

## Cornish Courage : Tammy Rescorla



### The Place - Hayle



The town of Hayle is situated along the rugged Cornish north coast within a river estuary and nearby sand dunes. From the mid 18th century the town developed into a busy port serving the local tin and copper mining industry. Two of Cornwall's three largest iron foundries were situated at Hayle. The foundries were renowned for their engineering expertise. The two Hayle rival companies



(Copperhouse and Harvey's Foundries) were mainly responsible for the early expansion of Hayle. But time passed by the town economically as the former heavy industry diminished. The beaches and holiday accommodation keeps the town moving forward. The former bustling harbour is in need of rejuvenation but still has potential. Pre WW II in May 1939 a boy was born in the mainly working class town, one **Richard Cyril Rescorla**.



### Halcyon Days

Just after WW II a number of Cornish West Penwith boys and girls of the same age commenced their secondary education at the Penzance Grammar School (The Humphry Davy School). The writer was one year older than 'Tammy' as he was known at school and his Hayle close friend Mervyn 'Sully' Sullivan. Apart from having a good scholastic record the school was well known for its sporting excellence.



We played rugby for the school XV. Our pitch was at the bottom of a slope and so the pitch from time to time was virtually unplayable with toffee-like brown, glutinous mud. Tammy reveled in the quagmire leading the pack with intense determination as if his belly was on fire . His curly hair covered in mud with his face beaming ear to ear. He was a team player and always gave his all. Even while on the same side beware. Sully still carries a scar left by Tammy's boot.

### Involuntary Canon Founder

The National Service Act was introduced in the United Kingdom in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War. After the war a new National Service Act came into being in 1945.

At 18 years of age young men had to register for military service and you had a choice, if you were doing an apprenticeship or any sort of training for a career you could opt to defer your service until you were 21. For thousands of young men conscripted into the three services it was their first time away from home. Pay for conscripts rose to 38 shillings a week in 1960. The average weekly wage for men in 1961, however, was £15 10 shillings.

## Far Away Small Wars

After the 1956 Suez Crisis the British government continued to persecute some new 'far away small wars'. To fill the canon fodder gap we young boys were called upon to undertake two years compulsory National Service.



Understandably, Tammy was looking for some rough and tumble and so joined the British Parachute Regiment in 1956 and served as an intelligence officer in Cyprus and sometime 'gollywog basher' as it was colloquially known in the barrack room.



The writer also embarked on his 'square bashing' in 1958 with the Grenadier Guards at Caterham Guard's Depot. If I stayed with the Grenadier's Battalion or Para Unit I might have ended up in Cyprus too chasing EOKA insurgents in the mountains and possibly meeting up with Tammy. Instead I went on to join my county regiment, of course, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (DCLI) as a poor NS 2nd Lt. The first rule old Army lags teach you in the Army is 'never volunteer'. But I did and I ended up seconded to the West Africa Frontier Force (WAFF) 1 QONR in Nigeria one of many African white man graves.

British National Service finally ended in 1963. That is when many of we old school friends and NS comrades lost track of each other.

Tammy also sought out some action on the opposite side of the African continent to me to fight insurgents in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia today). God help them! Then he joined the London Police Flying Squad. Tammy must have found it too tame tracking down crooks and needed another war to get the best out of him.

Tammy the gutsy soldier and born leader at the age of 24 enlisted in the US Army to seek out another small war. He joined the US 7th Cavalry at Fort Dix N.J. Tammy's service to date or Rick known by his Army foxhole buddies made him a natural combat leader.



After OCS in April 1965 he was commissioned into the 2 Bn 7th Cavalry and found himself leading a platoon in Vietnam. In November 1965 he and his platoon was deployed to a communist stronghold known as the Valley of Death.

Tammy was in the thick of it at the ferocious battle of Ia Drang Valley while singing Cornish songs as if impervious to enemy AK 47 bullets. In that Valley 234 US soldiers were killed and an equal number of wounded and even more Vietnamese sol-



diers were killed or wounded. Later one of his US senior commanders said that Tammy was the best platoon leader he ever saw. I can believe it! (This is an actual photo taken by Mr, Peter Arnett of Tammy rifle and bayonet at the ready at Ia Drang).

After Tammy's tour in 'Nam and returning to the USA and receiving a number of war decorations for valour Tammy became a US citizen in 1967. In 1968 he went to the University of Oklahoma on a GI Bill. After receiving his Bachelor and Master's degrees he stayed with the Army Reserve and taught Criminal Justice at the University of Carolina. In 1985 he joined Morgan Stanley Dean

Witter investment agency as Director of Security. His earlier army professional experience gave him a keen nose for potential trouble. He alerted the World Trade Centre (WTC) building authority that the WTC garage was vulnerable to a terrorist attack.

In 1993 the terrorist attacked the WTC garage using a truck bomb killing 6 while over 1,000 were injured. It did not pass his mind in 1995 that the Twin Towers might be open to attack by air!

### **The World Trade Centre New York**

While the WTC 110 story twin towers have long been an iconic symbol of American corporate Finance. The WTC is a complex of seven buildings. Many of the most powerful investment agencies were located in the two towers. Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Co. were mainly located on 59 to 74 floors in the South Tower - WTC 2 with others situated in Building 5.

### **That Fateful Day 9/11/2001**

Tammy's daughter Alexandra was to be married on the second week in September in Tuscany where the groom's parents lived. Family members were to stay in a castle owned by a friend of the groom's family. After the wedding they planned to visit some of the nearby hill towns, and then to England to see Tammy's mother in Hayle. They were scheduled to fly to Florence on September 12th. Tammy was urged to take off the week of the 10th but there was an important appointment on the eleventh. Morgan Stanley Dean Witter had filed a suit against the Port Authority over the 1993 bombing and Rescorla was preparing to give a deposition regarding the inadequacy of the security. So he rose at 4:30 a.m. on the 11th and then left for the train station after saying cheerio to his wife Susan.

Susan called him at 8.15 a.m. as usual, and he was at his desk in the South Tower while other up to 14.000 employees were sipping their early morning coffee. A half hour later, she was on the phone with one of her daughters when she got another call. She put her daughter on hold; it was another daughter, calling from Manhattan. "Put on the TV!" she yelled. Susan rushed to the set and she saw smoke pouring from the WTC north tower.

### **Pearl Harbour II - The Nine Eleven 2001 Attacks**



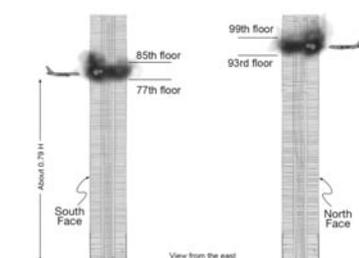
A hijacked Boeing 767-222 American Airlines Flight 11 deviated from a flight path and swung around and deliberately flew into the North face of WTC Tower I at **8.46 a.m** in a fireball.

A second attack in the form of a United Airlines Flight 175 Boeing 767-223 was flown by hijackers into the South Tower WTC 2 at **9.02 a.m.**

(See the first and second attack in the drawing below)



About a half an hour later a third terrorist attack took place by a high-jacked American Airlines 77 Boeing 757 - 222 and was flown into the Pentagon at **9.37 a.m.** The carnage continued when a fourth hijacked United Airlines Boeing 757-222 Flight 93 crashed at Shanksville Pennsylvania at **10.03 a.m.**



None of the occupants of the four planes survived.

Tammy Rescorla was in his office when the first plane hit Tower One. He took a call from the 71st floor reporting the fireball in World Trade Center 1. He immediately ordered an evacuation of all Morgan Stanley 2,700 employees in Tower 2, as well as 1,000 Morgan Stanley workers in WTC Building 5 across the plaza. They walked down the stairways as Rescorla demanded and practiced quarterly.

Mrs. Susan Rescorla watched helplessly on her TV set when the United Airlines jet sliced into her husband's tower. After a while, her phone rang. It was Tammy." I don't want you to cry," he said. "I have to evacuate my people now."

Tammy used a bullhorn keeping people off the elevators while dealing with a bottleneck on the 44th-floor lobby.(Rescorla evacuating the staff).On his cell phone he had just spoken to a Port Authority official, who had told him to keep everyone at their stations. "I said: Everything above where that plane hit is gonna collapse," Rescorla recounted to an old and colleague Dan Hill on the phone. "The weight will take the rest of the building with it. And Building One could take out Building Two."



But by the time the second hijacked jet rammed into the south tower at 9:07 a.m. many Morgan Stanley employees just about all of them were well on their way or out of the building,

Rescorla headed upstairs before moving down to help evacuate several people above the 50th floor. During the chaos he was spotted as high as the 72nd floor, then worked his way down, clearing floors as he went. Morgan Stanley officials said he called headquarters shortly before the tower collapsed to say he was going back up to search for stragglers.

He was last seen at the 10th floor. I bet that Tammy was still singing

"Gawn' up Camberne 'ill, comin' down.  
Gawn' up Camberne 'ill, comin' down  
The'osses stood still, the wheels went aroun',  
Gawn' up Camberne 'ill, comin' down.

White stockans, white stockans, she wore,  
White stockans, white stockans, she wore,  
White stockans she wore, the same as before,  
Gawn' up Camberne 'ill, comin' down."

Then the building collapsed in an agony of dust. **Tammy's body has never been found.**



### **Fatalities (Not including the 19 hijackers)**

There were 2,973 fatalities: 246 on the four planes 2,602 in New York City in the towers and on the ground, and 125 at the Pentagon. Among the fatalities were 343 New York brave firefighters, 23

New York City police officers, and 37 Port Authority police department officers. A number of people remained missing.

**World Trade Center** - 1,366 people died who were at or above the floors on impact in the North Tower ( WTC 1); according to the Commission Report, hundreds were killed instantly by the impact while the rest were trapped and died later.

As many as 600 people were killed instantly or trapped at or above the floors on impact in the South Tower (WTC 2). Only about 18 managed to escape in time from above the impact zone and out of the South Tower before it collapsed.

An estimated 200 people jumped to their deaths from the burning towers landing on the streets and rooftops of adjacent buildings below. To witnesses watching, a few of the people fell from the towers seemed to have stumbled out of broken windows. Some of the occupants of each tower above its point of impact made their way upward toward the roof in hope of helicopter rescue, however; no rescue plan existed for such an eventuality, the roof access doors were locked and thick smoke and intense heat would have prevented rescue helicopters from landing.

### **Survivors**

According to the 9/11 Commission, approximately 16,400 to 18,800 civilians were in the World Trade Centre Complex at the time of the attacks.

Among the survivors were:

**The vast majority of the employees of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter 2,500 employees in 2 WTC and 1,000 in Building 5 survived thanks to Tammy Rescorla's determined efforts, discipline and courage in the evacuation**

The 9 floors of Building 5 suffered severe damage and partial collapse on its upper floors as a result of the attacks The entire building was demolished by January 2002

as part of the WTC removal project.

- 103 of 172 employees of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Inc. a securities company
- 617 of 618 employees of Lehman Brothers (floors 38-40 of WTC 1)
- 1,875 of 1,914 employees of Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Only 14 people escaped from the impact zone (floors 78 to 84) of the South Tower after it was hit (including Stanley Praisnath, and 4 people from floors above it. They escaped down Stairway "A," the only stairwell that had been left intact (though somewhat obstructed with broken drywall, and filled with smoke in one area). No one was able to escape from above the point of impact in the North Tower after it was hit, as all stairways and elevator shafts on those floors were destroyed.

Of the estimated 200 to 300 people trapped in the towers' stalled elevators, 22 managed to escape: 16 people from four elevators in the North Tower and six people from two elevators in the South

Tower. Perhaps the most amazing escape was that of six people trapped in an express elevator on the 50th floor of the North Tower. There was no elevator bank on that particular floor. After prying open the inner doors, they cut through three layers of drywall with a squeegee handle, then broke through a wall of tiles into a 50th-floor bathroom. All six escaped the tower five minutes before it collapsed.

## Memorials

The first memorials to the victims of the attacks were found online, as hundreds posted their own thoughts, photos and eyewitness accounts. Numerous online September 11 memorials and vigils began appearing a few hours after the attacks.



Around the globe. U.S. embassies and consulates became makeshift memorials as people came out to pay their respects. Many U.S. ambassadors have said that they will never forget the outpouring of people as they showed their sympathy to the American people and their

opposition to terrorism.

## The Richard C. Rescorla Memorial Foundation

Tammy Rescorla's many friends established '**The Richard C. Rescorla Memorial Foundation**' in Tammy's memory and to promote the virtues Rescorla lived by – **Duty, Honour, and Courage**.

Rescorla's heroism on September 11th was quickly brought to national attention by the Press. The Washington Post followed, on October 28th, with a long and insightful account of Rescorla's life. The Morristown police paid tribute to Rescorla at a fund-raising dinner. Tammy's wife Susan donated his Mark VIII, which had been left in the station parking lot, for charitable auction as a 'hero's car'

Several days later, at Westminster Abbey, there was a tribute for the British victims, which the Queen attended. Rescorla's mother received a letter of condolence from Prince Charles. Susan was interviewed by the BBC, and she profusely thanked Britain for its unwavering support of America in the crisis, something she knew would have meant a lot to her husband.



Susan & Sully Sullivan travelled to Washington on Veterans Day weekend for a reunion of veterans of the battles of Ia Drang. An added impetus was the forthcoming release of the movie 'We Were Soldiers Once'. Clips from the movie were shown. Army buddies who knew Rescorla, said "We lost a brother." "We lost one of the best men we've ever known". Those of you who have never known



Tammy Rescorla, he was an inspirational Cornish warrior and with a heart for his people. A bronze statue of Rick, based on that iconic photo of him at the Ia Drang was commissioned and unveiled in April 2006. (See left) This statue will be placed on permanent display at the new National Infantry Museum to be built at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

## Hayle Monument to Richard Cyril Rescorla



Tammy's town folks have not forgotten their native son. There was a memorial service held at St Elwyn's Church Hayle on 11.10.2002 attended by the head of Morgan Stanley in London, at which Rescorla was eulogized by Mervyn Sullivan as "a beautiful man," someone "who had a hug for everybody."



A Memorial stone to Tammy Rescorla was erected by Penpol Creek Hayle (*Right*).

## Lt. Colonel 'Tammy' Richard Cyril Rescorla



Dew boz geno! God be with you!



### A Cornish Benediction

Deep Peace of the Running Wave to you

Deep Peace of the Flowing Air to you

Deep Peace of the Quiet Earth to you

Deep Peace of the Shining Stars to you

Deep Peace of the Son of Peace to you

'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'

(John 15:13)



A Personal Tribute to **Tammy Rescorla** By **Brian Coak** & school friend