



**The Ex-Boys Association is on the move again...**

A decision was made by the Association Committee, that the **XBA** website will become non-operational and **be opened to public viewing.**

The **active** elements of the Association have now been moved to a Facebook Group.

We will continue to take Registrations, however we will only require the basic Service Details which will assist in the process of identifying and speeding up approval to the Facebook Group

Transfer of data (photos etc) onto the new **Facebook Group** will be completed by the end of April 2015.

The Facebook Group is open to all **RAOC, REME, RCT (& Intelligence Corps)** Ex Boys, Junior Leaders & Apprentices **who served at the establishments listed on the Association website.**

The Group "**Boys, Junior Leaders & Apprentices of the RAOC, REME & RCT**" – if you are already a Facebook user please log in to Facebook and the Group can be reached using this address:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/335982596587992/>

**If you do not have a Facebook Account then you will need to create one by entering your email address and a password** - then go to the Group using the above address or placing the Group name in the search box..

In addition to applying to join the Group we strongly suggest that if you have never Registered with the Association previously that you visit our website and complete the Registration Form (basic Service details) that will allow us to match your name against our Roll and speed up Facebook Group Membership approval.

We have been highly successful over the past 10 years or so and have revamped the website beyond recognition.

- Added the Forum at Members request
- Created a Nominal Roll by surname & date of over 6000 Boys
- Created a Roll of Honour
- A Nominal Roll of P. Staff
- A master Roll of almost 8000 names
- Archived all (don't think we missed any) of the Thunderbolt Magazines in PDF format.
- Gathered together Photos & Videos across the years including the various Bands.
- Archived memories of Boys Service written by those who served.
- Created a Newsletter that has been eagerly awaited by Members.
- Listed all the Platoon & House names and their History (including photos of their namesakes)
- Located over 2000 ex Boys with contact details
- Put hundreds of old Pals back in touch with each other.
- Had numerous well attended Reunions

**There are sections of the website that the Museum would give their saluting arm for and we believe the admin team should be justly proud of their achievements**

It is also a credit to the training we all received in those formative years that our efforts have not been wasted.

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**One final and IMPORTANT point:**

- Should you object to any photos, or Memories (that were published in your name) being publicly available (as they will be under Facebook), please send a mail to George Tether or Bill Chamberlain via the "Contact us" page of our website. In this case the object in question will be removed.



**Here in a nutshell are the reasons and plans for the move:**

- When we needed younger recruits - only Dave McCarthy & Ian Loftus came forward - none were forthcoming to take over the major role of handling the website.
- Time had to come when we needed to review the situation and plan for the future without the "older" members of the admin team.
- With Social Media what it is and with a large contingent of ex Boys using Facebook and other sites, it was felt necessary to open up our own Group on Facebook.
- Transfer of various sections, as agreed, of our website to "Albums" on our Facebook Group - and where possible.
- To use the Facebook Group as a News facility - Reunions etc
- To reduce site running costs we have decided to change the format of how the site is run - in effect non-operational.
- To take no further fees for membership to the Association after January 2015.
- To allow free viewing to all archived material once the website is "Closed"
- To reserve a proportion of our Cash to maintain the site over the next 10 years – Viewing only.
- To archive all material on CD's for historical retention (possibly RCT/RAOC Museum?)

**Finally we would like to extend our gratitude to all our Members, past & present, whose funds have allowed us to develop and improve the website over the past 10 years or so.**

**Our thanks also to all those who have contributed to the archives, by sending in material and memories, that has created an online record of Ex Boys service life far beyond our expectations.**



Boy Soldiers, Junior Leaders and Apprentices of the RAOC, REME & RCT  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/335982596587992/>

<http://www.juniorleadersraoc.co.uk/>

The above Facebook Group has been set up by the Ex Boys Association and is open only to those who entered service as Boys, Junior Leaders and Apprentices of the RAOC, REME, RCT (together with a small number of the Intelligence Corps Junior Leaders) who were based at the establishments set out on our Group banner and also listed on our website.

Members of the Permanent Staff at these establishments who undertook the training of Ex Boys are also invited and welcome to join.

Our Association (XBA) has a large number of members, including Officers and Senior NCO's and our Patron is Maj General David L Burden CB, CVO, CBE.

The XBA website is a Virtual Museum dedicated to life as a Boy Soldier and contains a large volume of memorabilia donated by Ex Boys that spans a period 1910-1993 when training of RAOC & RCT Apprentices ceased.

Lifetime membership of the XBA did require a one off fee which has recently been rescinded.

We are currently transferring all the Albums and many other items over the Facebook Group and in 2016 the website will become open viewing.

The Facebook Group and the XBA is not open to members of the public or any other members of the Armed Forces