GENERAL SIR PATRICK HOWARD-DOBSON GCB (R33-40)

"Sportsman, Soldier, Chorister and Endless Volunteer"

"General Pat" as he was fondly known by Framlinghamians over many years, was born on 12 August 1921. He managed, throughout his life, to combine a love of music and sports with both his formal career, as a soldier, and his 'retired' career supporting a host of National and Regional organisations. A glance at his biographical summary will show just how effectively he blended these rare skills together:



1931-33	Chorister, Kings College Choir School – a period which he described as "all too short a stay in paradise"	
1933-40	Framlingham College: Head Boy; Captain of Cricket - Scored 1,000 runs in the 1940 season - a record not broken for many a year	
1941	Commissioned into The Yorkshire Hussars, but on arrival in Egypt was snapped-up by The 7 th Queen's Own Hussars	
1942-43	Burma Campaign	
1944-45	Italian Campaign: Fought alongside American and Polish forces. Awarded US Silver Star and Polish Virtute Militari (Poland's highest award for bravery)	
1946	Talked into a Regular Commission by his commanding officer – an event which allowed him to marry his girlfriend, Barbara Mills	

1947-50	Regimental duty, Germany	Daughter, Susan, is born 1949. Pat & Bar compete in many Horse Trials
1950-53	Passes Staff College1950 Regimental duty, UK	Son, Peter, is born 1951 Golf and Cricket predominate
1955-57	Regimental duty, Hong Kong	President Hong Kong Cricket Club. Son, Simon, is born 1955
1957-60	Regimental duty at Tidworth – 7 th & 3 rd Hussars combine to form The Queen's Own Hussars Joint Services Staff College 1958	Some serious Cricket ensues: MCC Free Foresters CC I Zingari CC
1960-63	Directing Staff, Staff College	More of the same, time permitting
1963-65	Appointed a Lt. Colonel, and commanded his Regiment in Germany and the UK	Told to "do something about the Choir" by his Brigadier – so first joined it, and then took over as Choirmaster. The family starts Skiing



1965-67	Appointed a Brigadier, and commanded Twenty Armoured Brigade in Germany	Still plenty of time for Cricket, Golf, Squash and Hockey, and to develop a new love, Sailing
1969-71	Appointed a Major General and Chief of Staff, Far East Command in Singapore	In spite of a highly pressured role, finds plenty of time for the family, who all develop a passion for water-skiing and skin-diving. Pat become honourary Colonel of the Queen's Own Hussars in 1969, a position he holds until 1975
1972-74	Commandant, The Staff College, Camberley – thus completing a full- house: Student, Directing Staff and Commandant	President of the Society of Old Framlinghamians 1973-5. Pat was appointed a Commander of the Order of the Bath (CB) in 1973
1974-76	To the Ministry of Defence, as Military Secretary, in the rank of Lieutenant General	Appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB). Sir Pat and his Lady begin to patrol the waters of the Channel and the North Sea each summer aboard "White Knight", a Royal Armoured Corps Yacht Club Cruising cruiser
1977-79	Appointed Quartermaster General in the Ministry of Defence (a post once held by Samuel Pepys in Marlborough's army of 1703)	
1979-81	Appointed a Full General and Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Personnel and Logistics – legend has it that it wasn't the Army's "turn" to hold the highest rank in the Armed Forces, otherwise he just might have been Chief of Defence staff and a Field Marshal to-boot!	Appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath (GCB) in 1979. From 1978-81 he also held the honorary post of Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty the Queen. Becomes honorary Colonel Commandant of the Army Catering Corps Inducted into the Worshipful Company of Cooks, and becomes a Freeman of the City of London
1981	Retires from the Army and, in 1986, moves to Snape, near Saxmundham, Suffolk	- The plan being to spend a lot more time sailing. However, there were to be many more demands on his time
1981-87	National President, Royal British Legion.	Becomes a Governor of Framlingham College
1981-88	Chairman of the Race Committee, Cutty Sark Tall Ships Races. Subsequently, Vice-Patron of the Tall Ships Youth trust until 2006	An excellent excuse for even more sailing back and forth across the North Sea
Just a small sample of some	Chairman, St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy	1987-91: Chairman of Governors, Framlingham College
of Pat's other retirement roles	President, Friends of the Imperial War Museum	1988-98: President, King's College School Cambridge Association
. 5165	President, Burma Star Association regional group	Governor, St John's School, Leatherhead
	Regional Director, Lloyds Bank	President, Herts Dunkirk Veterans Association



Here's a more complete list of the organizations he remained connected with until his death (but there were a good few more)

Royal British Legion Army Benevolent Fund St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy Tall Ships Youth Trust Gurkha Welfare Trust Burma Star Association Royal Start and Garter Home **Alzheimers Society** Friends of the National Army Museum Royal National Lifeboat Institution St. John's School, Leatherhead Friends of the Imperial War Museum Friends of St Edmundsbury War Memorials Trust Hertfordshire Conservation Society King's College Choir School Association King's College School Association Alde and Orr Association The Royal Logistics Corps

Society of Old Framlinghamians Army Catering Corps Association The Worshipful Company of Cooks Staff College Club Friends of Aldeburgh Music Royal Cruising Club Royal Armoured Corps Yacht Club Royal Worlington & Newmarket GC Aldeburgh Golf Club Army Catering Corps Golfing Society Army Golfers Society Senior Golfing Society Army Golf Association Army Cricket Association Free Foresters Cricket Club Stragglers of Asia Cricket Club I Zingari Cricket Club Sail Training Association Sail Training International

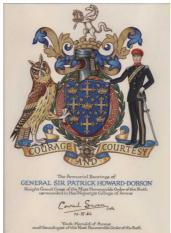
Pat and Bar remained stalwarts of the East Coast sailing, golfing and musical fraternity after moving to Snape in the mid-80s. They made their final two-handed channel crossing in "Ready About" in the Summer of 1998 – at the tender age of 77! (and they only stopped then because their adult children convinced them, somewhat against their will, that they'd had one too many 'eventful' crossings).

In May 2002, Patrick was "installed", with some dozen others of the most senior members of the Order of the Bath, in the King Henry VII Chapel of Westminster Abbey, where his standard and shield remain until the Spring of 2010, when the next installation of Knights occurs. His Arms feature the pierced crowns of St Edmund, mirroring the shield of Framlingham College; an Owl representing the Staff College; and the rearing white stallion of the Queen's Own Hussars.

Bar died in August 2004 after a long stroke-induced decline, leaving an enormous hole in Pat's life. He began to be affected by Alzheimers disease not very long afterwards. Fortunately, its progression was slow and gentle and, with the support of a wonderful care team, he was able to remain in his own home, and to take some part in many local and regional events, until just before he died.









About to command The Queen's Own Hussars - 1963

Armorial Bearings

Aboard "White Knight" - 1977

The crest placed in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Abbey. Crests were originally worn on top of the Knights helm (helmet) during pageants and tournaments in the thirteen and fourteenth century and are used as a form of identification. The pictures below also show the banner (dark blue with gold) hanging in the Lady Chapel and the Arms Plates behind his chair.

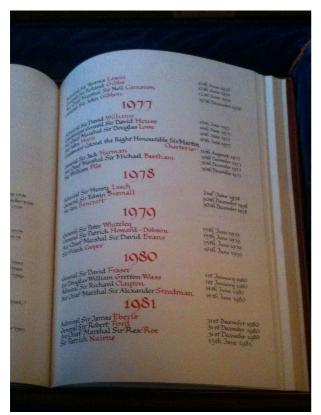








The following pictures show the book recording all the recipients of the Order of the Bath (his entry is 2^{nd} under 1979 and records the date of installation as 15 June 1979) and another view of banner and wonderful ceiling in the Chapel.





My thanks to his son Peter for the following photo that we think was taken in 1979 at the time of his Knight Grand Cross (GCB) rather than at his earlier investiture with the initial Knighthood in 1974.

He is also mentioned a couple of times in **Anthony Cooper's (R35-39)** book entitled "Somehow They Knew: A True Love-Story". It's a true love story of a girl awaiting her man's return from war, with fascinating glimpses of wartime Britain, and later the Far East, US and France.





Id The Society of ramlinghamians

I'm also indebted to Dick Goodwin for the following wonderful photo of Sir Pat at the Burma Star Annual Parade at Duxford in August 2009.



General Sir Pat perhaps fittingly died on Remembrance Sunday 2009 on 8 November 2009 at the age of 88.



The East Anglian Daily Times published the following obituary which includes a lovely interview with his son Peter and comments by the new Head, Paul Taylor:-





The Daily Telegraph carried the following obituary on 21 December 2009 http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/military-obituaries/army-obituaries/6852486/General-Sir-Patrick-Howard-Dobson.html

General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson

General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, who has died aged 88, became Vice-Chief of Defence Staff in 1979; an able commander and an outstanding staff officer, he was also a talented all-round sportsman.

Howard-Dobson was commissioned into the Yorkshire Hussars in 1941. On his arrival in Egypt, he transferred to the 7th Queen's Own Hussars (7 QOH) and, after they moved to Burma, he took part in the arduous retreat northwards to India. The tanks were used to smash road blocks, cover the withdrawal and carry the wounded. The last 150 miles of the marathon were covered on foot.

In spring 1944 Howard-Dobson saw further action in Italy when he fought alongside American and Polish forces. During heavy fighting to breach the Gothic Line in September, he led his troop through very difficult country to support an infantry unit which was being counterattacked by a much larger force.

Having reconnoitred on foot under intense fire, he brought his tanks over a river and drove off the enemy. He was awarded the US Silver Star and Poland's Virtuti Militari for his gallantry.

Patrick John Howard-Dobson, the son of Canon Howard Dobson, was born at Leicester on August 12 1921 and educated at King's College Choir School, Cambridge – a period he described as "all too short a stay in paradise". He went on to Framlingham College, where he was head boy and, as captain of cricket, scored 1,000 runs in the 1940 season, a record that was not broken for many years.

After the war he was granted a regular commission and attended Staff College. Regimental duty in Hong Kong and then at Tidworth provided opportunities for playing cricket. He became president of the Hong Kong Cricket Club and, back in England, played for the Combined Services, the Free Foresters and I Zingari.

In 1963 he took command of the Queen's Own Hussars following the amalgamation of 7 QOH and the 3rd Hussars. His brigadier told him to "do something about the choir", so he joined it and then took over as choirmaster.

Howard-Dobson then commanded 20 Armoured Brigade in Germany. He played cricket, golf, squash and hockey and discovered a new love, sailing. A spell at the Imperial Defence College was followed by promotion to major-general and a move to Singapore as Chief of Staff, Far East Command.

In 1972 he returned to take over as Commandant of the Staff College. Promoted to lieutenant-general and knighted in 1974, he was appointed Military Secretary at the MoD. A shrewd judge of people, he was well-equipped for the task of advising the Secretary of State on the selection of senior commanders and staff officers.

In 1977 he joined the Army Board as Quartermaster-General. His predecessor had instigated a range of reforms, and his work consisted largely of consolidation.

Promoted to full general in 1979 on his appointment as Vice-Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel & Logistics), he made the best of the unenviable task of maintaining service morale during a period of severe cutbacks in defence spending.





As Representative Colonel Commandant for the Army Catering Corps from 1976 to 1981, he visited many ACC units at home and abroad and talked to thousands of Army chefs. A friendly and compassionate man, his interest and enthusiasm were greatly valued. He retired from the Army in 1981 and became national president of the Royal British Legion. For the next six years, he played a notable part in revitalising the organisation. At a time when the future of St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy was in doubt, as chairman of its council he confronted the House of Bishops and made a strenuous appeal to them to obtain grants from their dioceses. This may have been the first time that a lay person had addressed their Lordships. In his typical Army way, he told them that they were idle. The result was a dramatic rise in donations.

Intelligent and well-read, he had a great gift for getting along with and getting the best out of people from all walks of life, qualities which sprang from his deeply held Christian convictions.

He and his wife moved to Suffolk and became stalwarts of the east coast sailing, golfing and musical fraternities.

In 1980 he was one of 600 yachtsmen trapped in Cherbourg by a blockade of French fishermen. He served on a yachtsmen's committee set up to negotiate with consular officials.

From 1978 to 1981 he was ADC General to the Queen. He was appointed GCB in 1979.

Patrick Howard-Dobson died on November 8. He married, in 1946, Barbara Mills. She predeceased him, and he is survived by their two sons and a daughter.

The Times carried the following obituary at http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/obituaries/article6914566.ece

TIMESONLINE From Times Online

November 13, 2009

General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson

After wartime service with the 7th Hussars that included covering the long retreat from Rangoon through Burma to India in 1942, and participation in the Allied advance in Italy in 1944-45, Patrick Howard-Dobson rose to command his regiment in the 1960s. Among his other postwar appointments were his notable period as commandant of the Staff College in the following decade, en route to his final appointment as Vice-Chief of Defence Staff in the early 1980s.

Patrick John Howard-Dobson was the son of Canon Howard Dobson, from whom he inherited his great interest in people, his skill as a communicator and religious conviction. He had the gift of seeming to give his undivided attention to whomever he was talking, and he combined this with a great sense of fun, enthusiasm in everything that he undertook and an unfailing memory for faces and names.



It was ironic that when he reached the zenith of his career as a member of the Army Board in 1977, having been the Military Secretary and responsible for careers of the Army's commanders and staff officers, it was as



Quartermaster-General charged with supplying its material needs. Much to his delight, he was subsequently able to return to the affairs of people as the Vice-Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics).

Educated at King's College Choir School, Cambridge, and Framlingham College, Howard-Dobson might have followed his father into the Church, but on the outbreak of war he joined the 9th Lancers as a trooper and in May 1941 was commissioned into the Yorkshire Hussars.

He transferred to the 7th Queen's Own Hussars in the Western Desert in December that year after Auchinleck's Crusader offensive, just in time to go with it as part of 7th Armoured Brigade to the Far East to try to check the Japanese invasion of Burma.

His first battle experience came as a tank troop commander in the grim, 1,000-mile withdrawal from Rangoon back to India in 1942, during the last phases of which the 7th Hussars formed part of the rear guard, reaching India on foot, but with their spirit unimpaired.

In 1943 he went with the 7th Hussars back to Middle East and next saw action with them in Italy in the spring of 1944, when they were supporting the Polish Corps in its advance up the Adriatic Coast and the capture of Ancona. His leadership and gallantry as a troop leader during these operations was recognised by the award of the Polish Virtuti Militari and the American Silver Star.

The regiment was then re-equipped with amphibious tanks for a rapid advance by 8th Army intended to cross the great rivers of the Po Valley that autumn, but it was not until the spring of 1945 that this huge manoeuvre was eventually achieved.

In 1950 he attended the Staff College, Camberley, where he made his mark as an able, clear-headed and incisive student, but he is also remembered by his contemporaries for an overexuberant after-dinner episode in which the cavalry lances, decorating the entrance hall, were flung from the gallery into the oak table below. The repair bill hurt his pocket, but the incident was not held against him: he was back at Camberley as an instructor by the end of the 1950s, and was its Commandant in the 1970s.

Command of his regiment came in 1963. By then the 7th Hussars had been amalgamated with the 3rd Hussars to form the Queen's Own Hussars, whose much respected Colonel he was to become in 1969 — the first member of his regiment to achieve the rank of full general.

He commanded them initially in 20th Armoured Brigade at Detmold, and then as the Armoured Training Regiment in England.

When he relinquished command of his regiment in 1965, he was promoted brigadier and returned to Detmold, where he commanded 20th Armoured Brigade for three years. He then spent a sabbatical in 1968 at the Imperial Defence College before being promoted major-general and going out to Singapore as the last Chief of Staff of the British Far East Command. It was his unhappy task to mastermind the mechanics of the last difficult phases of Britain's withdrawal from South-East Asia. The smoothness of their execution belied their complexity, but reinforced his reputation as an outstanding staff officer as well as an able commander.

He returned from the Far East in 1971 to take over as Commandant of the Staff College, where his ebullient and extrovert personality, his understanding and rapport with people and his abilities as an amusing speaker were great assets.



Throughout his career he had thought deeply about military policy, and, for a busy, practical man, he was exceptionally well read. His years in the highly critical professional environment of Camberley were deemed a great success.

Promoted lieutenant-general and appointed KCB in 1974, he was equally well chosen for the highly responsible appointment of Military Secretary, whose task it is to advise the secretary of state on selection of senior commanders and staff officers. He was a good judge of people, and had the lightness of touch to be able to handle sympathetically the disappointments of those officers whose ambitions were not to be fulfilled.

When he joined the Army Board as Quartermaster-General in 1977, he succeeded a reforming QMG who had been an experienced logistician. Without that background, Howard-Dobson saw his period on the board as one of consolidation, but he was soon thrust into the middle of a Whitehall storm when he took over as Vice-Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel & Logistics) in 1979.

The economic depression of the early 1980s had resulted in some over-expenditure of defence funds owing to industrial companies with empty order books completing defence contracts far more quickly than expected. It fell to him to grapple with effects on Service morale of the consequent moratoriums in defence spending and cutbacks in training and military activity generally.

He retired in 1981 and took over as national president of the Royal British Legion almost at once. He found himself faced with morale problems of a different order. The aging legion membership was in steep decline, and yet a third of the population of the country were ex-servicemen and women and their dependants, who could call upon the legion's benevolent funds in time of need.

During his six years as president he devoted his energies towards revitalising the legion, stepping up its recruiting effort and bringing into the legion (against some internal opposition) serving men and women who, when they left the Services, would become the legion's welfare workers of the future.

In 1946 he married Barbara (Bar) Mary Mills, who predeceased him. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, GCB, Quartermaster-General of the Army, 1977-79, and National President of the British Legion, 1981-87, was born on August 12, 1921. He died on November 8, 2009, aged 88

A Memorial Service was held in the **Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, at 2pm on Thursday 4th February 2010** and here is the report that the appeared in *The Times* the following day :-

Service of thanksgiving: General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson

The Queen was represented by Field Marshal Lord Bramall and Prince Philip by General Sir Brian Kenny at a service of thanksgiving for the life of General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson GCB, held on Thursday, February 4, in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst.





The Rev Canon Jonathan Gough CF, chaplain, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, officiated, assisted by the Ven Frank Johnston and the Rev Robin Alderson. Lieutenant-General Sir John Kiszely, KCB, MC, national president, the Royal British Legion, led the Act of Remembrance. Mr Peter Howard-Dobson, son, read the lesson. Mr Simon Howard-Dobson, son, read Courage and Courtesy; Brigadier Andrew Bellamy, colonel, The Queen's Royal Hussars, read Abou Ben Adhem by James Henry Leigh Hunt. Major-General David Jenkins and Mr Robert James Blythe gave the addresses. During the service the choir of the Royal Memorial Chapel, directed by Mr Peter Beaven, sang, accompanied by Lindsay Bridgwater.

Among those present were: Mrs Susan Moger (daughter), Mr Adam Howard-Dobson, Mr Alaistair Howard-Dobson, Mr Alex Howard-Dobson, Mr Ben Howard-Dobson, Mr James Howard-Dobson, Mr Josh Howard-Dobson, Mr Richard Moger (grandsons), Mrs Charlotte Leonard (granddaughter), Mrs Catherine Howard-Dobson, Mrs Jane Howard-Dobson (daughters-in-law), Mr Daniel Leonard, Mrs Rosie Lerwill Self and accompanying husband Mrs Alice Mills, Mr Andrew Mills, Commodore Robin Mills, Mr Paul Mills, Lieutenant-Colonel Jeremy Moger with other members of the family.

Lady Bramall, Field Marshal Lord Vincent, Field Marshal Sir John and Lady Chapple, General Sir Edward Burgess, Lieutenant-General Sir Robin and Lady Carnegie (QRH), Major-General Sir Michael Carleton-Smith, General Sir George and Lady Cooper, General Sir Robert and Lady Ford, General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice and Lady Johnston. Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn, Sir Harold and Lady Walker, General Sir John and Lady Waters, General Sir Michael and Lady Wilkes, General Sir John Wilsey (Army Catering Corps), General Sir Richard and the Hon Lady Worsley.

Major Jeremy and the Hon Mrs Selena Langlands, Mr Rupert Carnegie, Mr John Grimes, Mr Jimmy Kemp, Mr Brendon Cooney, Mr Richard Day, Canon and Mrs Peter Nicholson (St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy), Brigadier Robin Maddy (president, Army Catering Corps Officers Dining Club), Mr John Rudd (chairman, Berry Bros & Rudd), Mr Nicholas Robinson (headmaster, King's College School, Cambridge), Mr Paul Taylor (headmaster, Framlingham College), Mr Peter Cleminson (national chairman, Royal British Legion) with representatives of The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Queen's Royal Hussars, Queen's Own Hussars, Queen's Royal Hussars Regimental Association, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Royal Cruising Club, Sail Training International, Tall Ships Youth Trust, Cutty Sark Tall Ships Races, Society of Old Framlinghamians, Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club, Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, St John's School, Leatherhead, James Myatt Memorial Trust, Q.O.H Coventry Troop, Cavalry and Guards Club, 7H/QOH, 14/20KH, Company of Cooks, Burma Star Association, Stragglers' of Asia Cricket Club, Friends of the Imperial War Museum, Birmingham Old Comrades Troop, Gurkha Welfare Trust with many other friends, former colleagues and organisations having connection with General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson.

