

The COBBOLD Family History Trust

14 Moorfields, Moorhaven, Ivybridge
Devon, PL21 0XQ, UK

Tel: + 44 (0) 1752 894498

www.cobboldfht.com
Anthony@cobboldfht.com

Patron: Lord Cobbold DL

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2007 - WHITEHALL

Nov 2007



The Cobbold party in Whitehall. From right to left: Anthony (with wreath), Rob, Nicholas, Jeremy, Timothy, Humphrey, Esther (almost totally obscured), Jack and David.

"Photo: Robert Akerman"

It is self evident to me that remembering those that have fallen is a prime task for a trust that is dedicated to collecting and conserving family history. Accordingly nine Cobbold family members assembled (with thousands of others) in Whitehall for the annual national Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph.

There was light drizzle just before the parade but by the time we met up in Whitehall outside the Old War Office Building it was dry but with a chill wind that made you glad of your overcoat. Later the cold was relieved by some thin wintery sunshine but dark clouds were never far away. Somehow the sky reflected the menace and uncertainty of war. Perhaps it was hauntingly appropriate.

In age order the nine of us were Nicholas (1934), Anthony (1935), David (1961), Timothy (1962), Humphrey (1964), Jeremy (1969), Robert (1991), Jack (1994), and Esther (1995) and, as is usual with ceremonial events “we also served who only stood and waited”. Fortunately we were formed up alongside a detachment of veteran paratroopers who kept us richly entertained with an inimitable display of the British Tommy’s spirit.

We were a long way from the Cenotaph but were pleased to be able to watch on a large screen. The single round of gunfire which with Big Ben heralded the start of the two minutes silence seemed very close. (What can a battlefield be like?) Our marching wasn’t very good but some ear-splitting guidance from a Sergeant Major as we approached the Cenotaph tidied us up a bit and we handed over our wreath. It was a profusion of poppies around the family crest “Rebus Angustis Fortis” or “Strength in Adversity” which would have been even more appropriate had we been standing in the rain for three hours. Attached to the wreath was a remembrance card which simply said “48 COBBOLDS” and tucked in behind was a list of all their names.



We marched some more and were pleased to do an “Eyes Right” for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh just before getting to Horse Guards where the parade was dismissed. We left satisfied that we had completed our act of remembrance but humbled by the thought that no less than 48 family members had had to die so that we could remain free and we left for our nice warm homes with humility and gratitude.

Anthony Cobbold

November 2007