DEDICATION OF THE REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL

at the National Memorial Arboretum

Sunday 17 September 2017

The Devonshire Regiment
The Dorset Regiment
The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment
11th, 39th, 54th Foot
1685 - 2007
I am delighted to be present today at the United Kingdom’s National Centre of Remembrance for the dedication of this memorial to The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and to its two antecedent regiments whose battalions served our country with great distinction in the major conflicts of the past three hundred years.

My mother, HRH Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent was the first Colonel in Chief of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and I was honoured to succeed her and to serve as Colonel in Chief until the formation of The Rifles. I am proud now to be the Royal Colonel of the 1st Battalion The Rifles, maintaining my close association.

Through my visits to The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in the years that it existed, I came to recognise the sterling qualities of this quintessentially West Country Regiment and to appreciate its professionalism as it served in many different and challenging theatres of operations. I have also come to know the very strong loyalties and comradeship which binds the men and their families in war and peace.

The spirit of service represented by this memorial I believe to be totally appropriate and a fitting tribute to the commitment of all three Regiments over the course of the centuries. It will ensure that the service given will be remembered by future generations and will provide a focus for those associated with the Regiments to visit and remember.
The three Regiments we are remembering today were the epitome of the English County Regiment. Our style, our resilience and our comradeship, in good times and bad, were drawn from the counties from which the vast majority of our officers and soldiers came. This produced a distinct ethos and we carried the names of the two counties across the world with pride over three centuries. The Regiments fought in the numerous campaigns of the 18th and 19th centuries and together in both World Wars. When the Devons and the Dorsets amalgamated to form The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in 1958 they became the senior County Regiment in the British Army and were one of the most successful amalgamations of that time. Further Army reductions led to the formation of The Rifles in 2007. The spirit of the old Regiments lives on in The Rifles and in the comradeship of the Regimental Association, which embraces former members of all three antecedent Regiments.

The Association thrives and this memorial has come about through an expressed desire to recognise over three centuries of proud service by members of our Regiments; their comradeship, their achievements and their courage. Above all, there is a wish to remember those who gave their lives in the service of their country, acknowledging their sacrifice and that of their families. The Regiments have fine memorial chapels in Exeter Cathedral and Sherborne Abbey, and memorials on various battlefields, but it was felt appropriate to have one, all embracing memorial to those who served in the three Regiments at the National Memorial Arboretum, the United Kingdom’s central focus for remembrance.

The underlying theme for this memorial is one of service and the three figures from The Somme, Kohima and Northern Ireland are intended to illustrate a joint commitment and culture which bridges the ages. The unspoken but understood ethos of the Regiments has always been one of understated excellence.

It has taken three years to create this memorial, involving too many to mention individually. We are immensely grateful to Vivien Mallock, who has interpreted our wishes with such skill and has achieved three separate but coherent sculptures of great quality. We are also indebted to Phoenix Marble and Granite Ltd for their highly professional construction of the memorial. None of this would have been possible without the support and extremely generous donations of all elements of the Regimental family and by the people of Devon and Dorset. Individuals in the Regimental project team have made a major contribution in terms of time and effort. We owe a great debt of gratitude to them all.

In many ways this memorial and this dedication mark the final chapter of our being, whilst ensuring continued recognition in the future.

Introduction by Major General B H Dutton
Chairman, The Regimental Charity

Memorial Plaque

“...This memorial commemorates those who served in the county infantry regiments of Devon and Dorset. For over three centuries they enjoyed fine reputations and drew on the strong relationships with the counties from which they recruited. The Devonshire Regiment is represented by a soldier fighting on The Somme in 1916 during the First World War; The Dorset Regiment by a soldier in 1944 at the Battle of Kohima as part of the Burma Campaign in the Second World War; and The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment by a soldier on patrol in Northern Ireland during in the 1970s. In 2007 the Regiment merged with others to form The Rifles. The memorial reflects the strong bond and comradeship felt by members of these proud Regiments”.

Photo to follow
Order of Service for The Regimental Memorial Dedication Service

Sunday 17 September 2017

Conducted by
Canon Anna Norman-Walker
Chaplain, The Regimental Association

1255 hrs - The Standards take position in front of the Memorial

1300 hrs - Fanfare - PLEASE STAND
Arrival of Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent, Patron, The Regimental Association

Introduction - Major General B H Dutton, Chairman, The Regimental Charity

Bidding Prayer - Regimental Association Chaplain

We have gathered together at the National Memorial Arboretum to witness the dedication of our Regimental Memorial which stands in honour of all those who have served their country as members of The Devonshire Regiment, The Dorset Regiment and The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. We recognise over three centuries’ proud service by members of our Regiments, their comradeship, their achievements and their courage. We remember especially those members of our Regiments who gave their lives in the service of their country and we acknowledge before God the courage and sacrifice made by them and by their loved ones. We trust in the grace of God, who through his infinite goodness and mercy brings healing and hope to our world.

Hymn:
I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there’s another country, I’ve heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.

Words: Sir Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918) Tune: Thaxted

Prayer - Trusting in the promises of God as our Saviour taught us - so we pray

All

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done;
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

Collect - Collect of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment

All

O Christ, our Redeemer, the sure stronghold of each succeeding age; grant that we, who have borne arms in The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment may endure, as our fathers did before us, with steadfast courage. Lead us and our successors in every quarter of the earth; that we may not only honour and proclaim your name, but also serve to open a highway of your salvation for all mankind, through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit; One God, world without end.
Amen.

Dedication of the Memorial - Regimental Association Chaplain

Let us dedicate this Memorial to those who served in the county regiments of Devon and Dorset. Through the loving and merciful God who calls men and women in every age to serve in the cause of justice and of peace; bless this Memorial and honour the soldiers of our proud county regiments. May this be a special place to us all. A place where we remember our service, those with whom we served and those who served before us; a place of remembrance to those who gave their lives in the service of others and a permanent reminder of the achievements of our Regiments, but also of the dreadful cost of war. May we and all who live in times of peace do so with gratitude for the sacrifice of those who have gone before us and in our own lives follow their good example. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Regimental Hymn

O Father by whose servants
Our Regiments were raised,
For all Thy wondrous mercies
Thy Holy Name be praised.
Before us and beside us
Still holden in Thy hand;
A cloud unseen of witness,
Our elder comrades stand.

O bless our beauteous Homeland
So loved, so good, so fair;
In all our hearts enshrined
And treasured ever there.
The sons of Devon gathered
With those of Dorset here;
Thus unified we praise Thee
And know that Thou art near.

Words: Shaw  Tune: Aurelia

Please be seated

Reading

"Before Action" read by Captain Chris Gillespie QGM*
A member of the Regimental Association

By all the glories of the day
And the cool evening’s benison,
By that last sunset touch that lay
Upon the hills when day was done,
By beauty lavishly outpoured
And blessings carelessly received,
By all the days that I have lived
Make me a soldier, Lord.

By all of man’s hopes and fears
And all the wonders poets sing,
The laughter of unclouded years,
And every sad and lovely thing:
By the romantic ages stored
With high endeavour that was his,
By all his mad catastrophes
Make me a man, O Lord.

I, that on my familiar hill
Saw with uncomprehending eyes
A hundred of Thy sunsets spill
Their fresh and sanguine sacrifice,
Ere the sun swings his noonday sword
Must say goodbye to all of this: –
By all delights that I shall miss,
Help me to die, O Lord.

Lieutenant William Noel Hodgson MC, The Devonshire Regiment wrote “Before Action” just two days before he was killed in action on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Please stand

The Act of Remembrance - Regimental Association Chaplain

Let us now remember with thanksgiving and with all honour before God, those members of The Devonshire Regiment, The Dorset Regiment and The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and their successors of The Rifles who, for over three hundred years, have served their Sovereign and Country.

LAST POST

The Silence

REVEILLE

Wreath laid at base of the Memorial by Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent, Patron, The Regimental Association.
Blessing:

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All Who has made heaven and earth

Blessed be the name of the Lord

All From this time forth and for evermore

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all humankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The National Anthem - PLEASE SING

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.

The Regimental March

After the Royal Party has left, please make your way to the Reception which is in the marquee near the entrance / visitor centre.

The route is indicated by members of Devon and Dorset Army Cadet Forces.

Patrons and Donors

Patron
Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent

Vice Patrons
David Fursdon Esq, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Devon
Angus Campbell Esq, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset

Donors
(as at publication)
The full list of donors Regimental, individual, charitable, municipal and corporate will be published in due course in a bound volume which will be on display at The Keep Military Museum, Dorchester.

Corporate and Municipal Donors

Plymouth City Council
Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon
Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset
Shaftesbury Town Council
Sherborne School Old Shirburnian Society
Sherborne Town Council
St Mary’s Church Congregation, Bridport
The Keep Museum Coffee Morning Group
The Nicholas Trust
The Norman Family Trust
The Royal British Legion, Marnhull Branch
The Royal British Legion, Sandford (Wareham) Women’s Section
Viscount Amory’s Charitable Trust
Wareham St Martin Parish Church
Weld Estate, Dorset
Western Front Association, Wessex Branch
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council

Allhallows School Old Honitonians Club
Barnstaple Town Council
Blandford Forum Town Council
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Viscount Amory’s Charitable Trust
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Wareham St Martin Parish Church
Weld Estate, Dorset
Western Front Association, Wessex Branch
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
A Brief History of The Regiment

The Devonshire Regiment was raised in the West Country in 1685 as the Duke of Beaufort’s Musketeers to counter the Monmouth Rebellion. In 1743, The Regiment was awarded its first battle honour after taking part in the Battle of Dettingen and ten years later they became the 11th Foot. In 1812, during the Peninsula War, the Regiment distinguished itself at the Battle of Salamanca as a result of which it became known as “The Bloody Eleventh”. Salamanca Day is still celebrated as the Regimental Day of The Rifles.

After service in Australia from 1845-57 and Burma 1890-92 they were posted to South Africa where they took part in the Siege and Relief of Ladysmith, for which the 1st Battalion was awarded the battle honour Wagon Hill, following that action on 6 January 1900 during which Lt Masterson was awarded the Regiment’s first VC.

The First World War saw the Devons, who raised 25 battalions, fighting in every major battle on the Western Front including The Somme. Perhaps their finest hour came in 1918 when on 27 May the 2nd Devons held off a German Division at Bois des Buttes, thereby allowing Allied Divisions to form a new defensive line behind them. For their exceptional heroism and self-sacrifice the French Government awarded the Battalion the Croix de Guerre which is still worn today by The Rifles.

During the Second World War 1st Devons fought in the Far East while 2nd Devons were stationed on Malta where they bore the brunt of the Siege before taking part in the first allied amphibious landings of the war in Sicily, followed by a second landing on the mainland of Italy. On D-Day in 1944 they found themselves in the vanguard of Montgomery’s assault on mainland Europe while elements of the 12th Devons had earlier landed by glider. After the Second World War 1st Devons took part in the Malayan and Mau Mau Emergencies.

The Dorset Regiment began life in 1702 when Colonel Coote raised a Regiment which later became the 39th Foot, while in 1755 the 56th Foot was raised in Salisbury under Lieutenant Colonel John Campbell and was later renumbered 54th Foot. The 39th was the first British regiment to serve in India and gained its unique motto ‘Primum In Indis’. Their first battle honour was won in 1757 at the Battle of Plassey where they were part of Lord Clive’s force which defeated an overwhelming number of native troops. During the 18th Century the 39th and 54th garrisoned Gibraltar after its seizure from the Spanish. During the Mutiny in 1802 the 54th defied the mutineers and loyally protected the Duke of Kent who was Governor. As a mark of gratitude he named the Dorsets as forever ‘his regiment’ and over two hundred years later the present Duke of Kent, formerly the Colonel of the Regiment, is now the Regimental Association’s Patron.

During the Napoleonic Wars the 54th took part in the Egyptian campaign against the French where they were awarded the unique battle honour Marabout and as a result of which they were permitted to include a sphinx on their cap badge. In 1857 the 54th were aboard the troop ship SS Sarah Sands on route to India with their families when the ship caught fire in the Indian Ocean.

Fearing the gunpowder would explode the crew abandoned ship leaving the soldiers to throw the powder kegs overboard before finally putting the fire out and saving the ship. Queen Victoria ordered that a record of their conduct be read at the head of every regiment in the Army.

During the First World War, 10 battalions of The Dorsets served with distinction on the Western Front, at Gallipoli and in the Middle East. 1st Dorsets started the Second World War on the island of Malta along with 2nd Devons, later joining them in assault landings on Sicily, Italy and on D-Day. Two weeks later the Territorial 4th and 5th Dorsets, part of 43rd Wessex Division, joined the Normandy campaign and fought right across Western Europe before the German surrender. During the advance eastwards, 4th Dorsets fought at Arnhem, becoming the only infantry regiment to earn that battle honour. Meanwhile the 2nd Dorsets were serving in the Far East where they were at the forefront of the victory at Kohima.

As a result of reductions to the Army, the Devons and the Dorsets were amalgamated at Minden, West Germany, on 17 May 1958. The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment was formed and initially comprised a single, regular battalion whose title was abbreviated to 1 D and D and which served on operational tours in Cyprus, British Guiana and Libya. Most of these were internal security operations during which the 1st Battalion consistently distinguished itself and earned a fine reputation for calm professionalism. There were also overseas tours to Malta, Belize and West Germany. For its community service in Belize in 1972, the Battalion was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

The outbreak of civil disorder in Northern Ireland in 1969 signalled the beginning of a period of three decades of ‘The Troubles’ during which the 1st Battalion served on ten operational tours in both rural and urban environments in the Province. These successive periods in Northern Ireland were interspersed with spells in West Germany, Cyprus, Belize, Berlin, and the Falkland Islands. It was not just the soldiers who had to move around - during the postings to West Germany, Malta and Berlin their families accompanied them. There were also two accompanied operational tours to Ballykinder in Northern Ireland, each lasting two years. Disorder in other parts of the world led to the Battalion playing a prominent role in Bosnia in 1995, including the siege of Sarajevo, and to Iraq in 2006.

For the period 1987 to 1998 the Regiment had its own Territorial Battalion - the 4th Battalion - based in Exeter, Plymouth, Torbay, Poole and Dorchester. Members of 4 D and D, as it was known, frequently served with their regular counterparts on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Both battalions enjoyed enviable relations with the local communities in the two counties and this was reflected in the granting of Freedoms by twelve towns and cities which conferred the honour of marching through the streets with ‘bayonets fixed and Colours flying.’ Further reductions in the Army led, on 1 February 2007, to the Devon and Dorsets amalgamating with other regiments to form The Rifles.
Other Regimental Memorials at the National Memorial Arboretum

You may wish to visit the Regiment’s other memorials at the National Memorial Arboretum whilst you are there. Please refer to the map to see where they are located.

All Devons, Dorsets and Devon and Dorset who died in service since the end of Second World War are listed on the main Armed Forces Memorial in the centre of the National Memorial Arboretum. Over 15,000 names are engraved on the memorial listed alphabetically not by regiment.

Regimental Trees
Dedicated to the three founding Regiments. The Devonshire Regiment, The Dorset Regiment and The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, commemorated by a Regimental plaque on each tree situated opposite the junction of Gifford Avenue with Millennium Avenue.

Ulster Ash Grove
Dedicated to those who died on active service with the Regiment in Northern Ireland from 1968 - 1998, commemorated by individual plaques for each member of the Regiment situated in the front right hand stand of trees.

Private C P Stentiford - 21 January 1972  
Sergeant I M Harris - 10 February 1972  
Private D M Champ - 10 February 1972  
Corporal S A Windsor - 6 November 1974  
Corporal G T Jeffery - 7 April 1983  
Lance Corporal S W Taverner - 5 November 1983
Outside back cover picture to follow