



DISPATCHES

Vic Ralph (No 1 Cdo) - Founder of the Commando Veterans Association



President: Brigadier JF Thomas CBE (Retired) (No 6 Cdo)

Chairman: Stan Scott (No 3 Cdo)

**A very Happy New Year to all!
Here's to another great year for 2010!**

**Issue 17
January 2010**

Firstly, thank you to all for the many Xmas cards and good wishes received at CVA HQ over the past month or so; there were far too many for us to be able to reply to all of them, so thank you one and all, we hope you had a wonderful Xmas and that you have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010.

Thank you also to those that have been involved in the organising of CVA events throughout the past year, it could not happen without you. Also to those that have worked behind the scenes on such things as the website and within the local branches; and finally to those that have worked hard to raise funds for the memorial fund. Thanks to those of you who continue to pay your annual subscription promptly; we could not manage financially if members did not pay their subscriptions (see back page). If any members have suggestions or anything that they would like to add to Dispatches then please either email or post it to us.



Please bear in mind that June of this year will be the 70th Anniversary of the forming of the Commandos. Our intention is to celebrate this in conjunction with our Commando Summer Service at Alrewas on 26/27 June, with a number of displays and presentations by military and civilian organisations. If you can offer assistance or have anything that you can bring to the party then please let us know.

Editor

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CVA Membership

We would like to say a hearty welcome to the 100+ new members that have joined the CVA during 2009. Many of these are WW2 Veterans who replied to a flyer that we added to a recent Commando Benevolent Fund (CBF) mailshot; I must thank the CBF for allowing us to do so. Many of the Veterans are absolutely delighted to be back in touch once again, having had no contact since 2005. For those who are new to the CVA we hope that we will see you at one or many of our events throughout 2010.

Front cover: View from the Commando Memorial towards Fort William immediately after the Commando Service on Sunday 8th November 2009.

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Words from your Committee



Presidents Space - Another very successful year has gone by with the Association going from strength to strength. The response to the flyer sent out with the CBF mailshot to all known veterans and their families has been particularly gratifying - although it is very sad to learn of those who have passed away. It was seventy years ago that the idea of an elite raiding force to hit back at the Germans was conceived and sixty five since the Commando Association was formed, so it is a great tribute to all concerned that the Commando Veterans Association is flourishing today. Thank you all for your continued support and for making the Association's functions and activities such a success. With every good wish for 2010.



Jack Thomas

Words from the Chairman - Bye bye 2009 - welcome 2010 and may it be a successful year for all members.

We are again looking forward to several main line events, and hoping members will attend. Quick run through - January at Elmwood School Croydon for Lt George Knowland VC; April at the Royal Hospital Chelsea; the Commando Summer Service and 70th Anniversary celebrations at Alrewas in June and Fort William once again in November, as well as Westminster and Whitehall and I am sure that other trips will come forward also (all event dates TBC). Recent events of course, another great Fort William trip, a visit to 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery in Plymouth, who gave me 24 hours of real pleasure including medi-care (stress fracture left arm) and 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers in November - a great evening lads, keep in touch. That's all very brief and my thoughts stray again along the way - WHAT is in store for us all in 2010? I wish a happy 2010 for all!



Scotty

Secretary - Another very busy and successful year. In addition to our normal CVA events as outlined by Scotty above, our main achievement has been the re-engagement with the many wartime Commandos who responded to the flyer that we sent out with the Commando Benevolent Fund mailshot. Many have expressed how delighted that they are to be back in touch with their Commando comrades, and many have expressed how they wore their new CVA ties with pride over Remembrance weekend. We look forward to possibly meeting some of them throughout 2010. We were also successful in our planning application to place a suitable commemorative monument within the Parade at Fort William; this will be to celebrate the close affiliation and everlasting friendship between the good people of Fort William and Lochaber and the Commando fraternity over the many years since 1942. It will be placed between the memorial chairs directly in front of the Duncansburgh Church (next door to the Alexandra Hotel). The planning and the fundraising continue and I shall update accordingly throughout the year. It is hoped (possibly optimistically) that we can have it in place and unveiled by the Lochiel in November next year. We now look forward to our main summer event at the National Memorial Arboretum for our Commando Summer Service where we shall also celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the forming of the Commandos. We hope to have elements from serving and civilian organisations to help celebrate this very important date, we hope to see you all there. I wish you all a Happy New Year and ask that you continue to give your support and I hope to see you all soon. **'United We Conquer'**

2009 CVA Draw Prizes

Prize	Winner	Claimed
LCD Flat screen TV 18"	Ginge 29 Cdo	Claimed
Pleasure flight -	Ken Holroyd	Claimed
2 Night Stay at Alex	?	Claimed
2 Night Stay at Ben Nevis	Ron & Bev	Claimed
Regency Luxury Hamper	Keith Walker	Delivered
Thorntons Choco Hamper	Fred Davies	Delivered
10MP Digital Camera	Heather Brown	Delivered
2GB iPod Shuffle	Billy Moore	Delivered
£75 Debenhams vouchers	Brian Tebbit	Claimed
£50 Debenhams vouchers	Gerry Keelor	Claimed
12 BtIs Naked Wine	Weatherby	Delivered
Leki Walking Poles	BJ Skinner	Delivered
Lifeventure 0.75l Flask	Steve Gaskin	Claimed
Lowe Alpine Daysac	Caroline	Delivered
Digital Photo Frame	Andy Maines	Delivered
Phillips Clock Radio	B Parry	Delivered
Oil painting	RJ Hallum	Claimed
£50 Cash	Vera	Claimed
£30 Cash	Harry Winch	Claimed

Commando Memorial Service at Spean Bridge - see page 3



www.commandosbenevolentfund.org.uk



CVA Recent Events



AGM and Commando Service - Spean Bridge & Fort William November 2009

Our gathering at Fort William this year was definitely one to remember. Our visit to Lochailort and Inverailort House, with a guided tour from former local Paul MacDonald was a special treat indeed. To stand atop the staircase that Fairbairn and Sykes tumbled down during their unarmed combat demonstrations was quite an experience. Our usual visits to the local schools were extra-special this year as we had the pleasure to visit Spean Bridge Primary school and to meet the pupils who were instrumental in making the 'Book of Poems' and raising money to replace that stolen last year from the Commando Memorial collection box. The same children then joined us at Lochaber High School (LHS) to recite some of their poems and there were only a few dry eyes in the school hall; the CVA were very happy to hand them a wonderful presentation which will be displayed in their school hall. The pupils of LHS then treat us to a fantastic display of music from their Pipe and Wind Band. Our AGM and draw went well, and the services on Sunday, both the town service and the Commando Service at Spean Bridge, were blessed with a great turn out and some fabulous (although still icy cold) weather. Hope to see you all again next year.



Commandos young and old at the front of Achnacarry House



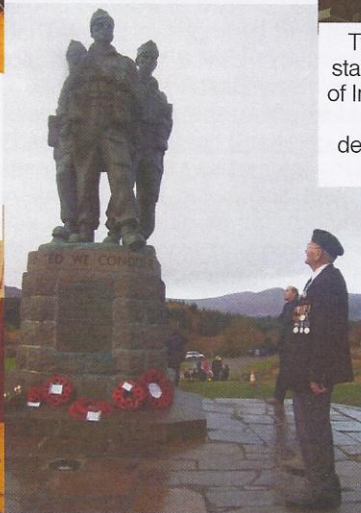
Above left to right:
Charlie Spuffard No 5 Cdo,
Harold Nethersole No 6 Cdo,
George Ferguson 45 RM Cdo,
Leo Hatch No 5 Cdo,
John Lilley No 4



Pupils and teachers of Spean Bridge Primary School at the Commando Memorial.



Frank Johnson, Stan Scott and Geoff Murray with the recipients of the Vic Ralph Certificate of Commendation - Andrew Hepburn (Pipe Band) and Amy L. Cameron (Wind Band)



Two dodgy characters standing by the staircase of Inverailort House where Fairbairn & Sykes delivered their Unarmed Combat lessons.



The presentation (above) to the pupils of Spean Bridge Primary School (below)



The Lochaber High School Wind and Pipe Bands

They remember: John Lilley No 4 and Jack Cox No 5 Cdo



Army and Royal Marine Commandos stand shoulder to shoulder in remembrance as they do in service.





Commando Chronicles



Italy - Termoli - On 3rd of October 1943 I was with No 3 Commando for the assault on the town of Termoli. This was to be the last engagement for No 3 as after this action they returned to the UK, their numbers sadly depleted, to reform for the coming second front. It was also the battle in which their CO, Lt Col Durnford Slater recorded saying it was the battle, at one time he thought we would lose. Termoli is a small eastern coastal town on the Adriatic, north of Bari. The 78th Division, 8th Army, was pushing the Germans north, but they were forming a defence line using natural resources, north of the River Biferno, some 2 miles south of Termoli. The plan was that our force of 1,000 landing on their flank and to their rear, would require them to pull back. No 3 Commando was the first to form the Bridgehead for the main force to pass through and take the town. We landed in the early hours of the morning and the Germans had no idea of our presence. With not a shot fired the main force landed and passed through our lines. Many of the Germans were still sleeping when attacked. By early morning the town was in our hands and various defensive positions around the town were made. For a couple of days all was calm, with infantry from the 78th Division gradually coming through. Engineers were working hard to repair destroyed bridges to enable tanks and heavy equipment to cross the river. Our calm was suddenly shattered when the German 26th Panzer Division came from inland to retake the town. Prior to this we were about to rejoin our LCI's (landing craft) to be on call again and to leave the town to 78th Division. Instead No 3 Commando found itself in an olive grove about 2 miles south west of the town. We were ordered to hold out as long as possible to enable troops to reform in and around the town. The German attack, with their tanks, had forced several infantry units back to the town. With No 3 in the olive grove, which looked down an open field that sloped away from us, making an incline for attackers, were a few men from the Argyll's, a troop of SRS and a machine gun unit that had all chosen to stay and assist. There had been an anti-tank unit in the grove, but when a German tank knocked out one of their guns, they withdrew, having immobilised their guns. All that afternoon we were under constant attack with their infantry taking cover from tanks until the final rush at our position. The tanks had been aware of the anti-tank guns so would not come too close. These attacks were repulsed time and time again. Whether the lower positions the Germans had to fire from was the cause I don't know, but it had the effect to pass over our heads. The trees took a bashing from the tank fire and I remember one right behind me suddenly being snapped in half from a hit. Night fall brought an uneasy peace with everybody alert. Next morning the same format occurred and messages from the town kept asking us to hold on. The morning saw the addition of some 'plane sorties', three planes at a time at tree height, streaked across the ground with the machine guns strafing and each dropping two bombs. I was at a loss to know whether they were ours engaging Jerry, not far from our single line, or theirs having difficulty at such a small unseen target. Either way it was all a bit too close for comfort. The day continued in the same way but by now the Germans were easing frontal attacks and were passing both our flanks, heading for town. During the night we were told to leave and pull back to town and about 2 am we formed a single line and made it back. There at HQ, I was told to find a hole and have a rest. I did, and went into an exhausted sleep, unaware of a fierce battle that raged and ended with the Germans forced to retreat. We finally left Termoli on the 12th October 1943.

Brian Woolnough MBE, 2 Commando Brigade Signals

ANZAC Day Parade - Brisbane, Australia. 25 April 2009 - The ANZAC tradition - the ideals of courage, endurance and mate ship that are still relevant today - was established on 25 April, 1915 when the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula. It was the start of a campaign that lasted eight months and resulted in some 25,000 Australian casualties, including 8,700 who were killed or died of wounds or diseases. In 1916, the first anniversary of the landing was observed in Australia, New Zealand and England and by troops in Egypt. That year April 25 was officially named 'Anzac Day' by the acting Prime Minister, George Pearce. The men who served on the Gallipoli Peninsula created a legend, adding the word 'Anzac' to the Australian and New Zealand vocabularies and creating the notion of Anzac spirit. It was with this history that I decided to attend the Anzac Day celebrations held in Brisbane, Australia with my wife Beryl whilst visiting our daughter and her family. I first had to get in contact with the local R.S.L; my daughter Lisa had found them on the Internet so I rang the Secretary and informed him that I was in possession of my blazer, medals and beret and asked if I could attend the celebrations. Not only do the two nations celebrate the Gallipoli landings, but all other conflicts which their forces have been involved in from 1915 up to the present troubles in Iraq and Afghanistan. On the morning of the 25th April I attended the Dawn Service at 05.25 hrs. Call to order was called when the Catafalque Party mounted the Memorial. This was followed by prayers, the laying of wreaths by the local Mayor and State Member, followed by the Last Post and a minute of silence; flags were then raised with Reveille. The National anthems of Australia and New Zealand were sung. The service finished at about 0600 hrs and it was back into the RSL Club to a breakfast of bacon and eggs together with the traditional 'Gunfire', a hefty measure of rum. At 0800 hrs transport was laid on to take personnel to the local railway station for the train to Brisbane. It is interesting to note that throughout Australia and New Zealand all public transport is free to anyone who have anything to do with Anzac Day celebrations. I had teamed up with two former New Zealand soldiers who were going to join up with the New Zealand contingent in Brisbane. As I didn't have much of an idea where I was to go once in Brisbane, they agreed for me to follow along. I was invited to join the New Zealand contingent whose turn it was this year to be first away on the march. Once in Brisbane City we soon found where the parade was to start from. I fell in at the rear of the contingent and at about 1000 hrs we, accompanied by a band, were off around the streets of Brisbane. My family were also in the city and had come from where they live at Ferry Grove to watch with literally hundreds of spectators who lined the streets of the march, it truly was a spectacular sight. There were many British contingents marching from WW2 groups, British Associations and Royal Marines, who all now reside in Australia. The parade lasted for about three hours from the first to the last of the contingents, and the Australian Military really did themselves proud on that day. It really was a pleasure for me to attend, and I made many friends there. Hopefully I will be going back to Brisbane in the future to visit my family, with my wife Beryl of course, and I will make sure that I take my blazer, medals and beret with me. Later in the afternoon we visited the Brisbane War Memorial with its ever burning flame for service men and women who over the years had paid the ultimate price with their lives during conflicts. I was also very pleased to meet Australian Wartime Commandos with their distinctive Double Diamond cap badges on their Green Berets; the colours of the diamonds denoting the Commando which they belonged to. If anyone reading this is contemplating going to Australia or New Zealand, during the Anzac Day celebrations, then do take blazers, medal and berets with you. Join the celebrations and be rest assured, you will have a glorious day, which you will cherish for years to come.



Gerry and his wife Beryl at the Brisbane War Memorial



Commando Chronicles



From Mountain Artillery to Commando Artillery: An adapted version of an account written recently by Geoff Tudor for the Royal Artillery Journal of how 1 Commando Brigade and the 1st Mountain Regiment RA came together in March 1945. Geoff is author of 'Hoofprints in the Clouds – Jeep Tracks in the Mud' (ISBN 978-1906206-32-1)

The Story of 1st Mountain Regt. R.A., 1945: For two and a half years the regiment formed part of 52 (Lowland) Division, training in Scotland for mountain warfare. In the summer of 1944 - at very short notice - they swapped mules for jeeps and -stood by in Lincolnshire for an air-landing role in the Arnhem operation. An assault mission at Flushing in November was followed by an anti-mortar role during the winter campaign of 1944-45. Then the regiment became 'Commando Artillery' for the Rhine Crossing and the remaining battles of the war in Germany.

Coming Together - 1st Mountain Regiment and 1 Commando Brigade first came together in the final stages of Operation Veritable, the battle for the territory between the Rhine and the Maas. Both formations were in a sense 'spare numbers'. The mountain gunners were surplus to 52 Div's three field regiments - hence the counter-mortar role. The commandos had been diverted from employment in the Far East because of the Ardennes crisis: once in the battle, with infantry in short supply, a series of tasks was found for them. So it came about that mountain gunners found themselves supporting commandos, as the Regimental History describes: *The road from Afferdon to Well, about ten miles south, was cratered every hundred yards, and the craters and road verges mined with A.P. mines and booby traps. In spite of these difficulties the sappers, who suffered several casualties in doing so, cleared and repaired the road for traffic in a remarkably short time. The guns had to be brought up, across country, which necessitated a good deal of manhandling.*

The dash with which the guns were brought forward in the advance to Well inspired among the commandos a respect which quickly became affection. Ahead lay the task of assaulting many great rivers: in this task the Brigade demanded the continuing support of the regiment they came to look upon as 'Our Gunners'. The two units worked, together from February until May - from the operations on the Maas to the storming of the Elbe and the advance to the Baltic. Hilary St. George Saunders wrote in *The Green Beret*, 'the bonds of friendship, forged in battle, were hoops of steel.'

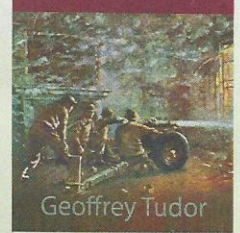
Operation Plunder - the Rhine Crossing - It was 10 March when, protected from air strikes by fog and heavy drizzle, the last of the German defenders crossed to the east bank and the Rhine bridges were blown. Just thirteen days later the river was stormed. Montgomery has been accused of being dilatory and over-cautious, but this was a massive feat of organisation. A million and a half men had been deployed, with all their vehicles and supplies. By D-Day 250,000 tons of ammunition and other material had been lifted to dumps close to the battlefield. General Simpson's 9th American Army was to cross on an 11-mile front south of Wesel: Dempsey's 2nd British Army on a 12 mile front stretching northwards from Wesel to Rees. Key to the whole operation was Wesel itself, a vital communication centre for road and rail and the boundary between British and American sectors. Its capture was the responsibility of 7th Armd Div for whom a quick success was imperative: the task was given to 1 Commando Brigade, with the mountain gunners in support.

The Commando role at Wesel: Artillery 'the Core of the Plan' - An opposed river crossing against prepared positions is one of the 'most hazardous of military operations - in January 1944 the American 36th Division lost over 1,000 men in a disastrous attempt to storm the Rapido River in Italy. The Rapido was only 50 feet across, whereas the Rhine at Wesel was a formidable obstacle: over 400 yards wide, its stream ran at about 5 knots, and flood dykes (bunds) rose to a height of fifteen to twenty feet. Brigadier Mills-Roberts decided to repeat the 'Heights of Abraham' infiltration technique developed so successfully in Normandy. He later explained his battle plan in his Five Rivers Report: *Any form of frontal assault was considered out of the question. - Surprise and speed must be the keynote of the attack. Therefore it was decided to cross at the most unpromising place, Grav Insel, a mud flat which was practically an island some four thousand yards west of Wesel. Once ashore and the bridgehead established, then the route into Wesel must be the most improbable and unsuspected ... In order to complete the deception of the enemy no trace of the force must be found in the bridgehead area after daylight. The whole force must disappear into Wesel, leaving the enemy in complete ignorance as to the strength of the force or its whereabouts.*

Once again his commandos would follow a 3" wide track of white minefield tape: moving in Indian file at the double the whole brigade could" pass a given point in 20 minutes. Arriving in Wesel on the heels of an R.A.F. raid, they would seize just the northern and north-western sectors. It was a town of 24,000 people, large enough to swallow up several brigades, so no attempt would be made to clear the whole area. Their mission would be to seize a redoubt, and then hold it against all counter-attacks, until reinforced from across the river and by the two airborne divisions that would land beyond Wesel on the following day .. In this way the German prepared positions along the waterfront would be outflanked: -It would be the commandos who would be occupying known positions protected by artillery fire plans, the Germans who would be attacking over open ground. The threat from enemy tank attacks was reckoned to be small, and it would be difficult to move anti-tank guns along their approach route Brig Mills-Roberts described the support plan:

It was therefore decided to rely on the rubble of Wesel, a liberal issue of captured panzer-fausts, and artillery support to deal with any enemy armour. In this last connection the Brigade was fortunate enough to have under command the 1st Mountain Regt. RA. The officers and signallers of this regiment had been specially trained to carry their heavy No 22 sets for long distances and maintain communications on the move. The excellence of artillery communications in this and in subsequent operations proved a decisive factor. It was vital that they should be excellent, for the artillery was the core of the plan, and a vast number of guns were controlled by the O.Ps.

Hoofprints in the Clouds -
Jeep Tracks in the Mud



Geoffrey Tudor





CVA Information



23 January 2010

Henry Eric Harden VC - Service of Remembrance Saturday 23 January 2010

The family of 'Doc' Harden would like you to join them for a Service of Remembrance to mark the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of his death in action. To be held at 11am on 23rd January 2010 at All Saints Church, Perry Street, Northfleet, Kent. There will be a buffet lunch available (cost £5) following the Service at the SJAB Eric Harden VC Memorial Hall, Hall Road, Northfleet. RSVP: Julia Wells, Four Winds, North Green, Reymerston, Norfolk, NR9 4RD. Tel: 01362 858630. Email: fourwinds@waitrose.com



Please indicate if you will be joining them for the buffet as they need to know numbers.

28 January 2010

Lt George Knowland VC - Visit to Elmwood School Thursday 28 January 2010

Our annual visit to Elmwood School in Croydon to celebrate Lt George Knowland VC will take place on Thursday 28 January. Those wishing to attend should aim to arrive at approx. 1330hrs. Dress for Commandos: blazers, medals, green berets. Others: Smart. A light buffet and refreshments will be provided by the school.



April 2010

St George's Day celebrations at the Royal Hospital Chelsea April 2010

We shall convene at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for St Georges Day celebrations on a day to be confirmed in April. Details will be posted on the website or please call nearer to the time for confirmation of date and timings. Dress for Commandos: blazers, medals, green berets. Others: Smart. A buffet lunch will be provided, costs to be confirmed. Please make an effort to attend this event, set in such a wonderful location.



25-27 June 2010

Commando Summer Service and 70th Anniversary of the Commandos at the National Memorial Arboretum, Lichfield.

Our Commando Summer Service shall take place over the Armed Forces Weekend. The format will follow that of last year with the meet and greet at the Ramada Hotel in Appleby Magna on the Friday evening. Saturday will be the main event which will include our own 70th Anniversary celebrations with Commando stands and displays amongst those of the main NMA displays. We are hoping to have something special for entertainment on the Saturday evening and our Commando Service on Sunday morning at 10.30hrs. Further accommodation details for this weekend can be obtained from Fred Davies on 01217 458494 or 07980754478.

We hope to see you all there, book early to avoid disappointment.

70th
Anniversary

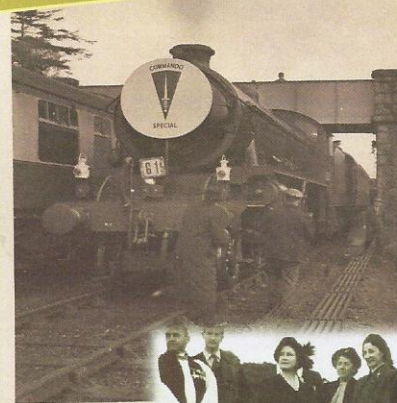
Darby Watkins has spent the past 12 months researching and writing a biography about his uncle, Col.

William O. Darby of Ranger fame; he is about 60% done. Does anyone know of any Commandos with remembrances of shared actions with the Rangers in Sicily and Italy? Also, he is interested in their opinion (on any aspect) of the Rangers from prejudices (good/bad) to training to legacy to anything else of interest. He is also looking for info and contacts from any surviving crew members, Commandos and/or relatives who served/sailed on HMS Royal Ulsterman, HMS Princess Emma, HMS Princess Beatrix, HMS Ulster Monarch, and HMS Royal Scotsman. Any unique and rare photos (and the ability to publish them) would be wonderful. Any help would be greatly appreciated by Darby. Contact him through the Secretary or at darby@starstream.net



Col William O. Darby

The Commando Express



The Commando Express departing Glasgow Central Station for Spean Bridge on the day of the unveiling of the Commando Memorial by the Queen Mother in 1952.





CVA Memories and Obituaries



Obituaries

We say a final farewell to the following Commandos:

Major (later Lt. Col.) Robert S.M. LAIRD No 5 Cdo

Cfn Ronald W. PRIOR 3 Bde

Pte Leonard MARSDEN No 3 Cdo

Pte Leonard REED No 6 Cdo

LCpl Alan J. (Bill) SEAL No 4 Cdo

Pte D.H. MALAN No 5 Cdo

Gnr Norman FIELD No 2 Cdo

LBdr Alan George HIELDS No 2 Cdo

Tpr P.M. WOODS No 3 Cdo

Capt (Dr) John TULLOCH MC 45 RM Cdo

Pte William (Bill) LAWSON No 2 Cdo

Cpl William F. HOOPER No 2 Cdo

Sgt Georges M. GERARD Belg. Tp. 10 IA Cdo

CSM Eric Charles RODDIS No 3 Cdo

LSgt Frank BARTON No 6 Cdo

Pte W.G. HAWKINS No 9 Cdo

Pte W. DORAN No 1 Cdo

Gnr R.A. JONES No 1 Cdo

Lt W. MATTHEWS 10 IA Cdo

Pte Maurice William OAKLEY No 6 Cdo

Pte Harry J. GOSNELL No 3 Cdo

Gnr Norman RAMSAY No 9 Cdo

Spr J.H. NEWMAN No 3 Cdo & No 8 Cdo

Pte Ronald 'Lofty' BAIRSTOW No 5 Cdo

Lt William C. ADAM No 3 Cdo

Cpl Douglas L. ROBERTS No 12 Cdo & No 5 Cdo

Pte William Patrick READ No 3 Cdo

Sig D. HEAP 2 Bde Sigs

Pte Norman L. BRADLEY No 6 Cdo

Rfn T.J. HUBBARD No 5 Cdo

Pte John E. PHILP No 6 Cdo

Pte Thomas Henry LAWS No 6 Cdo

Lt William NASH CBTC

Cpl. Daniel CALDERWOOD No 9 Cdo

Pte John BENDER No 1/5 Cdo & 3 Bde

Rfn Alfred McLONE No 7 Cdo

Pte D.H. WEBB No 4 Cdo

LCpl John E. WALKER 1 Bde Sigs

Cpl Arthur GARRITY No's 12 Cdo, 6 Cdo & 5 Cdo

Pte George Vincent TYREMAN No 4 Cdo

Pte John D. (Jack) DOWNING No 9 Cdo

Lt Reginald F. WILLS No 3 Cdo

2Lt G.R. PATTERSON No 2 Cdo

Gdsmn Thomas B. HOLEHAN No 3 Cdo

Cpl Geoffrey JOHNSTONE No 9 Cdo

Ron 'Ken' YOUNG No 9 Cdo

Cpl Ernest W POYNTZ No 1 Cdo

Ron EVERTON 47 RM Cdo

Norman C HYDER CBTC

Also:

Maggie O'HARA (wife of Harvey No 4 Cdo)

Irene QUARRIE (wife of Jack No 9 Cdo)

Daniel 'Danny' Macfarlane DAVIDSON -

5 Troop No 3 Commando. Dan saw action on D Day and in France where he was wounded on 4 August 1944 at Le Mesnil. He was a staunch member of the Glasgow Branch of the Commando Association and an avid attendee each year at the Commando Service at Spean Bridge, where his ashes were scattered on Remembrance Day last. He leaves his beautiful wife Nan and his family, all who thought the world of him; he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



We shall remember them

CVA Memorial Pavers



LCpl Ram Patten, a serving Royal Marine, is intending to organise 'March 4 Honour' which will be a speed march a sponsored

Front cover: View from the Commando Memorial towards Fort William immediately after the Commando Service on Sunday 8th November 2009.

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COMMANDO



Merchandise



CVA logo - note this photo shows correct green of polo-shirts.



Sleeve: Combined Ops Logo and text

Polo Shirts - These are great quality and have either CVA logo or Fighting Knife (5cm) on left chest area and the Combined Ops & 'United We Conquer' logo on right sleeve. Sizes: M to XL. Colours: **Black Green £15.50** - Don't forget colour & size.



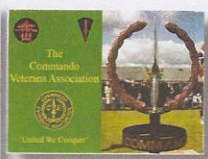
CVA Lapel pin
Diameter 20mm
£3



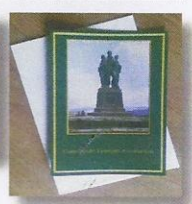
Associate Member Lapel Pin
Diameter 20mm
£3



CVA Blazer Badge
Diameter 95mm
£8.50



CVA Greeting Cards Plain or Xmas
207mm x 150mm
Pack of 10 - £4
Pack of 20 - £6



Greeting Cards - Blank interior Spean bridge Commando Memorial.
Pack of 10 - £3.20
Pack of 20 - £5.20



CVA Tie
Polyester
CVA Motif with fighting knives and 'United We Conquer' on blade. £9



1st Pattern Fighting Knife Tie Pin
30mm
£3.50



1st Pattern Fighting Knife Cuff Links 30mm
£5.50



CVA Ballpoint Pens (pack of 6)
CVA logo and website on body - FS knife on clip. Only £5.80 for pack of 6

Commemorative Covers - The CVA offer limited edition Commemorative Covers which will now be produced every 12 months (due to workload) as opposed to every 6 months as previously stated. We started with Lt George A Knowland VC and intend to produce the remainder of the eight Commando VC winners and continue with other Commando events thereafter. These beautifully made covers will pass on the history of the Commandos and inevitably become very collectable. They will include envelope with artwork, double sided cover with artwork/history and this first edition has an authentic Achnacary Post Office post-mark and CVA stamp. They are now priced at £4.99 which includes p&p. Next one coming soon.



Postage included in prices shown!

We will be ordering an alternate style of pens in the New Year.



Ladies British Hallmarked Silver Brooch - These are of a bespoke design and have proved very popular over the years. Fighting knife approx. 35mm in length. They are a beautiful piece and a fantastic price. Also available as a pendant (chain not included) £55

New!

New for 2010 - we shall have our second Commemorative Cover, an alternate style of pens and ladies silk scarves in 2010. These will be added to the website and the next edition of Dispatches.

It is preferable that orders are made by post or e-mail, however we also have a web-shop where you can order on-line, however all payments must be made by cheque to 'CVA'.

Annual subscriptions - Please note:

It is unfortunate that we are again having to address the issue of non-payment of annual subscriptions:

Firstly let me explain that the reason our subscriptions are so low, a mere £8 per year, is due to the following factors:
1. Our running costs are minimal; mainly stationery, printing, postage and a few other miscellaneous expenses. 2. All other costs such as memorial pavers, wreaths and annual events are covered by the profit from sale of CVA merchandise and our annual draw; small donations that we receive go towards our memorial fund. 3. The day to day running of the association including membership, website, memorial pavers, merchandise, newsletters, welfare support etc, and organisation of CVA events throughout the year come free of charge by way of a small handful of volunteers.

Secondly let me explain that although our subscriptions are low, we depend on them. If members continue to fail to pay their subscriptions, then as an association we shall no longer be able to function as we do and to achieve our association aims. We shall no longer be able to produce and distribute our newsletters and support our Veterans, allowing them to keep in touch with each other; we shall no longer be able to organise the events that we do and we shall no longer be able to take forward the history of the Commandos. If it applies then please assist us by either paying your subs or advising us that you wish to cancel your membership.

Your subs are up to date - thank you!

and/or relatives who served/sailed on HMS Royal Ulsterman, HMS Princess Emma, HMS Princess Beatrix, HMS Ulster Monarch, and HMS Royal Scotsman. Any unique and rare photos (and the ability to publish them) would be wonderful. Any help would be greatly appreciated by Darby. Contact him through the Secretary or at darby@starstream.net

