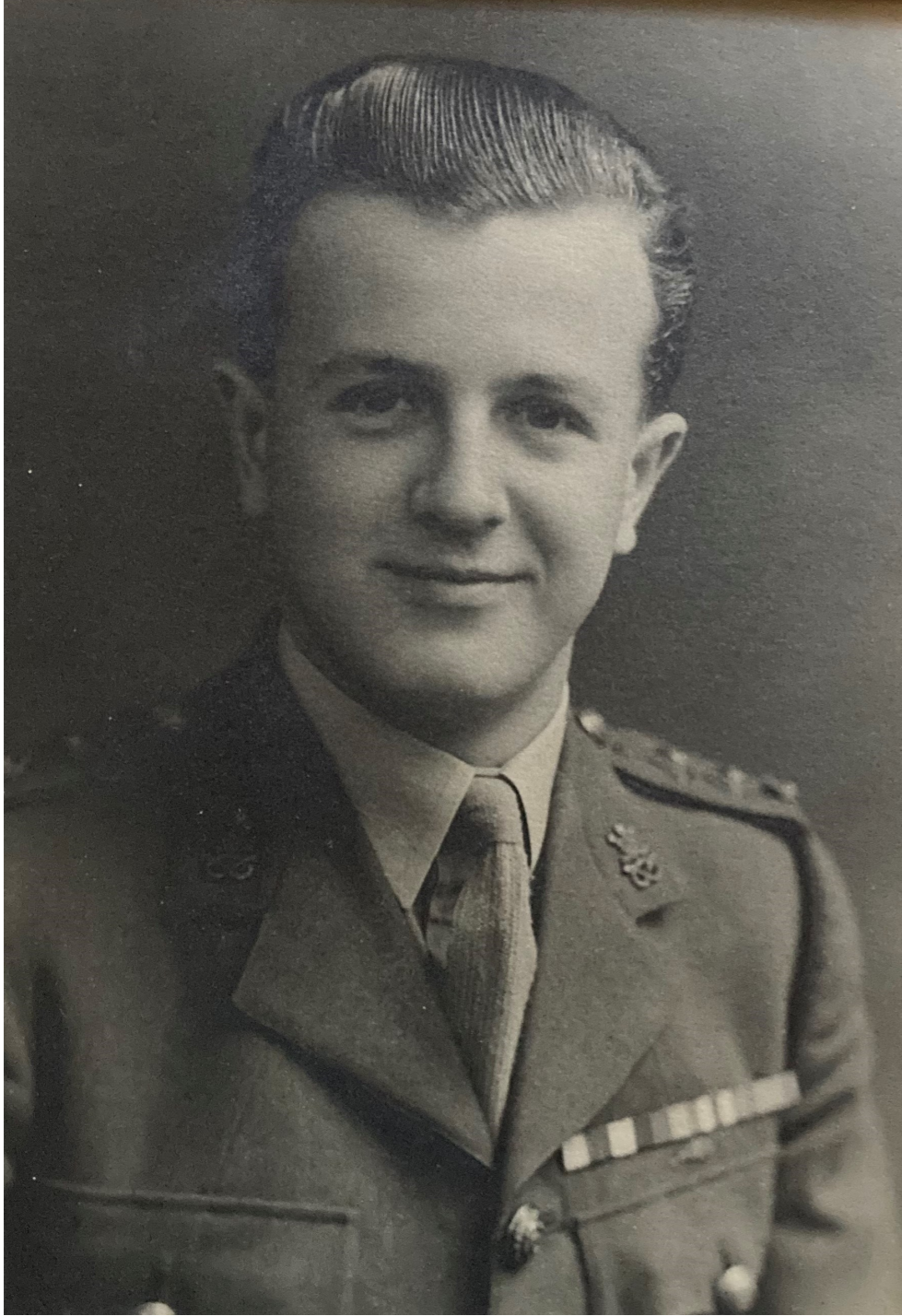


Colonel Charles James Baines CBE, MC, TD, DL



Jimmy Baines in his North Staffs Regiment uniform

Military Service and Military Cross

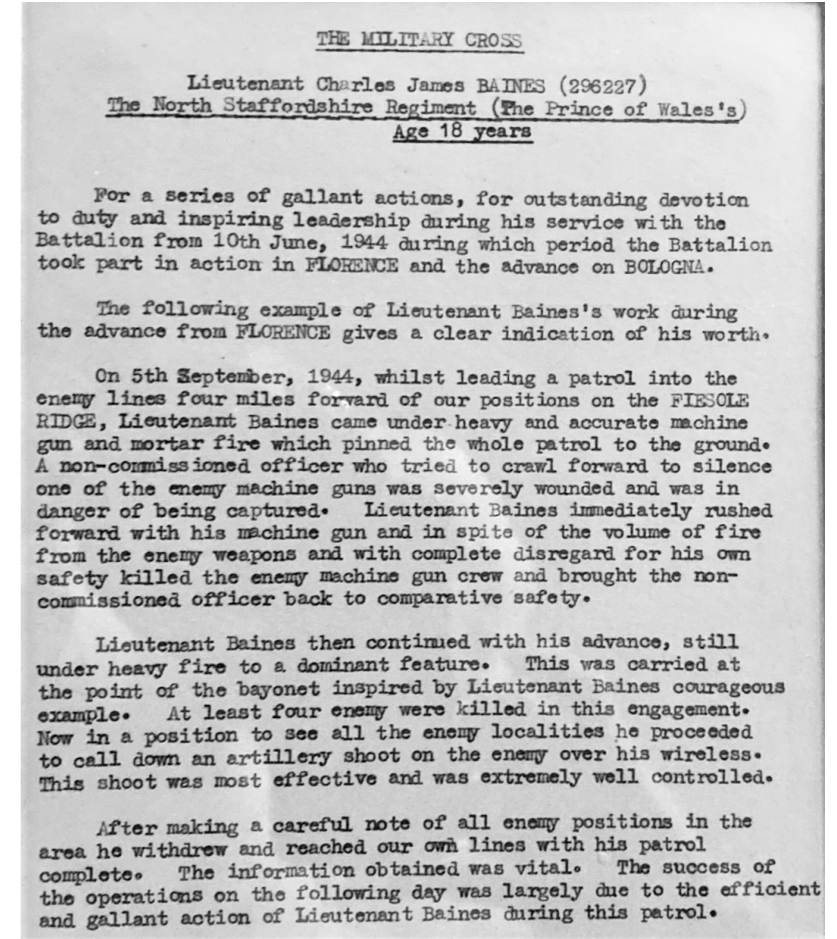
In 1939 when war broke out Jimmy was at boarding school but as soon as he was old enough he joined the Army along with his friend Robert (Bob) Simpson and was sent up to Scotland to become part of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

A year later he was commissioned into the North Staffs regiment and sent to Italy to become part of the Second Battalion north of Rome in June 1944. He soon established for himself a reputation as a brave and determined leader of men and, on one such patrol he led the way into Marradi and beyond.

Later in 1944, aged 18, he was awarded the Military Cross and part of the citation read:-

“On 8th September 1944, whilst leading his patrol into the enemy lines four miles forward of our position on the Fiesole Ridge, this officer came under heavy and accurate machine gun fire which pinned the whole patrol to the ground.” It goes on to say: “Lt. Baines immediately rushed forward andwith complete disregard for his own safety... brought the officer back to comparative safety.”

Lt. Baines remained with the Second Battalion, moving with them in January 1945 to Palestine – where he was mentioned in dispatches – and he also served in Syria and Egypt becoming a Captain in 1946 before being released from regular service in 1947 and returning to Trentham.



Back to Business and Marriage

On his return from the Army, Jimmy joined his father, Charles to work in the family business – Baines Colours.

In 1953 Jimmy married Anne (Annie) the daughter of Angus and Annie Cargill who were originally from Scotland, but had moved to Stoke for work and lived on Stone Road in Trentham. Once married, Jimmy and Annie set up home near Blythe Bridge and went on to have three children, Vicki, Tracey and Charles.

Territorial Army and CBE

Back in civilian life Jimmy found he was missing the army so joined the 6th North Staffords (Territorial Army) as Officer Commanding Carrier Platoon, eventually rising to command the battalion from February 1962 – February 1965. During this time the battalion was presented with new colours by H M the Queen at Wolverhampton football ground and Jimmy made a speech.

Having handed over command Jimmy then became Deputy Commander North (V) of the West Midlands District in the rank of Colonel. In 1975 he was made Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to H M the Queen.



Jimmy accompanies H M The Queen in an inspection of the troops at Wolverhampton



Standing from left - Annie Baines, Jimmy and their daughter Vicki
Seated from left - Chris Johnson, Rita, their daughter, Sarah, Ethel and Charles Baines

Later years

After the death of his father in 1981 and the sale of Baines Colours, Jimmy embarked on a new project setting up Whitebridge Estate near Stone. Starting with four tenants, it is now managed by his son, Charles, and has over seventy tenants.

“The Colonel” gradually withdrew from his many responsibilities during the 1990s, but continued to devote an enormous amount of his time to his former tasks, notably to the Regiment, where he served on Council and on many committees. He remained at the helm, chairing a meeting of the Staffordshire Regiment TA Trust within two months of his death in December 2003.



Colonel Baines in full military dress with his CBE medal round his neck and his Military Cross and other medals on his chest