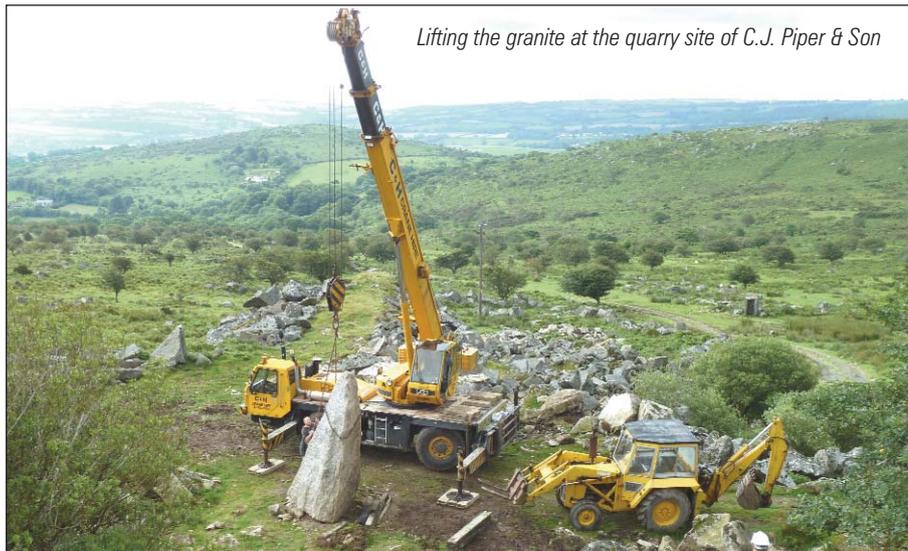


COPP HEROES NEWS 3

AUGUST 2012

WE HAD QUITE AN EVENTFUL WEEK commencing Tuesday 10th July when the 24 Regiment Royal Engineer Commandos collected our COPP Memorial centrepiece from Ian Piper's Trenwith quarry. We were lucky to have a fine day for the lift and transport out to the regiment's base at Chiverton, and it was quite a moment for us when we saw the granite on the move at last to its Hayling home.

Chris Gordon, Commodore of Hayling Island Sailing Club generously invited the Sappers to stay overnight at the club. With other HISC members, he entertained them together with Douglas Sharp, Shaun Leinster of Marsh Plant, and myself to supper on the Wednesday evening. Such a nice gesture from the original home of COPP.



Lifting the granite at the quarry site of C.J. Piper & Son



Members of the regiment returned to the UK earlier this year from a tour of duty in Afghanistan, and are now assisting with the Olympics. We all look forward to them joining us at the Dedication ceremony on September 27th.



The Sappers help Marsh Plant operatives and the team from CWO Ltd, lift the granite centrepiece into place at the Memorial site on Hayling Common.



Storage, lifting and technical assistance was generously donated by Geoffrey Marsh of Marsh Plant Hire [Havant] Ltd.

Pictured: profiling the mound prior to laying the top soil.



SOME GREAT COPP ARTEFACTS

We were delighted to be contacted by Hayling boatwright Derek Abra early in June, and to be shown an almost perfect Mk 2 COPP canoe. He had been approached by James Donaldson, for help restoring it prior to a fund-raising paddle round the Isle of Wight. I gather James also has access to a pre-war Folbot complete with sail as well. These should bring back memories to COPP veterans.

Our friends at the Special Boat Service Association have promised to loan us a present day SBS craft, plus a wide selection of survey equipment, which will all form the basis of a most impressive central display in our September exhibition at the Newtown House Hotel.

Wren driver Evelyn Cross on the front of 'Tweedledum'

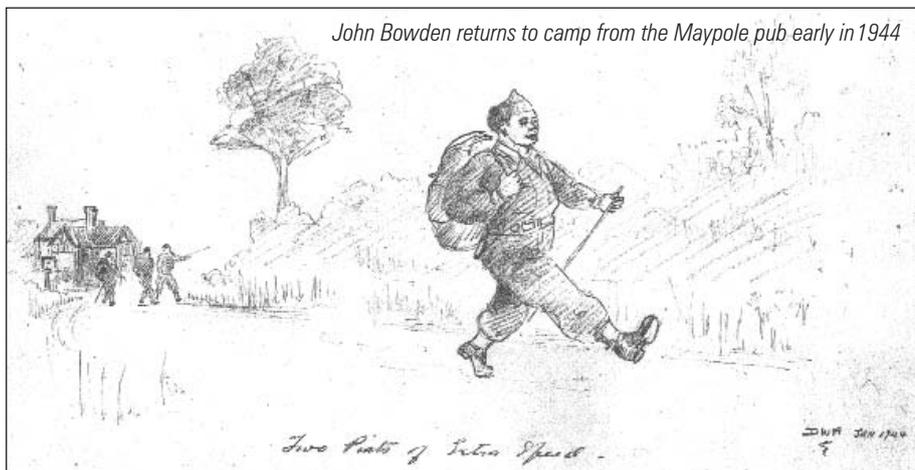


The frame of our COPP Mk 2 canoe



Douglas Sharp has been busy on all fronts, and has secured the use of two original Bedford 3/4 tonners similar to 'Tweedledum' and 'Tweedledee'. These were the vehicles the Wrens drove to pick up the COPP volunteers from Havant station, and they will both be on display at the Dedication ceremony in September.

John Bowden returns to camp from the Maypole pub early in 1944



Saturday 22nd	Opening of Hayling Island WW2 Heritage Trail at the HIADS Staion Theatre	11.30 am
Tuesday 25th-27th	COPP Exhibition at the Newtown House Hotel	11.00 am - 5.00 pm
Wednesday 26th	Welcome tea and get-together at the Newtown	4.00 pm
	Reception and dinner at the Newtown.	7.00 pm
Thursday 27th	COPP Heroes Memorial dedication	11.30 am

Your support is still needed, if you haven't already contributed, please help the fund now.....

50 Bacon Lane, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0DW www.coppheroes.org Email: chairman@coppheroes.org
 Discover Hayling and the COPP Heroes Memorial Fund are Hayling's BEST MTI Group projects

Sadly we have to report the loss of two COPPists since the last news letter. Thomas 'Harry' Turner, who served with special forces and with COPP 3 in the Far East, died on May 11th. A few weeks later, Mike [John] Peacock who served with COPP 8 and was captured by the Japanese, passed away on the 17th June, just a day before his 90th birthday. [See our website later for further details]

Top: Thomas [Harry] Turner
 Below: Mike [John] Peacock



Those wishing to attend the Dedication should contact us as soon as possible. Please use our dedicated email address, headalison@btinternet.com giving full details. [Constraints on numbers mean that certain events may be limited to specially invited guests only.

Invited guests will receive details of the arrangements by email and post, but please ring me any time if you have any questions. 02392 718441.

Robin Walton August 2012

