



Welcome to our Summer 2024 newsletter.

After eighteen months of planning and programme tweaking, 12th May finally arrived, and with it our eight day visit to Cassino to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battles for Monte Cassino. Forty one members and friends enjoyed wonderful Italian sunshine, a comprehensive guided battlefield tour and a range of activities linked to the Italian Campaign as a whole. It all ended on a serious note with our own MCS Commemoration service on 18th May 2024 and the official Commonwealth CWGC service on 19th May 2024. There is a full report of our visit inside this newsletter, and it is a pleasure to report that by the end of the week many of those friends present had decided to join us as members of the Monte Cassino Society. A huge 'thank you' to all for your support, and to Frank de Planta, our excellent battlefield guide for the first few days, not only for the benefit of his extensive knowledge of the Italian Campaign, but his help throughout in putting our programme together, and all the attention to detail that served to make the trip run smoothly.

As we held our MCS Commemoration service in Cassino on Saturday 18th May, there were two other services also taking place in the UK, at the National Memorial Arboretum near Litchfield, and Blackhall St Columba's Church in Edinburgh, the latter also live streamed for those who could not attend. There are reports of those two services in this issue, and as ever we thank the Rev. Fergus Cook and all who led and attended, helping to make the 80th commemoration so special and memorable.

We thank Phil Soady, who has retired after many years of managing our website, and are delighted to welcome three new members to the Committee, Sue Hughes, Michael Wilson and Des James. Sue has already been in action as our new Liaison Officer, using her expert knowledge of the media and publishing industry to secure the MCS and the Italian campaign some valuable media coverage during the recent Commemoration events. Gaining the interest of the Times correspondent in Italy was a real coup, and his piece was excellent. Michael will be a great link with our members in Edinburgh and north of the border. Des, who already oversees the Monte Cassino Society Group Facebook pages, has taken on the role of Website Manager.

Remembrance Sunday 2024 will be on 10th November, and in this special 80th Anniversary year it would be wonderful if some of our new members could join our group as we once again gather on Horse Guards Parade to march past the Cenotaph on Whitehall. If you would like to do so, contact details and joining information are given on page 3.

From conversations with other members during our Italy trip, I know there are more interesting stories out there concerning the Italian Campaign. If you have any articles for the newsletter or our website 'Recollections' section, please send them to me, and as always, I will be delighted to receive them.

With all good wishes for the summer,

Helen James, Editor

Sue Hughes

Liaison Officer MCS Committee

I joined the Society in 2023 and met members at the Remembrance Service in London; following the Cassino 80th battlefield study I participated in the MCS Act of Remembrance.

My father, Captain Wilfrid Potter, was a British officer in charge of Indian troops who served with the 3rd Battalion 8th Punjab Regiment (3/8 Punjabis), part of 19 Indian Infantry Brigade at the time of the Fourth Battle of Cassino in May 1944.

I have researched my father's Italian Campaign trail since 2016 on numerous battlefield studies, including the Sangro (pre-Cassino) and after the fall of Rome to Bologna.

Working part-time as editor of a print publication, I liaised with national media before/during the 80th anniversary events.

"We've raised the profile of Monte Cassino and new members have re-energised the Society – the 80th flowed on a wave of enthusiasm and commitment across several generations."

Sue Hughes



Dr Michael Wilson



My interest in the Monte Cassino Society relates to my father being in 57th Antitank Regiment Royal Artillery, 78th Battleaxe Division and growing up listening to The D Day Dodgers on the family gramophone, with a black and white picture of Cassino together with other photos of Mallnitz, Austria on the wall.

We had a family visit to Cassino in 1963, but sadly my father and myself were not allowed into the monastery because we were in shorts! My mother and brother were allowed in and were amazed by the experience. My wife and I went back in 2003 and finally I saw the beauty and peace of the inside of the monastery, in addition to the overwhelming perspective of looking up to the monastery followed by looking down to Route 6.

I am a retired GP living with my wife and black labrador in Dalkeith, Midlothian. Our main activity apart from gardening and walking is grandchild care which gives great pleasure and fulfilment. Our church, Palmerston Place Church is in Edinburgh.

Des James

Website and Facebook Co-ordinator

I have recently taken over maintenance of the MCS website. Although an amateur, I have had experience in the past running other websites. I have made a few changes by adding a 'Contact us' page where anyone can add comments or ask questions. Don't worry, they only appear on the website if I authorise it, so there will not be anything nasty. I have also added a 'Photos' page where we can show images of our events etc.

Remember, this is your website so I am happy to add anything you think appropriate, and the site will only flourish if we keep it active. If you have not already looked at it, then go to www.montecassinociety.co.uk and I recommend reading the 'Recollections' page.



Monte Cassino Society Ties and Scarves

Don't forget we have Monte Cassino Society ties and scarves available to purchase. These are in pale blue with the words MONTE CASSINO SOCIETY embroidered in gold lettering, and are available from Lesley Teasdale (Contact details at the end of this newsletter). The cost for ties is £13 and scarves £20, both including postage.



November Ceremonies 2024

Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph – Sunday 10th November 2024.

Planning for this year's Gathering at the Cenotaph is already well underway by the Royal British Legion and accordingly the application forms were sent out separately at the beginning of June. Any member of the Society who wishes to be on Horse Guards Parade in November will need to have completed and returned the form to Lesley Teasdale so that it arrives by 7th July. Please note that due to the wider security issues, we can only apply for tickets on behalf of current Members of the Society.

For those who are attending, can I please request that over the next month or so, you put together a short paragraph about why you are attending the Cenotaph this year and who you are there to represent and remember? Given the way that D-Day is dominating everything this year, if we are going to get our message about Italy out to the public, then it would be useful for the Committee to have some Back Stories and/or Sound Bites to hand for Sue Hughes to feed into the media during the run up to the event.

Westminster Abbey Fields of Remembrance – Thursday 07th November 2024.

Would anyone who wishes to attend please let Lesley Teasdale know by 3rd August. Tickets for this event are extremely limited and there are no guarantees, but she will request tickets for any current Members of the Society who would like to attend.

Westminster Abbey Fields of Remembrance – Dedications.

If anyone would like a dedication placed on one of the Crosses which the Society places in the Monte Cassino plot at the Field of Remembrance, then please send the details to Lesley Teasdale, who will collate them ready for November.

For Lesley's contact details please see contacts at the end of the newsletter.

Thank you, Lesley, Liz & Sue

Maintenance Fund for the Monte Cassino Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum.

Appeal for Donations.



The Committee have been looking into the ongoing maintenance of our memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) near Alrewas, Staffordshire.

Significant memorials to the Italian Campaign include the Polish memorial statue of Wojtek the Bear in Princes Gardens, Edinburgh, and the Arandora Star Memorial garden outside Glasgow Cathedral. Please correct me if I am mistaken, but to my knowledge there are only two memorials in the UK dedicated to the battles for Monte Cassino: Sir Eduardo Paolozzi's massive sculpture 'Manuscript of Monte Cassino' outside St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, and our own, completed in 2012 in the Mediterranean Campaign section of the NMA. The NMA memorial is therefore nationally important, being set in the country's focal point for Remembrance, and as such it needs to be maintained into the future.

The NMA offers a contract for long-term maintenance of the Memorial and the surrounding site 'in perpetuity', and although the cost of £3,808.43 represents a huge initial outlay for the Society, we have to consider it as a means of securing the long-term care of the memorial stonework, the stone benches, and the surrounding site.

We are very grateful for generous donations already received and equally appreciate donations of any size. If you would like to donate towards the Memorial Maintenance Fund, please contact our Treasurer, Diane Soady for details.

Helen James

MCS Trip to Cassino 12th to 19th May 2024

On the 12th May, members of the Monte Cassino Society gathered in Rome to start the journey to Cassino for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the battle. This journey was one I had always wanted to undertake, to learn about my father's time in the Polish forces in Italy, to remember his fellow soldiers and to see parts of the area where the Italian campaign had been. Little did I know how much more this trip would be for me personally and for the group as a whole!

I had very little knowledge about the Italian campaign and what part my father had played, as like many, he never wanted to talk about it. Over the years, I managed to glean fragments of information but nothing that would prepare me for the sights and emotions that would hit me as we travelled to each point of the study. Our guide, Frank de Planta, was absolutely superb. Knowledgeable, supportive, funny, irreverent, passionate about the subject and a completely superb orator, who made each day special. Travelling to each point, we learned so much along the way, giving us a small snapshot of what our loved ones had been through.

For me, the most moving and emotional places were the Polish cemetery and Point 593. To see the memorial to the Poles high up on the hill, really gave an insight into the horror that they must have endured to reach such a height, all the while under fire. It's just impossible to understand the hardships and fear they must have endured.

After 4 days of superb battlefield study with Frank, we continued our trip by paddling down the river Gari, accompanied by the wonderful George Cowie. Such a special experience that was the perfect way to relax a little after the rigors of the study, but still within the spirit of the trip.

As the weekend arrived, the Monte Cassino Society held a Remembrance service at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, where each of us read out the names of a fallen soldier. What a beautiful and moving service, made even more special by Fred Teasdale reading out the words of John Leach, who at the age of 4 months lost his father, who is buried in the cemetery. There wasn't a dry eye amongst us.

As our trip ended, we went to the official Service of Remembrance attended by HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh, with lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant. As a group, we were lucky enough to meet Her Grace. When asked if she knew who we were, the Duchess replied, "of course, you are the Monte Cassino Society". The Duchess was very knowledgeable about the battle and Italian Campaign and agreed that people in the UK and especially children don't know enough about it. We must keep spreading the word!

Upon returning home, I have taken time to reflect on what an absolutely incredible trip the Monte Cassino Society organized. My thanks must go to Helen and Lesley for all they did to make our trip so special and to Frank for the battlefield study.

The trip was far more than I had ever hoped it would be. I feel connected in a way I never thought possible, emotionally, and physically drained (I thought I was quite fit before!!) and full of enthusiasm to learn more. I have spent time with wonderful friends and made new, lifelong friends, sharing stories, emotions, and experiences along the way.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Helen, Lesley, and the Monte Cassino Society for the most incredible trip and for giving me memories I shall treasure forever.

Sharon Shaw

Members of MCS
with Frank de Planta
by the Doctor's
House, Snakeshead
Ridge.



Memories of the 80th Anniversary visit to Monte Cassino



Amazon Bridge memorial ceremony



Walking the Cavendish Road



Battlefield tour



River Gari guided boat trip



The group with guide George Cowie after the boat trip

Remembrance, 18th and 19th May 2024



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Meeting HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh

By John Leach

During lunch after the official ceremony at the Cassino War Commonwealth Cemetery, I was privileged enough to be sat at the head of the Monte Cassino Society table when HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh came to sit with us. She lamented the lack of awareness of the Italian Campaign amongst the younger generations and hoped that Societies like ours would help to improve that awareness and understanding of the suffering that the soldiers endured. She also mentioned the song 'The D Day Dodgers' and clearly understood the message that Hamish Henderson was trying to convey to Lady Astor.

I told her that my father had been killed at Cassino whilst serving with 2nd Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in the Fourth and final battle. She said that his loss was terribly sad but at least he had had a grave and a headstone. She was moved by just how many names were on the Cassino Memorial to the Missing in Italy.

Other members also talked about their connections to Monte Cassino, and Sharon Shaw explained that her father had fought as part of II (Polish) Corps up on Snakeshead Ridge, and that she was still researching the story of his time in Italy.

HRH gave the impression that she was enormously committed to supporting not just the veterans but their achievements in what was a very challenging campaign so far from home. She left us to attend the New Zealand Official Commemoration Service.



The Dog Tale

by Mary Berridge

As we paddled our way down river, occasionally stopping to hear George's accounts of the difficulty and struggle of getting bridges across, a dog on the riverbank took loud objection to our presence, barking so hard we couldn't hear what George was saying.

As I speak Italian my fellow paddlers asked me to shout at the dog as rudely as I could. How rude I asked? As rude as you possibly can they replied.

So I let fly, summoning the worst possible Italian vernacular and two things happened... The dog immediately shut up and the face of our young Italian crewman was a spectacle to behold of utter shock and amazement... Not what he could ever have imagined coming from the mouth of an apparently genteel English lady of a certain age.....

Added by Stuart Avery :“More news on the dog tale via Frank - trust him to know this: The dog (that was barking on the boat trip) belongs to a farmer whose family have a Fish & Chip shop of all places in Edinburgh! You could not make that up.”



As Mary says “After I had washed my mouth out with soap!”

When planning our own MCS service of Remembrance in Cassino, Lesley had the daunting task of finding us a suitable bugler to play the Last Post and Reveille. Not an easy assignment, so we were delighted to be contacted by Musician 2nd Class Dakota Keller, based with the American Navy in Naples, who attended on the day and contributed hugely to the dignity and solemnity of the service with his flawless rendition. Our thanks are due to this talented young musician for giving us the benefit of his time and expertise.

Musician 2nd Class Dakota Keller

Hailing from Dallas, Texas, Musician 2nd Class Dakota Keller enlisted in the United States Navy in 2017. His duty stations include Norfolk, Virginia; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and currently, with the U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa Band based in Naples, Italy.

In 2019, MU2 Keller deployed in support of Pacific Partnership, a four-month humanitarian mission in the South China Sea where he aided in medical support, school reconstruction efforts, and musical engagements among 6 countries. As a bugler, he has provided bugle calls for over 120 funeral and memorial ceremonies.

Petty Officer Keller's efforts have earned him six letters of commendation, two Good Conduct medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and one



Joint Service Achievement Medal. During his military career, he has performed in over 30 countries across four continents for live and media audiences exceeding 120 million.

With 18 years of trumpet playing experience, MU2 Keller has studied under the tutelage of John Holt of the Dallas Opera, Adam Gordon of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and internationally renowned trumpet soloist Allen Vizzutti.

In addition to his military accomplishments, Keller was featured in the 2019 movie "Midway," where he can be seen and heard sounding the bugle call "To the Color." He has performed for various high-ranking dignitaries, including the Vice President of the United States, and had the honor of performing for the Pope in 2023.

MU2 Dakota Keller holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Texas and graduated in the top 5% of his class at the United States Naval School of Music in 2018.

He considers it a profound honor to serve as a musician in the armed forces, finding his greatest fulfillment in paying tribute to fallen heroes through his music.

Service of Commemoration for the 80th Anniversary of the Battles for Monte Cassino, held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Saturday 18th May 2024

Report by Doreen Belcher

What a lovely Memorial Day we had at the NMA on Saturday 18th May. The sun shone and it couldn't have been better in Italy. I was thrilled to see so many people attending the Service (about 100). Many of them were Polish and made it special by bringing photos of their loved ones to put on the Monument.

The Rev Victor, our Chaplain was as usual brilliant and made everyone feel welcome. His opening words were light-hearted but poignant.

Dr Michael Wilson read the lesson and a touching poem, "A Minstrel Boy" written during the battle by Desmond H Lloyd, a soldier with the London Irish Rifles, at Monte Cassino in 1944.

A young Thomas Worthington read "Memories of John Leach's father", who was killed at Cassino, which were sad and moving.

After the Act of Remembrance led by our superb bugler, the wreaths were laid, and there were many of them.

It was a lovely Service, and although it was a perfect day for sitting out with coffee and conversation this was impossible because the Arboretum was so full there was not a seat to be had outside. However, we had done a lot of chatting by the Monument after the Service, so all in all, it was a great day.



Blackhall St Columba's Church, Edinburgh

Report by Lesley Teasdale

In addition to the Services on Saturday 18th May at the Cassino War Cemetery and the National Memorial Arboretum, the Rev Fergus Cook also welcomed us in person and via the wonders of YouTube to his own service of Remembrance for the Battles of Cassino.

After my return from Italy I was able to watch this beautiful service. The Communion table featured the Cross used by the Rev R W Watson Mathewson when he was the chaplain of the Pioneer Corps.

The Church has recently been presented with a British 'Brodie' Helmet which was brought back from Italy many years after the battles. This was placed in front of the Communion table as a centrepiece for the act of Remembrance.

The Standard of the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) Regimental Association was presented at the start of the service.

The Rev Cook's service looked at the whole of the Italian Campaign and encompassed combatants and non combatants alike.

Wreaths were laid by the Consul Generals from India and the Republic of Poland, the Honorary Consul for Canada, representatives from The Royal Artillery Association, The Cameron Highlanders Association, The Seaforth Highlanders Association, The Scots Guards, Ludwik Jaszczur and Polish Veterans Memorial Association, The General Sikorski Polish Social Club (Glasgow), The Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland, The Monte Cassino Society and The Blackhall St Columba's congregation.

The last post was played by Tony Laidlaw, which I always find a very poignant moment of the service.

Finally Pipe Major Mark Macrae led the wreath layers to the War Memorial, next to which is our 'Monte Cassino' Bench that was dedicated last year.

Should you wish to go back and re-watch the service, it is still available via the Church's website at

[www.https://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk/live-stream-services-and-info/](https://www.blackhallstcolumba.org.uk/live-stream-services-and-info/), and following the 'Live Stream Services' link.



Some images from the Service of Remembrance,
Blackhall St. Columba's Church, Edinburgh, on 18th May 2024



The following poem was written by Desmond H C Lloyd in 1944 during the Battle for Monte Cassino, where he was serving with the London Irish Rifles. It was only discovered recently by his daughter Phillipa, after her father's death. Dr Michael Wilson read out the poem during our service at the NMA, remarking that he had never before come across a war poem written at Cassino.

A Minstrel Boy

by Desmond H C Lloyd, Monte Cassino – Easter 1944

That year Italian spring came very late:
The olive trees unfriendly, dark and bleak,
Few birds sang madrigals at dawn;
How could they compete against an orchestra
Of morning 'hate'? Wispy shadows filtered
Through the shell wracked trees, then died.

Like troglodytes we lived in tiny caves;
Two men to a tiny cell; candle-light and smelly lamps,
One man read Rupert Brooke; another, Conan Doyle.
Others with more salacious tastes retailed with glee
Hoary tales of carefree days, voluptuous nights
Around Amalfi's sun-blached shore.

Our lotus life; now the penance must be paid,
Good men cursed the name of saintly Benedict,
But wondered how the faithful monks
Their vigil kept, oblivious of the alien world
Outside their cloistered walls.

One night the Paschal moon shone bright.
Too bright for nightly games of hide and seek
Among the rocky paths close by the Titan's jaw.
We scabbled, scrambled up and down the slopes
Like mountain goats at play.
Each careless step might be our last.
The enemy were jittery too – flares shot
Upward to the stars, hovered, dipped
Then thudded into nothingness.
Pale green, red – quite pretty, I suppose
A Belfast voice whispered in my ear
"Don't they have no orange ones at all!"

Easter morn brought unaccustomed peace.
The guns were stilled, as if some unseen voice,
Had cried; "Enough! This is a Festal day. Rejoice!"
The chaplain with a furrowed brow announced
"I'll celebrate the Eucharist at nine."

Some responded more in curiosity than faith.
His wooden crucifix – a present from his wife –
Stood on a plywood box, an army issue blanket,
Faded grey the altar cloth.

Snippets and Links

Sent in by Karen Czernik:

Monte Cassino Eyewitness podcast

“Please find below information about free podcasts - in English - relating to Polish veterans, including one of the Lancers patrol who raised the Polish pennant on the abbey.

Pocket Casts can be downloaded FREE from Play Store.”

Although this is the 80th Anniversary of the battle, there is one surviving soldier of the first Polish patrol to reach the peak of Monte Cassino and raise the regimental pennant. Aged 18 at the time, and now 98, Colonel Romuald Lipinski of the 12 Putk Utanów Podolskich (12th Podolski Lancers Regiment), Drugi Korpus (Second Polish Corps) gives an eyewitness account of the battle, recorded in a recent interview with Jola Piesakowska.

Please use the links below to listen to this podcast. This is part of a series of podcasts which reflect on the Battle of Monte Cassino and consider the contribution made by Polish troops in the Italian Campaign - while also reflecting on the cultural and emotional impact this has made on subsequent generations of Poles. This series of podcasts is supported by the Polish Cultural Institute.

Spotify : <https://open.spotify.com/show/1YHTdfd3PLEdIDhi5ZFbJs>

Apple Podcasts: apple.co/3WFFg4L

Pocket Casts: <https://pca.st/thv3hcja>

After so much D-Day coverage in the media, some thoughts from our members on the ‘Forgotten’ Italian Campaign:

Sent in by Pat Rigg:

“I was on the MS Balmoral, cruising the ‘River Cities of France and Portugal’ on May 18th and thinking about you all. I asked to have brief details given on the ship's newsletter ‘The Daily Times’ about this important date, when the Monastery at Monte Cassino was taken, and it was front page information. Quite a few people, with fathers, brothers, uncles, etc., talked to the Entertainment Manager about it, so it was remembered. There were over 1.000 people on board, so hopefully they all read it!”

And from Michael Wilson:

“I have managed to add the Italian Campaign to the prayers at our church for Sunday! Last Sunday a BBC Education video about D Day was played, which was great. However it repeated the line of the first invasion on mainland Europe and then there was a map of Western Europe, showing the second front with Russia coming in, but Italy was totally black as if nothing was happening there, thus ignoring the Italian Campaign.

I complained to Lisa who of course was not to blame, as the BBC were. Anyhow she said if you give me a few lines I shall add them next Sunday. Now I am reading the prayer!”

"Lucky Darcy Moore" (A Facebook conversation reported by Helen Ashby):

Helen A: As promised, here is a copy of my Facebook conversation with a former colleague Heather, in response to some pictures I posted of the CWGC cemetery at Cassino.

Heather: My Uncle "Lucky Darcy Moore" was there and got called up for the Army football team, so was taken out of the front lines and sent back to play football! He knew he was very lucky.

Helen A: Heather, that's amazing - it was brutal here, he really was lucky!

Heather: He knew it - Lucky Darcy Moore. He was well known to be a bit jammy - skiing training in Norway, football with Tommy Lawton, returned home and never left England again. His wartime photos are pretty much all about sport, but he was in the desert as well as fighting all the way up Italy. His only ever war comment was his preference for Rommel over Montgomery!

Helen A: Heather thinks he would have been in the Sherwood Foresters as he came from Nottingham. The 5th SF landed at Salerno, so that would make sense of her comment 'having fought his way up Italy'.

From Sue Hughes:

The Gurkha Museum and Project Kaida

Sue sent this link to the Gurkha Museum in Winchester, which featured as its Curator's Choice for May a piece of shrapnel from Hangman's Hill, Monte Cassino. Sue said "The museum was instrumental in allowing me into its archive to research Dad's time with the Indian army, because they hold the Indian army record books, the 'red books.'"

Text from the Gurkha Museum Trust reads *"If you enjoy our Curator's Choice articles each month, you may also consider following us on Tik Tok, where our assistant Curator talks about unique items from our collections and the stories behind them"*

<https://thegurkhamuseum.co.uk/blog/assault-on-hangmans-hill/>

Sent in by Pat Rigg:

"Just sending a few words, spoken to me, once, by the widow of a D-Day veteran. Only the date has been changed":

D-Day? The landings? He never said a word. And then, D-Day 80.

Memories. Gold Beach. Get ashore. Get ashore. And then, dead boys

floating in the water. So young, so young. No time to grieve.

He sighed, and then, he cried.

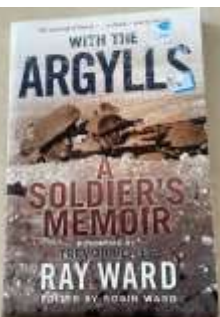
Books

"Monte Cassino Under Fire": War diaries from the Abbey, by Eusebio Grossetti and Martino Matronola.

Recommended by Pat Rigg

"Memories of a Young Sergeant", by MCS member Tony Pittaccio: Over the years Antony has given interviews, but it is only now, at the age of 94, that he has gathered all the memories together and written the story of his extraordinary and unique experience of the Italian campaign.

Published in Great Britain by Amazon, ISBN number 9798872581758, and available in hardback, paperback, and Kindle edition, this is a fascinating story and a great read.



"With the Argylls, A Soldier's Memoir": by Ray Ward.

The story of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Africa, Sicily, and as they fought alongside the 3/8 Punjabis in the Italian Campaign.

"The Tiger Triumphs", *the story of three great divisions in Italy:*

Published by H M Stationery Office for the Government of India, 1946.

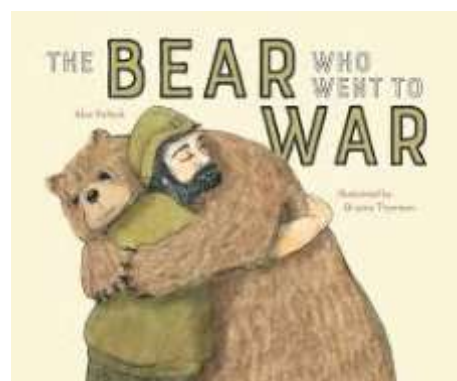
An online version is available at <https://www.biblio.org/britishraj/Tiger3/indexhtml>



"The Bear who went to War", by Alan Pollack, Illustrated by Bryony Thompson:

This wonderful book re-tells the story of Wojtek, the Syrian brown bear who was adopted by soldiers of the 2nd Polish Corps, went to war with them in Italy and then into exile in Britain, ending his days in Edinburgh Zoo. Beautifully illustrated, it is suitable for younger children who are just learning to read.

Recommended by Lesley Teasdale





Veteran, 100 year old Jack Hearn



HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh



New members

Adrian & Helen Ashby – Great Nephew of Private James Ashby, 10th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, KIA on 25 February 1944 and buried at Anzio

Antony Burchell – Nephew of Antony Pittaccio, 23rd New Zealand Infantry Battalion

Derek Wiltshire – Son of Frederick George Wiltshire, Royal Engineers

Frank de Planta – Maternal grandson of Major RCB Buck, who served in 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters and later as a Town Major in AMGOT.

Jane Gillard – Daughter of Major George Bertram Lucas

Julie & Mark Symes – Daughter of L/Cpl Haydn Nicholls

Marina Porto – Niece of Antony Pittaccio, 23rd New Zealand Infantry Battalion

Mary Berridge – Daughter of Lt Col Clifford Berridge OBE, Royal Army Service Corps

Peter Ellingworth – Son of Gunner (and then Sapper) Roy Ellingworth, 39 Light Anti- Aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery

Peter Nisbet – Son of George Herbert Nisbet, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry

Phillipa Lloyd – Daughter of Desmond Lloyd, London Irish Rifles

Ruth Patrick-Bacon – A general interest in the Italian Campaign

Shan Lawrence – Friend of Robert Randall, London Irish Rifles

Simon Roots – Cousin of Signalmán Lewis Roots, Royal Corps of Signals, KIA on 28 February 1944 and buried at Cassino

Stephanie Birkhead – Daughter of August William James Stevens, Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surreys), Royal Artillery & Royal Fusiliers

Stuart Avery – Grandson of Eric Marshall, who served in 2/7 Battalion Middlesex Regiment throughout the Italian Campaign as a Vickers Machine Gunner

**Contact Us:**

Lesley Teasdale, Hon. Secretary: lesandjezte@talktalk.net 01752 492799

Diane Soady, Treasurer: dianesoady@googlemail.com 01760 722590

Helen James, Newsletter Editor: helenconrad@btconnect.com

Sue Hughes, Liaison Officer: suehughes4@icloud.com

Des James, Website and Facebook page co-ordinator: desjames@btconnect.com

Michael Wilson, Committee member: mwilson827@btinternet.com

John Leach, Committee member: johnleachportloe@gmail.com

Website: www.montecassinociety.co.uk

Facebook: [The Monte Cassino Society](#) and [Monte Cassino Society Group](#)

Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/MonteCassinoSoc>

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