



# EAGLE NEWS

The newsletter of Mercian Volunteers  
Regimental Association

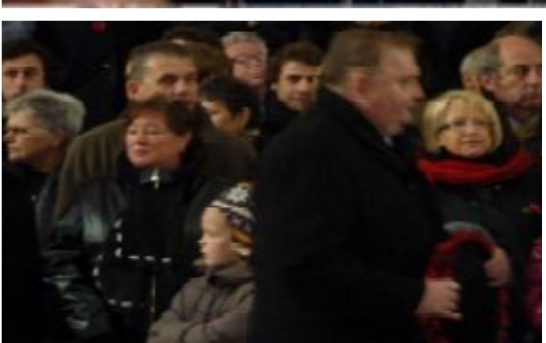
December 2010



## ANZAC Day

At the Military Cemetery on Cannock Chase on  
Sunday 25th April 2010.

There was a very good attendance by the  
Association with Burton, Rugeley, Wolverhampton  
and Walsall Branches and their standards.



*Merry Xmas to all our Members*



### The Mercian Regiment's Freedom Marches

The Regiment continued with their programme of Freedom Marches during the spring. The Association attended many of the parades with Standards to support the Regiment.



Mr & Mrs Richard Bates at Nottingham and the Waball standard at Nottingham.



The Annual Eagle Dining Club was held on Friday 14th May at Lucas House, Birmingham University. Major Chell presided.

### Report

*The Association has been very active in and around the Mercian area. Representatives attended the Mons parade at Chester, St Julien Service at Stockport and the Crick Memorial in Derbyshire. A large group, with standards attended the Annual ANZAC Memorial Service on Cannock Chase in April followed by the service at the 'Katyn' Memorial for the Polish servicemen in May, the re-dedication of the Gheluvelt Park and Memorial in Worcester in August and the Commemoration Service of the battle of Gheluvelt, the East Cheshire Re Union and the Burton Curry Supper in October.*

*Where possible the Association has attended Regimental Freedom parades and services throughout Regimental area. Sadly this has often included funerals and services of Thanksgiving. Every effort is made to support the Regiment and establish it firmly in the Mercian Area.*

*Branches remain buoyant with increases in attendance. The Social life is varied with the normal social evenings to clay pigeon shooting!*

*Tremendous effort has been made to support service charities and a considerable amount of money has been raised via a variety of initiatives. Branches have supported members of the Regiment serving in Afghanistan and will continue during future deployments. The Burton Branch is very involved in the recruitment and training of a corps of Drums for the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The Drummers made their first public appearance at the Annual Curry Supper at Burton in October. Branches continue to be involved with their local Civic activities whenever possible.*

*Branches attended the Remembrance services in their areas; Stockport members together with their Cheshire Regiment Association colleagues took their Standard to Leper in Belgium for the commemoration services there. The Association held a brief remembrance service at the Association Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum early in November.*

*The Association has not forgotten its own members and continues to help members who are in need.*

### PRI

The following items are available from Lt Col B Lewis TD.  
E mail Address: bpl31@hotmail.com

Blazer badges, Gold & Silver wire.	£8
Regimental Ties, Dark Blue with small silver eagle.	£10
Cap badge, gold & silver wire	£4.50
Regimental Shield	£22
Enamel Lapel Badges	£2
CDs, Band and Drums	
Dedication of the memorial	
Dedication of the Standards	£3 each
Polo shirts at available at the Br Stockport, Walsall and Rugeley Branches	
Engraved glasses at Rugeley, Fleeces T Stockport and Walsall.	
Foe these items please contact the Branch.	



Stockport Branch Dinner held on Saturday 27th November at the Armoury Inn Stockport



Trammere, Stockport Cheshire Regiment Association  
And Stockport Mercian Volunteers Association  
laying a wreath in Belgium

### *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Richard Bates, Chairman of the Rugeley Branch for a sponsored swim raising £300 pounds for the Branch funds Thanks to The Rugeley baths for allowing the event to take place.

To Capt. Bernard Derrick on his appointment as Vice- Chairman, Lichfield District Council.



Now are you sure Brigadier that you have sorted it! Brigadier Wilkinson and Major Chell at the Nottingham Branch Social Evening in August. As usual there was a packed house. Thanks to the hard work of Phil and Sandra Squires.

### **Branch Meetings**

**Burton on Trent:** At the TA centre

**Kidderminster:** first Sunday in the month at the Shrubbery Kidderminster. 11 am

**Nottingham:** Usually August

**Rugeley:** Second Sunday in the month at The Royal British Legion at 1200hrs.

**Stockport:** The Armoury, Greek Street, last Friday in the month at 1930hrs.

**Walsall:** every two months , last Thursday at 'Rock Steady Eddies' Stafford Road, Walsall at 2015hrs.

**Wolverhampton:** The Claredon Hotel, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton. Last Sunday in the month at 1200hrs.

**Please Check Web site for final details and other activities**  
[www.mercian.org](http://www.mercian.org)



Rugeley Branch at the Polish 'Katyn' Memorial on Cannock Chase. Capt Bernard Derrick was there representing Lichfield District Council as Vice Chairman of the Council on Sunday 16th May.



The grand opening of the Gheluvelt Memorial Park and the new memorial, At Worcester on August 14th.



Gheluvelt Day, 31st October, commemorating the battle held at Gheluvelt Park, Worcester. The Association was well represented by members and the Kidderminster Branch Standard was paraded on both occasions.



Burton on Trent Branch held their Annual Curry Supper on Saturday October 30th at the TA Centre. Over 100 members and friends sat down to an excellent meal. The stars of the evening were the new Corps of Drums of the 4th battalion who paraded for the very first time at the commencement of the evening. Members of the Branch have been involved in training the Drummers. Friends from the Rugeley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Nottingham and Kidderminster joined the Burton Members for another excellent evening. Among the guests were Capt Stewart from the 3rd battalion and WO1 M Whitlock from the 4th Bn.

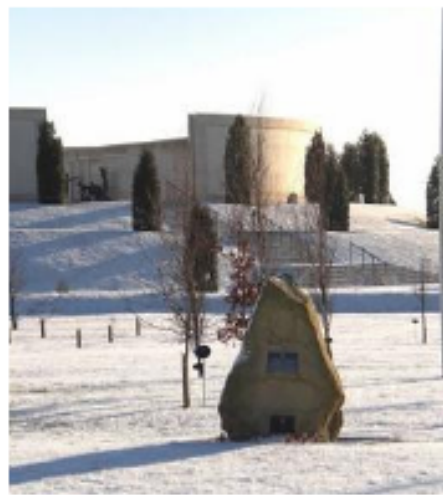


Stockport parading at Leper.

The East Cheshire Re Union was held at the Armoury, Greek Street, Stockport once again. Members of the Branch joined with friends of the Cheshire Regiment Association and serving members of 4th Battalion Mercian to an excellent 'Cheshire Hotpot' over 200 members attended.



*Best Wishes for Christmas and  
the New Year to everyone*



A short service was held at the Association's Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas on November 3rd before the Committee meeting. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Members.



The Kidderminster Branch at the Hales Owen Parade



The Walsall branch at Walsall



Stockport Branch



Parade at Malvern

**Remembrance Day Parades**



Sgt Richard (Dicky) Gould, F Company HSF, 2 Mercian (V) 1982 - 1992, passed away on Sunday 17th October 2010 after a short illness bravely fought with dignity and courage. Dicky Gould was a regular Royal Marine and a founder member of No 4 Coy HSF, later F Coy HSF 2 Mercian (V) and 4 WFR (V). The funeral was held on November 1st at the New Meeting House Kidderminster. The Kidderminster Standard was paraded and members from the Association attended.



C/Sgt Bowers joined the Drums of the 6th Bn North Staffs in 1957 and stayed with them until he joined the Royal Signals for his National Service in Germany. He re-joined the Drums in the early 1970's with 1 Mercian V at Burton and then became the regimental Mascot handler following the formation of the 3rd Bn The Staffordshire Regiment in 1988. He died in September this year at St Giles hospice, Lichfield. Members of the Mercian Volunteers and The Staffordshire Regimental Associations attended his funeral.

Capt John Hadfield died on 12 August 2010. He served with the Royal Marines during his National Service. Later he commanded the RM cadets in Burton at TS Modwena. He joined C Company, 1 Mercian V and commanded the Anti tank platoon. His final TA appointment was with HQ 49 Bde as TAPIO. In his civilian capacity was Managing Director of the Burton Daily Mail. Association Members attended his funeral at Egiwys Sant Lusty, Llaniestyn.



Capt Robert Vallance served with 5/8 Foresters and D Company 1 Mercian in Nottingham from the very beginning until he moved to Oxfordshire due to pressure of work and joined the 4RGJ. He was a very keen Huntsman and served as Secretary to the Bicester with Wadhams Chase Hunt for many years. The photograph is of him with his platoon on the deployment of B Company 1 Mercian V to Cyprus. Members of the Association attended the Service of Thanksgiving.

**We send our sincere condolences to all the families**

# Kidderminster Branch at Play!



The River Severn Boat Trip, The Race night, Clay pigeon shooting At Tyddesley Wood Range.



Wolverhampton Branch on their mountaineering adventure as part of their Charity funding raising.

Walsall Branch donating funds to 'Troop Aid', a local Charity who help wounded service personnel evacuated from Afghanistan to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham

All the Branches have been heavily involved in raising funds for the various Service Charities. The methods used are so diverse it is amazing, nevertheless very successful. Fishing contests, day and night sponsored by local firms, Supporters Clubs, hostelrys, individuals and groups, Sponsored walks, Clay pigeon Shooting, raffles, motor scooter rallies, collections at various locations, social evenings, race nights.

Branches have supported both Regular and TA Mercian Soldiers in Afghanistan. Your activities have been greatly appreciated by the organisations that have received contributions from these activities.

**To everyone involved a very big thank you.**

At the same time Branches have continued to help their own members where there has been a need.