



MUGGING IN CEREMONY

References: Nil

GENERAL

1. Glass bottom pewter mugs have often been considered the vessel of choice for the consumption of beverages in the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment Officers Mess. There have traditionally been two means of acquiring such a fine flagon for beverages of distinction. Those have been;
 - a. Individual purchase, and
 - b. Mess purchase.
2. Given the personal nature of these items and their cost, it is unreasonable for the mess to purchase each member a mug outright. Particularly as the mugs were often engraved with the personal details of the member, and therefore left with the member when he/she departed the Regiment. This problem was overcome with the mess purchasing a number of mugs and engraving them by appointment, to be used by any member of the mess filling that appointment. These mugs remained property of the mess, and may be used by any member of the mess or a guest, with priority being given to those members filling specific appointments.
3. Individuals have always been free to purchase their own mugs and personalize them to their own liking. Indeed this is the preferred method of obtaining a mug. The PWOR Officers Mess may, at their discretion, subsidize the individual purchase of mugs for ordinary members of the mess. This subsidy shall not normally exceed 50 percent of the cost of the mug with engraving. The PWOR Officer's Mess, if it chooses to offer a subsidy, shall only do so once per member.

MUGGING IN

4. When a member of the mess purchases a mug, with or without the assistance of the mess, they shall present their new mug to the mess. Prior to it being approved for use in the PWOR Officers mess, a mugging in ceremony shall take place.

CEREMONY DETAILS

5. The details of the mugging in ceremony are engraved upon a plaque on the interior of the helmet used during the ceremony. It shall be read aloud to the assembled members of the mess prior to the ceremony so that all new member know what is expected of them. The following is a transcript of the ceremony details.

“Rich in tradition and deep in heritage, on this plaque herein lies a description of the process which constitutes an official mugging-in of The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment Officer's Mess. All those wishing to be mugged in, from most junior to most senior, shall approach the bar and order the drink which most represents their character. While ordering they must explain to the gathered members why they have made this choice. The drink shall be added to a mess chit, and with both ceremony



and flare, poured into the helmet. This is repeated, one after another, until all those being mugged-in have been included. Following this, the PMC and the CO if present, may at their discretion add a drink of their choice to the concoction. Using the ladle provided, the contents of the helmet is distributed equally into the new mugs of those being mugged in. Then contents are then consumed, the pace and timing which is at the discretion of the individual. However, not until the mug has been emptied into the gullet of the individual, proof of which is demonstrated by holding the mug upside down over one's head, is that member official mugged-in.”

STORAGE AND USE

6. Mugs shall be stored prominently in the mess for all active ordinary and associate members. Inactive members may find their mugs stored in a cabinet within the bar. On departure from the mess, the member is entitled to take their mug with them to their new posting.

7. Mugs may be used by the member for their beverage of choice anytime they are in the mess.

EXEMPTIONS

8. Mess members who abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages are of course excused from the requirement consume the combined concoction in the mixing helmet. They may substitute with the benign beverage of choice. However, this exemption does not abdicate them of their responsibility to contribute to the helmet the beverage of their choice, with suitable explanation. Neither does it excuse the mess from supporting the purchase of an engraved stein for non-drinking ordinary members.