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All 9/12L Serving Officers and Soldiers

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AMALGAMATION UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2013

1. In advance of this year's Regimental Dinner in London, I am writing to all serving officers and soldiers of the 9/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) to update on progress towards our Amalgamation. The Joint Amalgamation Committee convened for its fifth sitting on Wednesday 6th November. The Regiment was represented by the Colonel of the Regiment, the Regimental Secretary, the Regimental Second in Command and the Regimental Sergeant Major, who had returned to London from Helmand. My successor, Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Mudd, was also in attendance. I was available on the phone from Bastion.
2. The work of the Amalgamation Committee is progressing on two fronts: the Serving Regiments have developed concrete proposals on dress (including the design of the cap badge), on the future manning of the Royal Lancers, and on the physical mechanics of the Amalgamation itself. The Home Headquarters have developed recommendations on the design of the Guidon, the constitution of the future Royal Lancers' Association and on the future of our Home Headquarters and Museums.
3. The JAC's August meeting agreed many, but not all, of the recommendations presented to it. November's meeting has now closed with the more contentious. This was a decisive, positive meeting with considerable progress made in resolving some challenging issues. The JAC are united in their belief that the decisions made represent a unified solution which provide the best foundation for the Royal Lancers of the future.
4. Key pillars of our work include:
 - a. **Dress.** Of principal interest will be the design of the future Royal Lancers cap badge. The absolute requirement for the cap badge was for a clear, impressive, memorable image which will instil a sense of professionalism and pride in all who wear it and all who support it. It was crucial to incorporate the best of our antecedent regiments, and we have spent some time, and not a small amount of money, developing numerous prototypes for consideration. From the outset we have been in agreement that the cap-badge must include the lances of 9/12L and the death's head of the QRL. Cloth and metal designs were considered. The chosen, unified design delivers a striking balance, incorporating a cloth backing of crossed lances with a detached 'or glory' banner in blue, below a metal skull and cross-bones. It is a simple, powerful, recognisable emblem which each and every Royal Lancer will be proud of.
 - b. The Prince of Wales' feathers, as the oldest of any of our devices, is to be retained in a new regimental badge. The Prince of Wales' Badge, as it is to be known, is based upon the cap badge of the 9/12L, depicting the Prince of Wales's feathers, adorned with a crown and backed with crossed lances. It will be worn on the upper arm of all non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

c. The Royal Lancers full dress regulations will be presented to the Army Dress Committee in the New Year of which a draft is enclosed. In order to achieve this difficult decisions have had to be made. Not a single decision has been taken lightly; many differences of opinion have been voiced and very detailed work has been presented to allow the JAC to come to this balanced resolution. Sample uniforms have been made by Dege and Skinner, and they look fantastic: the Royal Lancers' uniforms will be the best in the cavalry.

d. **Manning.** All officers and soldiers of both 9/12L and QRL have been informed of the outcome of the Royal Armoured Corps' manpower re-balancing decisions required to set the RAC for its future A2020 structures. The first Commanding Officer of the Royal Lancers has been announced. I can now add that we have decided on the first Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Lancers; his name will be released when the WO1 Board is made public on 5 December. This is an important piece in the jigsaw: from the top flows the detailed manning plot for the Royal Lancer squadrons in 2015. To set the conditions for the Amalgamation the Regiment will re-ORBAT following HERRICK 19 POTL into 2 Sabre Squadrons and HQ Squadron.

e. **Amalgamation Mechanics.** The Army Headquarters is currently circulating the Implementation Order for our Amalgamation. Pending COS LF sign-off, it sees 9/12L handing Haig Barracks to Hohne Garrison in Feb 2015 and moving to Catterick in the period Mar-Apr 15. Conscious that both time and money are a precious commodity for the Regiment, for our families, and for our Old Comrades, we are planning to celebrate the Tercentenary and Amalgamation on the same weekend. This will probably take place on the first bank holiday in May in Yorkshire or possibly in the heart of our combined recruiting grounds, but we need to consider a number of factors, not least Her Majesty's diary, as our future Colonel-in-Chief, and potential impacts of the 2015 General Election on public events.

5. The Colonel of the Regiment and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to this process. In your broader discussions I would ask you to bear in mind that, until the Royal Lancers Dress Regulations have been approved by the ADC, PS12 and the Palace, they remain in draft. But please also remember that they are agreed by both Regiments and the debate is now over. In my mind we have reached a key milestone in the Amalgamation process and I sense in our daily discussions with QRL that we are now marching in step towards a united vision, a vision that I strongly commend to you.

Commanding Officer

Enclosure:

Record of Proceedings of the 6th Joint Amalgamation Committee