

From: Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) J C St J KILMISTER
Regimental Secretary/Ysgrifennydd Catrodol



THE ROYAL WELSH Y CYMRY BRENHINOL

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Reference: RW C3

Councilor Howard Hamilton
Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Town Hall
King's Square
Barry
CF63 4RU

Dear Councilor Hamilton,

4th June 2014

THE ROYAL WELSH - PRESENTATION OF COLOURS IN 2015

Next year, The Royal Welsh will have the honour of receiving their first Colours from the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty The Queen, at a ceremony to be held at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff in the early summer. A service will be held to consecrate the new Colours before they are presented, trooped and then marched off.

The presentation of a new stand of Colours is a once in a generation event and usually only happens every 25 to 30 years. For The Royal Welsh however, this also represents a fresh start - following the Regiment's formation on St David's Day 2006. Due to operational tours of Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years this will be the first time the battalions have been able to come together for a parade of this size. All the Battalions will carry identical Colours (bar roman numerals denoting the battalion in question).

Along with the manufacture of new Colours, there is also a requirement to manufacture new Ensign Colour Belts, Drum Major Belts and Goat Major Belts for each of the battalions. The Regiment also has a requirement to repaint their drums with the new Regimental crest and to commemorate the battle honours of the new Regiment. I attach a photograph of the current drums and also the new Regimental Crest and the battle honours of the Royal Welsh which are the combined battle honours of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Royal Regiment of Wales. Each of the Battalions needs to repaint one bass drum and eight side drums. The cost of repainting one drum is approximately £250 and we would ask if the Vale of Glamorgan as one of our Freedom County Boroughs would be prepared to sponsor the cost of this or even two drums. Generous contributions will be acknowledged with a special mention being made in the Parade Programme and of course an invitation to the parade and lunch next summer.

With the Presentation taking place during the years commemorating the centenary of WW1, any donations received would be a fitting way to help remember those from your community who made the

ultimate sacrifice during the Great War. It may interest you to know that during the First World War a battalion was roughly 800 men and Wales provided 40 battalions of the Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF), 21 battalions of the South Wales Borderers (SWB), 34 battalions of the Welch Regiment (WELCH) and 10 battalions of the Monmouthshire Regiment. From these regiments (now forming The Royal Welsh) some 25,857 men died out of an estimate of 250,000 who wore these cap badges. Of the 250,000 some 184,889 men served overseas.

The Regiment would be very proud to continue its long association with the Vale of Glamorgan and its people, the Vale of Glamorgan having been the one of the first boroughs to grant their Freedom to The Royal Welsh on 19th December 2007 and then kindly reaffirmed this on 7th November 2013.

If you would be able to help towards the cost of repainting the Regimental Drums, or wish to discuss any aspect of this further, I would be very grateful if you would contact me, the Regimental Secretary of The Royal Welsh, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Kilmister, on 02920 781 207. Alternatively, please send a cheque payable to 'The Regimental Association The Royal Welsh', a registered charity and complete Gift Aid form (if applicable) to RHQ The Royal Welsh, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, CF14 3YE. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and hope to discuss this very important initiative further.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Kilmister

Previous Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF) Drum



Re-painted The Royal Welsh (R WELSH) Drum

The photograph below shows a re-painted 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh drum that encompasses the Regimental crest at its centre and consists of the badges and distinctions taken from the constituent regiments. The drums will be re-painted in the Regimental backing colour of Green and will include the Battle Honours from all its constituent Regiments.



