

October 2012



**LEICESTERSHIRE & DERBYSHIRE  
(PRINCE ALBERT'S OWN)  
YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION**

**CHAIRMAN**  
MAJOR LUKE SMITH TD  
28 BEVERIDGE STREET,  
BARROW ON SOAR,  
LOUGHBOROUGH, LE12  
8PL 01509 413141  
luke.smith967  
@btinternet.com

**PATRON**  
FIELD MARSHAL H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG  
**PRESIDENT** COLONEL R.E.J. BOYLE DL  
**CHAIRMAN** MAJOR LUKE SMITH TD

**TREASURER**  
CAPTAIN G. TURNER  
204 MOUNT PLEASANT,  
KEYWORTH, NOTTINGHAM  
NG12 5ET  
07973 108 321  
granville.turner  
@ntlworld.com

Committee: Secretary WO2 L.Dale; Web Page G Morgan Jones griffmj@ntlworld.com,  
T Bateman, D Finch, M Gould, V Soni, B Bennett, G Maycock, S Beasley



Photo: Mike Patrick

B (LDY SQN) THE ROYAL YEOMANRY Freedom Parade for the Borough of Wigston & Oadby May 2012

**Future Events**

Sun May 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 Frezenberg Memorial Service, Newtown Linford Parish Church, 11.00am

Sat October 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 Association Dinner, TA Centre, Tigers Road



B (LDY) SQN, THE ROYAL YEOMANRY  
TA CENTRE, TIGERS ROAD, SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTER LE18 4WS  
0116 277 9768

## The Leicestershire and Derbyshire P.A.O Yeomanry Association

**The Newsletter** Last year for the first time your association took advantage of the electronic age to circulate the Squadron report and the Association newsletter by email where possible and also make them available for view and download in colour from the web site [paoyeomanry.co.uk](http://paoyeomanry.co.uk). Whilst we regret not being able to give everyone hard copy it makes the newsletter easier to produce and has saved a huge amount in printing costs and postage. Printed copies are still going out where requested so please make sure that we are up to date with your addresses and a huge thanks to those who have supported the "LDY Association" with a donation.

**The Annual dinner** This year's Reunion dinner is shared with and hosted by the Squadron at their Glen Parva drill hall on Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, invitations have already gone to all those who are likely to attend. Last year for the first time everything was done and provided by outside caterers so that all the Squadron members could be free to enjoy their evening. We are grateful to the Sergeants for welcoming us to their mess for pre-dinner drinks and an excellent meal was enjoyed by The Squadron and Old Comrades. The Honorary Colonel, Col REJ Boyle proposed the Regimental toast which was responded to by Capt J Harris



**The Royal Yeomanry Band in Oadby**

ones credit the March Past went off in fine style. It was great to see the busy London traffic halted and the road cleared for the Regiment to come up Kensington High Street. The Commanding Officer leading on a charger followed by the Squadrons with Guidons flying and bayonets fixed, in their midst the band beating out the step and, at the rear some chunky armoured vehicles lumbering along on their tracks.

### Freedom Parade in Wigston & Oadby

The London parades were something of a dress rehearsal for the Frezenberg weekend with the Squadron receiving the Honour of the Freedom of the Borough of Wigston and Oadby on the Saturday. A gathering of Old Comrades and civic dignitaries enjoyed the spectacle of the Squadron supported by the Royal Yeomanry Band, the cadets and a troop of armoured vehicles parading in front the War Memorial at the top of Blaby road. The Inspecting party included The Mayor Cllr Linda Broadley, The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire Lady Gretton, General B White-Spunner and the Honorary Colonel. The Old Comrades then joined the parade and we all marched back to the drill hall to be offered refreshments by the Mayor. For the Squadron the festivities continued into the evening with a dinner with their ladies at the drill hall.



**The Mayor escorted by General B White-Spunner and Maj P Davey inspects Capt P Ross, Lt R Greenway lurking behind PSAO Capt N Benner**

**Freezenberg Memorial Service** The following morning a packed Newtown Linford church saw the Guidon and Cadet Standard being paraded into church for our annual service taken by our chaplain the Rev Peter Hooper. The Rev Tim Blewitt a fellow territorial himself in the process of being mobilised gave the Sermon. The park rangers assisted us to the summit of Bradgate Park for the laying of wreaths on the War Memorial where we were joined by the cadet band. At the conclusion of proceedings the Honorary Colonel took the salute as the Squadron and cadets marched off. Many of us went on for an excellent lunch at Welbeck the Defence sixth form college in Woodhouse.



**FLDY Cadet Sqn and Corps of Drums after the Frezenberg Parade with the Honorary Colonel and the Master of our Associated Livery Company the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters. Anyone wishing to join the cadets should contact County Headquarters on 0116 2779701**

### **The Derbyshire Yeomanry Old Comrades Association.**

The Association meets monthly, and on Remembrance Sunday lays wreaths on the war memorials in Derby, Ashbourne and Long Eaton, and also sponsors a plot at the Westminster Garden of Remembrance. The newsletter will be going out in January and The Annual Dinner in 2013 will be held at the Hallmark Hotel Derby on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. We would like to take this opportunity to invite any members of the LDY Association to join us for this meal; for further details of this and other information on the Association contact:-



The Honorary Secretary FP (Streaky) Bacon MBE  
Telephone 01332 343045  
e mail streakybacon1220@yahoo.com

The Honorary Treasurer Trevor Kingman  
Telephone 01332 519322  
e mail trevorkingman123@btinternet.com

#### FUTURE EVENTS

**Freezenberg Memorial Service** Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> 2013  
**Annual Reunion Dinner**, Sat October 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 TA Centre, Tigers Road  
Full details on both events will go out nearer the time.

If anyone is interested in getting together for an informal evening in a Loughborough pub please let Luke Smith know and we will try and plan something for an evening in February.



**Col F G Blair at camp 1900**  
to the Regiment.

**South Africa** – The battle honour South Africa 1900-02 is both embroidered on the Guidon and include on the Leicestershire Yeomanry cap badge in recognition of the Regiment’s service. The outset of the second South African war in 1899 found the country with a very small regular army and a shortage of cavalry. An appeal was made to Yeomanry Regiments for volunteers for “Imperial Yeomanry Companies”. Whilst volunteers where to receive their arms and pay at cavalry rates everything else, horses, saddlery, uniform and even the cost of sea transport to the Cape was found independently of the government. Nearly every man provided his own horse.

The first contingent from the Regiment to go to South Africa was the 7<sup>th</sup> Company Imperial Yeomanry who landed in Capetown in March 1900 and moved up country by road and rail to join the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn IY under Colonel Blair in support of Lord Robert’s March on Pretoria; during this time they frequently passed through Linley and the Town Bell was later brought home by Capt T E Harrison who presented it

We received an enquiry asking for information concerning a Victorian Silver Medal inscribed round the edge “11990 Tpr C. Fielding 65<sup>th</sup> CPY IMPL YEO”. It has a distinctive red, blue and gold ribbon, with three bars for ORANGE FREE STATE, RHODESIA and CAPE COLONY, similar to the photograph of Cpl Payne’s South Africa medal which has different clasps.



Tpr Fielding was part of the second contingent forming the 65<sup>th</sup> IY Company commanded by Capt W F Peake, in the 17<sup>th</sup> Bn IY who landed at the Portuguese port of Beira in May 1900, prior to deployment with the Rhodesian Field Force to protect the Rhodesian border. The story of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Battalions is told in “Rhodesia and After” by Sharrad H Gilbert LY who served in the 65<sup>th</sup> company and is readily available having been recently reprinted.



**Tpr Sharrad H Gilbert**

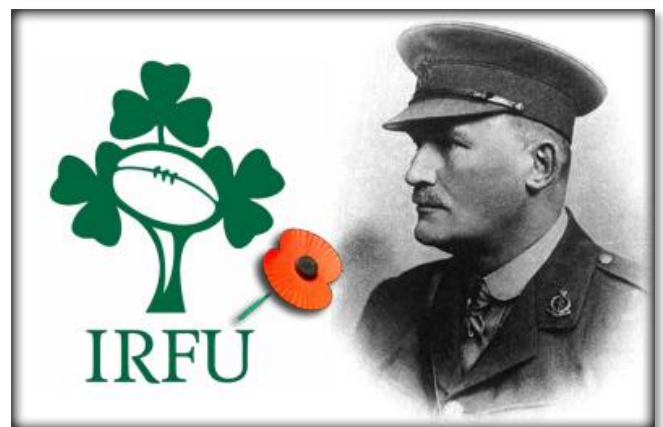
to Colonel Blair 1895 to 1904; unfortunately the estimate was well beyond our deepest pockets.

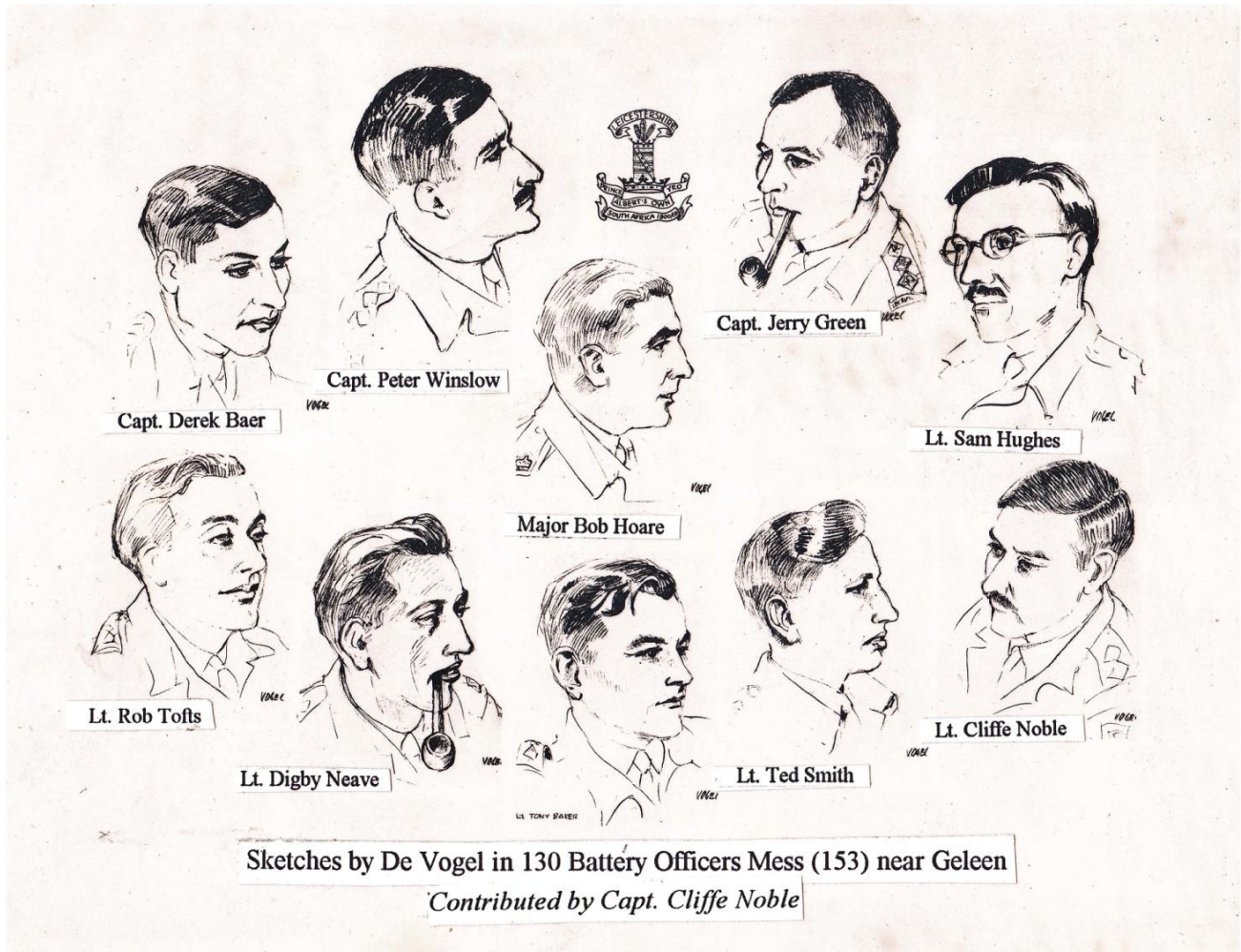
Colonel Blair had commanded the Leicestershire Yeomanry at the outbreak of the South African war before volunteering for service in Imperial Yeomanry. Recently his pouch belt came up in the sale rooms and LDY Sqn Ldr Capt Paul Davey is now the proud owner. Also on offer was an Edwardian

Silver Statuette of a Mounted officer of the Leicestershire Yeomanry inscribed

**Maj. J.S.Burkett** The Irish Rugby Football Union have requested and been sent his photograph. He was born in Kilkee and played for Ireland as a forward in the 1880/81 season.

Maj Burkett joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry as Lt and Medical Officer in 1908. He was mentioned in despatches “ Displayed great gallantry and devotion to duty in attending wounded under heavy fire near Ypres on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1915.” In 1916 he was promoted Lt Colonel whilst commanding a Field Ambulance.





**130 Battery.** Following a visit to the Carillon Museum by Simon Winslow whose father Peter served in 153 he has presented us with a copy of the battery war diary written by the Battery Commander Major Robert Hoare MC. It gives a graphic account of their battles with the Grenadier group in Guards Armoured Div from Normandy to Nijmegen and on into Germany. A rare volume it is our intention to over the winter to scan it add photos and make it available.

**Earnest John Furze LY and 154** In the summer he celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday and we were delighted to lend his son Roger a copy of the Regimental History "There is an Honour Likewise" to assist him in putting together his father's life history

**Veterans UK** Is a new service created by the Ministry of Defence. With the many organisations offering help to veterans from the Government, Local Authorities, independent bodies and charities it can be confusing for old soldiers and their families to know who to contact on a particular topic. Veterans UK sets out to provide information on services from lots of different organisations all in one place. The web site is [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info) e mail advice point [veterans.help@spva.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:veterans.help@spva.gsi.gov.uk) or helpline 0800 169 2277

**Garden Party** Our Patron His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh was kind enough to invite members of the Association to a Garden party at Buckingham Palace on 29<sup>th</sup> May and we were represented by Mel Gould and Vinod Sony accompanied by their wives who also found time on their trip to London to visit the National Army Museum in Chelsea.



## OBITUARY 2011-2012

CAPT T AKERHEIM	REME 153	SUDBURY	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2012
GILBERT BAKER			1 <sup>ST</sup> SEPT 2012
HARRY JAMES	154	CHESHIRE	2011
PAUL R MARTIN	RY	LEICESTER	29 <sup>TH</sup> AUG 2012
P W NEWLAND	Q Bty 154	FRANCE	2012
E S NORRIS	154	LEICESTER	16 <sup>th</sup> NOV 2011
A SPEED	154	NOTTINGHAM	2012
P WALDREN	LDY & LDY COY	HATHERN	2012
W J WRIGHT	LY 154	ELY	1 <sup>ST</sup> SEPT 2012

### Cpl PAUL R MARTIN 26 SEP 1959 – 29 AUG 2012

Paul Martin joined the Territorial Army in 1977 before going on to join the Regular Army first with The Royal Pioneer Corps and then 3 R ANGLIAN. On leaving the regular army in 1985 he joined 118 Recovery Company REME and then in 1994 transferred to B Sqn the Royal Yeomanry. He married his wife Lynda in May 1981 and they have one son, James.

Cpl Martin has been a stalwart of the Admin Troop over his service where his driving experience has been used to its maximum capability. He was constantly reliable and extremely loyal. He participated in all squadron events, both military and social and has always had the full support of his family throughout his career. For the last 12 years he has also been heavily involved with the Scout movement. He was awarded the TEM, QGJM, VRSM, QDJM



**Capt C E (TEDDY) AKERHEIM** was the REME officer and joined 153 at Nawton in Yorkshire in August 1943 and remained with the Regiment until their large LAD detachment was disbanded at the end of the war. With a demobilisation number of "40" he was then to spend a year in India. The work of his LAD was well tested when on 28<sup>th</sup> of August 1944 Guards Armoured Div advanced from Vernon On Seine to reach the Palais Royal in the centre of Brussels by midnight on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September a distance of nearly 250 miles without losing any of the Regiment's Sexton SP Guns or Sherman tanks. As an attached officer and a keen amateur photographer he was able to stand aside from parades and we now have many of his photographs.



## SONGSTER

Michael Morpurgo's novel *War Horse*, adapted for the stage, enthralled theatregoers in the West End and spawned Steven Spielberg's epic movie. The story, set during the First World War, not only brings the horror of war to stage and screen, but also depicts the heroism of man and horse and their inseparable bond within the theatre of war.

War Horse also highlights the often-overlooked role of horses during the Great War. It is estimated that a million horses were sent to France, with only 62,000 surviving. Many were unable to sustain the harsh realities of warfare through exhaustion, disease, gunfire, poisonous gas, and starvation. Sadly, after the war, for those that did survive, many of the older horses were destroyed, whilst younger horses were sold to French butchers or transported as beasts of burden to the Middle East.

A horse that did return home was Songster. His story begins in Loughborough's Market Place, on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914, waiting alongside many other horses to be mobilized for war. Although originally turned down due to his age (he was supposedly 14 at the outbreak of war), he was transported to France with the Leicestershire Yeomanry, as the mount of Trooper Bert Main.

Yet, incredibly, following the horrors of war that would witness large-scale slaughter of human (and animal) life, Songster was fortunate to return to England in 1919. His owner prior to his mobilisation was unknown and Songster was put up for sale at Spelman's London horse repository. On learning the news Bert Main travelled to London and purchased him, along with 'Fenian', another Leicestershire Yeomanry Veteran and both horses were taken to West Beacon Farm, Woodhouse Eaves. Here, he was put to use by ex-Squadron Sergeant Major Harry Poole. They became inseparable, and when Fenian later died, Songster was never quite the same.

The transfer to the farm, however, did not entirely sever his connections with the Leicestershire Yeomanry and in 1920 the Leicestershire Yeomanry marched past the farm on their way to annual camp. Songster hearing the sound of the band galloped across and the men of the Yeomanry acknowledged their old friend and Songster joined them at camp.

Songster would continue to be claimed by the unit's annual camp up until 1935. Afterwards, he led a more leisurely life with just a weekly appearance drawing a float to Loughborough Market, and the role of pulling the milk cart for Harry – if only "to keep him out of trouble."



**Bert Main and Songster**

Nevertheless, his noteworthy antics were not easily forgotten by those who knew him the best. During Songster's time in France, Trooper Bert Main would recall how he and Songster won a cross-country race. He was also clearly an intelligent horse. When the horse lines were hit by artillery, and many horses were killed, Songster was nowhere to be seen having broken free, only to return to the lines once the shelling was over, and therefore avoiding injury.

Yet, even more remarkable, is an account of how Songster had the ability to climb stairs - this he perfected at the Old Boot Hotel in Loughborough; here, he could not only climb the stairs, which lead to the clubroom, but was also able to negotiate the difficult stairway back down; as a visible reminder, on the brass rods of the stairs where hoof indentations left behind by this extraordinary horse. Songster also rode with the Quorn hunt until the age of 32. On one occasion when Songster was in his field, the hunt passed by in pursuit of the hounds, and on hearing the huntsman's horn – and with his lively, spirited nature, jumped the fence and joined the hunt!



Alas, at 9pm, January 1940, at West Beacon Farm, Songster passed away in the company of an old Yeomanry friend RQMS Fred Hunter who was home on leave. Songster was carried into his stable on a barn door after collapsing, and there he peacefully passed away. At the time, R.Q.M.S. Hunter remarked, "That horse knew every trumpet call, it was one of the finest I ever saw in the last war."

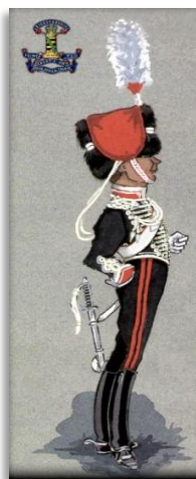
Songster was buried beneath a mound, and duly commemorated; here medals were placed around his head: two Mons Stars, the General Service Medal, the Victory Medal, and two Territorial Long Service

Medals with ribbons. These were awarded to Songster by the Regiment. He had been the oldest warhorse from the 1914-1918 war. His commemorative plaque can now be seen in the Carillon Museum

**The Carillon Museum** has had an exciting year under new chairman Mel Gould. The Loughborough War Memorial Museum Trust its proper title was judged to be Leicestershire and Rutland's Museum of the year. The Museum also won the best Special Project for the twitter@williams\_war being a daily extract from William Grudging's WW1 diary. On the second floor there is the Leicestershire Yeomanry room. This superb display is all in the process of being photographed as the records are computerized, this work will continue over the winter. The Museum reopens in the spring and details can be found at [www.loughboroughcarillon.com](http://www.loughboroughcarillon.com) there is also a regular newsletter "Carillon Chimes" which can be obtained from [Carillonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:Carillonmuseum@gmail.com). All well worth a visit and we are now looking for help in building up a display showing the current Yeomen of B(Leics & Derby Yeo) Sqn The Royal Yeomanry in their more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, with photos for display on a VDU Screen.



**WWW.paoyeomanry.co.uk** is our web site and we are very grateful to Griff Morgan Jones in building up such



great source of reference on the Regiment's history. A query that keeps coming up is what the Regiment has marched or trotted to over the years. Not an easy answer as the Leicestershire Yeomanry lost their band before being split into 153 and 154 in 1940. The Derbyshire Yeomanry brought with them a band on amalgamation in 1956 and the bandmaster Mr Stent composed a combined march called Yeomanry but so far we have been unable to trace a copy. What does survive from the pre war era is the march Prince Albert's Air which is now played for us by the Royal Yeomanry Band and also on the church organ at our Frezenberg Service. Old Comrades tell us that 154 Marched to Moses in Egypt which is also the quick march of the 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars and this can be found on the band of the Royal Hussars CD available from [www.discurio.co.uk](http://www.discurio.co.uk) ref BNA 5044. Contributions to our website are welcomed by [griffmj@ntlworld.com](mailto:griffmj@ntlworld.com)

The Treasurer Capt G Turner has the following for sale  
LDY Ties £10.00, Key Fob £1.50, T Shirts £11.00, and Stable Belts £12.50