

## CHAPKA NOTES 2020

### THE ROYAL LANCERS (QUEEN ELIZABETHS' OWN) VETERANS ASSOCIATION NOTTINGHAM BRANCH (FONDOUK TROOP)

The start of 2019 began with our Annual Reunion Dinner on Saturday 26 January. There were almost 100 diners sitting down. Mick Walters started the evening by saying Grace. The evening's entertainment was a quartet, led by Sergeant Helen Lambert, from the Nottinghamshire Band of 73 Royal Engineers TA (Volunteers). After the dinner, I opened the proceedings by reading a letter received from our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty The Queen sending her best wishes to all those who were dining. I then gave the Loyal Toast with the National Anthem being played. I then introduced our President, General Sir James Everard KCB CBE who spoke on behalf of the Branch and gave a toast to The Regiment. General James then introduced Lieutenant Rob Batterbury, who updated the guests on the activities of the Regiment throughout the past year. He then gave a toast to the Old Comrades. Ivor Thomas gave a toast to Absent Friends with a One Minute Silence and Mick Walters said the 'Ode to Remembrance.' The obligatory raffle followed to finish off the night. I received a number of letters and emails from attendees who said it was a very good night – one of the best they had been to.



these.

At the beginning of March Harry Rack attended the Hull Branch Annual Reunion Dinner held at the Mercure Hotel in Willerby (near Hull). Thanks goes to Alf Smith and his Committee for a splendid weekend. An Old Gits meeting was held in Nottingham in March. Further meetings have been held throughout the year. Thanks to Don Poole for organising

My wife (Enid) and I along with Harry Rack and Malc Scothern attended the Blackpool Branch (Balaklava Troop) Dinner in the middle of April at Blackpool. A very enjoyable weekend it was, and we have all booked again for next year. Thanks to Clive Bergstrand and his Committee for such an excellent weekend. We held our AGM on 16 April. Our President, agreed to continue in the post for a further year. All the officials again agreed to remain in post. It was with great sorrow that we had to cancel our Annual Reunion Buffet in May at the Staff of Life pub in Sutton in Ashfield, due to insufficient numbers.

On the weekend of the 8/9 June 2019, Mark Wells, his son Keenan and two other ex-servicemen took part in an extreme yomp challenge 'Cateran Yomp' organized by the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF), starting at Blairgowrie, Perthshire, Scotland. This was a 56-mile trek over the Cairngorms in under 24 hours. This involved many different capabilities of all sexes, shapes and sizes, veterans and serving soldiers. Out of the 10,012 who took part, Mark came a very surprising and reasonable 65<sup>th</sup> in 18 hours 40 minutes. Mark and his team managed to raise a huge £3,634 for the ABF. Very well done to them. Picture shows Mark and his team. It was with great joy that Paul 'Bo' Boden rejoined the Committee in July.



In September, Harry Rack attended the annual Northern Ireland Veterans Association service held at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas. There was a good turnout at the service. A number of Branch members paraded at Mansfield Town Football Club ground on the afternoon Saturday 2 November for the beginning of the Poppy collection. Members were invited to stay and watch the match. Mark Wells carried the Branch Standard.



The Branch was very well represented at the Remembrance Day Parade at Forest Town (Near Mansfield), with Mark Wells carrying the Branch Standard and Paul 'Bo' Boden laying the wreath on behalf of the Branch. Also, in November, Harry Rack attended the South-East Branch (Canterbury Troop) Annual Reunion Dinner at the King

Charles Hotel in Gillingham (Kent). Thanks to Dick Boorman and his Committee for a splendid weekend.

The Committee had its Annual Dinner in December at the Badger Box pub in Annesley (Nottinghamshire). A special thank you goes to a member of the Branch (who wishes to remain anonymous) for their very kind and generous donation. Our Annual Reunion Dinner takes place on Saturday 18 January 2020 and this will be reported in next years' Chapka.

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