

7 KOSB MEMORIAL - 4 APRIL 2022

On 4th April, around 100 people gathered under cloudy and rainy skies, in a field atop Peake Farm in Hampshire to dedicate a Memorial to 33 men who lost their lives 78 years ago during a towed glider night exercise on 4 April 1944 in the lead up to D-Day. The 33 men who died that night included all 24 men of 3 Pl, A Coy, 7th (Airborne) Bn, KOSB.

Over 20 Borderers were among the assembled group to commemorate this tragic accident. Major General Tim Toyne Sewell DL led the KOSB contingent on the day and laid a KOSB wreath of behalf of the Association; there was no shortage of Leslie tartan present, KOSB glengarries and ties, and also a few Regimental brollies were deployed. Major Ian Gibbs also attended as Chairman, London and Southern Counties Branch.

It was equally special to have many Borderers in such prominent roles at the Service, including: Lieutenant Colonel Ewen Stuart, former Pipe Major KOSB (now AAC), who piped fantastically throughout the morning and gave a particularly stirring rendition of '*Blue Bonnets over the Border*' to round out the event. Former KOSB officers, Colonel James Loudoun, late PARA and Colonel Jamie Baxter, late RAMC - both laying wreaths for their respective current Regimental affiliations, and former KOSB officer, Colonel Pete Little OBE, late SCOTS - who was privileged to be a small part of the organising committee and read a Lesson at the Service.

We were honoured to have present Andy Read, nephew of Lance Sergeant Henry James Vernon Read, who died on that fateful night at the young age of 27 years old. Some of Andy's family also attended.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Major Will Pike PARA (retd), who was the brains behind the project, and who worked tirelessly to create such a fitting tribute to the KOSB, RAMC, Glider Pilot Regiment, RAF and RAAF men who died that night. Will's father, Lieutenant General Sir Hew Pike KCB DSO, late PARA (retd) was also present at the Service, which occurred almost 40 years to the day after he set sail as CO 3 PARA for the Falkland Islands in 1982.

Thank you to those who have contributed to this memorial thus far. If you would still like to donate towards the cost of the Memorial, you are welcome to do so at:

Account Name: KOSB Association

Sort Code: 20-58-17

Account Number: 00148849

Annotate: 7 KOSB Memorial