



Eagle News



The Wolverhampton Standard, on parade at the Wolverhampton
Armed Forces Day parade, carried by Mr Albert Barton



Mr Steve Yates, Chairman of the Wolverhampton Branch, the Staffordshire Regiment Association receiving a framed copy of the Mercian Eagle from Mr Philip Fairbrace of the Walsall Branch of the Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association, on the occasion of their first meeting at their new home at Wednesfield Conservative Club.



A view of the Remembrance Service held at Paphos Harbour in Cyprus in 2018. This was attended By Major Terry and Mrs Claire Phillips, who now live in Paphos and Ted and Chris Rowley of the Kidderminster Branch.



Members of the Association attended a Veterans 'Breakfast meeting' at the City of Wolverhampton College. The College is sponsoring a Veterans RV on the first Friday of each month (term time) Location: Metro One Campus (City Centre) WV1 4AH (across from the police station - beside the Metro line) 6th September, 4 October, 1 November and 6 December, 1030 to 1200 hrs, free tea & coffee, with hot rolls available.



Paul Coy and Stuart MacDonald discuss the good old days.

February saw 20 members of Stockport branch of the MVRA attending the Annual 'Ken Ward Curry Evening' in Stockport. Ken was a CSM at A Coy for many years.



D Company, 2 Mercian (v), in Walsall. Remembrance Sunday 1986/87. Stan Edwards extreme left and Steve Middleton extreme right. Those were the days!



You are never too Old!

Gordon Maycroft takes to the skies to celebrate his 90th birthday by taking part in a parachute jump to support the charity 'KEMP'

Gordon, who served with the 7th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment, B Company, 1st Battalion The Mercian Volunteers and the HSF at Kidderminster is to take part in 'KEMP' Hospices 'BIG' 50, to celebrate 50 years of their care and support services.

He was a founder and is a very active member of the Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association Branch and regularly organises golf days and walks for the members.



The 6th June 2019 saw the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings in Normandy. Capt Steve Whaite (centre, with the green AGC beret) MVRA Stockport Branch attended 6 different parades over two days, an extremely busy calendar. Steve joined A Coy 1 Mercian (v) in the late 70's and then transferred to the AGC. In 2019 he was awarded the MVRA Certificate of Merit for outstanding work to the branch and Association.



Kohima Remembered

It is the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima this year. The 7th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment took part in this battle.

In Commemoration of the battle, Lt Col Beard TD presented the Battalion with a trophy in the form of a silver statuette of a soldier of the Battalion. It is made from silver rupees with the face of King George VI. The base is made from wood from a tree from Kohima. It was to be competed for each year by the Companies of the Battalion.



In commemoration of the Battle of Kohima, Col ER Tooby OBE TD, Sponsor Officer of B Company, I Mercian (v) presents the Kohima Trophy to Lt Robinson, commander of the winning team. Left to right :Pte O'Connor, Col Tooby, Major Jeavons, Lt Robinson, Cpl Fish. Foreground: Sgt Bradley and Cpl Turvey. Col Tooby was at Kohima with the 7th Battalion the Worcestershire Regiment, TA.



The Association standard on Parade at the ANZAC commemoration on Cannock Chase. The Rugeley Branch represented the Association

VETERANSUPPORT

The following are available to support veterans and their families who may be experiencing mental health difficulties:

Forcesline Tel: 0800 731 4880

(between 9am and 5pm Monday-Friday)

Combat Stress (24 hours)

Veterans and their families; Tel: 0800 138 1619

Serving personnel and their families; Tel: 0800 323 4444

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Samaritans (24 hours); Tel: 116 123



Without the support and hard work of our ladies, we would achieve very little. To recognise this support Kidderminster Branch presented Mrs Mary Bird, Mrs Chris Rowley and Mrs Gina Turvey with Certificates at the Christmas Social, in appreciation of their valuable support

Emma of *Rock Steady Eddie's* receiving her MVRA Honorary Membership Certificate from Mr Phillip Fairbrance at the Walsall Branch Meeting.





Had this photo on display at Walsall branch meeting
Does anyone remember this? Can we have the year and location?

Obituaries

We send our most sincere condolences to all families



Sgt 'Danny' Shooter died on 26th October 2018 and his funeral was held at the Gedling Crematorium, Nottingham on 8th November 2018. 'Danny' was a long serving and very active member of the A/Tank Platoon based with D Company 1st Battalion Mercian Volunteers. Members of the Association attended the funeral.

Cpl Les Tovey who served with B Company, 1st Battalion Mercian Volunteers at Kidderminster. His funeral was held at the Kidderminster Crematorium on 31st January 2018 and was attended by members of the Association.



Mr Melvyn Curwood died on the 8th July 2018. He was a member of D Company 1 Mercian (v) at Nottingham.

Mrs Margaret Collins, wife of Major David Collins who served with The Worcestershire Regiment and 2nd Battalion Mercian Volunteers died on 5th October 2018. A service of Thanksgiving was held at St Matthias' Church, Malvern, where she had attended for many years, on 8th November 2018



Cpl Bill Hartshorne, was a long serving Member of the Corps of Drums. He was also a staunch member of the Burton Branch of the Association and carried the Branch Standard on many occasions.

Sgt John Shotton died on Sunday 3rd March. He served with the newly formed LIMV during the 1970s at Whittimere Street TAC, Walsall. John was a close friend to many of our old E Company. His funeral took place on Thursday 11th April at Bushbury Crematorium. Members of the Association attended the Service.



Mr Melvyn Curwood died on the 8th July 2018. He was a member of D Company 1 Mercian (v) at Nottingham.



Our friend and colleague **Stephen Weller** passed away on Sunday 14 April, Steve served at both Bath Street and Whittimere Street TAC's and attained the rank of WO2 with 3 Staffords during his career in the Reserve Forces. He was respected by all ranks and will be very sadly missed.

Our sincere condolences go to Steve's wife, Louise, and family members.

A guard of honour was provided by our members on arrival of the funeral cortege, Mr Mac Powell and Mr Graham Morris carried the Regimental Standards of The Mercian Volunteers Regimental Association (Walsall Branch) and The Staffordshire Regimental Association (Walsall and Bloxwich Branch).¹¹



Mr Roy Moule

It is with sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Roy Moule. He served as a cook with B Company 1 Mercian (v) and was a great supporter of the Association. His funeral took place at the Wyre Forest Crematorium on June 16th. Members of the Association with the Standard attended the service.

Lt Col P K Holmes

of Salisbury died on 12 May 2019 aged 79. He enlisted in the Coldstream Guards in 1957 and after rising to the rank of L/Sgt was commissioned in the Worcestershire Regiment in 1960. He served in the 1st Battalion the Worcestershire Regiment in BAOR, Gibraltar and Tobruk. In addition to his many other appointments he also served as Training Major of 1 Mercian (v).



Mrs Maureen Featherstone's funeral was held on Friday 12th of April 2019 at West Bromwich Crematorium. The Walsall Branch Chairman, Mr John Kirk ISM, represented the Association. Mrs Featherstone was the wife of the late C/Sgt Featherstone, PSI D Company 2 Mercian (v) and caretaker of the Whittimere Street TA centre.

MAJOR EDWARD VERNON (TED) CARRINGTON

1941-201



Major Ted Carrington sadly died on 24 September 2018; he had been suffering from Parkinson's for some 7 years and had borne his illness with dignity.

Ted was OC HQ Sqn Sultan of Oman's Parachute Regiment (SOPR) from 1983 to 1987, during David Baxter's (an ex Sherwood Forester) time in command. He was originally a TA soldier who turned Regular in Oman. Ted was commissioned into the 7th Battalion (TA) The Cheshire Regiment and later commanded A Company The Mercian Volunteers in Stockport.

He took to life in Rostaq as the first OC HQ Sqn during a time of expansion for SOPR. He completed his parachute training, gained his wings and was an avid mountain walker/climber and tried to find a north face route to Jebel Shams (The Mountain of the Sun at 2900 metres) from the village of Balad Sayt and just failed to reach the summit.

In Oman he met his future wife Christine Bewsher, a consultant paediatric nurse on loan to Al Nahda Hospital from The Hospital for Sick Children Great Ormond Street (GOSH). They decided, with regret and many happy memories, to leave Oman in September 1987; Christine returned to GOSH and Ted went on to study Medieval History at Birkbeck College eventually moving to Lancaster in 1996.

Ted's funeral took place in Milnthorpe Cumbria with the Regimental Standard present and Chris Lyall, SOPR free fall instructor, gave an amusing summary of Ted's life in Rostaq. We send our deepest sympathy to Christine, his son Nick and daughter Lucie.



Franklyn Arthur Collins [Frank]

Frank joined B Company 1 Mercian (v) and served for 1 month. He decided that he wanted to join the Regular Army but was turned



down because they said he was too old, so he applied to the Navy and was accepted. When he passed out after training, they offered him to either go in the Royal Marines or the Royal Navy, he chose the Royal Navy on Polaris Submarines. He reached the Rank of Chief Petty Officer in the medical branch.

After 10 years he retired from the Navy and in civilian life he became a Health and Safety Officer at Universities and Colleges. He was an active member of The Royal Navy Association, Chairman of the Kidderminster Branch of the British Legion and a very active member of the MVRA Kidderminster & District Branch. He leaves behind wife Elaine, son Paul, daughter Joy and two granddaughters.



Major David E Collins TD

Major David Collins died on Tuesday 18th June 2019 at Alexandra Hospital Redditch, after a long illness.

In civilian life he eventually had his own plumbing company. He was called up for National Service on the 22nd of June 1950 at Lichfield, where he served as an Instructor. He joined the 7th Battalion in 1950 with C Company, Malvern. He quickly rose through the ranks to be CSM.

He was a member of the Battalion contingent at the Territorial Army Silver Jubilee parade in London. He was always involved with shooting and represented the Company and the Battalion in various competitions including Bisley

David eventually moved to HQ Company as QM [T] at Silver Street, Worcester until the disbandment of the 7th battalion in 1967 when he joined The Worcestershire Territorials RA, TAVR111. On the disbandment of this unit he was a founder member of the Worcestershire Regiment Cadre commanded by Major Vines TD. The Cadre became A Company [Worcestershire], Light Infantry & Mercian commanded by Major Vines with David as his second in Command. This became A Company, 2nd Battalion Mercian Volunteers.

On the promotion of Major Vines, David was appointed OC of the Company. He retired in 1978. He had been awarded the TA and TAVR Territorial Efficiency Medal and the Territorial Decoration for his service. He had that wonderful ability to motivate others to succeed with his endeavours. Whatever he was engaged in, be it social or military, he gave his all. He was a lifelong member of the WRA, MVRA and a supporter of all things Regimental. He was also a member of the 'Ancient Order of Foresters'.

Sadly, his involvement became more limited as his sight deteriorated and he became confined to a wheelchair. Both he and Margaret (see page 10), are sorely missed. The Association was represented by Colonels Griffiths, Jeavons and Lewis, and by Mr Kirk, Mrs Vines and Mrs Sayers.



Major Mike Kennison

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the tragic death of one of 2 Mercian's (v) rising stars, Mike Kennison. Mike had been commissioned from the ranks in August 1978, swiftly reached the rank of Major and was appointed OC D Coy, 3 Staffords at Bath Street, Walsall. On 4 February 1989, on one of the first major Battalion exercises after his appointment, he was commanding D Company during a night-time helicopter insertion on Thetford training area, when he fell from a considerable height from the RAF Puma in which he was flying. His funeral at St John's Church, Walsall Wood, was attended by a great many of his Army colleagues and friends. He was a much-liked and very competent TA Officer whose potential was, sadly, never able to be fully realised. He is still well-remembered, and missed, by many of his former fellow soldiers.

Lt Peter Glibbery

died on 28 June 2019 following a long fight with cancer. Peter had an interesting Army career. He joined Birmingham University OTC when studying for a degree in engineering, was commissioned into the TA at University and then joined D Coy 2 Mercian (v), as a platoon commander. Peter served with 2 Mercian (v) for about 18 months, but then left, and resigned his commission, deciding that being a soldier of fortune was much more interesting occupation than being in the TA!! He helped train the USA-backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua, but was captured by government troops and spent some time in prison for his efforts. He is remembered as a very enthusiastic and skilled soldier who had much to offer.



He is survived by his wife, Alison.



Preparing to board the boat for the evening cruise, members of the Kidderminster Branch, June Whitbread, Janice Pratt, Bernard Pratt and Dave Whitbread arrive at the Bonded Warehouse in the evening sunshine.

Over 30 member and their guests enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

Armed Forces Week

Branches paraded with their standards at various places and took part in numerous activities, parades, dinners and fetes to celebrate the week.



The Association had its usual Stand at Himley Hall for the Armed Forces Day Celebrations. The 'Team' left to right, Brian & Mary Poultney, Mary Bird, Janice Pratt, Keith Jeavons, Bernard Pratt, Chris Rowley, Sylvia & John Poultney, Photographer Patrick Harris, missing, Gordon Maycroft Graham and Jim Dudley. Many other members of the Association visited the stand during the day making a special 'family' day for everyone.



The stand at Himley Hall with Janice in charge of the Tombola, the book stall was a large table on the side. The gentlemen, seated at the back are taking time recover after setting the stand up! We are indebted to all the members who collect the 'prizes' and books during the year, and in particular to Peter Hall for the loan of his marquee year after year.



Preparing for the dinner at the Armoury, Stockport, with Peter Marsh, Stuart McDonald and others working hard to ensure that the evening is a success.



Peter Marsh and guests at the Stockport Armed Forces Dinner held at the Armoury, proving that all the hard work was worth it. A splendid evening was enjoyed by everyone.



Graham Bird,
John Poultney,
Gordon Maycroft and
Brian Turvey on a
charity walk to support
Gordon's Charity.
Please, no comments
about 'the last of the
Summer Wine!'

Photo taken by
Jim Dudley.

Pete Williams, Steve Gregory and Mike Pilkington on a
four day walking expedition on the Yorkshire Moors.



Members at the Annual Dinner of the Eagle Dining Club held at Hopton House, Birmingham University, in May.

Association Annual General Meeting

The Association Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 17th March at the Royal Naval Association Club at Lenton, Nottingham. On behalf of the Chairman and Executive Committee we would like to thank the Royal Naval Association and MVRA Nottingham Branch for hosting this year's AGM. During the meeting the presentation of Merit Award Certificates took place for the first time in our history, some 14 members received certificates acknowledging their work for the Association. Like all good award ceremonies some nominees could not make the occasion and remaining certificates will be presented in-house at the various branch meetings.



Richard Bates of the Rugeley Branch being presented with his Merit Award by the Chairman of the Association, Lt Col A J Scott MBE.



Mac Powell of the Walsall Branch being presented with his merit Certificate by the Chairman, John Kirk, at the Branch meeting.



The Band of the Mercian Volunteers

Forthcoming Events

A list of forthcoming Branch events can be found on our Facebook page.

Branch activities are many and varied. Nottingham held a social evening to celebrate their Secretary's Birthday, or at least that was the excuse! A very successful evening was held at the 4 Mercian Army Reserve Centre, for which the Branch is very appreciative.

An excellent evening was enjoyed by the guests including Phil Squires whose health is continuing to improve. Even when he was in hospital and later housebound, he continued to organise Branch events. We wish him every goodwill in his continuing recovery.

The main Association events are the Annual Picnic at the Mercian Grove, National Memorial Arboretum on August 25th at 1100 am.

A short Service will be held before the 'Picnic'. This is an opportunity for members, families and friends to meet and renew friendships.

Everyone is welcome.

This will be followed by our Annual Memorial Service at the Mercian Grove on November 6th followed by the Executive Committee. meeting at Mercian RHQ



April 19 saw ex members of the Stockport Branch attending their Bi-annual range day at Doveridge, near Ashbourne. . After a hearty breakfast in the club house it was off to the ranges to take out 50 clays each, at least we tried! There were some good results on the day so proving we have not lost it – yet! Our thanks to Mike Pilkington who organised the event and Paul Hancock our BASC Coach.