

End of Year message from General Staff HQ at 2022 Hrs or 8.22pm old money. This non-committal approved diatribe comes from only the pen of the author, no other HF Bradford member as been involved in its creation, other than to appear as the patsy with the pie in the face. To them we thank for their tolerance and incontinence.

In order to document-ate the undercover operations of our annual events, having once again been moved by the HF Nafie's Derwentwater Plumb Duff & Semolina Roll to reach for pen, but more importantly the paper. I as in wee would like to thank you all for your efforts over the last 12 months to entertain everyone else but also to note and record our success (1) and subsequent all-round failures (many). In particular the following spring to mind. Alas

The abortive raid on the anemone's chocolate factory on the eastern frontier (Cobblers Hill) brought little credit to the regiment. Had it been known at the time that David and Subaru would develop a highly contagious fever, caused by not sleeping on a bed without 4 wheels, I am sure the raid would have been more successful. As it was within 24 hours of our encampment, 25% were encapsulated, 33% were over the limit, a further 40% had eaten too much, and the other 3% couldn't add up. Thou enjoyable the mission was aborted at short notice on the last morning after the full breakfast of Sausage benedict & a Rioja Sunrise slurry.

Our thanks to Clive and Stan who did succeed in their mission to the south coast, undercover as Shearing Coach reps. They returned with sketchy plans of the Sea front defences at Eastbourne, full details of the Cornfield Garage or better known as J.D Wetherspoons, and a packet of Spangles (fruit flavour) won on the last nights Bingo session at the Hotel and Non-luxury Spa, LA Splendid de Pap.

Sue and Steve were also mentioned in dispatches, their recent Lakeland incursion, seemed a simple expedition, just to doss about for a few days in a Cumbrian Cottage, but no. They were faced with a situation not less than that of Captain Scott. At one time Sue left, saying she was just going outside and may be some time. It was later revealed she had shot off to the Skelwith Bridge Hotel, front lounge for a sweet sherry and portion of Shepherd's pie. Steve in the meantime defrosted, Windermere, the Central Heating Boiler and 150mm dia High Pressure Gas main, using only a tooth brush, some sticky backed plastic and a hair dryer. For their efforts they will be presented with HF Brown Acorn and Blue Ribbon, or a vegan Penguin by the local partisan group leader (AW).

The undercover Gomersal Light Infantry are currently on manoeuvres at a secret location at HF Monk Coniston Hotel and Refugee hostel, turn right at the Crown Inn, Inn Coniston. The pass word for entry I believe is (Mulled Wine). This may change once the bottle is MT. They aim to insult the Old Man of Coniston at least once during their weeks R & R break. Other walks are available and will also take place, at odd intervals. Nuff said.

General Comments re Members at large.

Eileen has gone down under, which is preferable to her being hung over, she has sent a recent coded message to June saying how lovely things had turned out. Its rained most of the time so it Lovely just like being at home. The Lovely Mrs Brown that is (June) has sustained a knee injury and has been out of action recently. She is looking forward to the new year and the arrival of a Segway scooter. There are a number of others looking on, with a view to making a similar purchase. If a large enough group does develop, we may well form a Cavalry Division for the use of clearing paths around Swinsty Reservoir, Hirst wood canal

tow path and the queue at Lidl's wine counter.

Of the new recruits, Sandra stands head a shoulder above the rest of the 2022 intake, her ability to bring laughter and derision to any group is most welcoming.

It's good to see Judith back on the front line after her tour of duty with the ENSA troupe. Her head for figures and ability to juggle numbers as kept our auditor in stitches for quite some time. Chrissie has had a busy year with the Regimental Mascot, Luther and his brothers in arms Bernie and Guy. She was also credited with an Honour from the "Our Shed" association for her work with under developed adults or better known as children. A new recruit & leader worthy of mention is Sharon, her mid-afternoon encirclement of the Curlew Café was text book perfect, well almost. Had not some of the platoon wandered off, the capture would have been without loss. Recruitment officer Sue (Reg) Dixon, when not away from home, (I fear she doesn't get on with the Neighbours') has Talked, blackmailed or encouraged two new Ladies to join the HF Bradford Group) Names are withheld to protect the innocents, but Hello Sally and Ruth (you have no idea what you are getting into-Bless you). Before I leave this section to have a go at the Blokes, just let me say thanks, to all the Ladies that have led from the front, the panoramic and picturesque views on the walks have brought tears to my eyes.

At this point I would like to wish Ken all the best with his treatment with (it's either PTSD or PDSA) get well soon pal, get back on the road we do miss you. Well Luther and I do.

The short lived (not you Ken) expedition to Derwent Bank did not really go as planned, my reference in early texts over the years with regards to Balaclavas led some or the troop to believe we were going to turn over the local Barclays. However, after they had wandered about for a while, things were restored to what we consider normal. David and Linda are to be applauded for turning a blind eye to Brenda during the Vulgar Boat man song and dance scenario on the Derwent Water Cruise, nuff said, other than that the campaign went smoothly as Su baru & Dave were "in the wagon", unfortunately not ON it so had little effect on the division at large. A small S.A.S group (Silent and Slippery) took it on themselves to sneak off to the Farmer Arms in Portinscale on its darts and dom's night, returning with nil fatalities but numerous cut and bruises, but wait for it the overall winners prize of 2 coconuts, a half shandy and a pickled egg. Well, done to you all.

The January regimental dinner, under the guise of a Christmas special at the Otley VW Golf & Polo club, was unmitigated. I don't know how they do it at the price. Fair took me back to my college days in Keighley where you could dine at the Cat Poo Wen in Cavendish Street, three course Chinese meal for 2/3d or push the San Pan out with the Business man's special for 2/6d. Wat times. I am sure I speak for everyone when I say bring on the next round in January 2023, and well done to Dave A & Ms President for organising the bun fight. Those on steak pie should be advised to bring a large spoon, an equally large Tupperware box with lid and the Two Rennie's. (Other comedians and Indigestion tablet are available)

There is a more serious note coming up soon, regarding the Summer Walks season which is March until September. We shall require numerous up fronter's, to lead what Emma Lazarus referred to as "your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe" and other Odds and Sods on their Bye weekly Parole exercise Jaunt. If you have never done it don't worry, we can assist. Walks say 6/10 miles, within hour's drive max, some parkin or ginger bread is good, tea shop close by is a bonus and a hedge or toilet brings icing to the cake. Regulars, please do re apply. Dates and info to follow Shirley.

I would like to say it's been an absolute pleasure being with you all over the last 12 months. I would also like to say I have won the Euromillions Jackpot, but life goes on. (that's you Ken)

As ever Rambling Bill and the Lovely Carol