

A report from Terry C. Macqueen & Arthur Anderson on our recent trip

Down south.

On a recent visit this month to Shropshire, Arthur Anderson his wife Heather and I met up with Orcadian Bob Miller, ex 2 platoon A Coy, and his wife Jan, who now reside in Telford . We spent several hours, and enjoyed several drams whilst chewing the fat, remembering the good times, and laughing off the bad times.

.On Sunday the 15th after our meeting with Bob, we drove down to the National Memorial Arboretum, at Alrewas, Stafford-shire Our aim being, to get photographs of names, of fallen comrades who are commemorated on the Armed Forces Memorial .

You will notice, that two of the names in the attached photographs were members of the Black Watch, however, both men were attached to The Queens Own Highlanders at some stage in there careers. Private Mark D. Carnie, who we believe was attached to 1st Q. O. Hldrs. At the time of his death due to an I.R.A. bomb blast near Dungannon Co. Tyrone in July 1978.

The other of the two names, is that of L/Cpl . Edwin Charnley who was attached to us for the whole of the Nishan VIII Campaign which ran from late 1970 to Sept 1971,when the battalion went on to win the competition for the British Army, for the one and only time .

When Edwin returned to his regiment they were already in Northern Ireland, his company were based in the Short Strand bus depot. Some three or so days before our own B Coy took over from them, we received the news that Ed had been shot and killed by a gunman, who was located in a house across the street from the entrance into the depot.

It seemed only fitting, that as we would passing Preston, (Eds home town), on our way back north we should call in and pay our respects. By chance, another former team member, Eric Taylor 1st Royal Scots now resides in the greater Preston area. Because Eric was the man on the ground he was instrumental in organising a memorial service which was conducted at Saint Michaels and all Angels Church, Ashton, Preston on the morning of Wednesday the 18th of August. For this service we were joined by Alan and Mandy Kirkwood another former member of Nishan VIII.

With the help of Maj Ronnie Procter, of the Black Watch museum, Perth, we were able to have a piper and drummer supplied by the Black Watch Association, (Stoke on Trent branch) under the control of Mr. Alec Lackie, the Branch Chairman. The service was conducted in the garden of remembrance by the Rev . Steve Johnson. Initially we thought if a dozen people showed up we would have done well. However! Imagine our delight when over forty people made the effort and turned out on the day.

The Rev. Johnson welcomed everyone, and introduced the service, during the course of which Terry recited Sir Rudyard Kipling's poem, "Tommy", and Eric delivered a few words on behalf off us, about our friendship and memories of Ed , a very moving moment for all of us . Two poppy wreaths were

laid , the 1st by Alec Lackie on behalf of all ranks of the Black Watch, the second was laid by Terry on behalf of all members of the Nishan VIII team, and former members of 1st Bn. Q.O.Hldrs. There then followed a two minute silence, which was broken by the pipers rendition of the Black Watch Lament, Lochaber No More, and on request we returned to the church hall for tea and biscuits to the strains of "Cabar Feidh" !!.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the following people, Eric Taylor, his wife Kerry, the Rev. Johnson and his staff, and to the Black Watch Regimental Association.

So, as we made our way back North that afternoon, each with our own thoughts of the mornings events, we discussed the importance of remembrance. Ed was killed 39 years ago on the 18th of November 1971. At that time none of us who were serving had the opportunity to attend a funeral service; however after that Wednesday morning I think we felt we had had our chance to say our belated farewells.

God bless you Ed, We will remember you, "*We will remember them*"

Terry C. MacQueen, Arthur Anderson.