

In 1st Battalion The 2nd Overton Underground Camel Corps

1st Battalion The 2nd Overton Underground Camel Corps is a highly trained and efficient body of people taken from the UK and beyond. Its sole purpose in life is to uphold the proud motto of the Corps. Entry is open to all living beings but a passing knowledge of Battleship salesmanship, Scutage Venery and obtuse community penetration and a sworn hatred of “sexy rugby” is essential.

The Corps history is veiled in the mists of time but elements of the force have come from the Rotten Hill Rough Riders and the Tufton Light Mining Brigade. The Corps has seen service in many overseas Campaigns. Starting with a number of sorties into deepest France only to be driven back by the difficult terrain and various medical conditions. It was reorganised and spearheaded an assault on Rotterdam and The Hague. Due to these initial successes further adventures were planned such as the aborted landings in Romania and the subsequent storming of the Imperial at Cork.

The Corps sustained heavy casualties in Conakilty but gained a Battle Honour at the “lock in” in Middleton. From there the force were embarked to the North Holland Campaign and again received Battle Honours against the Giants of Alkmaar, the Bars of Amsterdam and the Dikes of Hoorn. It was here that the attack diving section was established. France was again targeted for a number of raids, notably Burgundy, where the Vieux Garde made a notable stand in the Wine and olive oil caves, and the Bar at St Martin, following a heroic stand in the snow at the Pass Du Brouilly.

The Chasseurs a Chameau did sterling work at Neuvic, where a French Tricolour and Canard were captured followed by the rearguard action at the Winery and the aborted attack on the Chateau at St Emilion. During this part of the Corps history it was aided for the first time by the Midget Camel corps whose sole purpose is to “infiltrate and irritate”. Its honour citation reads “that this section took a heavily defended Château and held it for 3 nights withdrawing under heavy fire without sustaining any casualties. A remarkable achievement.” (Published in the Laverstoke Gazette.)

The Corps had to endure sub Saharan temperatures in 2003 with another foray into deepest Burgundy, losing its sleeves near the Loire but did gain recognition for the lay-by incident and the tractor dash under heavy fire. A joint expedition was launched at Easter 2004 and like the Guards Armoured Division, it likewise stalled on the “devils highway” at Valkenswaard. But the flotilla did gain a further honour in the skirmish on Pancake Sunday with the “capture of the Bath”. While the Corps did an Anglo-Dutch raid on Etten Leur and finally a last stand at the Bell. All combatants retired to Belgium but after the Turnhout incident retreated to Calais in fine order.

The Corps launched a further foray into Europe in 2005 with a landing at Dunkirk and a “dash to Arnhem” in May. Again sterling work was done by a small band of regular veterans plus a number of new recruits who gained a numerous decorations plus a mention in despatches. In May 2006 the Corps went forth this time to the Ardennes, where the new colours were flown at the Battle of the Bulges. Attempts to remove a tiger tank failed and once again a retreat to Dunkirk was attempted with only one casualty –a green Kiwi.

In April 2008 in deepest France the Corps sustained a serious wounded colleague on first day of battle in the “graveyard spike” engagement. The corps. however were unaffected and went on to fight well especially the yellow hat brigade. One of the corps gained honours in the battle of “ricard” and also gained some palm reading skills to boot. The retreat to Calais was successful even with one fraudulent passport.

In 2010 the Corps returned to deepest Holland for the Battle of Betuwe. New recruits again served with honours and gained numerous decorations, However one Corps Veteran was almost lost to the enemy in what has been called the “Battle of the Brown Trousers”. Survival was only secured by quick action from senior corps members and rear guard clean up action.