

When We Stood Alone

American Officers in the KRRC

In spring 1941, in advance of American entry into the Second World War, the British and American governments agreed, in recognition of The King's Royal Rifle Corps' origins as the 60th (Royal American) Regiment, that a limited number of American volunteers should be offered temporary British nationality and allowed to join the Regiment. An appropriate form of words was used in lieu of the usual oath of allegiance on attestation.



American officers pre-commissioning at the head of their platoon during recruit training at Bushfield Camp, Winchester, November 1941.

The five US officers in the squad are the three in the front rank, the man marching the squad (with fair hair) and the fellow on the extreme right with the cane.

They are from left to right: Charles (Chuck) Bolté, Bill Durkee, John Brister, Robert (Bob) Cox and Heyward Cutting.

They were all LCpls (potential officers) at the time and were subsequently commissioned after OCTU on 18 April 1942.

Eighteen Americans were commissioned in the KRRC. Four were killed in action and four were severely wounded. Following American entry into the war, some departed to serve in the American Army, others remained. The last, Capt M.L. Lejeune, left the Regiment in summer 1946.

The 18 American officers who served in the KRRC, listed in alphabetical order, were:

S.J.O. Alsop

C.G. Bolté, severely wounded, El Alamein, 27 October 1942

T.W. Braden, severely wounded, El Alamein, 27 October 1942

J.F. Brister, killed in action, Tunisia, 27 April 1943



American officers at Tripoli, Jul 1943.

L to R: Lts George Thomson, Stewart Alsop,
Ted Ellsworth, Harry Fowler and Tom Braden.

W.E. Channing

R.H. Cox, killed in action, Tunisia, 19 April 1943

G.C.E. Cumming, killed in action, Italy, 28 February 1944

H. Cutting, severely wounded, El Alamein, 27 October 1942

J.D. Danielson

W.P. Durkee, severely wounded, N. Africa, 9 November 1942

T.R. Ellsworth

H.W. Fowler

D.S. Gray

M.L. Lejeune

L.N. Mosseri, killed in action, French Army, December 1944

D.S.M. Saunders

G.G. Thomson

J.T. Tuttle

The Regiment remembers with gratitude their courage, self-sacrifice and comradeship.

In September 1945 each American officer or their next of kin received a silver cross belt badge and heartfelt letter of thanks for his service in the Regiment from the Colonels Commandant KRRC.