

Army Benevolent Fund presentation

Representatives of No 9 District were on hand last week to hand over a cheque for £600 to Colonel Derek Smyth of the Army Benevolent Fund. The money was raised by members of the District at a recent fundraiser held in West Belfast Orange Hall. Colonel Smyth thanked the members present and then gave a short presentation on the work of the Army Benevolent Fund.



District Master David Nicholl handing over the cheque to Colonel Derek Smyth.

Death of a Hero



Just over two weeks ago a hero was laid to rest at Roselawn Cemetery. Corporal Sean Binnie, a member of the Black Watch 3rd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland. His young wife was joined by family, friends and her husband's regimental colleagues to pay tribute to the service of a young man who lived his life to the full both in his personal life and in his military career. He was buried with full military honours, as his colleagues lowered his coffin a firing party fired the traditional volley of three shots.

typical of his bravery and leadership, Corporal Binnie went forward to deal with the enemy himself, scaling two compound walls and deploying one of his team mates as a point of fire to cover his final approach. The situation was made more complex by the presence of women and children in the building, but Corporal Binnie had the presence of mind and discipline to make a clear assessment of the compound and positively identify his target. He posted a grenade through the compound doorway and while doing so, sustained a fatal gunshot wound.

In his six years in the Army he had served in Iraq, Belfast, and the Falkland Islands and as part of the Operational Mentoring and Liaison team in Afghanistan. Giving the eulogy at his funeral a regimental representative detailed the actions that led to the death of Corporal Binnie.

Corporal Binnie died as he lived; going forward, totally committed, leading by example and putting the needs of others before himself. He died as he lived a hero. LEST WE FORGET.

His team, including members of the Afghan National Army had deployed on patrol too deter enemy activity North of Musa Qaleh. During this operation, they surprised a group of the enemy who attempted to escape. The warriors from the ANA and the ANP pursued the enemy through some alleyways in an attempt to prevent them from occupying established firing positions. Aware that they needed grenades to clear the enemy from the main compound. In a manner



Charity Land Rover Pull

Ranger Andrew Allen's personal nightmare began when a huge explosion tore through his body and left him fighting for his life in Southern Afghanistan. The young Ranger, serving with the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment, lost a leg in the blast and was so badly burned that he was unable to see following the attack in the infamous Musa Quala area of Helmand Province Afghanistan. Following an assessment by doctors he had to have his other leg amputated because of the severity of his injuries.

A rhythm of normality has slowly been returning to Ranger Allen's life, in the care of a project run by SSAFA Forces Help. The charity has created a retreat close to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey, is available 365 days of the year and is run by a dedicated on site team who are on hand to offer support, comfort and advice to those who stay. Since last February the centre has provided nearly 200 military personnel and 60 families with a valuable home from home.

Ranger Allen and his colleagues from East Belfast RIR Association will be pulling a Land Rover up the Shankill Road on Saturday June 20th to help raise much needed funds for Norton House. The event commences at 1.00pm from Boundary Way finishing at Paisley Park. **Speaking to the Shankill Mirror a spokesman for the Association said, 'the generosity of the people of the Northern Ireland in general and of the Shankill is renowned the world over. We are appealing to everyone to come out and cheer on the lads doing the Land Rover pull and to give as much as possible for this very worthy cause.'**

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