

= William Windsor (goat) =

William " Billy " Windsor I is a cashmere goat who served as a lance corporal in the 1st Battalion , the Royal Welsh , an infantry battalion of the British Army . He served as a lance corporal from 2001 until 2009 , except for a three @-@ month period in 2006 when he was demoted to fusilier , after inappropriate behaviour during the Queen 's Official Birthday celebrations while deployed on active duty with the battalion on Cyprus . He retired to Whipsnade Zoo in May 2009 .

His young replacement is known as William Windsor II .

= = History = =

The tradition of having goats in the military originated in 1775 , when a wild goat walked onto the battlefield in Boston during the American Revolutionary War and led the Welsh regimental colours at the end of the Battle of Bunker Hill . Another Welsh military goat , Taffy IV , served in the First World War . Taffy , of 2nd Battalion , Welsh Regiment , is officially recorded as " The Regimental Goat " . He embarked for the war on 13 August 1914 and saw action in the Retreat from Mons , the First Battle of Ypres (including the Battle of Gheluvelt) and the Battles of Festubert and Givenchy , before dying on 20 January 1915 . He was posthumously awarded the 1914 Star , British War Medal and the Victory Medal .

The royal goat herd was originally obtained from Mohammad Shah Qajar , Shah of Persia from 1834 to 1848 , when he presented them to Queen Victoria as a gift in 1837 upon her accession to the throne .

The herd thrived on Llandudno 's Great Orme ; by 2001 they reached a population of 250 , and were in danger of running out of food . Following complaints about goats wandering into people 's gardens , the council rejected proposals for a cull , deciding to use a combination of rehoming and birth control . RSPCA marksmen tranquilised nannies and inserted contraceptive progesterone implants to control the numbers of the genetically unique breed . By 2007 , 85 goats had been relocated to areas including Kent , Yorkshire , the Brecon Beacons and Somerset , but further efforts were interrupted by an outbreak of foot @-@ and @-@ mouth disease .

= = William Windsor I = =

Billy , a Kashmir goat , is descended from the same royal bloodline as the original herd , but was not selected from the wild population ; he was born in Whipsnade Zoo . He was presented to the regiment by Queen Elizabeth II in 2001 . The tradition is not new : since 1844 , the British monarchy has presented an unbroken series of Kashmir goats to the Royal Welch Fusiliers from the Crown 's own royal herd .

Billy ? Army number 25232301 ? is " not a mascot , but a ranking member of the regiment " , according to the BBC . Since joining in 2001 , he has performed duties overseas , and has paraded before royalty . His primary duty was to march at the head of the battalion on all ceremonial duties . He was present for every parade in which the regiment participated . Billy 's full @-@ time handler was Lance Corporal Ryan Arthur , who carried the title of " Goat Major " .

= = = Temporary demotion = = =

On 16 June 2006 , a parade was held to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II 's 80th birthday , at the Episkopi base near Limassol , Cyprus on the Mediterranean island 's south coast . Invited dignitaries included the ambassadors of Spain , the Netherlands and Sweden and the Argentine commander of United Nations ' forces on Cyprus .

The deployment to Cyprus with the 1st Battalion was Billy 's first overseas posting , and despite being ordered to keep in line , he refused to obey . He failed to keep in step , and tried to headbutt a drummer . The goat major , Lance Corporal Dai Davies , 22 , from Neath , South Wales , was unable to keep him under control .

Billy was charged with " unacceptable behaviour " , " lack of decorum " and " disobeying a direct order " , and had to appear before his commanding officer , Lieutenant @-@ Colonel Huw James . Following a disciplinary hearing , he was demoted to fusilier . The change meant that other fusiliers in the regiment no longer had to stand to attention when Billy walked past , as they had to when he was a lance corporal .

A Canadian animal rights group protested to the British Army , stating that he was merely " acting the goat " , and should be reinstated . Three months later , on 20 September at the same parade ground , Billy regained his rank during the Alma Day parade which celebrates the Royal Welsh victory in the Crimean War . Captain Simon Clarke said , " Billy performed exceptionally well , he has had all summer to reflect on his behaviour at the Queen 's birthday and clearly earned the rank he deserves " .

Billy received his promotion from the colonel of the Royal Welsh Regiment , Brigadier Roderick Porter . As a result of regaining his rank , he also regained his membership of the corporals ' mess .

Billy is not the first goat in the army to have troubles . At one time a royal goat was " prostituted " by being offered for stud services by the regiment 's serving goat major to a Wrexham goat breeder . First charged with lèse majesté , the goat major was ultimately court @-@ martialled under the lesser charge of " disrespect to an officer " and reduced in rank . The goat major claimed he did it out of compassion for the goat , but this failed to impress the court . Another royal fusilier goat earned the nickname " the rebel " , after he butted a colonel while he was stooped over fixing his uniform 's trouser @-@ strap . The incident was described as a " disgraceful act of insubordination . "

= = = Retirement = = =

On 20 May 2009 , following 8 years of distinguished service , Billy retired due to his age . Soldiers from the battalion lined the route from his pen to the trailer as he left the camp for the last time , in ceremonial dress that included a silver headdress which was a gift from the queen in 1955 . Billy was taken to Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire where keepers say he had an easy life at the Children 's Farm .

= = William Windsor II = =

In order to replace Billy , thirty members of 1st Battalion set off to Great Orme in Llandudno on 15 June 2009 at 03 : 00 , hoping to catch the feral goats in a docile state . A team led by Lieutenant @-@ Colonel Nick Lock (Commanding Officer) included the goat major and several veterinarians . Army spokesman Gavin O ' Connor said , " We are looking for a goat which is calm under pressure and a team player " . During the selection of a replacement goat , the battalion helped to start an alternative vaccine method of birth control among the herd , since hormone implants that were previously employed to control numbers are no longer available .

With some difficulty , a five @-@ month @-@ old was chosen , and assigned army number 25142301 ? which represents regiment number 2514 , 23rd Regiment of Foot (the original name of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers) , and 01 denoting the 1st Battalion . The new goat will also be called William Windsor , beginning as a fusilier while being trained for military life . He will receive a ration of two cigarettes per day , which he eats , but will not be permitted Guinness until he is older .