

RAOC ENLISTED BOYS' & BOYS' SCHOOL RAOC

JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION RAOC & REME

RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT RAOC

NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

X





Winter 2008

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Introduction and Welcome

Dear Members,

A very warm welcome from our Founder and Chairman Paul Jones and your new Editor of the Newsletter, Adrian Hayward-Wills, to the tenth Ex-Boys' Association and Winter Edition of the December Newsletter for 2008. We hope that this Tenth Newsletter finds you well after enjoying the rather shy and retiring sun that we had and looking forward to the Christmas festivities.

It is our intention to produce two Newsletters (Summer and Winter) per annum, with a publication in June and December of each year. The Ex-Boys' Association Newsletters will provide a further format to reach its members in addition to our extensive and ever expanding website. Our thanks go to Nigel Hancock as the previous Editor of the Newsletter.

Clearly we are always on the look out for interesting "copy". Should you wish to include any articles for the Newsletter, please feel free to contact The Editor via the Contacts Page on our website which is www.juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

Annual Reunion 2008 – Holiday Inn, Coventry

Our Founder and Chairman Mr. Paul Jones opened our 2nd Annual Reunion, which was held at the Holiday Inn, Coventry on the 16th August 2008 and was a superb success with in excess of 160 members answering the Bugle Call! Looking carefully at all the positive feedbacks on the RAOC and REME ex Boys' Association Forum, it is obvious that everybody had an excellent time.

For me, it provided an opportunity to renew acquaintances with ex-boys Rick Dolan, Del Postlethwaite, John Hamlet and Martin Fox, all of whom I haven't seen in over 25 years. Within seconds of meeting each other again, it was straight into conversation and the obligatory firing of sarcastic remarks at each other!

I was also fortunate in meeting up with John "*Big H*" Hladkij, an inspiration for my running and competing in Cross Country and Road Running. We discussed many things, in particular was our trip to Berlin to compete in the Marathon (Halcyon Days) – thanks John!

Alamein Boys (1981 – 1982) finally departed the bar at 03:10 hrs with a reveille and Breakfast Parade at 08:00 Hrs – a fine show of stamina boys, well done!!

It also gave me the opportunity to meet and greet the Committee members whom I have had contact with via e-mail but hadn't had the pleasure of meeting in person. I for one am already looking forward to the next Reunion in 2010.

Book your Leave Pass now for the next 3rd Annual Reunion Scheduled for: -

Friday/Saturday 6/7th August 2010



Reviews and Comments for the 2nd Annual Reunion

"The 03:10 Hrs Boys!!" – Alamein Platoon



"Thanks to Bill, George, Paul and others un-named who organised it, I was able to meet the boys of '51-3 again, something I thought impossible just a few short years ago; it was for me an unforgettable night with some very special people and I will always remember it. A very special thank you to you all for being part of it."



"Many congratulations to the organising team who gave us a very pleasant evening."

“May I on behalf of the Permanent Staff Members who attended thank everybody concerned”



“Must say this has been the best reunion I've ever attended”



“What a great night my wife and I had meeting old friends. When and where is the next reunion?”



“May I on behalf of the Permanent Staff Members who attended, thank everybody concerned”



“When's the next one!”

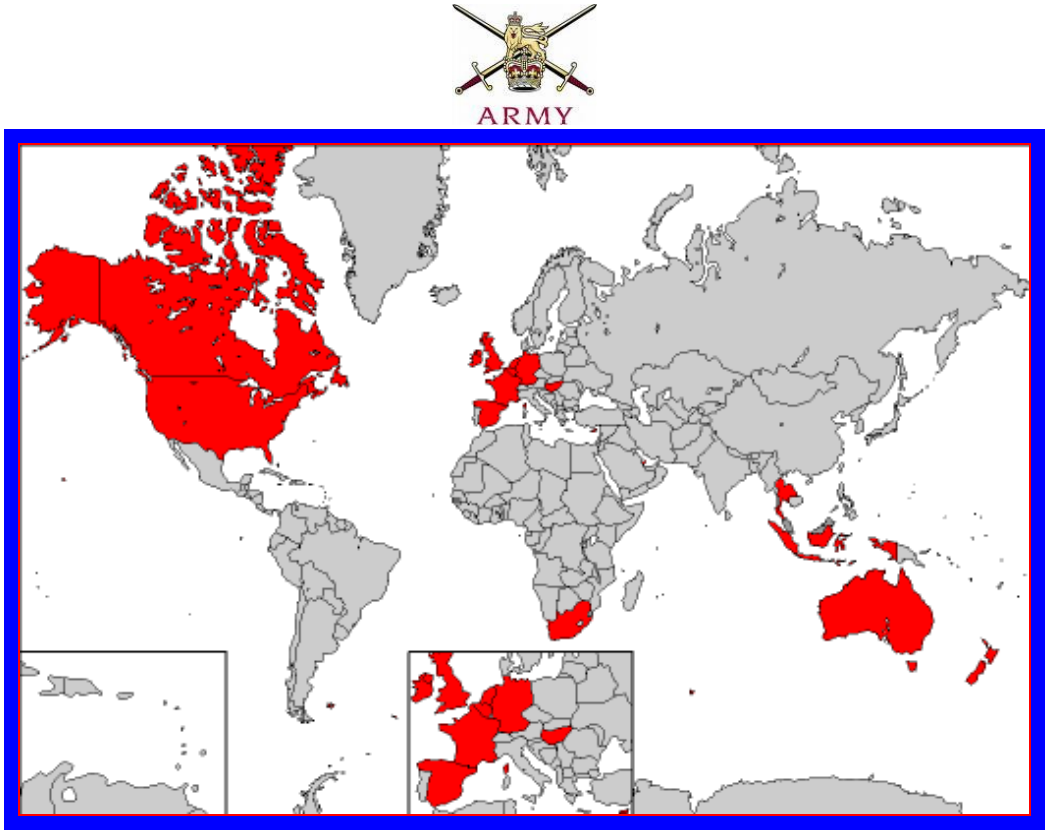
Warning Order - 3rd Annual Reunion – Holiday Inn, Coventry

Your committee has booked the same venue for the 3rd Annual Reunion on the Friday Saturday 6/7 August 2010. We have also managed to secure the same room rates, which I am sure you will agree is excellent value for money.

Both Friday & Saturday will be at £40 single and £55 Double/Twin (inclusive of Breakfast (for 2 in the case of the double/twin) per night.

Membership

Our Founder and Chairman is proud to report that membership has grown continually at a steady pace at now over just under 400 members spread globally but we still need more members!



We are or course delighted to announce that membership continues to grow on a worldwide basis, as can be observed on the above map. However, Bill Chamberlain needs more leads from you, including former permanent staff other ranks and officers – please see Lost Pals section further on in the Newsletter.

So if you happen to know any, please let us know their names addresses, telephone number and e-mail addresses!

A lot of time and effort by the Committee Members - *on a purely voluntary basis* - is spent "behind the lines" on recruiting and processing ex-boys to become members of the Association. This is either conducted by a direct mail process or via a telephone call.

Please remember that membership is a one off payment of £10.00. What is amazing, are the number of ex boys that have recently been found or who have found and contacted us either via the website or by ex-boys themselves!

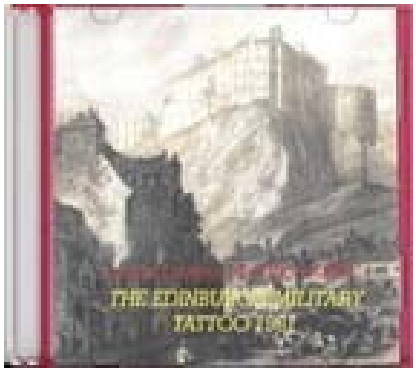


RAOC Ex-Boys' Association Wall Plaques – CD of Edinburgh Tattoo - For Sale

Our Founder and Chairman has commissioned and secured a limited number of RAOC Wall Plaques. These superb quality wall shields are on sale for £20 plus £2.50 postage. If paying by PAYPAL, please add an additional £2.00 please to cover PAYPAL's fees.



These plaques can be obtained by contacting George Hendley - Secretary and Treasurer - providing your name and address and a cheque for £22.50 made payable to: - "Junior Leaders Bn RAOC" For further details, please e-mail George at secretary@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



There is also a CD of the Edinburgh Tattoo of August 1961, £10 plus £2. Post and Packaging. If paid for by PAYPAL, please add an additional £2.00 to cover PAYPAL's fees – many thanks. For further details, please e-mail George at secretary@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

General Information

There are now quite a few new web sites that have information associated with the RAOC and the REME. Additionally, there are many ex-boys and permanent staff from the RAOC and REME that do not know of the different sites or whom do not use a computer.

If you know anyone who is an ex-Boy or Junior Leader or perhaps an ex-member of the Permanent Staff, then please try and pass them on any information to assist our organisation to grow and expand our site and find a venue for them to meet up with old friends and former colleagues.

If on browsing the site you recognise any faces in the photographs, please feel free to inform the site administrator so that we can update the information pertaining to them, and we can pass you on their e-Mail address. Additionally, if you can remember any names and dates of people who served with you, we would also like this information to complete the roles for historical purposes.

If you have any recommendations to improve the site or this Newsletter, please feel free to provide your ideas for consideration via www.juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

Royal Logistic Corps Museum



The RLC museum contains the collections of The Royal Logistic Corps (formed in 1993) the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, The Royal Corps of Transport, the Royal Pioneer Corps, the Army Catering Corps and lastly, the Postal and Courier Service (Royal Engineers). Rather disappointingly, not many RAOC items of interest and nil Boys Service items.

The RLC Museum has opened following a major redevelopment of the main gallery space. The museum is not particularly large, with the main gallery covering about 400 square metres but it has a very wide variety of displays, arranged in chronological order. There is a very large archive of over 100,000 items, which, by appointment, can be viewed by researchers.

The museum conserves and displays all forms of memorabilia relating to the Royal Logistic Corps, its forming corps and predecessors.We collect uniforms, badges, medals, fine and decorative arts, crafts, weapons and archival material.

The bulk of the RLC Museum collection is made up from two of the regimental museums of the forming corps; the Royal Corps of Transport Museum, previously situated at Buller Barracks in Aldershot and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Museum, in Blackdown, both now closed.

Key Exhibits

Major exhibits include items from the Battle of Marston Moor (1644), The Battle of Waterloo (1815) the Zulu and Boer Wars (including bread issued at Mafeking!) World War I exhibits including a horse ambulance and World War II objects spanning from Dunkirk to campaigns in Burma and the Far East. One vehicle on display is Monty's Rolls Royce, which was landed on the D-Day beaches and used in Europe!

Group bookings & General Enquiries

Tel: 01252 833371

Fax: 01252 833484

For queries relating to archival research please read our notes concerning our archive facilities before contacting the archivist. Archives available by appointment only.

Opening Times

Tuesday - Friday 1000 – 1600 hrs
Saturday 1200 -1600 hrs (Easter - September)

Royal Logistic Corps Museum
Deepcut
Camberley
GU16 6RW

Recent Photos: Kindly donated by our members



Rex Harral (R) Boy Sgt 1951

Kindly Donated by

Mrs. Marion Harral

Continued…



Roy Hill REME (L) & Charlie Coleman RAOC (R)

Boy Buglers 1958

Kindly Donated by

Charlie Coleman RAOC

Continued…



Alamein Platoon (Part of) 1981 – 1982

(standing) Martin Fox, Mathew Blair, A/Lcpl Jones, Pete Collins, Kev Baker

(kneeling) Simon Carrier, Taff Bromley, Ken Simpson, Pete King

Kindly Donated by

Martin Fox

Tug of War – Medal (1973)

The Ex-Boys' Association recently received an addition to its photo archive with a generous donation by Stephen Bolton. This excellent donation consisted of a Tug of War Medal won at the Army Athletic Association in 1973. Stephen and his team of strong boys were winners in the Tug of War "640 Kilo" title. Below, are (Obverse and Reverse) scans of the medal and the logo of the Army Athletic Association's Tug of War Association.







Did you know that the origins of tug of war are clouded in the mist of time? It is known that tug of war was practised in ancient Egypt and China. In Korea, local villages used tug of war to settle disputes for centuries and it may come as a surprise to hear that tug of war is depicted on one of the few commemorative coins, the 5,000 won, minted for the Seoul Olympics in 1988. The first chronicled history of tug of war in England was between villages in Fenns of Norfolk in the 16th century.

At the start of the 1900s in England, Tug of War was pulled under the AAAs. In 1924, Tug of War made its final appearance, of its brief reign, at the Olympics. England won gold; the Metropolitan Police a silver medal and the Liverpool Police, a bronze medal. In 1958, the **Tug of War Association** was formed and it included 15 clubs from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In 1971, Wales formed their own association.

England's most successful team were "Wood Treatment Bosley" who won the AAAs Championships every year from 1959 - 1978. The Tug of War International Federation (**TWIF**) was formed in 1968. There are now Inter-County, National, UK, European, World Championships and World cup competitions!

Service Tug of War:

The sport of "Tug of War" became very popular in the Army during the 19th century in India. In 1880, Tug of War was introduced at the Royal Tournament, where it stayed until 1953. It was reinstated in 1979 and remained until 1999. In 1953 Tug of War was introduced to the Breamar Gathering and remains as a service event to this day. The most successful teams in terms of Army titles were 23 Parachute Field Ambulance who won the 640 kilos for 8 consecutive years and 63 Para Sqn RCT who won the 560 kilos title for 7 consecutive years, both in the 1970s.

In 1973, the first Army Tug of War judges & coaches courses were held at the ASPT Aldershot under the auspices of instructors from the Tug of War Association. The Army Tug of War Association (ATOWA) was formed in 1983. In 1987, the Princess Royal's Open Inter Service Tug of War was introduced at Windsor. The Combined Services Tug of War Association was later formed in 1993.

In 1993, a service Tug of War event was introduced at the Aldershot show. The first opportunity for service pullers to represent the Combined Services, came with the introduction of the Triangular match, against Police & Fire Brigade teams, in 1995. And finally, in 1997, Ladies Tug of War was introduced into the services – tickets please!!

The beauty of "Tug of War" is in four areas: Art, Wisdom, Science and Humanity.

It's an Art because it is a demonstration between power and rhythm.
The Wisdom is in the perfect balance of stillness and movement.
It is a Science because of the integration of science and strength.
Humanity is that it is a war of peace, it is a strong team linked together with a rope.

RAOC on Line

The Aim of RAOConLine Forum is to foster comradeship between those who served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps of all ranks, trades, ages and gender; including those former RAOC Members still serving.

RAOConLine forum is FREE for all to view and only requires a simple on-line FREE registration to enable you to reply to or post new messages.

The RAOConLine Fellowship Branch of the RAOC Association exists for former RAOC to interact beyond the Forum

If you are not already a member, perhaps you should consider RAOConLine who will put you in touch with the nearest Branch of the RAOC Association and perhaps former comrades in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Newsletter

If any member would like to submit articles for inclusion - for example, a book review or anything connected with the RAOC and REME, in particular Boys Service - into the next 2009 Summer Edition of the Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter June 2009 - please contact in the first instance via the "Contacts Page" on the website: -

Adrian Hayward-Wills

Alamein Platoon (RAOC)

1981 – 1982



Items of Interest – The Veterans Badge



Members of the Ex-Boys' Association may be interested to know that the UK Armed Forces Veterans' Lapel Badge is available and was launched in May 2004 by the Minister of Veterans, to raise the profile of veterans by assisting the wider public to recognise them.

The first veterans badge was issued to Lord Healy, a veteran of the Battle for Monte Cassino, on 10 May 2004, which initiated the roll out of the badge to the Second World War veteran generation. Since then, eligibility to apply for the badge has been extended in sequential phases to all veterans. This has now closed the gap between those who apply for their badge and those who receive it automatically on leaving the Services.

For generations our Armed Forces have served their country across the world in many roles from war fighting, peacekeeping and reconstruction to home defence. In so doing, they have defended our country, our way of life and our cherished values. A large number of our veterans are young and active and now use the skills, the discipline and the leadership qualities they learned in the Armed Forces to benefit their civilian employers and the wider community.

The Ministry of Defence Strategy for Veterans highlights that because of all this it is important to focus on supporting veterans of all ages, by celebrating, and raising public awareness of, their achievements and their contribution to society. To promote recognition of veterans by the wider British public the unique and unifying symbol of the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge was introduced.

The badge is an enamelled, engraved, and pinned, lapel badge featuring the words "HM Armed Forces – Veteran", which encompass the Tri-Service, Anchor, Crossed Swords and Eagle motif.



Continued…







Its symbolism is intended to unite all veterans in recognising the commonality of their service, to encourage a sense of unity and community between surviving veterans and to ignite public recognition of current veterans and their continuing contribution to society.

If you wish, you may call the Freephone number to apply.

Postal address: -
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency,
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys,
Lancashire,
FY5 3WP

Fax: 01253 330561(UK Only)

+44 1253 330561 (Overseas)

Email: lapelbadge.team@spva.gsi.gov.uk

Freephone Helpline

Free: 0800 169 2277 (UK only)

Free: 0800 169 3458 (Minicom UK only)

+44 1253 866043 (Overseas)

Items of Interest

Whilst searching the Internet the other day for items to include in the Newsletter, I found an interesting photograph of a diesel/electric train named the "Royal Army Ordnance Corps". Do any of our readers' known of its history or whereabouts? The second photograph shows the train parked next to the 4472 Flying Scotsman! If one looks closely, you can see the RAOC badge.





45112 (D61) 'Royal Army Ordnance Corps'

Location: Knottingley TMD

Owned By: Privately Owned

Status: Unknown

Built: Derby in 1960

Livery: BR Blue

Items of interest – Apprentice College/Junior Leaders Corps of Drums

Britain's oldest military music is probably best regarded as a blend of the needs of the King's court and what the soldiers sang around campfires or perhaps in the castle guardroom. By the early 1500s we know that drums were authorised for every company of a hundred infantrymen. From this came the drum and flute band that remain equipped from government funds and which until the early 1900s, was to be found on the strength of every infantry battalion.

Incidentally, in the 1500s, drums were mainly used to signal the commanding officer's tactical directions, (e.g. take ground to the left) and may just have cheered the men on the march too and cheering the line of March remains the principal function of all military music today. From the early 1900's, there was a Drum and Flute band on the strength of every Infantry Battalion. There is still today a Corps of Drums on the strength of all Guards and English and Welsh Line Infantry Battalions, although the soldier of today has to combine his skill as a Drummer with designated duties as a Front Line Infantry Soldier!



During the Apprentice College 1981-1982 period, we wore a uniform that consisted of black trousers and a red tunic with black collars. The trousers had red stripes on the outside. All of us wore a white waist belt, which in my day was made of plastic which as we all know was easy to clean! This belt was fastened at the front with a twist style brass buckle similar to that of stable belt and still in use today.

The service helmet as can be seen in the above Corps of Drums photograph, had a cork interior and a dark blue felt like material outside, with light brown leather sweat band. The “Home Service Helmet” to give it its correct title, was an interesting item of uniform that was introduced under the Cardwell Reforms (Secretary of War) of 1878.

I am still in the fortunate position of owning such an item of kit; my particular hat was manufactured by Christy's of London and displays the King's Crown, with royal Garter making it a pre-1953 piece of quality equipment. The Helmet being topped by a six-sided brass spike. An article will appear in another newsletter on this dress hat.

All the fittings were either brass or stay-brite construction and could be stripped down from the helmet for cleaning even the spike! The main badge had 7 points and the crown at the top. The circle in the centre was scarlet with an RAOC badge in the middle.

Continued…

As Boy Drummers, we wore a cross strap to hang the drum from; this was constructed of plastic. These cross straps did not have pouches at the rear as perhaps line of infantry would have. We also wore the "*Drums*" lanyard, rather like a curtain pull! Which was hooked to the top tunic button passed around and under the right arm back over the top of the right shoulder and across the front of the body and fixed by a press stud to the front of the left shoulder.

The Service Dress Hat and Drums Lanyard can be clearly seen in this fine picture of the late App/Sgt Andy Murphy - *Drum Major* – with his Home Service Helmet on and a fine embroidered Drum Major's Sash.



Andy Murphy

Drum Sgt Major - Alamein Platoon

The duty of providing music became the task of the Corps of Drums, this has now been formalised into the ceremony of "Beating Retreat" a pleasant event borne out of military necessity. Often performed by Apprentices and Junior Leaders alike!

The ceremony of Beating Retreat has its origins in the practicalities of early warfare when the drum was used for all signals on the battlefield. Beating the Retreat was a signal for troops to disengage from combat as light faded. This custom was also used to warn outlying troops to withdraw to the confines of the encampment before the picquets were set for the night.

One of the first references to the custom of Retreat is in the 'Rules and Ordynaunces for the Warre' dated 1554, where it is called 'Watch Setting'. In 1727, Humphrey Bland's 'Treatise of Military Discipline' stated:-

'Half an hour before the gates are to be shut, generally at the setting of the sun, the Drummers of the Port Guard are to go upon the ramparts and beat a Retreat to give notice to those without that the gates are to be shut.'

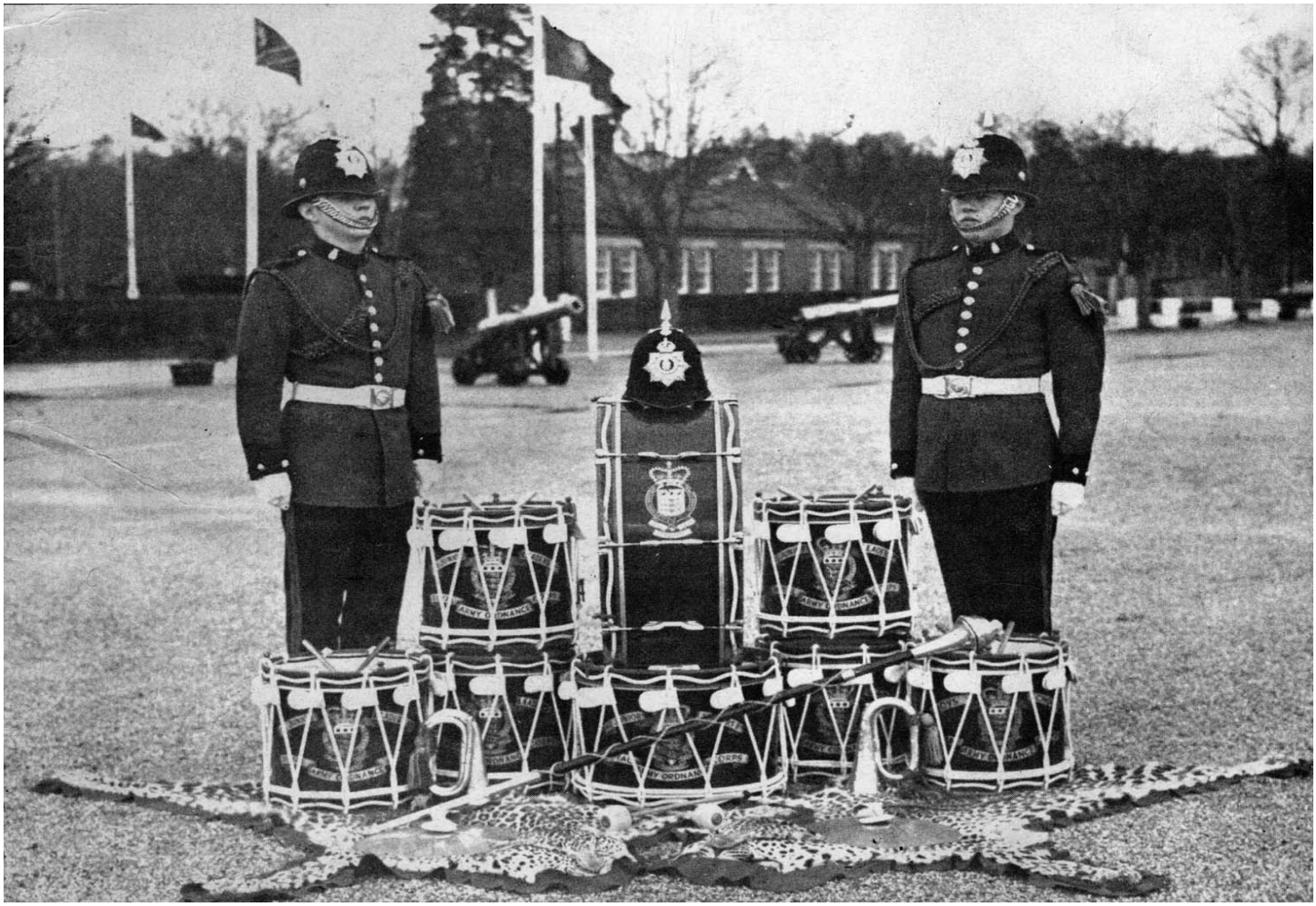
There appeared to be some confusion between Retreat and another custom of 'Tattoo' which was a beating of drums within the billeting areas to order the troops to their quarters. Twenty years later, whilst in Flanders during the war of the Austrian succession, The Duke of Cumberland made the first clear distinction between Retreat and Tattoo, when he ordered 'The Retreat is to be daily at Sunset and the Tattoo is to be beat at a later hour as ordered by the Commandants of individual encampments'.

Continued…

For the Army, the original call of Retreat was beaten by Drums alone and it was some years before Buglers were added to play tunes.

The ceremony of Beating Retreat in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines rose to importance in the 1930s when the then Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Sir William Fisher KCB, CVO, chose it as an impressive spectacle to perform when his Fleet visited foreign ports.

The Massed Bands of the Fleet were added to the Corps of Drums and the ceremony was concluded with the bugle call 'Sunset' as the White Ensign was lowered.



An excellent photograph showing drums, Home Service Helmets, Bugles and lastly, a Drum Major's Mace.

In due time, the Military Band came into being but when the troops were on the march they were accompanied by the Drums some of the drummer boys being of a very tender age.

The Snare Drums of the 1970-1980's RAOC Apprentice College Corps of Drums were manufactured by Premier Drums, who are still in business today. Two fine examples were on display at the Annual Reunion (2008) in Coventry.

Next Newsletter (Summer 2009) will include an article on the (*Premier*) Snare Drum used by Junior Leaders and Apprentices alike.

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1954

Further to the excellent CD of the Edinburgh Tattoo of August 1961, which incidentally is available from the original recording of the Junior Leaders Corps of Drums, when they played at the Edinburgh Tattoo in 1961! I decided to do a little research and discovered that approximately 100 Boys of "B" Coy, 1 Regular Training Battalion, The Royal Army Ordnance Corps had made an earlier appearance at the Edinburgh Tattoo, 1954 to be precise.

Below is an excellent black and white photograph of the "*Parade of the Toy Soldiers*" – The Boys of the Regular Training Battalion Royal Army Ordnance Corps at the 1954 Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



The Edinburgh Tattoo

Continued…

Below is a list of contents taken from the original 1954 Tattoo Programme, please note how the "*Village Blacksmith*" is being played by Gordon Highlanders! If per chance any of our readers have recollections of this event, please contact The Editor.

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo Programme 1954

"Drawbridge"
State Trumpeters of The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues)

The Mounted Band of The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) under the direction of the Director of Music, Captain J. E. Thirtle ARCM

Music - Road to the Isles, Corn Riggs, Aida, Imperial Echoes
by 100 Boys of "B" Coy, 1 Regular Training Battalion, The Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Officer in Charge - Captain D. F. A. Cowdry

Music - Hill and Sea, Toy Town Salute, May Blossom Troop, Washington Greys, Duke of York, Blaze Away, Soldiers of the Queen, The Village Blacksmith

TATTOO FACT FILE

1. The first Edinburgh Tattoo took place in 1950. There were eight items in the programme.
2. More than 12 million people have attended the Tattoo. The annual audience is around 217,000.
3. Around 100 million people see the Tattoo each year on international television.
4. Approximately 70 per cent of each audience is from outside Scotland. Half of these are from overseas.
5. Each year 100,000 people visit the Tattoo's new attraction at the top of the Royal Mile. The Spirit of the Tattoo - the compelling story of Edinburgh's Military Tattoo, featuring an interactive exhibition, movie theatre and gift shop.
6. The first commercial twelve inch stereo LP record of the Tattoo was released in 1961.
7. 2007 marked the Tattoo's ninth successive sell-out season, generating some £4.8 million in box office receipts.
8. Around 35 miles of cabling (the distance from Edinburgh to Glasgow) is required.
9. The event was first seen in colour on TV in 1968.
10. From 1950 to 1991, there were four producers - Lt Col George Malcolm of Poltalloch, Brigadier MacLean, Brigadier Sanderson and Lt Col Dow.
11. Major Michael Parker then took over as producer for the 1992, 1993 and 1994 Tattoos. He was succeeded by Brigadier Melville Jameson in 1995. who in turn was followed by Major General Euan Loudon in March 2007.
12. The first overseas regiment to participate was the Band of the Royal Netherlands Grenadiers. The year was 1952, and there were also performers from Canada and France.
13. The first lone piper was Pipe Major George Stoddart. He played in every performance for the first eleven years. His son, Major Gavin Stoddart, followed his father as lone piper at the Tattoo and became Director of Army Bagpipe Music for 12 years.
14. Hollywood movie producer Mike Todd, the fourth husband of film star Elizabeth Taylor, made a documentary programme on the Tattoo in 1950.
15. Not a single performance of the Tattoo has ever been cancelled.
16. The Tattoo is set up and run for charitable purposes. Over the years, it has gifted some £5 million to organisations.
17. At the last official independent count, visitors to the Tattoo contributed an estimated £88 million to the Scottish economy.
18. The Tattoo has always been staged at Edinburgh Castle. Rehearsals take place at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh.

'Doe den tap toe' - ('Turn off the Taps')

eBay - Items of Interest

I am a regular user of the Internet auction site know as ebay.co.uk. One of my searches is often for items relating to the RAOC. Below are some pictures of an item I was looking at but didn't place a Bid on. Although not directly linked to the Apprentice College or the Junior Leaders, it does have obvious relevance to the RAOC. The final bid reached was a hefty £620.00 and went to an American collector.









Continued…

Two fine examples of un-cleaned - (KC) King's Crown - RAOC Buttons.

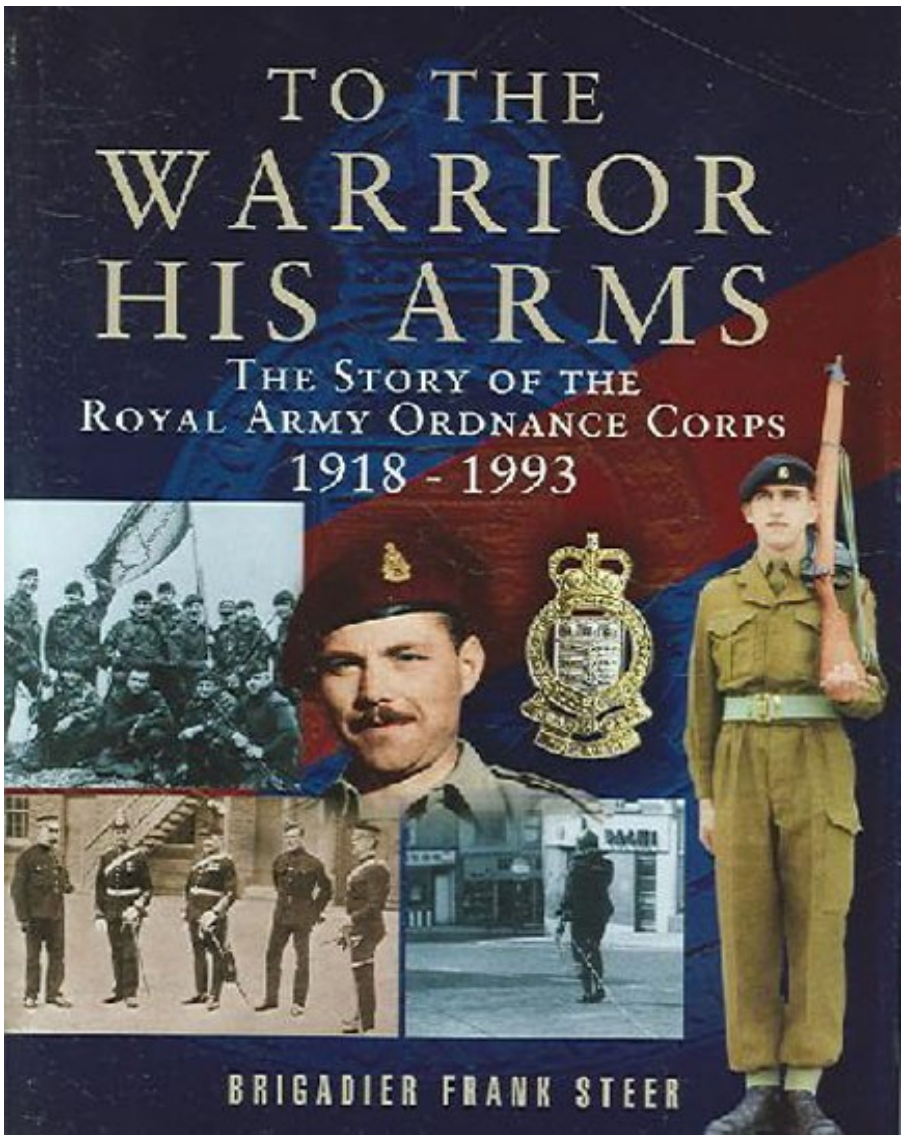


A King's Crown (KC) Silver and Enamel Sweetheart Brooch attributed to REME.



The next Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter - Issue 11 - Summer 2009, I will be running an article on RAOC and REME Blazer Badges.

Book Reviews



- Hardcover: 512 pages
- Publisher: Leo Cooper Ltd
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 1844153290
- ISBN-13: 978-1844153299
- Book Dimensions:
- 25.6 x 19.8 x 3.2 cm

Synopsis:

This is the story of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from its formation in 1918 until its absorption into the Royal Logistic Corps in 1993.

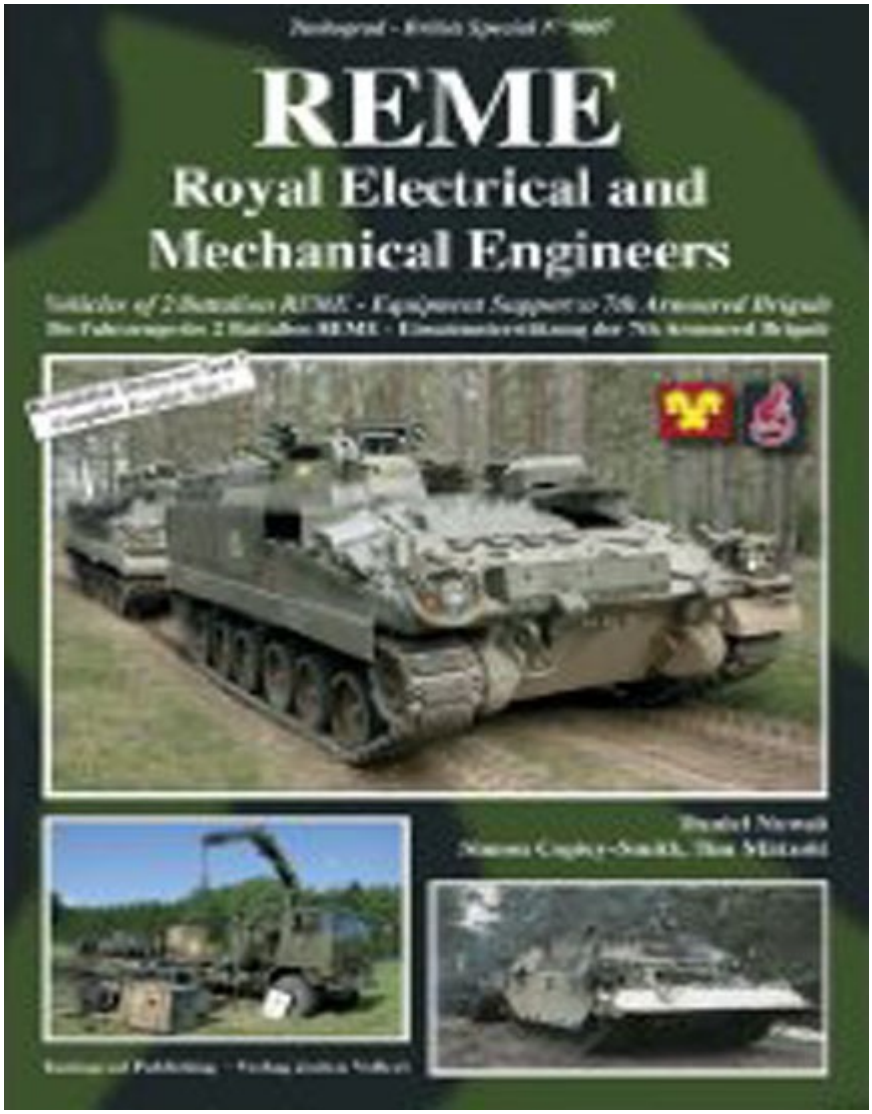
Its seventy-five year life as a Royal Corps was preceded by a long history dating back before time immemorial where Ordnance in various shapes, forms and organisations provided the vital support needed to maintain the Army's weapons at war and in peace. In the post WWI world and running right through to the end of the century wherever the Army was so was the RAOC.

Its skills were wide ranging, its decorations, particularly for Bomb Disposal, among the highest and hardest won, its sporting prowess of the highest order and its bearing, record, pride and regimental tradition as fine as any in the Army. This is a most worthwhile project which will mean a great deal to those surviving members of the Corps in which we served with no small amount of pride.

Writing with direct experience, Frank Steer was commissioned into the RAOC in 1966. Having served in a wide range of operational and logistical posts and was the Commander Supply in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

On page 279, one can see a great picture of a Junior Leader in a Corps of Drums full dress uniform, including his Home Service Helmet!

Book Reviews



- Paperback: 64 pages
- Publisher: Tankograd (2008)
- ASIN: B00187PY3M

Synopsis:

The latest addition to the popular British special (9000 Series) by Tankograd. 64 pages with 130 colour photographs and 5 graphics. A must for modellers and enthusiasts and perhaps ex-boy soldiers! Dual English and German text - wow!

Field Marshal Montgomery described it as *'Keeping the Punch in the Army's Fist'*. REME officers and soldiers are fully trained combat soldiers in addition to their technical skills. The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers has responsibility for the maintenance, servicing and inspection of almost every electrical and mechanical piece of equipment within the British Army from Challenger II main battle tanks and to AH64 Apache helicopters.

This book is filled with pictures of various REME vehicles. Those included are the 25-21 tonne Foden general service 6x6 recovery vehicle, Various Land rovers, Bedford mj 4-tonne truck, Leyland DAF T244, Bedford TM 4x8-tonne truck, Leyland DROPS (Demountable Rack Off-load and pick-up system) MMLC (Medium Mobility Load Class) 8x6 15 tonne truck, Coles crane, various forklifts, trailers used by the Battalion, FV105 Sultans, FV434s, FV 512 Warrior MRV, and the CRARRV (Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle "Rhino"). The Research is outstanding with each photo having a brief caption under it. It also includes multiple photos of the upgraded vehicles used in Operation Telic, including some with slat armour and also the unique slanted armour used on The US Marine AAV's. There are a lot of good shots to use for reference, although not a lot of close ups.

Old Codger's – Photo Gallery

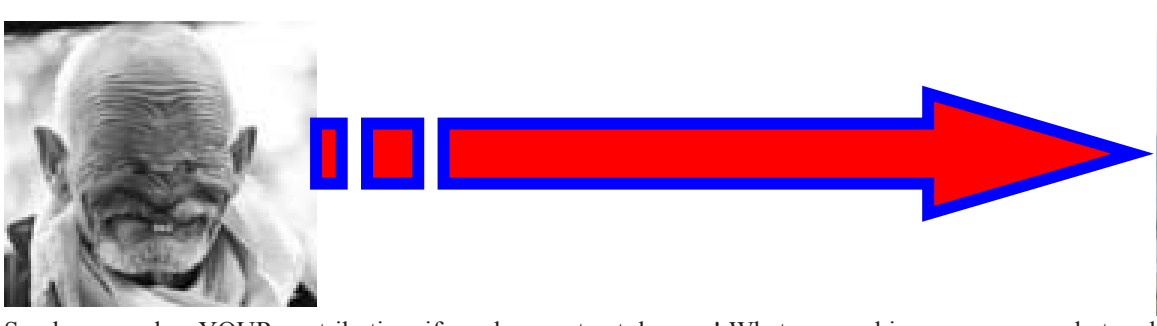
This is a Bugle Call for Association Members to submit contributions to the Old Codger's revamped and most improved Photo Gallery contained within our website. This is where members can place photos and details of their service-life after Boys School and let us know a little about their families and interest etc. At this improved photo section, members can now hover their mouse over a photo and see a "*Now and Then*" photo! For those interested in making contact with old friends, you can place your search details on the Forum, doing so will allow other members to see it and hopefully someone may know of the individual's whereabouts. Below is a list of some examples already posted on the website please take a look on the website: -

2008

09.01 1 from Tom Burke - Parsons 1961-63
20.02 1 from Philip Wall (REME) - Cutforth 1971-73
09.04 1 from Kev Sanders - Cutforth 1971-74

Having the Old Codger's Page is particularly useful at Reunion times to identify lost pals! For example:-

In Boys' Service **In Retirement**



So please send us YOUR contribution, if you have not yet done so! What we need is one, or more, photos showing any aspect of your life during or after Boys School, including family.... In fact, just anything you like... It's YOUR personal photo-album and only visible to other members of the Ex-Boys Association. Furthermore, submitting such photos also allows us to place a photo on the website when its your Birthday! This request for photos is/was particular evident in the month of November, when 23 members celebrated their respective birthdays but only 3 photos were available for members to see – come on! Get those Kodak Box Brownies out and take some photos!!

Lost Pals

For those interested in making contact with old friends, you can place your search details on the Forum, doing so will allow other members to see it and hopefully someone may know of the individual's whereabouts. Alternatively, you can contact Bill Chamberlain directly, (see the Contacts section) who, will wherever possible, conduct a search using the UK Info CD (purchased by the Association). We have been successful in locating a considerable number of "*lost pals*" and it helps if you can provide additional information:

- **First name and any second initial**
- **Current age (approx)**
- **Where the person hailed from**
- **His wife's name**
- **Last known location**
- **Any one or more of the above bits of information will allow the search to be narrowed down**

Hopefully we can "make your day" and you can meet up with those "lost pals" at one of our Reunion Dinners!

RAOC ENLISTED BOYS' & BOYS' SCHOOL RAOC

JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION RAOC & REME

RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT RAOC

Vacancies

Public Relations Administrator

We are still looking for an individual to come on board as our Public Relations Administrator. This is a newly created role and we see this position as being crucial to ensuring the profile of the Association is brought to the attention of other bodies such as liasing with Military sites, as well as the Press and other Organizations.

As with our other Admin roles, this is a voluntary position.

If you are interested and wish to discuss this position in more detail, please email Bill, also supplying a contact home phone number:

bill.chamberlain@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

Vacancies

Ex Boys & Lost Pals

It has been found necessary to circulate the Membership to see if there are any of you interested in coming on board, to take over from Bill Chamberlain, the sourcing of ex Boys and to assist those seeking to locate ex Pals.

This role is of major importance, as many of you will know from experience and requires someone who has - total discretion, takes pride in attention to detail, a good memory, spare time, and above all an interest in the aspects of this rewarding role.

As with our other Admin roles, this is a voluntary position.

If you are interested and wish to discuss this position in more detail, please email Bill, also supplying a contact home phone number:

bill.chamberlain@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



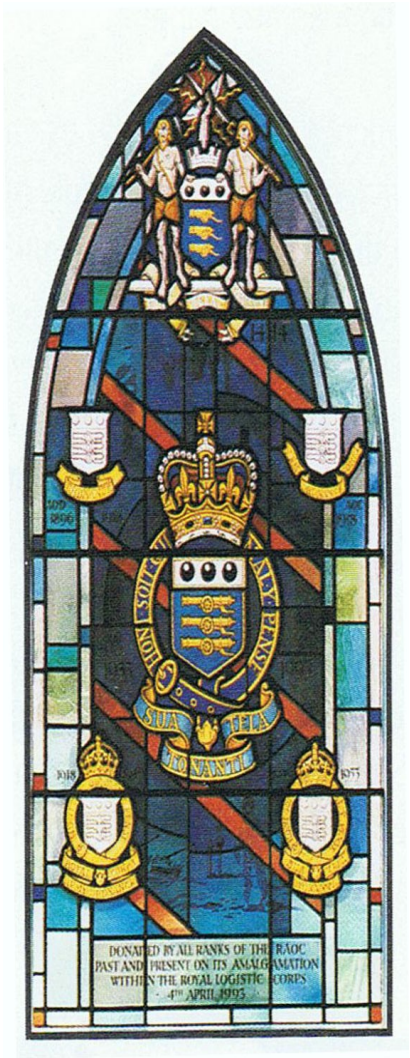






The Last Post

It is with deep regret that the RAOC Ex-Boys' Association announces the passing of the following Ex-Boys, our thoughts and condolences are with the families at the time of passing and at the time of this announcement: -



Tara McCANN
Alan MORTON

Arthur J. HOWES
Bill LUKE

Ferries Anthony RAFFAN
Geoffrey BULLIVANT

James FINCH
Jeremy TIMMS

John YEARDLEY
Lesley Charles COLES

Michael WOOLHAM
Norman BRUCE

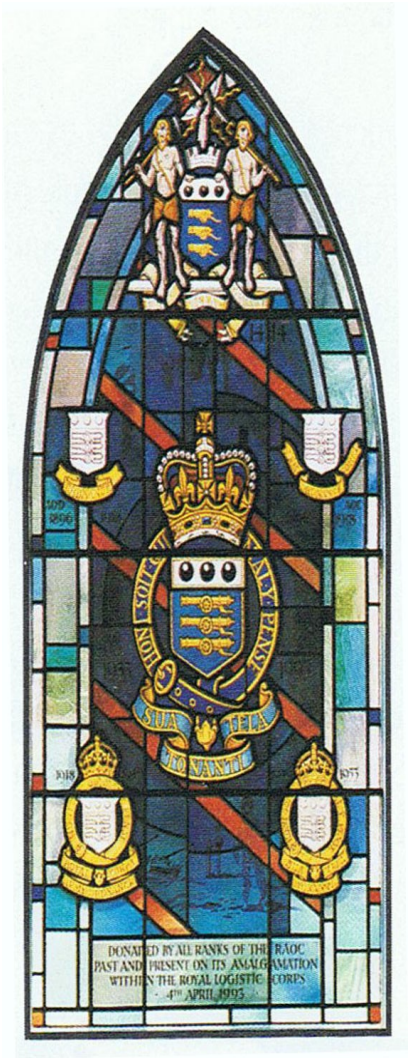
Reginald EDDY
Roger CLAY

Roger Edward HILLS
Ronald ADAMS

Terry CHOWN (REME)
Tony LEEMING

Wally STONEHOUSE (REME)
Christopher BRADSHAW

RIP



For the Last Post details contained within this Newsletter, the RAOC Ex-Boys' Assocation, are dependent on information from either relatives or Ex-Boys themselves. Please forgive any inaccruacies or omissions that have perhaps been quoted from memory.

The Last Post

Did you know that "Last Post" is a bugle call used at Commonwealth of Nations military funerals and ceremonies commemorating those who have fallen in war. "The Last Post" is also the name of a poem by Robert Graves describing a soldier's funeral during World War I.

"Last Post" was originally a bugle call used in British Army camps to signal the end of the day. The name derives from the practice of inspecting all the sentry posts around such a camp at the end of the day and playing a bugle call at each of them. The "Last Post" was thus the last point of this inspection, and the bugle call signalling that this post had been inspected marked the end of the military day. This custom dates from at least the 17th century and originated with British troops stationed in The Netherlands, where it drew on an older Dutch custom, called Taptoe.



The Taptoe was also used to signal the end of the day but has more prosaic origin. Taptoe originated signalling the moment that beer barrels had to be shut, hence that the day had ended. It comes from the Dutch phrase Doe den tap toe, meaning "Turn the tap off" (not to be confused with "Taps" which has a similar function but different tune and origin).

During the 19th century, "Last Post" was also carried to the various countries of the British Empire. In all these countries it has been incorporated into military funerals, where it is played as a final farewell, symbolising the fact that the duty of the dead soldier is over and that they can rest in peace. Last Post is used in public ceremonials commemorating the war dead, particularly on Remembrance Day in the Commonwealth of Nations and The Netherlands (known as Veterans Day in the United States).

Since 1928, "Last Post" has been played every evening by buglers of the local Last Post Association at the war memorial at Ieper (Ypres) in Belgium known as the Menin Gate, commemorating the British Empire dead at the Battle of Ypres during the First World War. The only exception to this was during the four years of the German occupation of Ypres from 20 May 1940 to 6 September 1944, when the ceremony moved to Brookwood Cemetery in England. On the evening that Polish forces liberated Ypres, the ceremony was resumed at the Menin Gate, in spite of the heavy fighting still going on in other parts of the town.

These buglers are quite often mistaken as being from the local fire brigade; however, they are present every day representing the Last Post Committee. They are indeed members of the fire brigade and can sometimes be seen wearing the uniforms but it is not the Fire Brigade that organises "Last Post".

"Last Post" was used by British forces in North America in colonial times but its function was taken over in the United States by "Taps", which has been used by the United States Army since 1862 which incidentally is a beautiful piece of music.





Chairman's Christmas Message 2008



First of all a warm welcome to what is perhaps a very cold day in December!

Christmas is a time that we as an Association can look back on everything we have achieved; to this end, I am delighted to announce that in 2008, our organisation, the RAOC and REME Ex-Boys' Association, has gone from strength to strength. Our membership has increased almost on a weekly basis and August of this year marked our 2nd Annual reunion with over 160 members answering the Bugle Call!

The Festive season is a time for families to bond with one another and also a time to plan a way forward for the next year. The Ex-Boys' Association is no exception. The great work of our dedicated Committee working "behind the lines" for the benefit of its members has meant that the website has both a wealth of history and talent for its members to view and to socialise on. For that I dearly thank them all.

Christmas is also a time to see and get in touch with old friends, to think of the good times and the good fortune life has given us all. And in properly celebrating Christmas and enjoying that good fortune, we should spare a thought for the families of the men and women of our Armed Forces who are currently serving the interests of our country abroad and who can't celebrate Christmas with their families and loved ones like the rest of us.

Finally, I wish all members of the Association and their families a safe and joyous Christmas. Make the most of the time to rest and recuperate and renew bonds with family and friends.

And may the New Year of 2009 deliver all that you wish!

Paul D. Jones
Founder and Chairman
The Ex-Boys' Association



Your Admin Team

If you require any assistance with regards to the Association, please feel free to contact any of the following: -



Paul D. Jones

Founder and Chairman

Email: paul.jones@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



George Tether

All matters concerning the on-line-presentation of the site, Membership and the Forum.

Email: george.tether@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



Bill Chamberlain

Lost Pals:

This section is looked after by Bill, who spends many hours helping lost pals to find each other.

Email: bill.chamberlain@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



Allan Jones

Our contact for USA & Canada

Email: allan.jones@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

Your Admin Team



George Hendley

Secretary and Treasurer

Email: secretary@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

treasurer@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



Dave McCarthy

All matters concerning ex-Boy's and members of permanent Staff where their names are relevant to Nominal Roll, Battalion Structure, Intake & Passing Out Dates of ex Boy's etc

Email: dave.mccarthy@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



Adrian "HW" Hayward-Wills

Editor/compiler of the Newsletter; archivist for the Association and all matters relating to scanning etc. Send your photos or documents for scanning to Adrian by post, complete with a stamped addresses envelope.

Please email Adrian HW for his postal address.

Email: ade.wills@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”

From all on the Committee



“Sua Tela Tonanti - To the Warrior his Arms”

“Arte et Marte – By Skill and by Fighting”

Material contained within this Newsletter is intended for general informational purposes only.

The contents may not be comprehensive or up-to-date. The Editor, Chairman and the Committee Members of the Association make no representation as to the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, merchantability or fitness for a specific purpose of the information provided in this newsletter.

The Editor, Chairman and the Committee assumes no liability whatsoever for any action taken in reliance on the information contained in this newsletter.

Happy Reading!!!!

AHW