

The Welch Fusilier

November 2007

R.W.F. Comrades Association,
Aberystwyth Branch Newsletter

No. 6



Maelor Evans Funeral

It is with deep regret that the Aberystwyth Branch has to announce the passing of Maelor Evans on 4th June 2007 at 82 years of age. Maelor was one of the longest serving members of the branch and will be missed by all.

The funeral took place at Aberystwyth crematorium where a large crowd had gathered paying respect, following the service members gathered at Plas Antaron with the family.

The RWF drape was placed over the coffin and the Aberystwyth Branch RWFCFA provided the bearers.

The standards of the Branch and the Royal British Legion were in attendance along with many past service personnel represented from various combined forces.

Wrexham Reunion 2007

This year's Reunion on 31st August 1st, 2nd September 2007, was again a success for those branch members that attended. Again this year's accommodation for the weekend was £24 per person per night that included B&B in an en-suite in a single room at NEWI and the dinner on Saturday night was £15, a total £63.00.

The branch again entered members for the shooting competition. This year the shoot consisted of 5 rounds with the highest score winning. There were no zeroing, or viewing of the targets after you had fired. All participating teams were totally unaware of how well they had done. The scores were also put together for the 4 shooters to go towards the cup. Unfortunately this year we only came home with one cup with the branch chairman Mike Binks winning the highest score.



Branch chairman Mike Binks



**R.W.F.
Comrades
Branch Aberystwyth**

New Executive 2007/08

**Executive
Committee Officers:**

**President –
Mr Ron Taylor**

**Chairman –
Mr Mike Binks**
(Also Editor of Newsletter)
E-mail: mikebinks05@aol.com

**Vice-Chairman –
Mr J C T (Colwyn) Morris**

**Treasurer –
Mr Peter (Sam) Lansley**

**Welfare Officer–
Mr John Bitchell**
01970 624863

**Hon. Secretary –
Mr Paul Hinge**
10 Tregerddan
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Ceredigion
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(first point for verbal contact
please)
Home: 01970 820542
E-mail: phinge@aol.com

**Next
Meeting Dates:**

Wednesday 28th November

14th December Xmas Draw

**AGM on Wednesday 6th
February**

**St. David's Day
Saturday March 1st at
Llety Park**

**Wednesday 26th
March Meeting**



Photographed with branch members is the late Maelor Evans. Since 1948 Maelor had attended every RWFCFA reunion. A total of 59 years.



The branch shooting team. L/R Mark Randall, Mike Binks, Dunkan Sykes and Peter Jones.



**Newletter articles from
members**

Please note that the committee members of the RWFCFA and its members are not responsible for any article submitted to them by fellow comrades, the contents of any such articles or photographs.

It accepts no liability for any work submitted that is published.

Branch Meeting's

Branch meets on the 4th Wednesday in the month at the Royal Naval Club, Market Street, Aberystwyth, at 20.00hrs.

**Colour Version
on the W.W.W.**

If you have a computer you can view the newsletter as an electronic publication in full colour on the R.W.F. web site.
You must register to use.

www.rwf-forum.co.uk

Regimental Pioneers 3 R.W.F.

1980-1990 by Terry Weston

From 1980 to 1990 the Regimental Pioneers of the 3rd Battalion R.W.F. were provided by the Aberystwyth Platoon. They originally paraded in No 2 Dress, buckskin aprons from the inter war years, and with Pioneer tools probably last used during the Peninsular War.

As their turnout and drill improved they were fortunate to have as their R.S.M. W.O.1. (late Major) Glyn Hughes M.B.E. who provided encouragement and support.

Following an amicable (late night) discussion at Kinmel Camp the then Pioneer Sergeant agreed to grow a beard if the R.S.M. could obtain Scarlets. They both kept to their side of the bargain and over the years various other improvements were made to the kit. Plastic aprons replaced the old buckskin issue, busbies replaced berets, and the tools, mattock, axes, and shovels were professionally re-silvered. For the Tercentenary Parade the Pioneer Sergeant was driven to London to be fitted for a brand new Scarlet jacket which cost £450. A far cry from the early days!

During the above decade the Pioneers together with the Goat and Corps of Drums provided colour, entertainment, spectacle, and precision drill at many events from the old Cardiff Arms Park to Amlwch and from Aberystwyth to Wrexham.

The Pioneers paraded at march pasts, freedom marches, tattoos, kape tours, carnivals, church parades, the official opening of the new T.A. Centres at Colwyn Bay and Wrexham and of course the big one, the Tercentenary Parade.

There was, of course, the odd hiccup. My personal favourite was when we went to take part in a carnival in Blaenau Ffestiniog. We paraded on the main street and marched to the local park where we performed our usual display with the Drums. We were surprised that the only people there were a couple of youngsters playing football and a man walking a mangy old dog. After the display we retired to the local R.W.F. Club. A member came up to us and asked if the rehearsal had gone well. We said we never rehearsed parades, just did them. "Well", he asked, "Will you be back next week when the actual event is to take place"?





L/R (Pioneers), Milton James, Mike Harris, Terry Weston, Dai (ginger) Evans and J.C.T. Morris



L/R (Pioneers), J.C.T. Morris, Mike Binks, Terry Weston, Gerwyn Michael, Mike Ascher.

1986 MILITARY TATTOO
 1986
 Eirias Park
 Colwyn Bay

FRIDAY, 29th AUGUST
 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, 30th AUGUST
 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

THE RED ARROWS
 SATURDAY 30th only - Promenade Area
 7.30 p.m.

1689 1989
 21st FEBRUARY
 Welsh Festival

