



DISPATCHES

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



Patron: Countess Mountbatten of Burma CBE., MSC., CD., JP., DL.
President: Brigadier JF Thomas CBE (Retired) (No 6 Cdo) **Chairman:** Tpr Stan Scott (No 3 Cdo)

A Very Happy New Year for 2011 to all of our members!

**Issue 20
January 2011**

We are certain that you will agree that 2010 was yet another great year for the CVA, with many well attended events including the 70th anniversary of the forming of the Commandos at the National Memorial Arboretum in June and another amazing turn out at Fort William in November for the unveiling of the 'Commandos in Lochaber' commemorative stone and of course our Remembrance Service 'on the hill'.

Thank you for the many Xmas cards that we received at No 7, we hope that you all had a wonderful Xmas and that you all have a very healthy and prosperous 2011! We look forward to seeing you all at some point over the next few months, see page 6 for our forthcoming events.

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**Fort William 2010
See Centre-
spread**

Articles or photos for website.

If you have any articles or photos of interest that we can upload to our website then please send them in. They will then be available online for future generations to enjoy.

**Many thanks to
those who now
pay by Standing
Order!!!**

**2010 Prize
Draw Winners -
See page 3**

Articles for future editions of Dispatches.

Please send in any articles or pictures of interest, or any messages that you may have for our members. If you have any ideas for a regular article or column then please let us know.

**Please support
us by paying your
subs!**

If you are uncertain as to whether you have paid your subs for 2011 please just give us a call.



Words from your Committee



Presidents Space - "Although, like the old soldiers of the long gone British Empire and the Victorian music halls so many of our old comrades have faded away, those who were still with us and able made 2010 a memorable year. Every Association event was a great success and immensely enjoyable thanks to outstanding attendance and faultless organisation by our committee. A great vote of thanks to them.



The remembrance services at the National Memorial Arboretum and Spean Bridge gave everyone present a great sense of pride in the sacrifices and achievements of those who gave their lives in action or have just faded away as the years passed by - and the superb black granite commemorative stone unveiled by Donald Cameron of Lochiel on 13th November 2010 will be a lasting tribute to the people of Lochaber and Fort William who took us to their hearts.

On behalf of our distinguished Patron Lady Patricia Mountbatten of Burma and the Commando Veterans' Association I wish you and your families good health, success and good fortune for the coming year." *Jack Thomas*

Words from the Chairman - Greetings for the New Year to our Patron and all members of the CVA. Goodbye 2010, brilliant Fort William and new 'Commandos in Lochaber' commemorative stone, congratulations to all concerned. I am now almost fit again after my spinal operation in December and looking forward to 2011 - start at Elmwood School in Croydon and so to carry on. May you all be strong in resolve and carry forward the Commando spirit. Hope to see as many as possible in 2011. Cheers and may it be another successful year for the CVA.



Scotty

Secretary - Another year has passed with much success and positive development. The diary has been full and events well attended. In particular the 70th Anniversary of the forming of the Commandos at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas and our fabulous visit to Fort William in November which included the unveiling of the 'Commandos in Lochaber' commemorative stone. It is very sad that we continue to lose many of our wartime Commandos and so many faces were missed this year for Remembrance at the Commando Memorial; we shall always ensure that they will be remembered. Our membership of full and associate members continues to grow and the CVA website must now surely be the most abundant resource of British Commando history on the world-wide web. We have now upgraded the website with our 'host' and should therefore see it grow even more over the coming years. If you have any articles or pictures of Commando interest then **please send them in** to be uploaded to the website. We look forward to seeing you soon and wish you a healthy and prosperous 2011. *'United We Conquer'*

The results of our **National Draw** and those of the local draw held in Fort William are detailed below. Many thanks to those who purchased tickets, the proceeds of which went towards the funding of the 'The Commandos in Lochaber' commemorative stone. Many thanks also to all of those who donated prizes. Congratulations to the many winners - some awesome prizes this year I am sure you will agree!! Please note that the local draw has some **unclaimed prizes** - please give us a call if you have one of the tickets highlighted in colour. Thank you!

CVA Fort William Draw 2010

Prize	Winner
Break for 2 DB&B- Alexandra Hotel	Claimed
Break for 2 BB- Alexandra Hotel	ORANGE 386-390
Break for 2 DBB- Ben Nevis Hotel	Claimed
Break for 2 BB- Ben Nevis Hotel	Claimed
£100 Cash	Claimed
£100 Cash	GREEN 816 - 820
£50 Cash	Claimed
£50 Cash	C laimed
£50 Cash	Claimed
Nevis Range Gondola Ride for 4	YELLOW 101 - 105
Nevis Range Gondola Ride for 4	Claimed
Ben Nevis Distillery Visit for 4	Claimed
Ben Nevis Distillery Visit for 4	Claimed
3 x Bottles of Cava	Claimed
3 x Bottles of Cava	Claimed
Bottle 12 Year Single Malt	Claimed
Bottle Pig's Nose Scotch Whiskey	GREEN 566 - 570
Bottle 10 Year Single Malt	Claimed
Bottle 12 Year Scotch Whiskey	BLUE 181 - 185
6 Bottles Champaign	Claimed
Electric Fan Heater	Claimed
Electric Fan Heater	Claimed
Oil Painting	Claimed

CVA National Draw 2010 Winners

Prize	Winner
22" LCD TV/DVD	Pete Rogers, Kinghorn - Tkt No 03380
M&S Luxury Hamper	Alistair Gibson, Glenfinnan - Tkt No 1198
M&S Luxury Hamper	BP Wilson, Devon - Tkt No 0249
Case of Wines (12)	S Scott Jnr, Blandford - Tkt No 05265
Samsung Digi Camera	Michael Moore, Warwick - Tkt No 1861
M&S Vouchers £50	S Scott Jnr, Blandford - Tkt No 05263
M&S Vouchers £50	V Gartside, Oldham - Tkt No 1540
M&S Vouchers £30	LR Addison, Lincoln - Tkt No 04359
M&S Choco Hamper	B Bragg, Plymouth - Tkt No 0126
M&S Festive Treats	B Pugh, Flint - Tkt No 04002
M&S Pamper Hamper	H Gingell, Kent - Tkt No 09785



Getting Married - Bob, age 92, and Irene, age 89, living in Devon, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a chemist. Bob suggests they go in. Bob addresses the man behind the counter: "Are you the owner?" The pharmacist answers, "Yes." Bob: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?" Pharmacist: "Of course we do." Bob: "How about medicine for circulation?" Pharmacist: "All kinds." Bob: "Medicine for rheumatism?" Pharmacist: "Definitely." Bob: "How about suppositories?" Pharmacist: "You bet!" Bob: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, and Alzheimer's?" Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works." Bob: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?" Pharmacist: "Absolutely." Bob: "Everything for heartburn and indigestion?" Pharmacist: "We sure do." Bob: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers and canes?" Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes." Bob: "Adult incontinence pants?" Pharmacist: "Sure." Bob: "We'd like to use this store for our wedding presents list."



www.commandosbenevolentfund.org.uk



The Commandos Benevolent Fund



Wartime Memories



Termoli, ITALY - Jack Cox (No 12 and No 3 Commando) continued from Dispatches Issue 18.....

With the reorganising of our slit-trench positions followed the retreat of the SAS on our right flank, the 78th Div Vickers machine gun was forward in the trees of our new positions and kept up a good rate of fire against the distant oncoming enemy infantry and tanks, with the Vickers 'cone' of rounds fired, falling around infantry ranks, which only a Vickers machine gun expertly handled could produce at long distance, clearly slowing up the distant second wave of the enemies advance, as the result, enemy artillery concentrated their shell fire on the Vickers machine gun position just forward of 6 Troops lines. Despite this, with shells exploding all around, the Vickers kept up its high rate of fire and from its position I could plainly hear cries of "more ammunition", as the belt fed ammo was being used up at a fast rate. I recall well being filled with huge admiration for the courage of the Vickers machine gun crew, it seemed to me at the time that they would be winning medals for their sheer guts, their position being massively stonked by concentrated enemy shelling and they never seeking slit-trench protection, but just continued their non-stop high rate of fire at the advancing enemy. I discovered later that Corporal Harrison, of 2 Troop 3 Commando, on seeing at one stage the Vickers crew removing the guns cocking handle and attempting on two occasions to depart to the rear, he ordered them at gun point, with his Colt 45 automatic revolver to ensure they continued firing the Vickers, Corporal Harrison himself suffering from shrapnel wounds to the head and leg. The shouts of "more ammunition, more ammunition" being repeated over and again coming from Corporal Harrison (Peter Young's book 'Storm from the Sea' refers). That was the situation on 6 Troop's front until the advancing second wave of the enemy were near enough for us to engage them with rifle and Bren gun. With our Troop Commander Captain John Reynolds a casualty, Lieutenant John Alderson took over as 6 Troop Commander. The first Jerry infantry attack on 6 Troops position occurred with a series of white Very lights in the direction of their advance up the long wooded slope leading to our ridge - Lieutenant Alderson positioned himself ahead of my slit-trench, half crouched behind a shell battered olive tree - his orders were not to open fire until he gave the order. I could see German infantry in great-coats advancing cautiously up the slope and had my rifle in steady aim at one of them, awaiting the order to open fire. The order came with enemy about 50 yards away, with Lieutenant Alderson - normally quietly spoken - shouting above the din of battle with shells exploding elsewhere - "Fire 6 Troop, fire, fire, fire" which we did, my targeted German falling backwards and sideways as my first shot struck him. The first firing Spandau machine-guns had also opened up onto our positions firing tracer rounds - possibly to intimidate giving away their positions, which Jack Leech took full advantage with his Bren not firing tracer by knocking out each Spandau in turn. Once we riflemen opened fire Jerry infantry went to ground undergrowth on the wooded slope; in the failing light I was reduced to just firing at enemy gun flashes. After the first attack enemy withdrew to reform; with whistles being blown by the enemy, they launched further attacks up the wooded slope with Lieutenant Anderson still controlling 6 Troops response from his battered olive tree position. With intense fire by rifle and Bren (I felt sure my rifle barrel was red hot) we held 6 Troop lines intact until these infantry attacks ceased which by then it was dark. - Former CO of 3 Cdo, Colonel Dumford-Slater (DSO & Bar) was acting Brigadier of our Commando Brigade for the Termoli operation. In his post-war book "Commando" he wrote, referring to 3 Cdo's defence of that ridge: "The fighting raged. No 3 Commando still out in front were giving their finest performance of the war. Hammered by tanks, pounded by guns, attacked by infantry, left and bleeding on their flanks by retreat of another unit, they did not budge from their positions". - 6 Troop lines had again to be re-organised to ensure more solid defence of 3 Cdo's might flank and we dug-in once again. Shortly afterwards 'Pud' Saunders, a Londoner and very useful amateur middle weight boxer, also a friend of mine, appeared out of the night at my slit-trench, prodding with his rifle a tall bare headed unarmed German soldier, overcoat open at the front, with sheafs of army type toilet paper in his hand. I instinctively said to 'Pud' "That's all we need - what are we going to do with him?" Pud replied, "Couldn't help it - he just walked into our listening post" The German later admitted at 3 Cdo HQ on the ridge that he was of the 16th German Panzer Division. The toilet paper indicated why the German had been wandering about unarmed: it was also indicated how near to our ridge positions the enemy were, having moved up under cover of darkness. It was not long before we could hear them talking, we also saw the red glow of cigarettes being puffed. - A Spandau machine gun opened up from our rear together with rifle fire. Nobby Knowland our Sgt calmly gave the order, "Watch your rear, engage enemy on sight" which we did with rifle and Bren. I was convinced at that stage we of 3 Cdo were surrounded by the enemy, completely cut-off on our ridge from the main body of Commando Brigade. We then received the order to cease fire to conserve ammunition and everyone to remain on 'Stand-to'. - Over to the left flank of our ridge haystacks were well alight (ignited by shell fire) their huge blaze illuminating that area and two German stationary tanks were clearly visible with their big guns pointing ominously along the length of our ridge. Tank crews were on foot outside tanks consuming food from mess tins. To conserve ammo made sense as it was clear, come the dawn, enemy would attack and we would need all the ammo we had left, in this case about 40 rounds which would not last long in a fire fight. Jack Leech told me he had hardly anything left for his Bren. - I was 18 years of age, been a soldier since 16yrs (lied about my age), a Commando since 17 years, had seen active service with No. 12 Commando in enemy occupied Norway, also saw action with 3 Commando when we had previously invaded from the sea the toe of Italy, and that, together with my experience with 6 Troop on the ridge, convinced me that come the dawn, our terrific Commando leaders of all ranks, would fight it out to the bitter end. At that stage of my war I was as yet still a 'Trooper' and Commando 'follower' adapting to whatever action our superb 'Commando Leaders' decided to take, in whom I had developed complete trust. - Accordingly, I considered, come the enemy dawn attack, I would probably be looking at my own death in the face. At stand to in my slit trench that night, my thoughts inevitably turned to my family back home, all of whom, including myself, believed in the Christian faith, and the strong possibility of they receiving the dreaded 2nd World War Telegram informing them I had been 'Killed in action'. I said a few silent prayers in that respect to my parents, brother and sister. - After a long night, watching my front on 'Stand-to' the unexpected happened. Tony Turner, our Troop Sgt Major appeared instructing that I fix my bayonet, take all my equipment and arms with me and make my way silently as possible to the rear of the ridge - then moved on to the next slit trench, presumably with the same message. - At that time, unknown to me (or to the others of 6 Troop) Captain Hopson of 3 Cdo, together with his batman, had previously succeeded in finding a gap in the enemy lines surrounding us, made their way to Termoli to report to Commando Brigade HQ thus (Peter Young's book 'Storm From the Sea' refers): "he explained 3 Cdo was surrounded on three sides by enemy at fifty to a hundred yards. It was evident that unless they were withdrawn before dawn, they would inevitably be annihilated". Captain Hopson was then ordered to return to our ridge and lead 3 Cdo back to Termoli. - When I arrived at the back of the ridge I saw all our wounded lined up in single file, a few on stretchers, and the majority on blankets for the wounded to be carried by Commandos grasping firmly each corner of the blanket. Orders were being whispered so as not to alert the enemy. We lined up in single file with the wounded and moved off as silently as possible to make our way through the gap in enemy lines to withdraw to Termoli. If attacked we would respond accordingly. Immediately in front of me was a severely wounded Commando, semi-conscious, being carried on a blanket his body hunched up in considerable pain judging from the sounds he was making, which I felt certain would soon alert the enemy. That did not happen, as my next strong memory is of us arriving in the streets of Termoli which were filled with steel helmeted British troops, who it transpired were an infantry battalion of 32 Irish Brigade. They were put ashore from a troop ship that night as re-enforcements in readiness for the expected dawn attack by the German Panzer Division. As we carried on in single file, carrying our wounded, fully armed as a fighting unit, foot-slogging it past those fresh British troops, murmurings came to my ears from their midst, clearly saying "Well done Commandos, well done" over and over again. I presumed they must have been made aware of 3 Commando's performance holding on to the ridge, where I personally had experienced, at different times, almost every known human emotion. As a result of those impromptu unexpected compliments from British soldiers, just for a moment or two, I felt ridiculously proud. 3 Commando were put in reserve at Termoli Railway Station, we of 6 Troop ended up in the railway station's large buffet (no sign of eats - I did look) with its sizable glass windows in smithereens all over the floor, where we laid our weary backs hoping to snatch a cat-nap. - Dawn broke with enemy aircraft bombing the railway station and we were immediately on Stand-to, in reserve, by the railway tracks, with Jerry Spandau machine gun fire coming through in our direction. The other units at Termoli were front line of defence; in this renewed Panzer Division attack by tanks and infantry, we of 3 Commando took up a second defence line in the outskirts of the railway station being still in reserve. Then a most welcome sight - Canadian tanks in numbers and they seemed in a hurry appeared from the south, positive proof that the remainder of the Eighth Army 78th Division, stranded on the wrong side of the Biferno River, had finally made it across with Canadian tanks leading the way. The Royal Engineers having performed brilliantly getting pontoons over the river despite all the severe flooding of that water obstacle together with air attacks by Luftwaffe aircraft. - Reinforced by the rest of the 78th Div from the south together with RAF rocket firing Typhoons which appeared in the skies taking on enemy tanks, an exhilarating spectacle to behold. That last day was one hell of a battle with every gun, mortar, tank, aircraft, multi small arms fire, putting up overwhelming fire power until finally the 16th Panzer Division cleared off for good. The battle for Termoli and its deep water harbour having been won. -

Colonel Dumford-Slater DSO & Bar wrote in his post war book "Commando":- "Monty (General Montgomery) was delighted we had secured and held Termoli for him. The Commando Brigade's action had helped the Eighth Army forward and had saved him from having to fight for the line of the Biferno River. It had also secured a useful harbour next to the front line where men and supplies could be landed. It had been a very near thing."

Post script - 3 Commando's stubborn resistance for some 36 hours on that strategic ridge (with their much reduced strength for the Termoli operation numbering 174 Commandos) delayed considerably the Panzer Division's ultimate objective of a full blown attack to capture Termoli town and deep water harbour. This delay allowed the bulk of 78th Div, marooned on the other side of the Biferno River, the time to surmount the watery obstacle and get through to us at Termoli, also for air support by rocket firing Typhoon aircraft to be organised. The casualty rate for 3 Commando defending that ridge was surprisingly light, with 8 killed or missing, 28 wounded. Our casualties of course could well have been a lot worse - but in war we were always grateful for small mercies.

ADDENDUM Termoli the aftermath:-

Many of No.3 Commando at Termoli distinguished themselves in battle subsequently receiving awards. 6 Troop's awards as follows :-

Captain John Reynolds - 3 Cdo's 6 Troop Commander, sustained serious wounds - awarded "Military Cross".

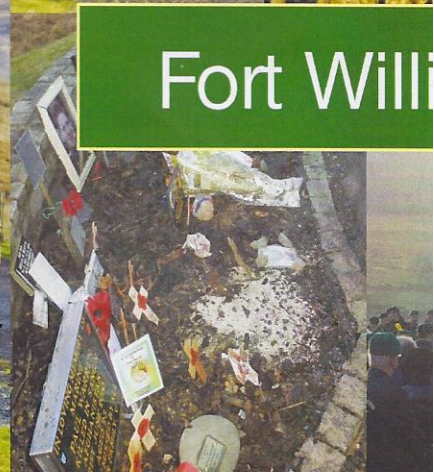
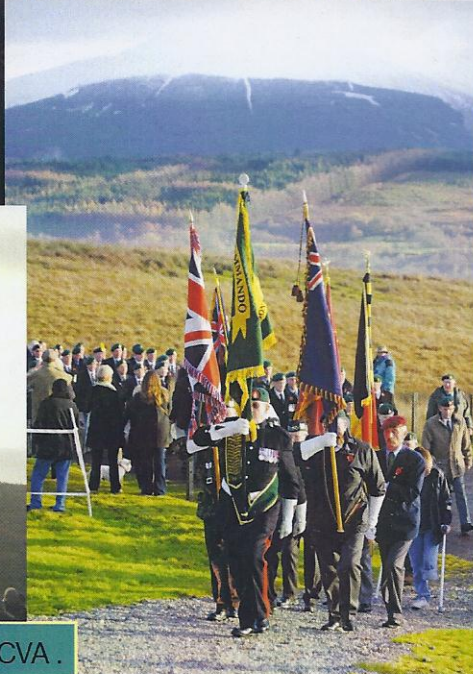
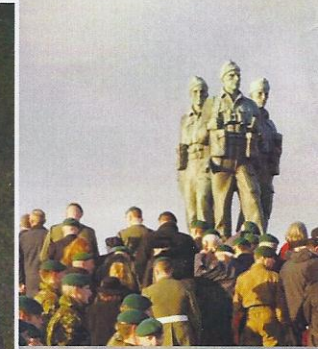
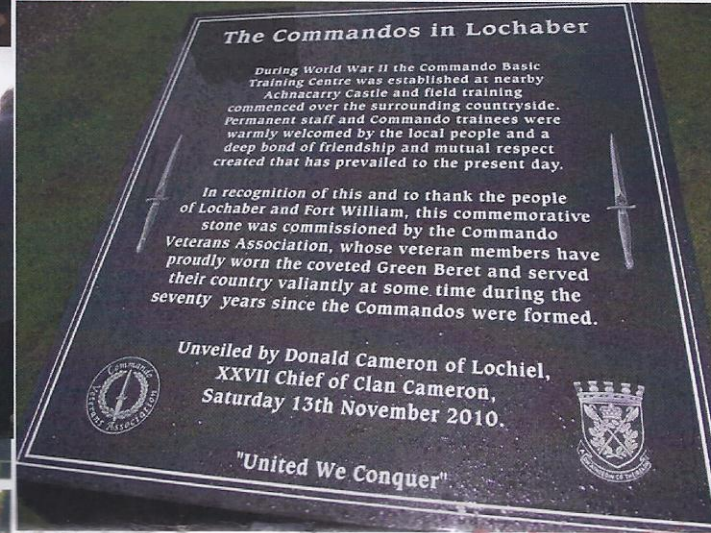
Lieutenant John Alderson - 3 Cdo, 6 Troop took over command of 6 Troop once Captain Reynolds finally agreed to be removed to the rear, awarded "Military Cross".

Corporal Harrison - 3 Cdo 2 Troop, but in 6 Troops lines overseeing Vickers machine gun crew of 78th Div - promoted to Officer Rank of Lieutenant, and posted to No. 6 Cdo.

Trooper Jack Leech - 3 Cdo, 6 Troop Bren Gunner - promoted to Sergeant no commissioned rank - awarded "Military Medal".

Sergeant 'Nobby' Knowland - 3 Cdo, 6 Troop, my sub-section Sergeant - promoted to Officer Rank of Lieutenant and posted to No.1 Commando in Burma Far East.

On 31st January 1945, Lieutenant ('Nobby') George Arthur Knowland of No.1 Cdo at battle for Hill 170, Kangaw, Burma, awarded a posthumous VICTORIA CROSS in circumstances of outstanding, incredible heroic courage.



Fort William

Photographs courtesy of various members of the CVA .



am 2010



CVA Information



12-15 November 2010

Remembrance Weekend in Fort William and the unveiling of the CVA Commemorative Stone - The Commandos in Lochaber.

The events this year in Fort William were very special indeed. The turnout was exceptional and we seem to have more relatives and friends turning out each year, mostly to accompany and support their father or Grandfather, many also to pay tribute and remember a loved one. The Lochaber School Wind and Pipe Band were on top form for our annual musical treat, many a Commando had a lump in their throat as the Pipe's belted out Highland Cathedral. Congratulations went to Lindsay Sedgwick (trumpet) and Leah Philips (bagpipes) for being awarded the Vic Ralph Certificate of Commendation and Commando Shield as Musicians of the Year for 2010 in their own category. The unveiling of the CVA's commemorative stone 'The Commandos in Lochaber' went very well considering the non-stop downpour. In good old Commando fashion the Veterans, families and friends, and people of Fort William gathered on the Parade (outside the Duncansburgh Church) to see the stone unveiled by the Lochiel, Donald Cameron, Chief of Clan Cameron. The stone is a significant and very warmly welcomed addition to the Parade in Fort William and being five tonne of solid granite should be there for many decades to come. The Highland Cadets were present for the unveiling and we took the opportunity to have the Lochiel present Cadet David Alexander with the CVA Certificate of Merit for 2010. Refreshments were enjoyed in the Alexandra Hotel afterwards where we all managed to dry out in time for the AGM which was well attended and included the presentations of Honorary Full Membership to Nick Collins and Pete Rogers for their outstanding contribution to the CVA website forum and gallery, and also to Ken Holroyd for his unerring support to the Commandos and the CVA over many years. The evening entertainment went very well with an excellent local draw prior to the CVA National Draw, the results of which are on Page 2 - many thanks to all of those who purchased draw tickets and congratulations to those who won a prize - next year will be even better. The Sunday morning Fort William town parade enjoyed sunshine once again with another great turn out. A special mention to our new Commando Parade Marshall, Dave 'Budgie' Burgess, who has picked up the reigns from our dear friend the late Jack Quarrie (No 9 Cdo). The Commando Parade on the hill at Spean Bridge was another exceptional turn-out with beautiful weather and breathtaking views across the Commando training grounds. See our centre-spread for pictures of the day. Another wonderful weekend of comradeship and remembrance with many old faces missed, and many new faces welcomed and promising to return in 2011. For those who have not experienced a trip to Fort William for Remembrance then please consider it whilst we still have the honour of having our wartime Commandos in attendance - it is a very special occasion, the memories and feelings of which will stay in your heart for many a year to come.

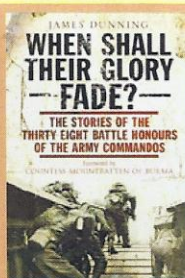


Operation HUSKY (Sicily 1943)

The BBC are planning on making a major TV series which will include a program about Operation HUSKY (the Allied invasion of Sicily in 1943). Any veteran members who played a part in Op HUSKY who would be willing to assist in the making of the program are requested to contact the Secretary asap.

WHEN SHALL THEIR GLORY FADE?

The long awaited book from our dear friend Major Jimmy Dunning (No 4 Cdo) will be published on 31 Jan 2011. The book gives a remarkable, vivid and honest account of the battles and actions behind the thirty eight Battle Honours that were awarded to the Army Commandos by Her Majesty the Queen in 1958. Available from Pen & Sword books.



Next edition! - An abridged version of the **No 11 (Scottish) Commando - Litani River** story by Ian McHarg who has recently wrote a book on the very subject. See www.litaniriver.com

Please send in your messages or articles for the next edition of Dispatches in May 2011!!!!

Commando D Living History Group attempt the Ben - On 12th November 2010, members of Commando D Living History



Group took on Ben Nevis in full Commando Battle Dress. They tackled severe highland weather and managed to ascend to 3000ft before making the very sensible decision to about turn and descend in good order. A great day was had by all. A testing experience, both physically and mentally and also for kit, improvisation, teamwork and decision making. They also managed to raise over £200 in aid of the Commando Veterans Association in the process which will go towards the funding of 'The Commandos in Lochaber' commemorative stone. Well done to all and many thanks from all members of the CVA!



Forthcoming Events for 2011

We would love to see you at our events throughout 2011.

Thursday 27 January 2011 - our next event will be our annual visit to Elmwood School in Croydon to celebrate Lt George Knowland VC. Commencing around 1330hrs. Dress: Medals and Green Berets for veterans.

Sunday 10 April 2011 - Our annual visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea to celebrate St George's Day will be earlier in April than normal in order to de-conflict with the London Marathon. Please arrive at 1000hrs for the parade. After the service in the Chapel we shall retire to the Hospital Social Club for refreshments. Dress: Medals and Green Berets for veterans.

Further details for the above events can be obtained from Sylvie Townshend on 0208 4734651

Also:

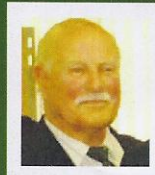
25/26 June 11 - Armed Forces Day and the Commando Summer Service - National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas.



Obituaries

We say a final farewell to the following Commandos:

Herbert George Edward HUGGETT No 62 Cdo died October 2010 aged 89 years
Bob OLDFIELD 46 RM Cdo died 12 October 2010 aged 88 years
Reginald Arthur FEARNALL 40 Cdo RM died October 2010 aged 72 years
Fus B MAYNARD No 6 Cdo died 4 June 2010 aged 83 years
Lt Derek WOODROLFE No 1 Cdo died 2010



Reginald 'Reg' TEAGER
No 1 Commando
Died December 2010 aged 92 years



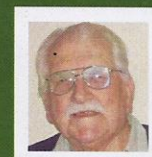
George WEBB
No 3 Commando
Died 13 January 2011



Oswald 'Ossie' MILLER
No 2 Commando
Died 17 December 2010 aged 89 years

Life seems more sweet that Thou didst live
And men more true Thou wert one;
Nothing is lost that Thou didst give,
Nothing destroyed that Thou hast done.

We shall remember them



Sgt Colin BARLOW
No 5 Commando
Died 29 December 2010 aged 88 years



Victor Oliver DAVIES
No 1 Commando
Died 6 December 2010



Constant Eduard 'Eddy' SMEETS
10 IA Commando
Died 29 October 2010 aged 88 years



Capt Douglas Ewart HARRIS MC
No 1 Commando
Died 14 June 2010 aged 88 years



Fred BROWN
No 3 Cdo & 1 Cdo Bde HQ
Died 6 October 2010 aged 84 years

Memorial Pavers

Leave an Everlasting Memorial

Memorial Pavers can be added to the Army Commando Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. Pavers cost only £25 which includes brick, paver, engraving and installation. Please allow 8 to 10 weeks for installation. Call Fred Davies on **Tel:01217 458494**



Ordering of Wreaths

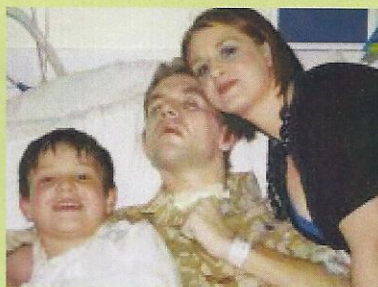
The Commando Benevolent Fund will provide wreaths for annual events such as trips to Normandy, Holland, Dieppe etc and for our annual CVA events at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Alrewas, Fort William and also for the Commando Plot in the Field of Remembrance. Wreaths for trips can be booked for delivery to a specific address. Quantities will be limited and only one order will be accepted per event.



Contact the National Secretary to place orders.

Please help!!

Fund Raising COAST TO COAST WALK 18th - 25th JUNE 2011 in aid of Cpl Simon Vaughan REME attached 29 Commando Regt RA



Simon with wife Donna and son Ben.

On 6th December 2008, Cpl Simon Vaughan (25) REME attached to 29 Commando, suffered horrific injuries when blown up whilst serving in Afghanistan. Simon's injuries were so severe that he has not yet been able to return home to his wife Donna and his son Ben. Simon's family purchased a bungalow in preparation for his return. However, during subsequent adaption work the family was to suffer a further devastating blow when the building was found to be 'unsafe'. They were left with no alternative but to organize a rebuild. Our team is aiming to raise funds to bring Simon home and help



his family to realize a dream. PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? For more information see the CVA Website forum or contact Paul Crampton (paulcrampton@gmail.com) Mobile: 07773787141

COMMANDO

Polo Shirts



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.

Merchandise



1st Pattern Fighting Knife
Tie Pin
30mm
£3.50



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



CVA Blazer Badge
Diameter 95mm
£8.50



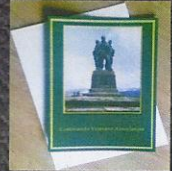
CVA Lapel pin
Diameter 20mm
£3



Associate Member
Lapel Pin
Diameter 20mm
£3



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 - £2.20
Pack of 20 - £4.20



Slate Coasters
Polished Welsh slate 100mm
£4.00 each

New!



Commemorative Covers -

At last! Our second commemorative cover is now available.

Cover 1 - Lt George A Knowland VC - £1.99

Cover 2 (as shown) - Lt Col Geoffrey CT Keyes VC, MC - £1.99



Blazer Buttons 22mm and 16mm
Price £1.00 each (min order 8)



Cuff Links 22mm
Price: £3.00 pair

Please note: These arrived and were not the quality we expected hence the low price. If you don't like them we will refund the cost.

New!

Remember!!! Postage included in prices shown!



Individual Rollerball Pens
Excellent value at £3.50

CVA Pens - CVA logo, website and FS knife. Black ink.



Ballpoint Pens
Only £5.80 for pack of 6



Ladies Pure Silk Scarves.
100% pure silk. Price: £18.00



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. Price: £58

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'.

Make life easy! Use our Standing Order Facility

Those members wishing to use our Standing Order facility *should obtain a Standing Order form from their bank* and complete it using the details below. Please make the effort - it will be very much appreciated!

Bank: Lloyds TSB **Branch:** Peterborough **Sort Code:** 30-96-60

Account Name: Commando Veterans Association **Account No:** 02627022

Your reference: Your surname and CVA membership number **Annual subs:** £8 (£10 overseas)

(Note: Overseas payment should be by Bankers Draft or cash to cover payment and exchange charges. Please do not send foreign cheques)