



Robin Macdonald Carnegie was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1926 the son of Sir Francis and Theodora Carnegie; Robin was the youngest of three children, having an older brother and sister. He was educated at Rugby School before being commissioned into the 7<sup>th</sup> Queen's Own Hussars in 1946.

Robin began his army service with the British Army of Occupation in Northern Italy. His regiment did not serve in Korea but he went out as an individual reinforcement to the 8<sup>th</sup> King's Royal Irish Hussars who, equipped with Centurion and Cromwell tanks, supported the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in the fighting after the Chinese intervention in the campaign. He transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards when they relieved the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars in December 1951 and completed his Korean episode as the machinegun officer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Shropshire Light Infantry.

In 1955 Robin married Iona Sinclair; daughter of Sir John Alexander Sinclair KCMG CB OBE.

After attending the Staff College at Camberley, Robin was appointed chief personnel and logistics officer of 16<sup>th</sup> Parachute Brigade in Cyprus. As well as serving in Cyprus during the EOKA insurrection he went to Jordan with the Parachute Brigade in 1958 to forestall any threat to Amman by the new revolutionary Iraqi regime. More middle-east experience followed in 1959 when he took a squadron of the Queen's Own Hussars to Aden.

A stint at the Staff College ended in 1965 when he was appointed chief personnel and logistics officer of the 17<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Division, resisting Indonesian incursions into East Malaysia. This involved supply of isolated outposts in the Borneo jungle using Royal Navy and RAF helicopters; on one occasion even arranging the delivery of a small python borrowed from Singapore Zoo to deal with rats infesting such an outpost.

By 1967 he took command of the Queen's Own Hussars and was posted back to Aden; the regiment's armoured cars covered the evacuation of Aden in November of that year. From Aden the regiment was deployed to various locations; one squadron in Cyprus, one in Singapore and another in Hong Kong whilst Lt Col Carnegie had his HQ at Maresfield in Sussex; he was appointed OBE in 1968.

After a year spent as senior personnel and logistics staff officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in the UK based Strategic Reserve he was appointed commander of the 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade in Germany in 1971. By this stage of his career Carnegie was perceived as a rapidly rising star and it came as no surprise when, following a sabbatical year at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London, he was appointed GOC of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in England.

He returned to Germany as Chief of Staff Headquarters BAOR with speculation that he might succeed to the command of 1<sup>st</sup> (British) Corps but, instead he went to the MoD as Military Secretary in 1978 and was appointed KCB in 1979.

Carnegie's final appointment in the Army was Director General of Military Training working in an outpost of the MoD at the former RAF station at Old Sarum. Although well equipped for this post and strongly supported by the then Chief of the General Staff, his former divisional commander, he found

it difficult to establish his authority in the face of opposition from divisional commanders who considered training solely their prerogative.

Only 57 at the conclusion of this appointment, he had time enough before retirement for a four-star post, which he was offered but chose instead to retire to Wiltshire. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire and served as Chairman of the Appeal Body of the Army Benevolent Fund in Wiltshire and sat as a non-service member of the Home Office Selection Board for the Police, Prison and Fire Services.

Lieutenant-General Sir Robin Carnegie KCB OBE died 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, aged 84 and is interred in the cemetery of St. Margaret of Antioch at Chilmark.

