

September 11, 1944; a remarkable story of the 2nd Household Cavalry.



The river Dommel and the bridge which was guarded by a German Pantzer IV tank.

Sept 11, 1944; some British soldiers entered the area around Borkel and Schaft which was controlled and occupied by the Germans until Sept 17, 1944; the British Army liberated Valkenswaard.



Two Daimler Scout Cars of the 2nd Household Cavalry.

On Sept 11, 1944, on special orders from Division, two Daimler Scout Cars of the 2nd Household Cavalry, led by Lieutenant Rupert Buchanan-Jardine of D Squadron, carried out a daring reconnaissance into Holland to see whether the Dommel Bridge just south of Valkenswaard was intact and would carry the XXX Corps tanks. Crossing the enemy lines shortly after noon, two Daimlers drove on for some five miles, questioning several Dutch civilians on the way, until they reached a roadside cafe, 'Rustoord', about a mile short of the bridge, where they were surrounded by a large group of overjoyed Dutchmen who thought liberation had come. While Lt. Buchanan-Jardine tried to calm the civilians, the commander of the other scout car, Lance Corporal-of-Horse Jack Brook, carried on the recce to the bridge. It was intact for he saw a German Mark IV parked right on it. Returning to the cafe they sent back a radio report. This done, the patrol returned the way it had come, racing through the German lines at full speed and regaining friendly territory with everything on their cars punctured and broken by German bullets.

General Horricks of XXX Corps was to later judge the exploit 'The most daring reconnaissance that was carried out in the last war'. Jardine received a Military Cross for this expedition, but Bob received nothing.



One of those Dutchmen who met the patrol along the way was the parish priest of the nearby village of Borkel en Schaft, Pastoor Hendrik Goyarts. He took these unique pictures. Here Lt Buchanan-Jardine (Standing) and his driver, Trooper Bob Buckley (In the scout car), pose with locals from Borkel en Schaft.



Lance Corporal-of-Horse Brook (With the rather splendid tash) and his driver, Trooper Bateman, in the other scout car. Brook and Bateman did not officially belong to Buchanan-Jardines No.2 Troop, being part of No.3 Troop, D Squadron. Buchanan-Jardine had 'borrowed' them because the second Daimler in his own troop was temporarily out of action.

Though successful from an Allied point of view, the patrol would have a dramatic sequel for the Dutch. After the scout cars had left, German troops, incensed by the enemy exploits, opened fire on Pastoor Goyart's party of civilians near the Dutch frontier post, and shortly after shot four of them in cold blood, killing two. One of them, Jan Maas, is standing behind Buchanan-Jardine. (The man with the hat and glasses over his left shoulder).

In Lieu of AF W 3121 35

Bde Gds. Arm. Div 30 Corps.

Schedule No Unit 2 H.C.R.

Army No and Rank 271577 Ws/Lieut

Name Arthur (John Rupert) BUCHANAN JARDINE

Date recommendation passed forward.	
Received.	Passed.
Bde 15 SEP 1944 23 SEP 1944
Corps 27 SEP 1944 20 SEP 1944
Army 28 OCT 1944 17 NOV 1944

Action for which commended. (Date and place of action must be stated).	Recommended by	Honour of Award.
<p>On 11 Sep 44, Lieut JARDINE with his Tp was ordered to recce VALGENSVAARD from the Br head over the ESCAUT canal at DE GROOTE BARRIER.</p> <p>He was held up a mile from the bridgehead by enemy inf with 'panzerfaust'. After observing for sometime he decided to charge through with two scout cars. He advanced for about five miles to just short of VALGENSVAARD where the patrol was held up by a tank. He remained in observation for half an hour gaining valuable information. A civilian reported enemy in some strength to his rear. He decided to make a dash for his own lines. He reached his own lines coming through very heavy fire and running the gauntlet of an</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>B. L. Montgomerie</i></p>	<p><i>H. Abel Smith</i> (H. ABEL SMITH) Lt. Col., Comd. 2 H.C.R.</p>	M.C. (Immediate)
	<p><i>Allen ...</i> Major General, G.O.C., Gds Arm Div.</p>	M.C. 1.3.45.
	<p><i>B. G. ...</i> Lieut General G.O.C., 30 Corps.</p>	
	<p><i>M. W.</i> Lt. General, LIEUT-GENERAL COMMANDER SECOND ARMY</p>	27572

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enemy A. Tk gun. This patrol the first into HOLLAND obtained valuable information and was carried through successfully by the dash and coolness of Lieut BUCHANAN JARDINE.

Immediate award - M.C.

Date: 15 Sep 44