information on Regimental history, archives, recruiting events, diary dates and Regimental shop. Go to:

www.army.mod.uk/welshguards

Do not forget the other interesting sites –

www.welshguardsonline.co.uk

where you will find old Squad photos and other interesting things about the Welsh Guards. This is a good site for retired and serving members of the Regiment to keep in touch.

As well as – www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk Again, this is an excellent site to communicate and share information with fellow Welsh Guardsmen.

ASSOCIATION GOLF SOCIETY

Meetings arranged for 2010 are still in the planning stage. For further details please contact:

Martyn Griffiths (Home-01792 298279.

Work-01554 892882.

Mob- 07764531125 or email griffithsfam88@tiscalli.co.uk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

March 1	St David's Day Garrison Church Aldershot
March 4	Cardiff Homecoming Parade
March 8	Swansea Homecoming Parade
March 11	Merthyr Homecoming Parade
March 12	Newport Homecoming Parade
March 16	Bridgend Homecoming Parade
March 24	Caernarfon Home Coming Parade
March 25	Wrexham Home Coming Parade
March 26	Rhyl Home Coming Parade
April 23	Band Concert Brangwyn Hall Swansea
April 24	Band Concert St David's Cathedral Pembs
April 25	Band Concert St David's Hall Cardiff
April 25	Association Race Day
May 16	Monmouth Lunch Maes Manor Blackwood
May 29	Major General's Review
June 5	Colonel's Review
June 11	WGA AGM Wellington Barracks
June 12	Queen's Birthday Parade
June 26	Imber Court Commemoration, Esher
July 18	Mont/Shrop Lunch Wroxeter Hotel
July 18/19	Summer Ball Crickhowell
Sept 10-15	WGA Battlefield Tour
Nov 14	Regimental Remembrance Sunday

PATRON: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB OM AK QSO PC ADC



WELSH GUARDS AFGHANISTAN APPEAL

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS WELSH GUARDS
Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ
Telephone: 020 7222 5128
E-mail: projectofficer.wgaa@btconnect.com

President: General the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank GCB LVO OBE DL
Vice-Presidents: General Sir Redmond Watt KCB KCVO CBE
GSM London District W D G Mott OBE
Chairman: Brigadier P R G Williams DL

Dear Association Member

CORAL WELSH NATIONAL DAY AT CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE IN SUPPORT OF THE WELSH GUARDS AFGHANISTAN APPEAL - 28th DECEMBER 2009

On 30th October 2009 the Welsh Guards and the home of Welsh racing, Chepstow Racecourse, entered into a charity partnership in order to enhance awareness and raise funds for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal. The main platform for achieving these objectives will be Chepstow's feature race day and the most important event within the Welsh racing calendar, the **Coral Welsh National Day**. This will take place on **Monday 28th December 2009** and the Appeal will be Chepstow's chosen charity on the day.

The event, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary at Chepstow Racecourse this year, will be televised live on the BBC. As the pinnacle event within the BBC's racing schedule, it is likely to attract around 1 million viewers and will therefore provide the Regiment with an important opportunity to maximise fund raising efforts.

As part of the partnership agreement, Chepstow Racecourse has very kindly offered Welsh Guardsmen, past and present, their families and friends an opportunity to purchase tickets for the event at a **price of £35 per person** and enjoy what promises to be a fantastic day out, including live music from elements of the Welsh Guards Regimental Band and entertainment throughout the afternoon.

All those associated with the Welsh Guards who are in attendance will be helping with fundraising efforts as £10 from every ticket purchased will be donated directly by Chepstow to the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal.

The exclusive Welsh Guards offer includes a premier admission badge and access to the Welsh Guards marquee where there will be a private bar. **To book this offer please call Chepstow Racecourse on 01291 622260 prior to Friday 18th December 2009 and ask for the Welsh Guards offer.***

We hope as many of you as possible are able to take advantage of this offer and enjoy a great day of racing and help support The Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal.

(Signed on original)
P R G WILLIAMS
BRIGADIER
APPEAL CHAIRMAN

BRANCH SECRETARIES

- ABERDARE:** Mike Williams, 33 Tre Gwilym, Cwmbach, Aberdare, CF44 044 Tel: 01685 877786
- CARDIFF:** Bill Morris, 39 Gareth Close, Thornhill, Cardiff CF14 9AF Tel: 02920 611241
- CARDIGANSHIRE:** Nigel Owen, Station Chambers, Alexandra Road, Aberystwyth SY23 1LH Tel: 07712 88392
- LONDON:** Jeff Heenan, 27 Mount Gardens, Harrogate, N Yorkshire, HG2 8BS. Tel: 01423 879326
- EAST GLAMORGAN:** Ken Haines, Trevone, Duffryn Road, Rhydfelin, Pontypridd CF39 5RU Tel: 01443 662248
- LLANELLI:** Alan Cunningham, 197 Cockett Road, Cockett, Swansea SA2 0FH Tel: 01792 554151
- MERTHYR TYDFIL:** Jim Manning, Flat 5, 108 Haydn Tce, Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil Cf47 9UX. Tel: 01685 383567
- MIDLANDS:** Keith Bartlett, 6 Athelstan Road, Battenhall, Worcester WR5 2BW Tel: 01905 355233
- MONMOUTHSHIRE:** Alan Mountjoy, 6 Beechfield Ave. Hengoed, Gwent CF82 2NF. Tel: 0
- MONTGOMERYSHIRE
& SHROPSHIRE:** Ben Parry, 10 Grangefields, Off Roman Rd. Shrewsbury, Shrops. SY3 9DE Tel: 01743 244189
- NORTH AMERICA:** Dai Tilley, 15703 S.W. Whetston Way, Sherwood, Oregon, USA Tel: 001 503 625 3131
- N. OF ENGLAND:** Bill Elliott, Maycot, School Road, Little Neston, Neston Tel: 01513 362762
- NORTH WALES:** Dave Webb, 2 Arran Drive, Rhyl LL18 2NS Tel: 01745 334340
- OGMORE:** Mike Jones, 40 Garfield Avenue, Litchard, Bridgend CF31 1QA Tel: 01656 650367
- PEMBROKESHIRE:** Trevor Warr, 11 Shakespeare Close, Priory Estate, Haverfordwest, Pembs. SA61 1TL Tel: 01437 766400
- SWANSEA /
WEST GLAM:** Steve Fisher, 436 Llanyfelach Road, Brynhyfryd, Swansea SA5 9LN Tel: 01792 413344

St David's Day Monday March 1st 2010

Name: Reg. No:

Address:
.....

Post Code: Tel No.

Tickets Reqd:

I enclose a cheque for £ (Payable to Welsh Guards Lt/Col Central Fund)

Please return to: Secretary General, WGA, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF14 3YE