



The Bulldog Bulletin

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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The Newsletter of The Royal British Legion
California Branch No 1

August, 2012



READING



SHEFFIELD



BIRMINGHAM



PORTSMOUTH



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NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE



BRADFORD

RBL Chairman's August report,



The next meeting will be August 21st. at the War Memorial Building, Van Ness Ave, San Francisco **at 6:00 p.m.**

We would like to welcome our new member Patrick Eagan, from Tulsa, OK

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of one of our longtime members Wolfe Chater from Westlake Village, Southern California

I went where others feared to go,
And did what others failed to do.


I asked for nothing from those who gave nothing
And reluctantly accepted the thought
Of eternal loneliness... Should I fail.

I have seen the face of terror,
Felt the stinging cold of fear
And enjoyed the sweet
Taste of a moments love.

I have cried,
Pained, and
Hoped...

But most of all,
I have lived times others would only say
Were best forgotten.

At least someday I will be able to say that
I am proud of who I was...



A SOLDIER

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The names of two famous Scottish regiments

By DAVID MADDUX

Published on **Thursday 10 May 2012 00:00**

THE names of two famous Scottish regiments are set to be merged in a bid to mask cuts to the army, The Scotsman has learned.

The names of the Black Watch and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are to be brought together under a plan from Downing Street designed to ensure they are not lost as a result of cuts to the army.

The Scotsman has also learned that the government is considering scrapping another famous Scottish regimental name – the Scots Guards – because of its poor recruitment record. The plan will see The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, known as 5 Scots, abolished when the restructuring of the army is announced – probably in June – because it is the most junior battalion of the five in the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

However, its name will then be attached to the third battalion, the Black Watch in a bid to keep the traditions of the historic regiment alive and lessen the fury of its loss.

The new Black Watch and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders battalion will be part of a wider reorganisation of the army as it is reduced by 20,000 and the 17,000 troops in Germany are brought home.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, a tank regiment currently based in Germany will also be scrapped, whilst the Lowland Gunners 40 Regiment have already been disbanded.

Under plans approved in 2004, Scotland's five regiments became battalions under the Royal Regiment of Scotland – allowing them to save their historic names.

Now, The Scotsman has been told that the Scots Guards in the Household division are seriously under threat because, according to a Ministry of Defence source, it "has the worst recruitment record of the five Guards battalions".

It is understood, though, that with an independence referendum around the corner, the government is unwilling to scrap four of the ten Scottish raised battalions. That means the Coldstream Guards, the most junior of the battalions and which recruits in the north of England, is still believed to be more likely to get the axe.

The merger of two famous Scottish names is not unprecedented in recent history with one of the battalions left untouched – the Highlanders, fourth battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, is an amalgamation of the Gordons, Camerons and Seaforths.

An MoD source said: "This will be presented as a way of saving the names and if there are any objections then critics will be told 'it's happened with the Highlanders so why not the Black Watch and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders?'"

Senior Tory MP Patrick Mercer, a former army officer, has also been briefed on the plans.

He said: "It is clear that the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have gone. But what now appears to have been decided is that the MoD will add the name of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to that of the Black Watch because the MoD sees it as 3 Scots battalion.

"This will be an effort to minimise the damage but will probably just end up annoying everybody instead."



The government is acutely aware of the protests which the reorganisation of the army was met with in 2004 which included a march outside parliament and a petition with thousands of signatures.

The compromise then was to merge the old regiments into the Royal Regiment of Scotland leaving their regimental names with the new battalions. However, there are fears that the row over names in Scotland and in English regiments will mask a greater problem over what is happening to the UK's defence.

The government has been faced with much criticism of its Strategic Defence and Security Review published in 2010 which effectively unveiled huge cuts to the armed forces.

Clive Fairweather, a former senior commander in Scotland and ex-honorary Colonel in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, warned that the problem is that the issue will become "too focused on names".

The former second in command for the SAS said: "The real issue here is a loss of capability and a reduction in the size of our forces. The trouble is, as Libya showed us last year, you never know what is around the corner and these changes mean the UK will be ill-prepared to deal with it."

As well as provoking anger among former soldiers, the move is expected to become a major issue in the Scottish independence referendum with the SNP hoping to garner support from veterans.

SNP Westminster leader and defence spokesperson Angus Robertson MP said: "This is a flimsy attempt to mask the latest cut to our historic Scottish units that won't fool anyone. Adding the names together does not change the fact that we are effectively losing yet another historic unit."

The move is also likely to be opposed by Labour.

Former armed forces minister and former Labour MP for East Kilbride Adam Ingram said: "It is an outrageous way to treat men and women who serve in Her Majesty's Armed Forces."

Last night an MoD spokeswoman described the claims as "speculation". She added: "Work is ongoing on the review and no decisions have been made yet."

The Great Escape



The Scottish bus driver was giving a tour of Scotland to a group of tourists.

The tour went through the countryside and the driver would point out sights of interest. He drove by this one area and said, *"Over there is where the Scottish PULVERIZED the English."* They drove on a little further and the driver pointed to another area along the roadway and said, *"This is the place where the Scottish MASSACRED the English."* Not much further down the road the driver told his passengers that on the right was the great battlefield where the Scottish WHIPPED the English.

About that time a man on the bus, with a stiff English accent, said, *"My good man, didn't the English win any battles around here?"* *"Not when I'm driving the bus"* was the response.

How a former Bomber Boy regained his wings

The last time Squadron Leader Tony Iveson flew a Lancaster bomber on operations, his aircraft was so badly shot-up by a German fighter over Bergen that three of his seven crew bailed out, certain they were just moments from crashing.

By Gordon Rayner, Chief Reporter

8:04PM GMT 27 Oct 2008

But the 25-year-old pilot wasn't about to be beaten; despite losing an engine and with vital controls out of action, Mr Iveson managed to keep the stricken bomber in the air for several nerve-shattering hours before making an emergency landing on Shetland.

His courage on that day in January 1945 earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross but also signalled the end of his war, in which he had flown more than 20 missions over enemy territory with 617 Squadron, better known as the Dambusters.



After he had come so close to losing his life in a Lancaster, I was unsure how Mr Iveson would react when I tentatively asked him whether, 63 years on, he might like to fly in one again to help launch the Telegraph's Bomber Command memorial appeal.

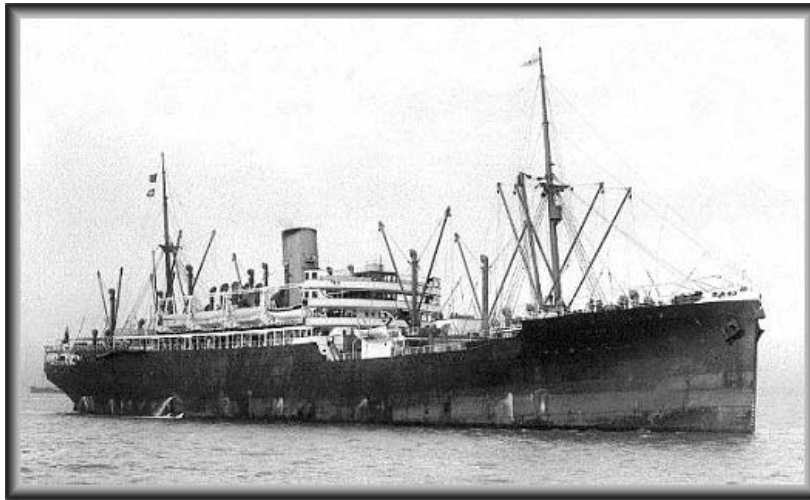
"I'd love to!" came his excited reply when I rang him at his home in Oxted, Surrey. At the age of 89, it was clear that his boyish enthusiasm for flying remained undimmed, as did his fondness for an aircraft which got him home safely so many times.

What neither of us knew was that, within weeks, Mr Iveson would not only be airborne but at the controls of a Lancaster, becoming the oldest person to fly the RAF's most famous bomber.

JERVIS BAY (November 5, 1940)

Originally built to carry emigrants to Australia, the Aberdeen and Commonwealth Line 14,164 ton liner was taken over by the Admiralty in 1939 and converted to an Armed Merchant Cruiser (MAC Ship) with a crew of 254 men. On the 5th of November the Jervis Bay was the sole escort for convoy HX-84 from Halifax to Britain and consisting of 37 freighters. When the convoy was attacked by the German battleship Admiral Scheer, the Jervis Bay engaged the Admiral Scheer in a desperate attempt to enable the convoy to escape.

In a twenty two minute battle the Jervis Bay's commander, Captain Fogarty Fegan, and most of his officers were killed. In all, 187 officers and crew were lost when the blazing ship sank 755 nautical miles (1,398 kilometres) south-southwest of Reykjavic, Iceland. Fifty six survivors were rescued by the Swedish freighter Stureholm (Capt. Sven Olander) but three died before reaching the port of Halifax. Captain Fogarty Fegan was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. On December 11, 1940, the Stureholm was sunk with all hands by the U-96. The Admiral Scheer went on to sink six other ships in the convoy which took the lives of another 251 men. On April 9, 1945, she was bombed and sunk by the RAF while at her anchorage in Kiel.



HMS Jervis Bay (F 40), Armed Merchant Cruiser, before its encounter with the Admiral Scheer.

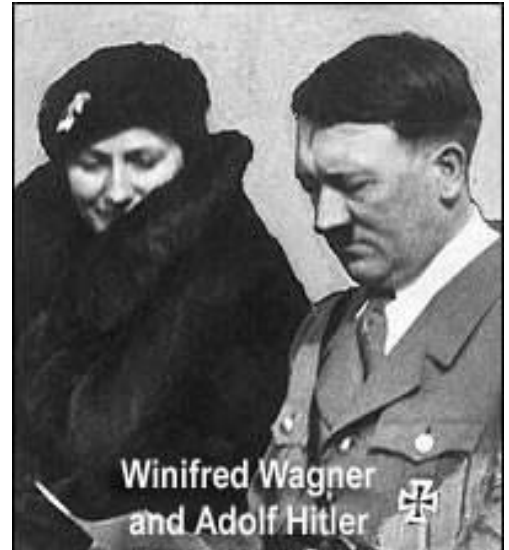
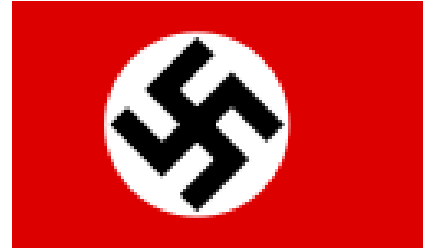


The Admiral Scheer combined a decent speed (26 knots), produced by 8 powerful diesel engines, with massive firepower, provided by six 280mm main guns, eight 150mm guns and six 105mm guns, as well as 8 torpedo launchers, and could cover 18000 miles without refueling. The idea behind the design of Admiral Scheer and other “pocket battleships” was to ensure that they would be able to outrun enemy battleships and outgun enemy cruisers of the era, while raiding the world’s most important ocean routes.

WINIFRED WAGNER

Born Winifred Williams in 1894 at Hastings, England, to an English father and German mother. When her parents died she was brought up by distant relatives in Germany. In 1915 she married Siegfried Wagner, twenty-five years her senior, and son of composer Richard Wagner. She became entranced with Hitler and his Nazi movement in the early 20s. When Siegfried died in 1930, she became a close friend and staunch supporter of Adolf Hitler whom she first met in 1923. It was rumoured that a marriage between Adolf and Winifred was in the offing, but nothing came of it. Such an event would have solicited great support from the German people. The Führer himself entertained such thoughts believing that a union of the names Hitler and Wagner would ensure the adulation of the masses for time immemorial. In fact he once proposed marriage to her but on becoming Chancellor in January, 1933, he felt there was no need now for him to marry. He felt himself already 'married' to his adopted country, Deutschland.

A frequent visitor to her home, the 'Villa Wahnfried', where her three children knew him by the nickname 'Wolf', Hitler was often seen with her at various performances during the Bayreuth Festival, the last time in the late summer of 1940 when they attended a performance of 'Götterdämmerung'. Winifred Wagner died in Uberlingen on March 5, 1980, unrepentant of her relationship with Hitler.



I was in a pub on Saturday night. Had a few drinks..

I noticed two large women by the bar.
They both had strong accents so I asked "Hey, are you two ladies from Scotland?"
One of them screamed "It's WALES you IDIOT!"

So, I immediately apologized and said "Sorry, are you two whales from Scotland?"

That's all I remember.....

When you watch this epic video, you will say WOW to yourself, multiple times. Worth the watch! 3 D WITHOUT GLASSES. AWESOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Click on the link below

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=EEu42L0ufBY

This is incredible.

Did you hear what the English, the Irish and the Scots did when they heard the world was coming to an end?
The English all went out and got drunk. The Irish all went to church. And the Scots had a closing down sale.

Victory over Japan Day

By Helen Cleary

Dates: 15 August and 2 September 1945

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- **Players:**
- General Tōjō (Japanese Minister for War and Prime Minister from 1941-44), General Koiso (Japanese Prime Minister on surrender), **Stalin, Churchill, Truman, Cordell Hull (US Secretary of State)**

The Allies celebrated victory over Japan on 15 August 1945, although the Japanese administration under General Koiso did not officially surrender with a signed document until 2 September. Both dates are known as VJ Day.

War with Japan had been brewing since the China incident in 1937, and the threat of war in the east intensified when Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany in September 1940.

Japan's power in the Pacific was significant. By 26 November 1940 Cordell Hull presented Japan with a final statement of position following the Potsdam Conference: the US was not going to back down. Japan was outraged. On 7 December Japan transmitted a confusingly long statement to Washington, intended as a declaration of war. By the time it was formally presented, the US naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii was under heavy attack from Japanese aircraft.

Japan enjoyed a series of early victories in Hong Kong, Burma and Malaya, the Philippines and Borneo. But this did not prevent austerity in Japan and the war effort greatly drained the economy. By 1943, defeat at Midway and Guadalcanal caused further hardship.

In 1944, massive increases in activities such as aircraft production meant a better war year for Japan. But as the Japanese braced themselves for an Allied invasion, the country came more or less to a standstill. On 9 March 1945, northern Tokyo came under US fire. Tens of thousands of civilians died and 40 square kilometres of the city were razed. Japan's poor defences were revealed.

And yet, still the Japanese refused to accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration which demanded an unconditional surrender. The Japanese had asked Russia to act as intermediary for them at the Potsdam Conference, but Stalin was about to break the terms of the Russo-Japanese non-aggression pact (negotiated in 1941) and did not convey Japanese concerns. Without representation at Potsdam, Japan was doomed.

On 6 August 1945, the United States dropped the first ever atomic weapon on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Japanese officials, despite the terrible consequences of the attack, convened to debate their next move.

The United States waited three days before dropping a second bomb on Nagasaki. The Japanese then began talks directly with the United States and, although their government's decision was not unilateral, Japan had little choice but to surrender. The Soviet declaration of war on Japan (on 8 August 1945) and the nuclear attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima forced Japan to face the facts, and the Empire disintegrated.

VJ Day marked not only the end of the war in the Pacific, but also the end of World War Two. In Britain, huge crowds gathered to cheer King George VI and his Queen en route to Westminster for the opening of Parliament.