

## WW2 Army veteran celebrates his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at The Royal Star & Garter Homes

17<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Army veteran Douglas Jakeman celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party surrounded by family, friends and fellow residents at The Royal Star & Garter Homes, Surbiton. Staff at the Home worked together with Douglas's daughters to ensure he had a party to remember.

It was a jubilant afternoon, filled with entertainment by local musical duo 'A Couple of Swells', champagne, delicious birthday cake and exuberant well-wishing from guests. Douglas was life and soul of the party, dancing with his daughters and chatting with guests throughout the celebrations.

Douglas' daughter Brenda gave a heartfelt speech about her dad; *"All of the family love you, Dad. I would like to thank you and Mum for starting our family all those years ago. We are very proud of you. You are our hero and always have been. We hope to have many more happy times like this together."*



*Douglas enjoying his party with daughters Linda, Brenda and Susan.*

Commenting on his party, Douglas said, *"Thank you all so much for being here. I've had a great time."*



*Douglas cutting the birthday cake.*

Douglas joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers during the Second World War. As well as a qualified mortar gunner, Douglas was a tank driver in North Africa and Italy. He was captured and taken prisoner in September 1943 and held as a Prisoner of War camp in Poland until liberation in April 1945. He now lives with dementia at the Surbiton Home where he receives the specialist care he needs to enjoy life to the full.

**Ends**



## MEDIA RELEASE



**The Royal Star  
& Garter Homes**  
Caring for the nation's military family since 1916

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### **About The Royal Star & Garter Homes:**

#### **The Charity provides award-winning care for veterans and their partners who live with disability or dementia.**

The Royal Star & Garter Homes is a charity founded in 1916 to care for the severely injured young men returning from the battlegrounds of the First World War. Today we provide specialist care to the whole military family in our friendly, state-of-the-art Homes. Disabled ex-Servicemen and women, and their spouses, can all benefit from our pioneering approach to nursing, dementia and therapeutic care.

We are in the process of building new Homes around the country to provide specialist nursing care for disabled ex-Service people in the best modern surroundings, including dementia care facilities to address this growing need. The Charity has award-winning Homes in Solihull, West Midlands, and Surbiton, Surrey, which also enables the Charity to offer interim care for young disabled Service personnel. Following the successes of the first two Homes, a third Home in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, is being built, with a planned opening in 2018.

We are proud to have enjoyed Royal patronage since our foundation, including that of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from 1953 to the present day.

The Charity celebrated its centenary in 2016: providing specialist care for disabled veterans since 1916.

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