

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION**  
– 10 APRIL 2010 IN BRACKLEY

Prior to and during the Second World War, Brackley was an important centre for the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, and C Squadron was mobilised from the former Drill Hall in St Peter's Road (now the site of Yeomans Close) in 1939. It drew men not only from Brackley and the surrounding villages but also from Buckingham and its surrounds. Its focus was on tanks and armoured cars and its number was complemented by men from other parts of the country.

As part of the celebrations organised by the then Brackley Borough Council in 1960 to celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of its first charter of borough status, the Brackley Borough Council conferred the freedom of the borough on the Northamptonshire Yeomanry. This gave them the right to march through the town with bayonets fixed and indeed a contingent of serving soldiers from the regiment did form part of the parade that passed through the town in June 1960 during the week of festivities. The present Town Mayor's most vivid memory is of the street parties that were organised for all the town's children, mainly in Brackley Park and held on several days.

2010 therefore sees the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this particular accolade for the Northamptonshire Yeomanry which, as a regiment, has long since been subsumed into the Royal Anglian Regiment. There is still a Northamptonshire Yeomanry Association and there is a 'Children of the Regiment' Association as well.

The Northamptonshire Yeomanry was instrumental in the liberation of the village of St Aignan in northern France in August 1944, and close contact has always remained. Last October, the people of St Aignan presented the NY Association with an apple tree to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation. The NY Association asked if Brackley Town Council could find a place to plant this tree and it has been located in Brackley Cemetery, a place of quiet and reflection.

On Saturday 10 April, members of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry Association will gather at Brackley Cemetery at 10.00am to dedicate a commemorative plaque. Any former members of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry who would like to attend will be most welcome. For further information please contact the Town Mayor, Caryl Billingham (whose father, Tom, served with the Northamptonshire Yeomanry throughout the Second World War and who is, herself, a member of the 'Children of the Regiment') on [caryl.billingham@tesco.net](mailto:caryl.billingham@tesco.net) or the Deputy Town Clerk, Irene Bennett, on Brackley (01280) 702441. There will be a short wreath-laying ceremony at the town's War Memorial immediately afterwards.

Caryl Billingham.070310