

RAOC ENLISTED BOYS' & BOYS' SCHOOL RAOC

JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION RAOC & REME

RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT RAOC & RCT

NEWSLETTER

XII







Contents Page

- Introduction and Welcome – From the Chairman, Editor and Committee members
- Warning Order - Next Reunion (3rd Bi-Annual Reunion) in 2010
- Membership Update – Membership: From strength to strength
- Items for Sale – Ex-Boys' Association Wall Shields - CD of the Edinburgh Tattoo of Aug 1961
- General Information – REME Association – National Archives (RCT) – eBay Treasures!
- General Information – Combat Stress – An article on this Charitable Organisation
- Newsletter Article – Paul Bunker former RAOC Junior Leader and SAS soldier, KIA in 1982
- Old Codgers' Photo Gallery - Lost Pals – Last Post – Christmas Message - Admin Team

Introduction and Welcome

Dear Members,

A very warm welcome from our Founder and Chairman Paul Jones, all your Association Committee Members who work behind the lines, George Tether, Bill Chamberlain, Dave McCarthy, Brian Wild, Allan Jones and lastly, me the Editor of the Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter, Adrian Hayward-Wills, to the Twelfth Ex-Boys' Association and Winter Edition Newsletter for 2009.

We hope that this Twelfth Newsletter finds you well and looking forward to Christmas and to reading articles on The Junior Drum Major and his Mace and an interesting article submitted by Ex-Boy and Association Member, Peter Roberts on his experience as a Bugler on the BBC show talent show know as "Top Town".

And lastly, an article on former RAOC Junior Leader, Paul Bunker, who was KIA in the Falklands War of 1982, as an SAS Corporal.

As you know, it is our intention to produce two Newsletters (Summer and Winter) per annum, with a publication in June and December of each year. This Winter 2009 Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter provides a further format to reach its members in addition to our extensive and ever expanding website.

The Summer Newsletter 2009 was received with rave reviews! Below are some of the kind comments I and the Committee received:-

"Thank you, this was my first newsletter and it is quite excellent. I found the "Last Post" very touching, Norman Bruce had been my Platoon Commander (Stephens) and I bumped into him on several occasions post Jnr Ldr Bn, he never forgot a face and spoke as if he had only seen you the day before".

ML

"Many thanks for an excellent Newsletter".

DC

"Thank you for the newsletter, it is great to keep and be kept in touch. Today, at almost the anniversary of D-Day and that is also the anniversary of the day I joined No.7 Squad Enlisted boys in 1944 - I contacted the only "Old Boy" that I can find, still alive and living in England, Mr. Frank Barton who joined on the same day and we spent a lonely but pleasant evening in an empty barrack room in Parsons Barracks awaiting the remainder of the Intake".

LN

"Well done to all concerned with the Newsletter. The site is going from strength to strength – brilliant".

AP

"Congratulations! Great reading! So many interesting topics - Regards to all Committee members, with thanks for the many hours spent in keeping the Association so active."

B A-M

"I too have read quite a bit of this summers newsletter, and a very absorbing read it is too. My time in "Boys Service" was such along time ago that my memory fails me as to the highlights of any part of it, however it is good to read of the exploits of those that followed us, life was cetainly improved for the, and proved far more adventurous than anything we could have dreamt possible".

BW

In this Winter Newsletter, you will also find extensive information pertaining to the 3rd Bi-Annual Reunion in 2010, the Reunion is well worth a try. Not been before? Well, never be afraid to try something new; remember, the Ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic by professionals!

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 Adrian HW via the Contacts Page on our website which is www.juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



Did you know, that in addition to this Bi-Annual Newsletter, there is another area in which there is more up-to-date information that provides members with information pertaining to ALL the new photos that have been uploaded, new Thunderbolt Magazines donated and to recently joined members to the Ex-Boys' Association? Well, this arena is entitled "Ex Boys' Forum".

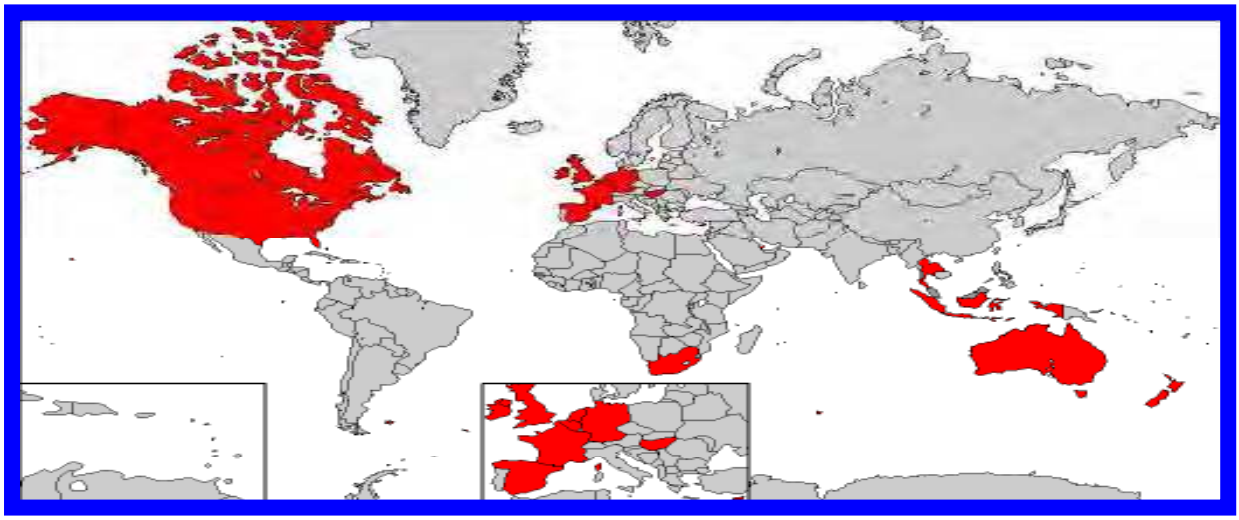
The Forum for members is not only easy to navigate but it provides up to the minute information relating to the Ex-Boys' Association and to RAOC and REME matters as a whole. Information that is posted on the Forum Part-1 Orders is the best way to follow with what's happening and who's new to the Association. Below is a screen capture of said Ex-Boys' Forum.



Remember! As members, it's our Association but your Forum!

Membership

Our Founder and Chairman Paul Jones is delighted to report that membership has grown continually and at a steady pace and now fast approaching the magic 500 members, with a grand total 494 Members!



We are or course absolutely 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. Below is a record of our current membership growth – From Strength to Strength!

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.

Membership Numbers











Date	Membership Numbers	Membership History of the Ex Boys' Association
Jan-09	413	By mid January 2009 we had 413 Members
Feb-09	418	And by late February 2009 we had 418 Members!!
Mar-09	428	Spring time brought us to 428 Members
Apr-09	444	April Showers brought membership to all the fours with 444 Members!!
May-09	448	The end of May brought sunny weather and 448 Members - Brilliant
Jun-09	458	June brought our 450th Member – Wow!!
Jul-09	466	The rainy weather brought the total to 466 Members!!
Aug-09	474	Victory in the Ashes and Membership to 474 Members – "How's Zat!!!"
Sep-09	479	An Indian Summer brought the total to a healthy 479 Members
Oct-09	483	Hallowe'en brought Membership to 483 Members – Spooky!!
Nov-09	494	The heavy rain brought Membership to 494 Members!!



New Members

June 2009

01/06/2009 Thomas Henry William CRAWFORD - Steevens 1972-74

02/06/2009 Stephen William MATTHEWS - Body 1960-62 . . . Our 450th. Member at the time of publication!

12/06/2009 Graham Neil INGHAM - Aden 1979-80

12/06/2009 Alastair Douglas MACDONALD - Adjutant 1964-66

13/06/2009 Charles Cyril FORD - Body 1962-64

15/06/2009 Harry Stephen ESTRIDGE - Richards 1972-73

16/06/2009 David (Dafydd) EVANS - Hill 1965-66

17/06/2009 David Peter BOWES-CAVANAGH - Arnhem 1976-77

24/06/2009 Reginald John MASON - Watts 1962-64

30/06/2009 Stephen Stanley HYSTED - Gordon 1973-74

July 2009

06/07/2009 Bruce Malcolm COWARD - Benghazi 1981-82

06/07/2009 Ian Charles LEWIS - Richards 1970-72

10/07/2009 Keith Terence WEBSTER - Body 1963-65

14/07/2009 William JACKSON - Rowcroft 1969-71

24/07/2009 Anthony BURGIN - Watts 1964-67

25/07/2009 Lee Stephen MARSHALL - Berlin 1983-84

27/07/2009 Robert Howell EDMUNDS - Parsons 1972-73

30/07/2009 James SWAN - 1975-76

New Members

August 2009

03/08/2009 Anthony Colin HURRELL - 1954-55

07/08/2009 Ian William SHAKESHAFT - Mulcahy 1972

12/08/2009 Ian Mark REECE - Arnhem 1984-85

15/08/2009 Michael John GILES - Body 1961-63

15/08/2009 Tremaine (formerly JM) CORNISH - Cutforth 1971-73

16/08/2009 Philip WHYTE - Alamein 1985-86

17/08/2009 Michael John ELLIS - Mulchay 1968-70

31/08/2009 Graham Martin HIBBERT - Anguilla 1979

September 2009

03/09/2009 Steve RAW - Rowcroft 1972-74

03/09/2009 Stephen PARKIN - Benghazi 1975-77

18/09/2009 William Thomas Gary CRAWFORD - Benghazi 1981-82

23/09/2009 Rodney STEED - Baker 1957-58

New Members

October 2009

02/10/2009 Richard Anthony Paul STACEY - Baker 1966-68

09/10/2009 Derek Herbert Charles LAMBERT - 1959-60

09/10/2009 Frank Norman WEBSTER - Body/Richards 1949-53

10/10/2009 Michael John MCPHEE - Body 1960-62

November 2009

07/11/2009 Anthony William MACKEY - Steevens 1972-74

14/11/2009 Clive CROSS - Parson 1960-61

14/11/2009 Anthony PRICE - Ardennes 1981-82

17/11/2009 Patrick Anthony TONKES - Williams 1952-54

20/11/2009 Victor Roy HELLEWELL - Gordon 1957-58

22/11/2009 Andrew Neil WILKINSON - Brunei 1982-83

23/11/2009 Lawrence TIDSWELL - Watts 1962-63

24/11/2009 Steven Michael COCKERILL - Benghazi 1986-87

26/11/2009 Michael William CARRINGTON - Baker 1959-61

28/11/2009 Gary Ronald SUMNER - Matthews 1971-73

30/11/2009 Keith KILGOUR - Body 1965-67

PHOTO GALLERY PHOTO GALLERY PHOTO GALLERY PHOTO GALLERY

Members will be interested to know that we have a continuing and ever expanding library of images available that may well be from their era whilst in Boys Service. Please take a few moments and look at the Photo Gallery, which is updated on a regular basis.



Below are some names and dates that may jog your memory – Please take a look at the website!

We NEED your input of photographs to keep the site ALIVE, KICKING and interesting!!

8 From "Reg" Parsons (Hill Platoon 1961-63) for the 1958-60 Album and one for the Permanent Staff album (1974)
1 Extracted from the Daily Mirror of April 1963 - **An article about Junior Leader with pink hair.**
6 From **Tony Wilson-Ing**, of the Passing Out Parade, December 1973.
3 From **Tony Wilson-Ing**, of the Disbandment parade of the Corps Of Drums, 1974
1 From **Dougie Alexander** (Alamein Platoon 1978-79, Alamein Platoon Photo- Spring Term 1978
1 From **John Clancy** - Haslar / Ft.Gomer 1951-54
1 From **David Reed** - Arnhem 1979-80
1 From **Jason Thomas** - Benghazi Platoon Photo 1987
4 From **Alan Greason** - Mulcahy 1963-65 (1 shows the 1964 canoeing team)
3 from **Terry Cook** - Baker 1954-56 of a Mini-Reunion held in Australia - For the Reunions Album.
1 from **Jonathon "Mickey" Rooney** - Ardennes Platoon -Photo 1985 - For the 1985-89 Album.
2 from **Mick Flinn** - Alamein Platoon 1976-77- Two platoon photos.
1 from **Graham Ingham** - Aden Platoon 1979-80.
1 from **Steve Hysted** - Gordon Platoon 1973-74.
3 from **Alex Jamieson** for the 1948-50 Album.
1 from **Billy Jackson** for the 1967-69 Album and 1 for Sports - Cross-Country.
1 from **Danny Panter** for the 1979-81 Album - Arnhem Platoon.
1 from **Chris Embleton** for the 1979-81 Album - Anguilla Platoon.
7 from **Ian Loftus** if a Mini-**Cutforth Platoon Reunion** at the UJC in March of 2009.
1 from **Philp Whyte** for the 85-89 Album - Alamein Platoon.
1 from **Roy "Taff" Reeve** - Mathew Platoon - Summer 1974
2 from **Mrs. Barbara Izzard** (Bob's Mother) for the 79-81 Album.

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EX BOYS' ASSOCIATION







This is an early warning Bugle Call for all members of the Ex-Boys' Association to get their Annual Leave Passes ready and primed for the 3rd Bi-Annual Reunion which is to be held at the Holiday Inn, Coventry on Saturday7th August 2010!

Located in the heart of England, the Holiday Inn Coventry (M6 J2) is a spacious purpose built hotel with air conditioning. The hotel is situated on the outskirts of the historic city of Coventry. It enjoys a prime location benefiting from the motorway networks of the M6, the M1 and the M69. The Holiday Inn Coventry is only a 30 minute drive from Birmingham Airport and a 20 minute drive from the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre (NEC).

The hotel is a perfect base for exploring Coventry and Warwickshire. Just a short drive from the hotel you can visit the historic castles of Kenilworth and Warwick, the stately homes and gardens at Stoneleigh Abbey and Coombe Abbey.

For the motor enthusiast, there is Silverstone and Mallory Park motor racing circuits, Coventry Transport Museum and the Heritage Motor Centre, all within easy reach. Back in the hotel after a day exploring, treat yourself in the Spirit Health Club with the heated Swimming Pool, before the 3rdBi-Annual Ex-Boys' Association Reunion!







Advanced Warning Notice

Ex Boys' Association Reunion Dinner

http://www.juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

Saturday 7th August 2010

Holiday Inn (M6 J2)
Hinckley Road
COVENTRY
CV2 2HP

Members will be notified by email in April 2010 and by post where they are not on the Internet.

Date: Saturday 7th August 2010

Dinner: £27 per person (Drinks not included)

Payment: Cheques to cover the cost of the Dinner (£27 per person) must be made out to – "***Ex Boys' Association***" - and forwarded to our Treasurer – Mr. Brian Wild by 30th June 2010.
Please include, with the cheques, the names of those attending as well as your own address to:-

Mr. Brian J. Wild (Treasurer) (Contact details via the Website Link)

The Hotel requires full payment by the Association for the dinner by 21st July 2010 and therefore no Dinner costs can be refunded following that date.

Dress: Collar & Tie (Blazer, Sports Jacket or Suit)

Partners: Members may bring their wives/partners to this function. Those staying on the Friday evening are invited to attend an informal drinks evening in the Bar.

The Hotel can cater for 180/200 for our dinner; with 140 booking for the 2008 event early booking in 2010 will be essential.

Accommodation: (*Rates the same as 2008*):

Single Room
- £40 Bed and Breakfast per night

Double/Twin Room
- £55 Bed and Breakfast per Room per night (that is £55 for 2 people, not each)

Only a limited number of rooms are available at the above rates for Friday Night. First come first served and you should obtain confirmation of rates for additional nights with the Hotel when booking.

Reservations:
- A total of 100 rooms, for Saturday Night, will be on hold for Members until 30th June 2010, following that date any remaining rooms will be available for Non Members. Any unreserved rooms will be handed back to the Hotel on 21 July 2010
- It will be the responsibility of those attending to book their own accommodation for the nights they require and to settle their account personally on departure.

Confirmation of Attendance

- Members are asked that following their Hotel reservation they inform Jim Ferguson of their commitment to attend by providing details of attendees and number of nights booked.
- Non-Members - Should any Non Members be interested in attending, they are advised to visit the website to view details and should then contact Jim Ferguson – via the link provided, requesting that they be placed on the Reserve List.
  From the 1st July 2010 those on the Reserve List may be allocated any Dinner places remaining.

Room Reservations must be made before 21st July 2010 when any unallocated rooms will then be handed back to the Hotel

Event Coordinator: Mr. Jim Ferguson (Contact via the Website Links)

The Hotel requires full payment for the dinner, from the Association, 21 days before the event and no Dinner costs can be refunded following that date.

Travel Information

Transportation to and from Hotel
Birmingham International Airport (BIR)

Distance: 19 Miles / 30.58 Kilometres South East to Hotel

Taxi Charge (one way): Approx £34.00 (GBP)

Time by taxi: Approx 30-40 mins

Train Charge (one way): Approx £6.00 (GBP)

Time by train: 25 mins

Join M6 motorway at junction 2, exit junction 4, follow signs for Airport

Coventry Airport (COV)

Distance: 7.5 Miles / 12.07 Kilometres

Taxi Charge (one way): Approx £16.00 (GBP)

Time by Taxi: Approx 15 mins

Follows B4082, on to the A46 and then onto A45

Train

Station Name: Coventry Train Station - Town Centre

Distance: 4.5 Miles / 7.24 Kilometres

Taxi Fee from Train Station: Approx £11.00 (GBP)

Follow the signs for the A4600 towards the city centre, get onto the Ring Road and follow the signs for the Train Station

Holiday Inn
COVENTRY M6, Junction 2

HINCKLEY ROAD
COVENTRY

CV2 2HP

Hotel Front Desk: 02476 - 587 400 or 0871-9429 021 (Option 7) (10 pence a minute)

Best time to ring is 09:00 Hrs – 16:30 Hrs Monday - Friday

Please note **ALL** costings and distances are approximate and should be clarified.

RAOC Ex-Boys' Association Wall Plaques

Our Founder and Chairman, Mr. Paul Jones 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.

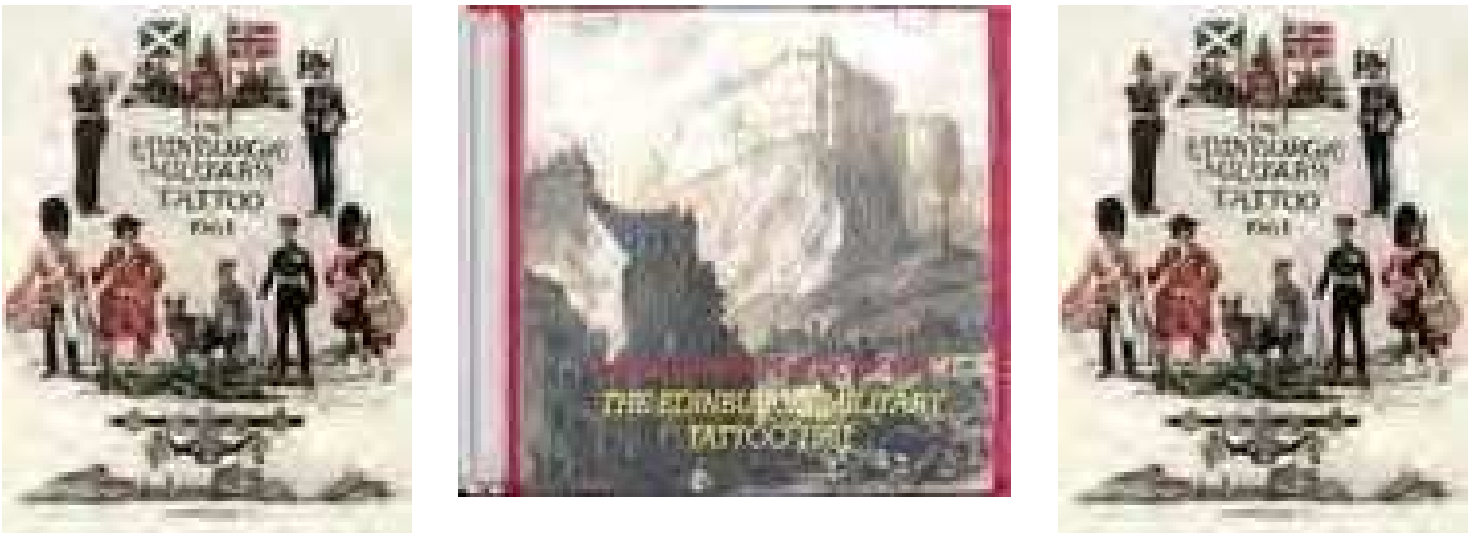


These delightful plaques can be obtained by contacting Brian Wild - Secretary and Treasurer - providing your name and address and a cheque for £22.50 made payable to: - "***Ex Boys' Association***"

For further details, please e-mail Brian at treasurer@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

CD of Edinburgh Tattoo - For Sale

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 Brian at secretary@juniorleadersraoc.co.uk



General Information

There are now quite a few new web sites that have information associated with the RAOC, REME and RCT. Additionally, there are many ex-boys and permanent staff from the RAOC, REME and RCT that do not know of these 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 or perhaps there is a mistake in a location or name of an individual, please feel free to inform the Site Administrator so that we can update the information. 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 Website or this Newsletter, please feel free to provide your ideas for consideration via www.juniorleadersraoc.co.uk

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.



If any member would like to submit articles for inclusion - for example, a book review or anything connected with Boys Service - into the next Edition of the Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter - please contact in the first instance

Adrian Hayward-Wills

Alamein Platoon (RAOC) 1981 – 1982







The aims of the REME Association are:-

- To foster the esprit-de-corps and well being of the Corps.
- To keep those who have served in or with REME in touch with one another with a view to keeping alive a spirit of comradeship.
- To establish links between the serving and ex-Service members of the Corps with a view to helping the former during resettlement from Service to civilian life.
- To help, in conjunction with the REME Benevolent Fund and other welfare agencies, both serving and ex-Service members of the Corps and their dependants who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

In addition, the aims of the REME Benevolent Fund are:

To assist or benefit any such persons serving or having at any time served in the Corps or being dependants, wives, widows (whether or not remarried) or issue of persons (whether living or dead) serving or having served in the Corps as may from the time being be in need of charitable assistance or benefit.

The REME Benevolent Fund welcomes donations and legacies to assist it in its work. The REME Benevolent sells Christmas cards in furtherance of its work and details can be obtained from the Secretary.

The REME Association has the following branches within the United Kingdom:

Andover

Arborfield
Web: Click Here
Email: felix1929@tesco.net

Ashford, Kent
Email: davidwalden1@btinternet.com

Birmingham
Email: alan@qu1ne.fsnet.co.uk

Bordon, Hants
Email:
reme-assoc_bordon-sec@hotmail.co.uk

Bournemouth
Email: fernsdr@aol.com

Brighton and Hove
Email: rodaacker@globalnet.co.uk

Bristol
Email: mike@sterling8801.fsnet.co.uk

Caravan Club
Email: frankrob@supanet.com

Coventry
Web www.reme-coventry.co.uk
Email: harrydevey@aol.com

Derby and Notts
Web: www.reme-derbynottingham.org.uk
Email:
secretary@reme-derbynottingham.org.uk

Devon, North
Email: sylpot2@aol.com

Doncaster
Email: barry@bawoodward0249.fsnet.co.uk
Email: trevor_guest@talk21.com

Durham, South West
Email: john@short3608.wanadoo.co.uk

Eastbourne

Gloucestershire

Humberside
Email: mailto:tam@thelambtons.fsnet.co.uk

Internet
Email: remeassoib@cableinet.co.uk

Isle of Wight
Email: george@hillis211.fsnet.co.uk

Kettering and Corby
Email: frankrob@supanet.com

Lancashire
Email: dave2273@hotmail.com

Lincolnshire
Email:
caaboston@caabostonacf.freeserve.co.uk

London, North and East
Email: remeassoc.nelondon@ntlworld.com

London, South
Email: frankcbriggs@aol.com

Luton and Dunstable
Email: g.winterbottom@euphony.net

Manchester
Email: b.hanson@macclesfield.gov.uk

Mid-Anglia

Northern Ireland

Pembrokeshire

Potteries
Web: members.aol.com/bj3258/
Email: bjonesxx@tiscali.co.uk

Scarborough
Email: clive@burnett1.wanadoo.co.uk

Scotland
Web: www.reme-scotland.org.uk
Email: kennethbrown@btinternet.com

Shropshire

Swansea

Teesside
Email: alf55@ntlworld.com

Thetford
Email: tonyatstanton.insuffolk@virgin.net

Tyneside

Widnes
Email: nichols296@tiscali.co.uk

York

Yorkshire, West
Web:
www.communigate.co.uk/brad/remewestyorks
Email: Hallremelad@aol.com

Overseas:

New Zealand
Email: james.jenny@clear.net.nz

South Australia
Email: alanbeth@chariot.net.au

Many branches have email addresses, as given above.

The Coventry, Derby/Notts, Potteries and Scotland branches also have their own web pages.

Most branches meet monthly and details can be obtained from the REME Association Secretary (address above).
Life membership of the REME Association costs £10.

Join us

The Secretary of the REME Association

Captain G M Anderson (Ret'd)
RHQ REME
Isaac Newton Road,
Arborfield, Berkshire, RG2 9NJ
United Kingdom

Tel: 0118 976 3219
Fax: 0118 976 3672

Email: association@reme.org.uk

RAOC Association

In 2007, the RAOC Charitable Trust converged with The RLC Association Trust and RAOC funds were transferred to the RLC. These funds and those of the RPC, ACC and RLC are invested as a long term reserve.

Income from the RLC Days Pay Scheme supports benevolence, fraternity activity and administration of the Forming Corps Associations, managed by the RLC RHQ Secretariat.

The RAOC continues to maintain two committees; the RAOC Council which replaced the Board of Trustees, and the RAOC Association which continues to function as before.

The Association aims to create and cherish comradeship, foster the interests of members and their families, look after those who suffer hardship by maintaining contact with members and the appropriate welfare agencies, which includes; SAAFA, the British Legion, RLC Benevolence and the Army Benevolent Fund.

Regular meetings, social events and the twice yearly RAOC Gazette provide the means for all members to contribute to the successful achievement of these aims.

The Association has 21 Branches with approximately 2500 members! There are 15 regional branches which cover the following areas: Ashchurch, Berks/Hants/Surrey, Bicester, Birmingham, Chilwell/East Midlands, Corsham/Bristol, East Anglia, Isle of Wight, Kineton/Didcot, London, Merseyside, Newcastle, Salisbury, Scotland and York.

In addition to these local branches there are a further 6 branches with country wide membership; RD & MTI, RAOC On Line, Golf Society, Rugby Football, TA and the Vehicle Specialist Fellowship.

All these branches run their own social gatherings while there are two main events each year which are organised centrally: the Association Reunion, AGM and Dinner in April, and Corps Sunday in July.

Membership is open to all personnel of the Regular and Territorial Army who served in the RAOC, RASC/RCT, RPC, ACC and RLC. Former members of the ATS and WRAC who served with the RAOC will also be most welcome to join. Membership fees vary and are paid to the branches.

The RAOC Officers' Club, which remains independent of the RLC, has 750 members and holds its AGM and Dinner in October each year, membership costs just £5.00 per year.

Two RAOC Gazettes are published each year and delivered to members of the Association and the Officers' Club. The Gazette includes the dates and applications for attendance at the RAOC social events organised by the RAOC Secretary and RHQ The RLC.

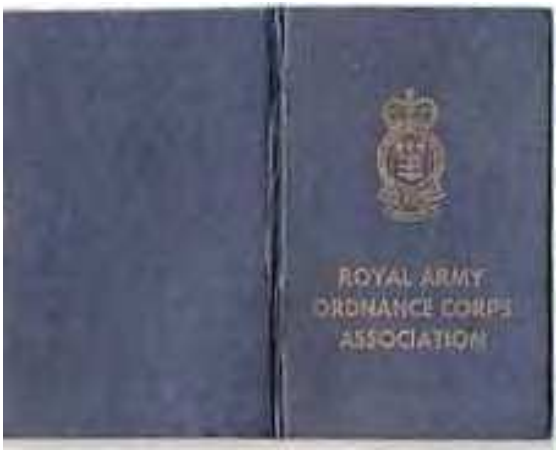
If you would like further information please contact the RAOC Secretary at the following address:-

Dettingen House
The Princess Royal Barracks
Deepcut
Surrey
GU16 6RW

Telephone: 01252 – 83 33 76

Email: raocassociation@rhqtherlc.org.uk





Veterans win fight for “smart” ID cards

Four million ex-servicemen and women to get priority for health, housing and benefits

This was an article published in The Independent (March 2009) concerning ID Cards for Veterans! I thought that members of the RAOC and REME Ex-Boys’ Association may be interested to know of.

“Four million former servicemen and women are to be given veterans' cards to ensure they get priority treatment for NHS healthcare and housing, and discounts for services such as transport.

The Ministry of Defence plans to introduce the cards at the beginning of 2010, The Independent has learnt, in an attempt to begin repairing the damage done to the military covenant between nation and armed forces under New Labour.

The launch is expected to be formally announced this autumn with the first veterans' cards handed to new armed forces leavers in spring next year, before being rolled out to the country's four million former service personnel.

The aim is to ensure that those who have risked their lives in combat get front-of-the-queue treatment and financial benefits. Similar systems in the US and France offer veterans subsidised travel and discounts from private companies.

At a time when the armed forces have been stretched to breaking point in two bloody conflicts, there has been mounting anger that the priority treatment promised by the Government 18 months ago has failed to materialise. "We now need to make it happen," the Defence minister Kevan Jones told this newspaper. "We will provide veterans' ID cards so the person can say 'I have served in the services' and get priority access to treatment." Mr Jones spoke in response to this newspaper's campaign to get better mental health treatment for traumatised troops, launched after the Victoria Cross winner Johnson Beharry – the country's most decorated serving soldier – revealed his own combat-related trauma and urged the Government to stop failing his fellow soldiers with sub-standard or non-existent care.

Lieutenant General Sir Freddie Viggers, who until last year was Adjutant-General in charge of personnel, welcomed the veterans' card. "It is about value and self worth, not about a piece of plastic," he said. "We carry these cards for the whole of our service and when we leave we are required to hand them in. Psychologically, it is a bad thing. It is a little bit of plastic but it represents who you are and what you did."

The Conservative MP Patrick Mercer, former commanding officer with the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, said: "It is about bloody time. At last, a reasonable, sensible minister [Mr Jones] who listens to ideas from across the political spectrum."

The categories in the Forces Discount Scheme currently include some retraining, sports clubs, childcare, insurance, holidays and travel.

Veterans and senior soldiers have called on the Government to acknowledge a predicted "explosion" of traumatised troops from recent conflicts and provide specialist mental healthcare. "No one is suggesting there is not a problem," Mr Jones said, "but we need a grounded debate to understand it."

He admitted that many former servicemen were "lost" in the NHS system and vowed to ensure every GP was made to record whether or not a patient had served in the forces”

However, he refused to concede that former service personnel needed separate, dedicated care and risked the wrath of charities by suggesting they should fund provision of military health advisers. "Combat Stress [the charity] gets £3m of taxpayers' money. I don't think the Government should do it all. It is not about money. It is about the system working better."

End

British Veterans Recognition Card



Further to the Independent Newspaper article, members of the Ex-Boys' Association may be interested to know of the British Veterans Recognition Card. Which I hasten to add is at cost to the individual!

"A Veteran of the British Armed Forces is defined by the Government, as any person of any age who has served in the Armed Forces. As a veteran you may at times have wished for your old Identity Card.

Research has indicated that many Ex-Servicemen and Women aspire to having their former service recognised and would welcome the opportunity to carry a form of identification.

Additionally, proof of former service can unlock existing discounts on certain services and products both within the United Kingdom and abroad".

Subscription to "*The British Veterans Recognition Card*" scheme also provides access to a unique range of bespoke discounts which they have negotiated on your behalf. Their aim is to improve your quality of life and reduce your cost of living by forming partnerships with a wide range of companies who are keen to support Veterans and recognise the unique contribution you have made to your Country.

For example, you could be eligible for a 25% discount on your next holiday or save 50% the next time you take the family out to lunch.

BVRC welcomes Victory Services Club as Latest Partner



1 year FREE VSC Membership

Victory Services Club is a Tri-Service, All Ranks Members' Club for currently Serving and Retired members of the Armed Forces, recently refurbished and ideally located at Marble Arch.

British Veterans and Victory Services Club are delighted to work together in arranging a deal for membership.

Victory Services Club have very generously offered a first year's free membership to BVRC members.

"I absolutely applaud what you are doing and think that it is about time that ex-servicemen and women receive some recognition of their efforts for their country."

Simon Weston OBE

You can write using the below FREEPOST address:



BRITISH VETERANS
FREEPOST NAT15489
Ipswich
IP7 5BR

Or telephone:

01376 – 513215



Combat Stress – A Charitable Organisation

Below is a scan of the front page of the 2009 Winter Edition of Combat Stress News, readers of the Ex-Boys' Association may be interested to know, that this charitable organisation celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2009.

Combat Stress is the leading charity specialising in the care of British Veterans who have been profoundly traumatised by harrowing experiences during their Service career and who are suffering from poor mental health as a result. Since its formation in 1919, Combat Stress has helped almost 100,000 Veterans, drawn from all branches and all ranks of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force, as well as the Merchant Navy and Allied Services. They are currently working with almost 300 Veterans of the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and demand for their unique services is rising sharply.

COMBAT STRESS news

90TH Anniversary 1919-2009

They fight our wars. We fight their battles.

WINTER 2009

90 Years on



On 12 May 2009 we will be marking the foundation of Combat Stress, exactly 90 years ago. As I write, I have the early Minute Books of the Executive Committee in front of me with the first entry dated 1 November 1918.

On 12 May 1919 the Executive Committee met at 25 Berkeley Square, home of Mrs Emma Waddington (Chairman). Mrs G M Clarke, Mrs Blunt Beames, Major Pells, Mr Jones Allen, Mr G J Neal and Miss Heathcote (Hon. Secretary) were all present to hear that the Ex-Servicemens' Welfare Society had been registered. Renamed as the Ex-Services Welfare Society in July 1919, and later still as the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, the first Armistice Appeal was launched in 1920. By this time matters were well advanced for the purchase and opening of "No 1 Recuperative Home" on Putney Hill in March 1921.

The rest, as they say is history, a history of serious endeavour and achievement, and one in which I believe all of us who have been involved should take great pride. This includes all of those good people and organisations who have provided us with support over the many years we have been doing this very specialist and challenging work.

Many thousands of Veterans and their families have been helped. We receive many letters from people expressing their gratitude – just read the words of appreciation written before Christmas by the daughter of one of the Veterans we have been helping for many years:

My father was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder a long time after he left the army. For many years living with him was almost unbearable. He is an alcoholic and suffered from terrible mood swings: one minute he would be fine but the tiniest thing would provoke terrible rage in him. When drunk, I would see the utter despair and fear he felt, but sober we would never speak of it. There seemed to be no one who would understand my father's reticence in speaking of emotional matters. Our doctor is lovely and really tried, but he just wasn't prepared to follow the advice. I think army people are bred to have a 'stiff upper lip' and maybe we as a family promoted that - I was terrified of hearing what he had to say. I still am, to be honest.

It was not until I was sixteen, when he was put in contact with his regional Combat Stress representative, that it felt like anyone could help us. It was only when Combat Stress got involved that my father agreed to try medication, and started going to the residential centre. This has totally changed our life, taking the most enormous burden off our family. When he suffered a really upsetting relapse a couple of years ago, we were frightened and felt very helpless. The NHS could only do so much, but you took over and made sure he was okay. I'm not sure what we would have done if he couldn't have gone to Tyrwhitt House.

Had it not been because your organisation really understands what an army man is like, all that pride and bravery and dislike of touchy-feely-ness, my father would not have got better. He seems to gain the most enormous support from spending time with other soldiers, who he respects, who have also suffered as he has. I never understood why my mother stayed with him, though she would speak of the tender and kind man he used to be. Thanks to you, I got to know that man for myself and it has been the most wonderful thing that has happened to me.

You have supported my family when no one else seemed able to. For that I will always be grateful.

I do not think I need say anymore, except to wonder if, at the time, our founders realised what a wonderful organisation they were creating, one whose purpose is as relevant today as it was all those years ago.

Toby Elliott
Chief Executive

Healing the mind pg 2
Diary dates pg 3
Fundraising news pg 6

Please feel free to visit their website at the following address www.combatstress.org.uk



Items of interest – Corps of Drums



The (Junior) Drum Major and his Mace

An Article by Adrian Hayward-Wills

The position of Drum Major it would appear originated in the British Army with Corps of Drums in 1650. Military groups performed mostly duty calls and battle signals during that period, and a fife and drum corps, directed by the Drum Major, would use short pieces to communicate to field units. With the arrival of military concert bands and pipe bands around the 18th century, the position of the Drum Major was adapted to those ensembles.

Traditionally, a military Drum Major was responsible for:

- Defending the drummers and bandsmen (The drums and bugles were communication devices)
- Military discipline of all Corps of Drums members
- The Corps of Drums's overall standards of dress and deportment
- Corps of Drums administrative work
- Maintain the Corps of Drums's standard of military drill and choreograph marching movements

The Drum Major was also given duties in the battalion at several points in history, which included the administering of military justice (lashing), to any member of the battalion and collecting the battalion's post.

The duties of the Drum Major are recorded as early as 1683;

...hee is to receive his directions from the major of the regiment, at what hour he is to beat to the watch, when the dian, and when the tap-too, wherewith he is to acquaint the several drummers of companies and to appoint them by turns of their beatings: he is also to order them in what divisions each of them shall beat, when the regiment marcheth; and they are to obey all his directions punctually.

Responsibility, however, went with this extra renumeration, for 'when new Drums are issued, the Drum-Major must be directed, to take them entirely to pieces, in order to examine, if every part is formed in a proper manner, both for Sound and Service, that all Defects (should there be any) may be made good, before they are delivered to the Drummers.' [Cuthbertson **op cit** p122]

It would appear, however, that it was the shortcomings of the drummers themselves that compelled the authorities to institute the office of Drum Major to regulate the beats on which the Army's movements depended.

A warrant appears to have been published in 1610 and re-issued by order of King Charles I in 1632, to enforce the accurate beating of the 'English March';

...*And the march of this our English nation, so famous in all honourable achievements and glorious warres of this our kingdome, in forraigne parts (being by the approbation of strangers themselves, confest and acknowledged the best of all marches) was, through the negligence and carelessnesse of drummers, and by long discontinuance, so altered and changed from the antient gravitie and majestie thereof, as it was in danger utterly to have been lost and forgotten.*

The warrant goes on to '...*set down and ordaine the present establishment hereunder expressed, willing and commanding all drummers within our kingdom of England and principalitie of Wales, exactly and precisely to observe the same, as well in this our kingdom as abroad in the service of any forraigne prince or state, without any addition or alterations whatsoever*.' [Grose op cit Vol.II, p45]

The duties of the drum major were not just musical. It became customary, certainly in some regiments of foot, for the Drum Major to bring the regimental colours from their stand in the officers' mess and hand them over to the ensigns on ceremonial occasions. Similarly, it was the task of the Drum Major or the drummers to case and uncase the colours and to attach a laurel wreath if the colours were paraded on the anniversary of a battle honour. These tasks would entail both liquid and financial compensation from the ensigns. It is probable that this association grew from 'forming square', when the colours and drummers would be enclosed in the centre behind musket and bayonet.

In the British Army, a Drum Major holds the rank of Sergeant, Staff Sergeant (or equivalent), or Warrant Officer Class II. Royal Air Force Drum Majors hold the rank of Chief Technician (Sergeant in the Air Training Corps), except for the Senior Drum Major RAF, who is a Flight Sergeant. Royal Marines Band Service Drum Majors are Corporals, Sergeants or Colour Sergeants, except for the Corps Drum Major, who is a Warrant Officer Class I. The Drum Major is always referred to and addressed as "Drum Major" or 'Drummy' and not by his rank.

A fine photo taken from page 17 of the Thunderbolt Spring 1961, clearly showing the Drum Major - (Jnr Cpl George) – with his Mace and the chains running down the side. prior to the Edinburgh Tattoo. Please note, this Edition of Thunderbolt is on line!!



MEMBERS OF THE CORPS OF DRUMS WHO WILL BE PERFORMING AT THE EDINBURGH TATTOO
Left to right: Jnr. Cpl. George (Drum Major), Jnr. Cpl. Ince, Jnr. Pte. Jenkins, Jnr. Cpl. Balchin, Jnr. Pte. Ruck.

From the Corps of Drums point of view we are also having a busy time. At the moment we are preparing for the Edinburgh Tattoo, an event in which we are extremely proud to participate, and everyone is looking forward to August. This Tattoo is world-famous and it will be a great experience for the Corps of Drums to take part. In addition, of course, we have our usual programme of summer engagements, so a busy time is envisaged for next term.

The following members of the House have been promoted to the ranks shown and we congratulate all of them: Jnr. Sgt. Underwood, Jnr. Cpls. George and Ince, Jnr. L/Cpls. Balchin and Pattison. We also congratulate an ex-member of Body House, in the person of Jnr. R.S.M. Wild, on his elevation to this well-deserved appointment.

To all ex-members of the House who are leaving at the end of the term we wish God-speed and the very best of luck for the future.

Please note – in all the Junior Drum Major pictures, the (2) two miniature drum sticks that are affixed to the Regimental Sash as a symbol of the Drum Major's original appointment

As you know, staffs and batons have long been recognised as marks of office. The earliest Drum Majors' staffs bear a striking resemblance to those of beadles and footmen, having a very small head and thin shaft. Amongst the earliest in existence is that of the Honourable Artillery Company, presented by Sir Matthew Andrews in 1671. These staffs had the obvious practical application of clearing the way in front of a formed body of men.

The early staffs were plain, bearing a single title or device, but like so many articles used by the British Army, extra devices were added, and as battle honours were awarded from Gibraltar (1704-05) onwards, these too were engraved or placed on scrolls in the head or the shaft. In the late nineteenth century it became customary for senior officers to provide staffs at their own expense. These were naturally more ostentatious than those issued by the Army or used by the regiment quartered next door.

The Foot Guards continued, as in so many aspects of their dress and appointments, to use the issue item, a practice which they still maintain.

The staff is particularly useful for signalling commands to a Band or Corps of drums when their playing precludes verbal orders. As early as 1811 it was required that *'...they should be attantive not to deviate in the most trifling degree from the time which will allow, within the minute, the exact number of steps prescribed by H M Regulations.'* [Regulations For The Army 1811, cited by H G Farmer The Rise of Military Music, London, 1912, p74]

Whilst on the march, the Drum Major assumed a steady pace by continued movements of the staff which he was required to turn *'...with an easy air once round, so as to keep time and plant it every fourth pace.'* Here lies the origin of the distinctive 'stage walk' used by the Drum Major in slow and quick time on ceremonial occasions!

The addition of so many battle honours has meant that the modern staff is much heavier and harder to throw and spin than its earlier counterparts but whilst officially frowned upon, the practice of throwing the staff was condoned, if not encouraged, by a battalion's officers away from the barrack square.



An example of The King's Own Scottish Borderers mace, a standard pattern Army mace used by many regiments, with battle honours and regimental badge applied.





Again, the Foot Guards are an exception, in that it is considered disrespectful to the sovereign and undignified for a man appointed as state drummer to the monarch to toss or spin his badge of office. The Drum Majors of line regiments have shown fewer scruples, however, in performing the tricks within sight of Buckingham Palace

The insignia of appointment is four point-up chevrons worn on the wrist, usually surmounted by a drum. Staff/Colour Sergeants have a small crown between the drum and the chevrons and Warrant Officers have the larger crown from their rank badge in its place. Since the Drum Major is part of the battalion staff, he will wear a crimson sash instead of scarlet, and will dress as a Warrant Officer regardless of his rank.

Drum Majors have always been gifted showmen, but have at the same timeset an example in turnout and bearing. Tricks performed with the staff have become part of the folklore of the Army. Stories of these feats are legion; for example, the Drum Major Cox of the Essex Regiment was famed in the 1930s for throwing his staff over the barrack gates at Warley and retrieving it on the other side without even breaking step.

The Australian Army traditionally follow the appointments along the same lines as the British Army. The Drum Major is always an experienced member of the Australian Army Band Corps, usually with the rank Sergeant, Warrant Officer Class II or Warrant Officer Class I. However, the member of the unit with the highest or most senior of these ranks is not always the drum major. The ability of the Drum Major is the main condition for the appointment.

In the Royal Marines Band Service and in regimental corps of drums of the British Army, the Drum Major is always a side drummer (titled Bugler in the Royal Marines), and would normally be required to have passed a number of courses in music, military skills, and leadership throughout his military career before he would be considered for appointment as a Drum Major.

In the Corps of Army Music, Royal Air Force, United States Armed Forces and Canadian Forces, the Drum Major is not required to be a drummer, the appointment being held by any suitably qualified musician.

The mace derives from the medieval weapon of the same name and it was composed of a spiked head attached by a chain to a wooden handle. The mace was swung around the head to clear a path or to strike an unhorsed opponent.



The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards - A modern version, with the badges and battle honours chased and embossed and not applied as in the KOSB's version above.





A fine photograph lifted from page 68 of The Thunderbolt showing Junior Drum Major Graham Anscombe (REME) and his Mace.



The Junior Drum Major

A closer similar example of Junior Drum Major Graham Anscombe's Home Service Helmet.
I will be doing an article on Home Service Helmets in a later Newsletter.

Should any of our readers have knowledge or have a possible article for inclusion in a future Newsletter, please fell free to contact me.





This particular one is of the standard Army pattern, however it had the stoutest cane I have ever seen. All the parts of a standard army mace are made of brass! This makes for the heaviest weight possible as none of it is very thin. Notice that every single, silver battle honour is fastened by two brass nuts, not to mention the badges too!!

The crown is likewise made from brass. Just look at the size of the bolt, the strengthening riband retaining nut. The casting for the acanthus decoration is the crispest I think I have ever seen and was also brass but with a higher copper content. There was even a joint cover for the top of the shaft... shaped to fit the natural shape of the cane. This is all incredibly difficult to keep clean – even for Junior Leaders!!





A Drum Major of the Royal Logistic Corps

A fine photograph clearly showing the Bass Drum and Drum Major's Mace

Note how the Bass Drummer has RAOC Badges on his gleaming White Gloves! A practice still in use today. Note also the Sash (KC).
Also, the white five pointed star above the white gloves – Possibly Trade/Proficiency badge? Any suggestions most welcome!



B/Sgt. R. White (RAOC) and B/Sgt. George Darke (RAOC)

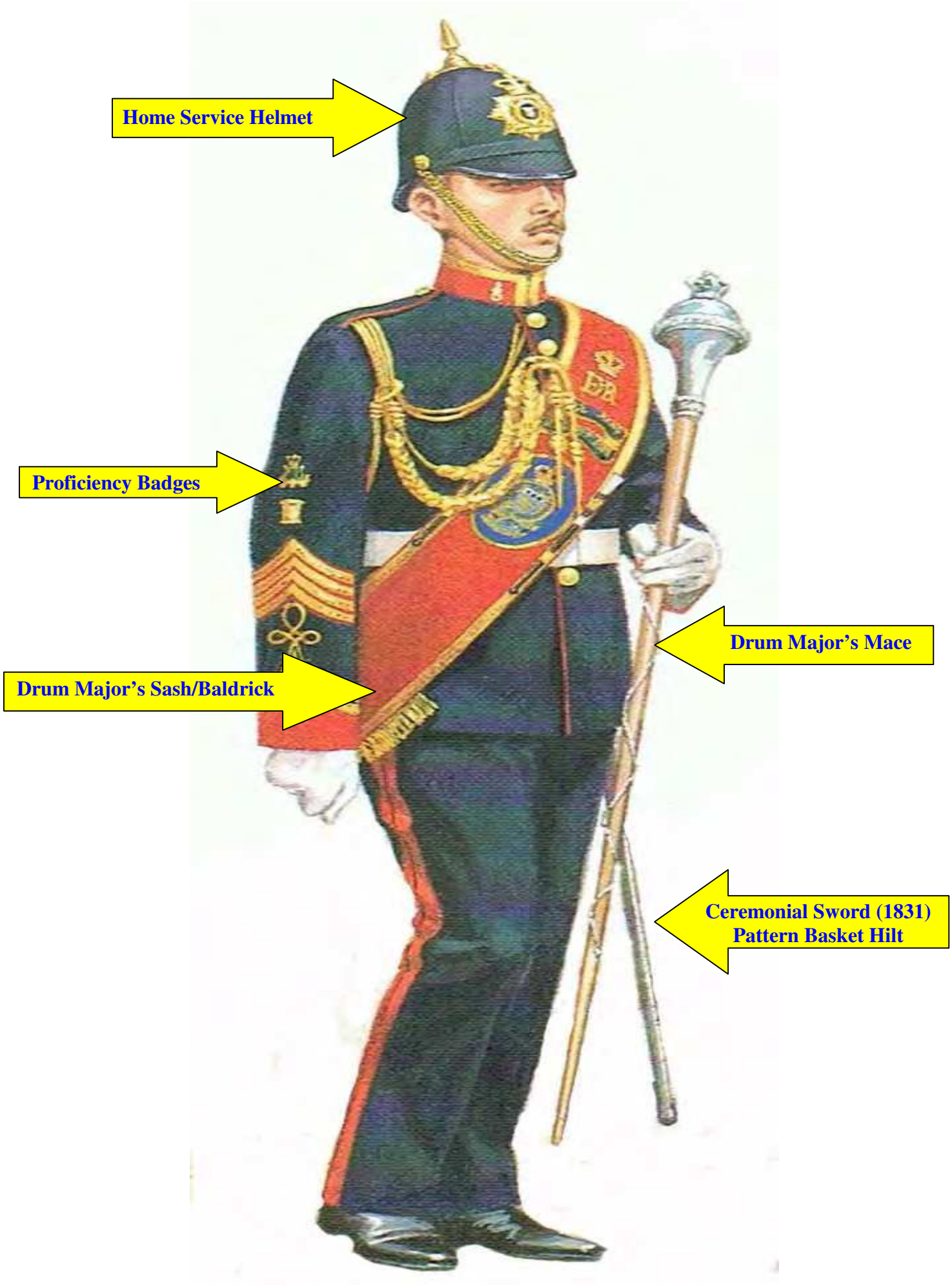
Circa 1955/57

A splendid colour photograph of a Drum Majors' Mace and Sash (Baldrick)



Junior Drum Major "Taff" Pritchard – circa 1965

An adult RAOC Drum Major



Two quite superb photos taken at the time of the disbandment of the Corps of Drums (circa 1974)

The Drum Major in full regalia and in fine command of the Drill Manual! – Kindly donated by Tony Wilson-Ing





An adult REME Drum Major
With what appears to be two brass chin straps?



A fine photographic example clearly showing not only the Drum Major's Mace but also that of the Drum Major's Sash - (Baldrick)



Photo kindly donated by Johnny Silver – circa 1958/59



Please note in this photograph the Boy Soldiers/Junior Leaders, of the Royal Corps of Transport and Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Initially formed as the RCT Junior Leaders Regiment in 1978 at Azimghur Barracks, Colerne, Wiltshire, they then amalgamated with the RAOC Apprentices Collage in 1986 to form Junior Leaders Regiment RCT/RAOC.

RCT and RAOC Corps of Drums amalgamated at the same time. However, they were disbanded in 1992 under "*Options for Change*". The uniform had changed back to Blue Tunic with Scarlet Collars and Cuffs, with the RAOC Collar Badges being worn.

The Home Service Helmets had been replaced by newly manufactured examples, identical to that issued to the RAOC Staff Band in 1986.



Please note how in this particular picture, the Drum Major is carrying his sword.

Photo kindly donated by Tony Thompson (Tony is far left of picture) - circa 1987

The mace has long been associated as a symbol of authority. The drum major uses the mace to convey signals to the pipes and drums. The Mace commands vary from regiment to regiment and historically have been handed down from drum major to drum major. Generally, starts, stops and counter march commands are similar amongst the regiments since these commands are those commonly used with massed bands and tattoos

The basic parts remain, although adapted. The parts of the mace are the finial, crown, crown collar, shaft, chain collar, chain and ferrule (Fig. 1). The top of the mace is called the crown, ball, or head.

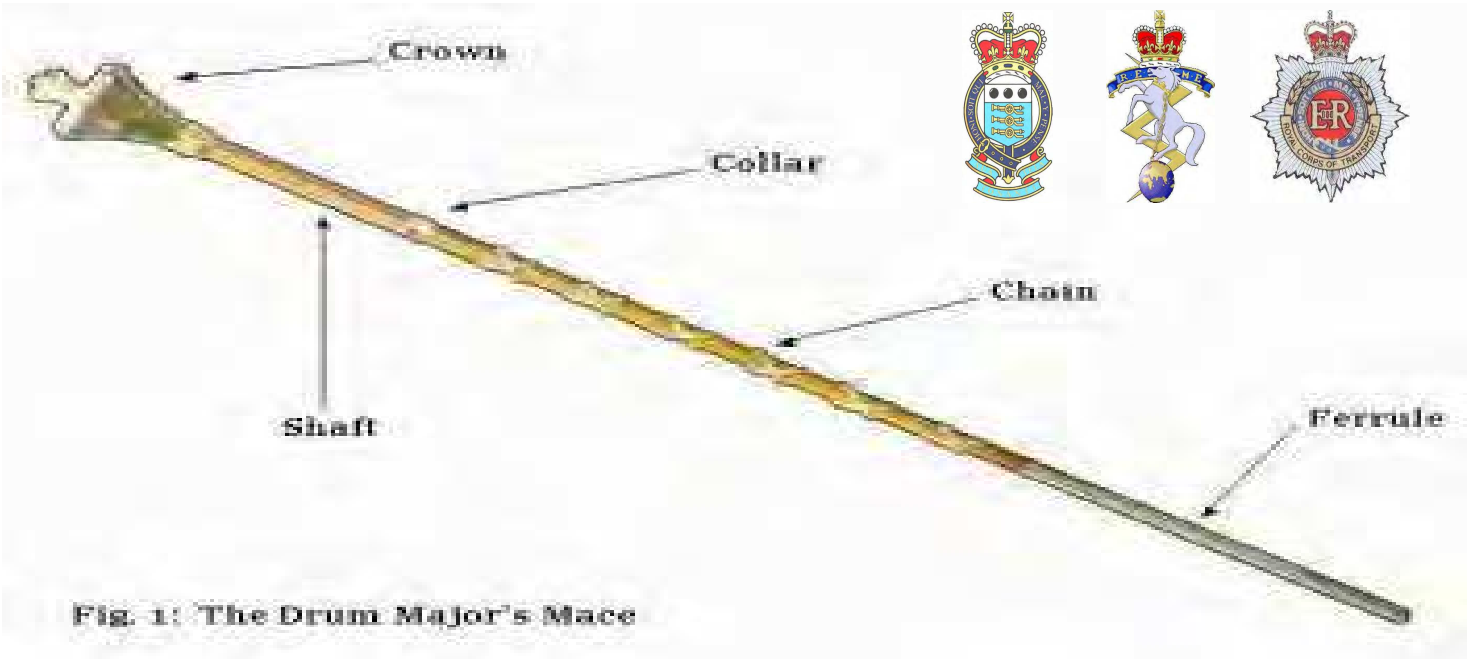


Fig. 1: The Drum Major's Mace

The crown may be fashioned from Sterling Silver, chrome, silver-plated or gold plated metal. The crown may be topped with a metal finial that may take the form of a crown, rampant lion, eagle, shamrock, etc. The body or shaft of the mace may consist of Malacca cane, wood or fibreglass. The shaft may be wrapped in either chain, cord, or be left plain. The ferrule is the tapered cylindrical plated metallic piece at the bottom of the mace the proper length of the mace is shoulder height from ferrule to finial.

The major military regimental bands use ornate and heavy Malacca cane maces. The crowns are fashioned from Sterling Silver, may have the regiment badge affixed, as well as be engraved or adorned with the battle honours of the regiment. There are lighter cane maces that are favoured by world-class competition Drum Majors. Malacca cane maces tend to be weighted differently and are heavier than fibreglass maces. Malacca cane maces complete "*the look*" of a pipes and drums or regimental Drum Major



End

The National Archives and The Royal Corps of Transport



The National Archives is at the heart of information policy - setting standards and supporting innovation in information and records management across the UK and providing a practical framework of best practice for opening up and encouraging the re-use of public sector information. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensure that they become tomorrow's permanent record.

The National Archives is also the official archive for England, Wales and the central UK government, containing 900 years of history from Domesday Book to the present, with records ranging from parchment and paper scrolls through to recently created digital files and archived websites. Increasingly, these records are being put online, making them universally accessible.

Photographic History: – The Royal Corps of Transport

The RASC formed the largest serving Corps in the British Army. Its immediate predecessor was the Army Service Corps, 1869-1875 and 1888-1918 whose roots lay in the Royal Waggoners, raised in 1794 and it was consequently part of a long tradition of providing supply and transport services to the British Army. In recognition of its services during World War One the 'royal' prefix was granted in 1918.

It operated most of the Army's road transport, as well as having some responsibilities at sea and by air, and provided supplies such as rations, forage, fuel and petroleum products. The RASC was re-designated in 1965, becoming the Royal Corps of Transport, when it was joined by the Transportation and Movement Control Branches of the Royal Engineers. From this date, responsibility for providing all stores, together with barracks and fire services passed to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the RCT became responsible for the operation and control of all forms of transport worldwide.

The RASC Museum was established at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, in 1944, collecting photographs, archives and objects relating to the history of the Corps and its predecessor bodies. It was renamed the RCT Museum following the RASC's re-designation in 1965. These photographs, some of which are copies, have been obtained from a variety of sources including RASC (later RCT) Headquarters, ex-Corps members or their executors and the Corps Journal (*known as The Waggoner after 1965*), in which some are known to have been published.

In 1993, the Royal Corps of Transport, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Royal Pioneer Corps, the Army Catering Corps and the Postal and Courier Service of the Royal Engineers amalgamated to form the Royal Logistic Corps. A new corps museum was built in 1995 to provide a home for the collections of each of the constituent corps.

The division of the photographs into two series is not based on content. Both series largely comprise photographs of personnel serving in the Army Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport. These have been taken in the UK and overseas, and include Volunteer and TA units. Official photographs form a large part of the collection, showing units and groups of personnel, and visits and inspections by military staff and royalty for example.

Items given by ex Corps members and by the Corps Journal (*The Waggoner after 1965*) include group photographs but also many informal pictures. Wherever possible units and individuals have been named. This is not a comprehensive catalogue for the RASCRCT collection. Photographs allotted to other categories such as Corps History, Recruits, Groups and Training remain largely unlisted.

Photographs of personnel serving in units of the ASC, RASC and RCT, including volunteer and TA units, taken in the UK and whilst stationed overseas. A large number are official photographs, showing units and groups of personnel, visits and inspections by military staff and royalty, and also parades and exercises. Photographs donated by the Corps' Journal (known as the Waggoner after 1965) and ex Corps members include group photographs, as well as informal pictures.

Wherever possible units and individuals have been named – you never know, you may in the photographs!

Know Your Blazer Badge

Further to the last Newsletter article on Blazer Badges below are some REME badges available for the potential purchaser/collector. Please note the King's and Queen's Crowns and the old design REME badge. Next Newsletter, we will be discussing Blazer Badges of the Royal Corps of Transport.

Where the blazer is part of the armed service veterans' association, it is normal for a badge to be sewn to the breast pocket usually in the form of a wire badge and sometimes also regimental blazer buttons. Any two regimental blazers will very rarely be the same, as they are made up from different civilian sources and are not issued by any authority. These numerous REME eBay badges are a classic example!

This has come to be representative of the fact that the members of an association are now civilians but retain the bond that the badge represents. The standard colour is navy blue, although in some associations different colours are worn, such as rifle green for the associations of rifle regiments. Perhaps we ahould get one made up for the Ex-Boys' Assocation?













The past few months have again seen some very interesting and exotic items on eBay, below are some photographs that may be of interest to readers, items including the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers.



A small early Army Ordnance Corps Brooch (*Trench Art*?) mounted on a rifle



Ordnance Corps Lead Soldier



Army Ordnance Corps Silk Woven piece



Ordnance Corps Lead Soldier



A Royal Corps of Transport Tie-clip





WW1 Army Ordnance Corps Silver on Tortoiseshell AOC Regimental Sweetheart Brooch
A good example, reverse with London silver hallmarks for 1915 makers mark C.Bros. Remains in good condition, original pin fittings, small flaw to shell under Ordnance otherwise patina very good.





WW1 Army Ordnance Corps Gold on Silver AOC Sweetheart Brooch.
A good example, reverse stamped Sterling and with makers mark A.Bros (Atkinson Brothers Ltd). Remains in good condition, original pin fittings and retaining original gold plating to the front.







Royal Army Ordnance Corps (KC)
Gold Regimental Sweetheart Brooch.
A fine quality example, reverse with
Birmingham 9 carat gold hallmarks for 1951.





In a future Newsletter, I will be doing a more detailed article on the fascinating world of Sweetheart Brooches coupled with a book review.

A REME wooden plaque – *self explanatory* – this item appears to be a metal etching coloured and then mounted on wood.



Association Badges – Below is a selection of Association Pin/Button badges and an RAOC Membership Book - (circa 1969)











Early REME Regimental Association Pin/Button Badges all of which are (KC)
Please note how the top right hand badge perhaps needs some "*Impact Engineering*" – ie a bang on the side of the Crown with a hammer!

The RAOC Boy Soldiers and the BBC

Back in the mid 1950's, a small contingent of RAOC Boy Soldiers had the unique opportunity to appear live on BBC Television.

They appeared on a television series known as "Top Town." Ex-Boy Peter Roberts and member of the Ex-Boys' Association, was one of those Boy Soldiers who appeared. This article is about that occasion with Peter Roberts and the background to the "Top Town" series.







Peter Roberts

October 1954 - December 1957

Initially, Top Town was a radio and television series from the 1950s. Which is regularly credited as being a direct ancestor of the now famous "It's A Knockout." This cannot be denied, although it can be said that in some instances, the link has been over-stressed.

"Top Town" was, like "It's A Knockout" an inter-town competition but its focus was not on tests of physical endeavour. The series was a 'battle of entertainment' - essentially a talent contest: the town with the best variety acts winning each heat.

The series was produced by Barney Colehan, who would later devise and produce "It's A Knockout." Top Town was initially a radio programme but by 1954, it had transferred to television. Many reference sources claim that Top Town debuted on television in 1956, from which time it was produced at the BBC's new Dickenson Road studios in Rusholme, Manchester research would indicate that there were televised editions some two years earlier.

The series ran into the early 1960s and returned unexpectedly to the BBC schedules for a brief time in 1987.



Producer - Barney Colehan with the 1956 Top Town Trophy

The format for the series would eventually be mirrored by the first series of "It's A Knockout" although the 'top towns' were from all around Britain, rather than It's A Knockout's initial North of England competition. Top Town was broadcast once a month generally, commencing with first round heats, leading to quarter finals, semi-finals and then a grand final where the Top Town Trophy - based upon a Marconi Mk 3 television camera - was the prize.

The series was always transmitted live and only two editions have survived in the BBC Television Archives - the Leeds v. Soho 1st Quarter-Final from 1956 and an end of series retrospective from 1960 entitled Top Town Parade, which was presented by David Jacobs. These programmes are fascinating, if only as a snapshot of the 1950s BBC - halcyon days!

“Top Town” was clearly very much influenced by Music Hall, with amateur would-be megastars singing, dancing, performing comedy routines or magic tricks, even animal impersonations.

The show was presented at various times by Peter Haigh, Peter West and David Jacobs, with each team being given half the programme to convince the judges that they were worthy of progressing to the next round. The judges’ panel - not seen until the very end of the programme - comprised 'professionals', representatives of the viewers and guest judges. Each edition would conclude with the judges given their impressions and passing their verdict.

Alyn Aynsworth was involved on the music side, conducting the BBC Northern Dance Orchestra (and sometimes the BBC Northern Variety Orchestra). Occasionally, the series would leave the studio and go out on location - for instance, the 1956 Grand Final was held at the Royal Hall in Harrogate.

The series was quite a hit, so much so in fact, that it attracted attention from overseas. Producer Barney Colehan noted in 1976 that "when we started Top Town back in the Fifties, we found that foreign TV companies were coming over to watch” Then, in 1962, two French producers, Pierre Brive and Guy Lux, were so inspired by the local talent contests that they launched Intervilles on the French viewing public.

They developed it into a series of made-up contests resembling extravagant outdoor party games. It was an immediate success". These things have a way of coming back and it was not many years before Colehan found himself producing the British adaptation of Intervilles’, “It's A Knockout”.

Ex-Boy Peter Roberts, who was actually there, goes on to say that The BBC ‘s “Top Town” series in this instance, 1955 or 1956, was between two military towns, Aldershot and Catterick and was televised from a large hotel on the sea front in Blackpool.

Each town had to supply a few short “acts” and three Beauty Queens, (see my write up on the ‘Memories’ page of the web site).

RAOC Boys School were asked to provide an input and resulted in Myself, Terry Cook, Jim Boyes and Dave Pearce, all ‘Silver Buglers’, dressed in “Toy Soldiers” uniform, sounding ‘Retreat’ at the end of our session in the programme. We travelled by coach and were accompanied by Capt. ‘*Perry Mason’* and Sgt. Jock Oddie.

We were the last act to perform and as this was “Live TV” we rehearsed many times before hand always without a hitch. Our moment of glory eventually came; but as we marched along the side of the indoor swimming pool to the stage, Davy Pearce’s ‘Mouth piece’ fell out of his bugle and into the pool. All was not lost, the three remaining managed to make enough sound and with Dave puffing out his cheeks we thought no one had noticed! Nothing however slipped by the attention of ‘Perry Mason’ and Dave lost his BBC wages as a result.



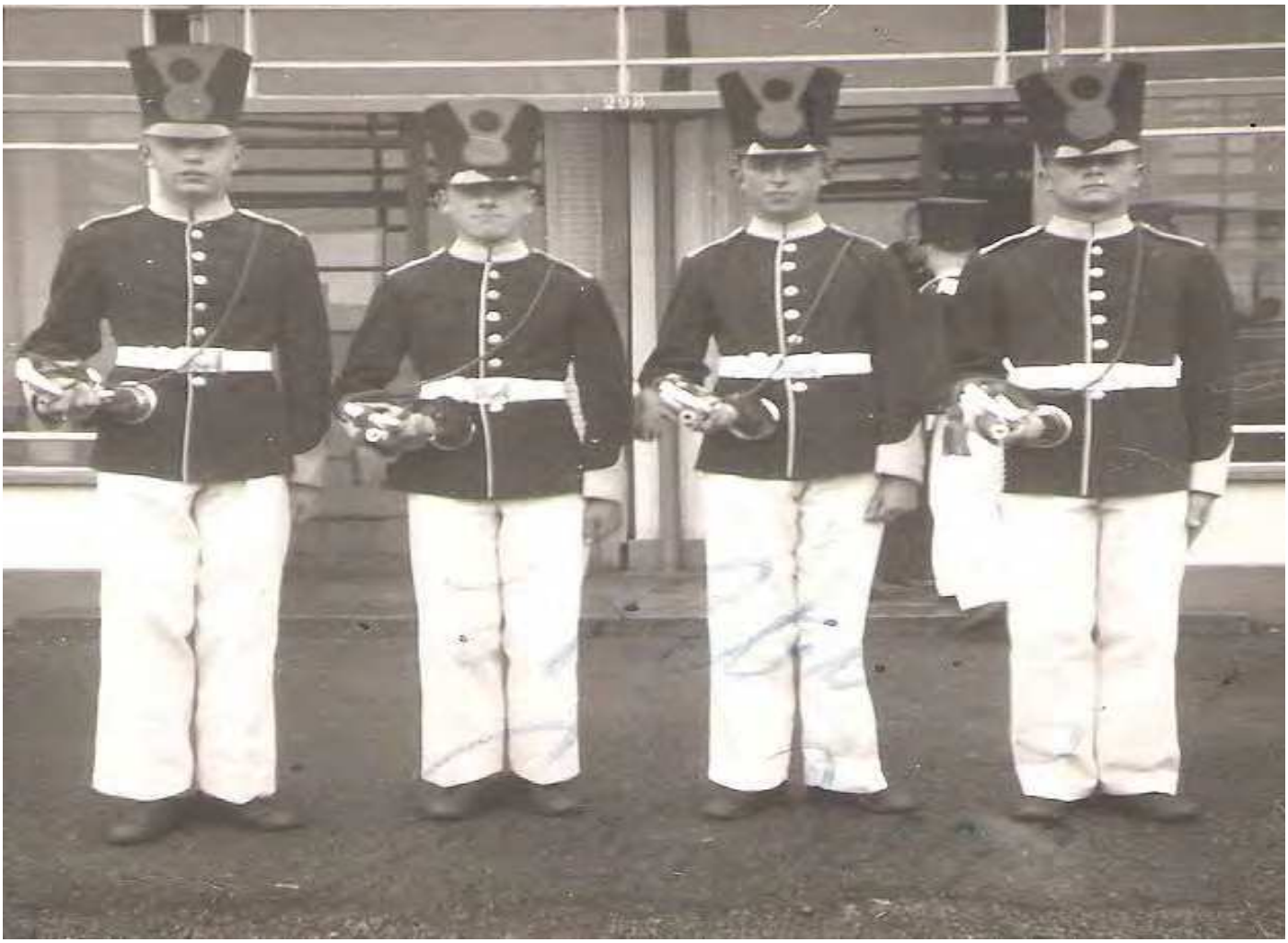
An example of what the average BBC viewer would have seen the “Top Town” episode on!!
“Who needs Flatscreen TVs when you’ve got a box like that!!”







The “Top Town” Trophy



Peter Roberts, David Pearce, Jim Boyse and Terry Cook
(Photo autographed in faded blue by Joan Regan)
Photograph kindly donated by Peter Roberts

Peter mentioned to me that a Ms. Joan Regan had signed one of the photos - just visible in the photograph. Did you know that Joan Regan was born 19 January 1928, in Romford, Essex, England? Well, she was a popular singer in the UK during the 1950s and early 60s, with a particularly glamorous image, it was after working at various jobs, including one as a photographer's re-toucher, that Regan first made an impression on the music scene in 1953.



Her private recordings of 'Too Young' and 'I'll Walk Alone' gained her a contract with Decca Records, partly because she was thought to have a 'Vera Lynn sound'. Her first releases, "Till I Waltz Again With You' and 'I'll Always Be Thinking Of You', were followed by 'Ricochet', on which she was backed by Ronnie Aldrich's Squadronaires. It made the UK Top 10, and led to the nationwide fame she achieved when she became the resident singer on producer Richard Afton's television series Quite Contrary, followed later by four series of her own Be My Guest programmes – well I didn't know that!

Below is a transcript taken from the memories page of Peter Roberts – which incidentally is "on line" and well worth a read!

"Terry Cook mentions our appearance on the BBC 'Top Town' series held in Blackpool at the Grand Hotel and I would like to add a couple of points. There were three 'Beauty Queens' from each town, Aldershot and Catterick, taking part. It was suggested that they should join us for a pre breakfast swim in the sea next morning.

The sea at Blackpool, in my experience, never rises above –10 degrees, there was an onshore wind whipping spray off the waves and we stood on the beach shivering. One of the girls decided to brave it and went in. I tested the water with my feet but no way was I about to catch pneumonia. Somebody had to go in to save our faces so Terry Cook took a run and dived in. His swim lasted about a minute as he joined the shivering girl wading back to the beach. Towels were borrowed from the 'none swimmers' in an attempt to hide the deep blue colour and to bring back the circulation."



A ticket from the Quarter Final of "Top Town" between Leeds and Soho

In conclusion, Aldershot ran out the worthy winners and the whole team were treated to a seven-course meal in the hotel by our organising officer from the Aldershot Garrison!



Silver Bugler Peter Roberts

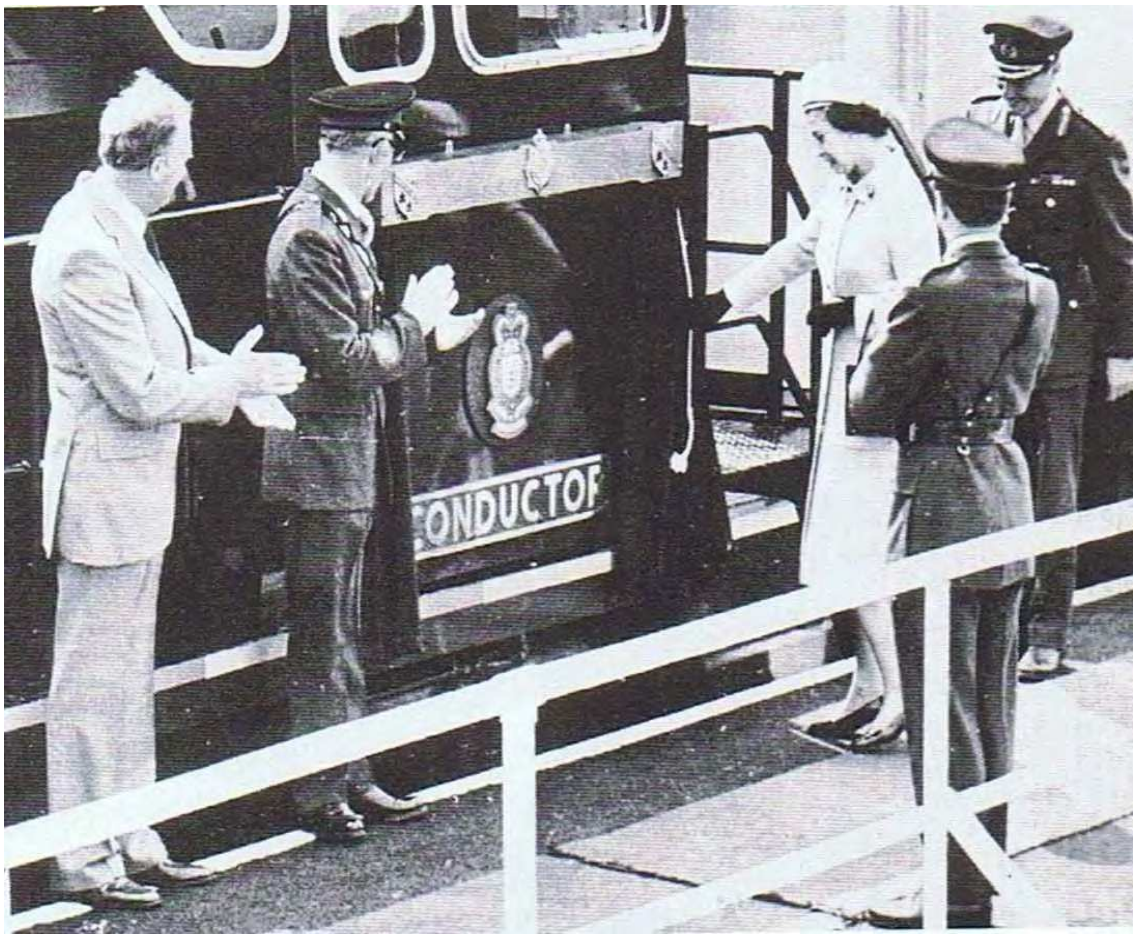
(with Sgt “Jock” Oddie in the rear)

Photographs and article kindly donated by Peter Roberts

Royal Army Ordnance Corps - TRAIN

In the last Newsletter, Summer 2009, Issue 11, there was an interesting article submitted by Peter Fellowes on RAOC trains. This issue carries an interesting photo of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II christening the engine (train) "*Conductor*".

This particular photo was taken in 1978, the Diamond Jubilee of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the 25th year of Her Majesty agreeing to become the RAOC's Colonel in Chief!



Did you know that there are 347 preserved mainline diesel locomotives in the UK based on various privately owned railways, as well as a few running on the main rail system? Well this website is intended to provide a photographic record of each of these engines as well as details of the lines on which they are based and details of any diesel events.

Below is a website address dedicated to Preserved Trains and in particular, the link below provides access to the RAOC trains.



http://www.preserved-diesels.co.uk/engines/45112_index.htm

Below is a scanned article (*courtesy of Bill Chamberlain*) from the RAOC Corps Gazette dated 1963 concerning the

Patriot Class train named:-

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps

LOCOMOTIVE No. 45505—"THE ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS"

LT.-COL. C. S. GILL, RAOC, writes:—

This engine was one of the "Patriot" class built at the LMS Crewe Works in 1932. There were fifty-two engines of this class, and this one, on completion, bore the number 5949 until 1934, when it was renumbered 5505.

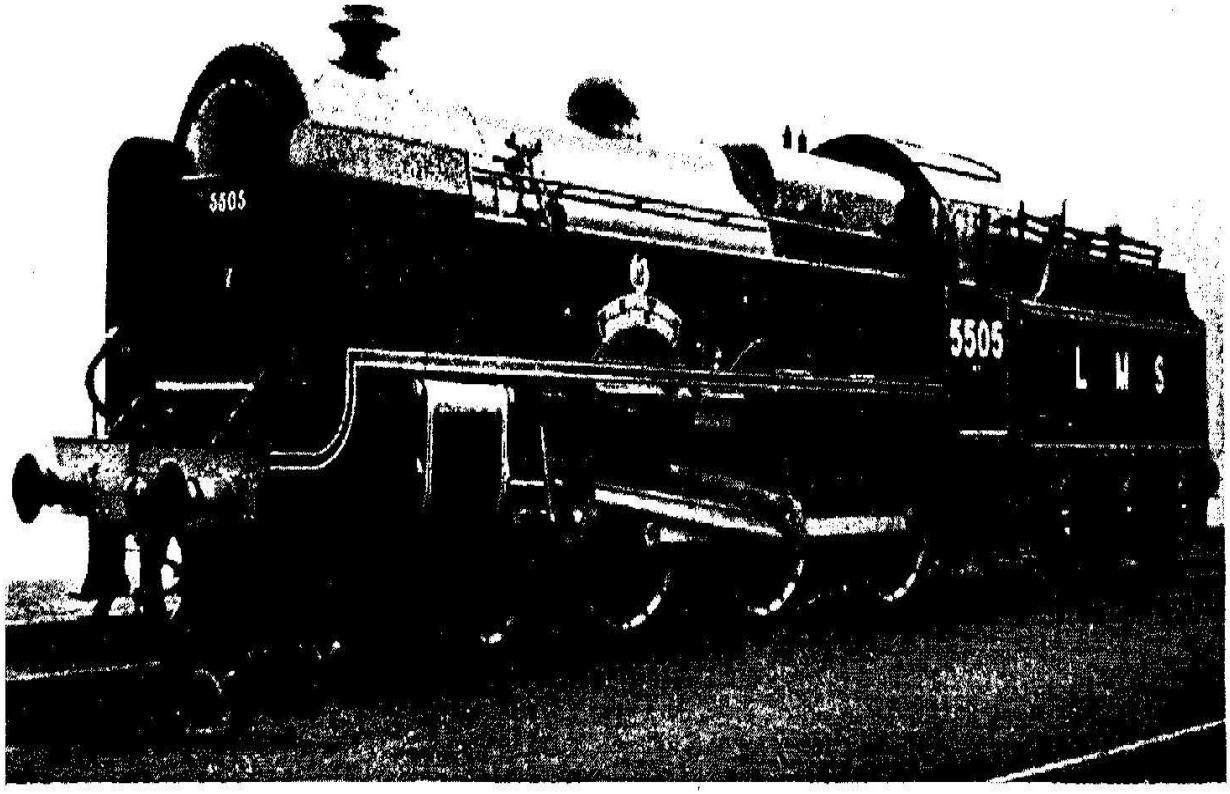


Photo Public Relations British Railways

For the first fifteen years of it's life the engine bore no name, but in 1947, under the policy of the LMS Railway to name some locomotives after Regiments and Corps, No. 5505 received the name "The Royal Army Ordnance Corps," and Corps crests presented by the Corps were mounted over the nameplates. After nationalisation in 1948, all engines of British Railways were renumbered and 5505 became 45505, retaining it's name.

During the latter part of the last war, and since, most of the "Patriot" class engines received certain modifications, including the fitting of a larger boiler. But 45505 was not modified and remained as built until withdrawn from service during the week ending 2nd June, 1962, and dismantled for scrap.

The "Patriot" class was designed by Sir Henry Fowler, who was Chief Mechanical Engineer of the LMS Railway, and all the engines were engaged on express passenger work. "The Royal Army Ordnance Corps" was stationed at the Longsight Depot in Manchester and worked trains between Manchester, Liverpool, Hereford, London and Carlisle.

The nameplates were obtained for the Corps by the efforts of members of the Birmingham Branch of the Association and Mr. George Dow of British Railways. One nameplate is now on display in COD Donnington and the second is at the Corps Museum. A photograph of the engine is on display in the entrance hall of HQ, COD Donnington, and a copy is with the Corps Museum. One of the original Corps crests has now been traced by Mr. George Dow and arrangements are being made by members of the Birmingham Branch of the RAOC Association to hand it over to DDOS Western Command.

The original plan of the RAOC Association members was to ask that this crest should be used as a trophy for a TA competition (as stated in August issue of THE GAZETTE) but the DOS has expressed a wish that it goes to the Corps Museum. This is obviously the rightful place for such a piece and would make a complete set consisting of nameplate, crest and photograph in the one setting. The author is indebted to Public Relations, British Railways and Mr. George Dow for the historical information given in this article.

24145047 Corporal Paul A. Bunker

Royal Army Ordnance Corps / Special Air Service

"D" Squadron SAS - Age 28

An article by Adrian Hayward-Wills

I recently attended an SAS Reunion and thought it appropriate to visit the Memorial Stone to former Royal Army Ordnance Corps Junior Leader, Paul Bunker, at the SAS Regimental Plot of St. Martin's Hereford and lay some flowers on behalf of all members of the Ex-Boys' Association.

Paul Bunker joined 22nd SAS Regiment in August 1976 (*having enlisted in the Junior Leaders Battalion RAOC some seven years earlier*) and was posted to 16 (Air) Troop D Squadron. He then later joined 19 (Mountain) Troop SAS in May of 1979 and served several tours in Northern Ireland, West Virginia, Florida, Bavaria and the Falklands. This article is about Paul Bunker's Falkland's war.

Background

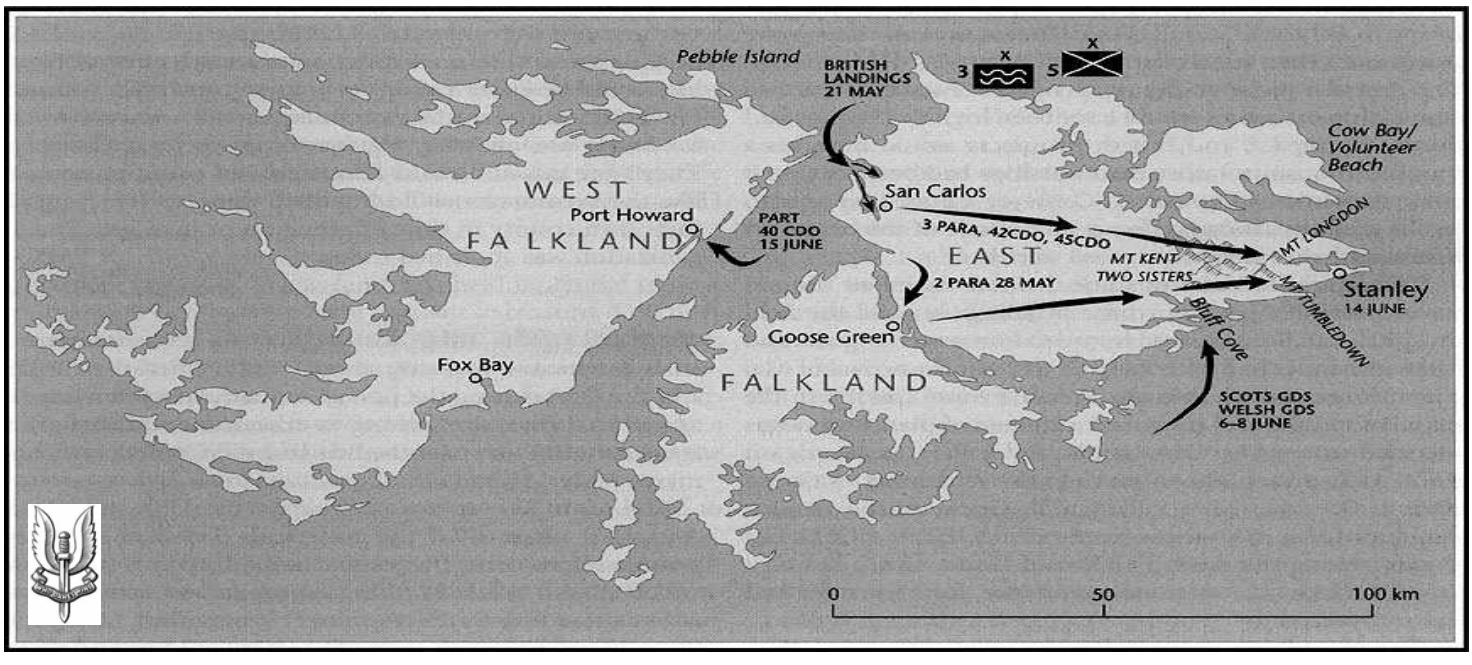
On the 5th April 1982, a large British task force set out on a 7,500-mile journey to liberate a group of tiny windswept islands in the South Atlantic. On 1st May 1982 began the biggest naval action to take place since World War II - nearly 900 men lost their lives. The Falkland Islands (Malvinas in Spanish) lie approximately 500 miles (805 km) east of southern Argentina, not as first thought by the majority of voting electorate as off the coast of Scotland!

Anyway, first sighted in the 16th century, they were colonized - in circumstances which remain contentious - by Britain, France and Spain. From 1833, they were in British hands, although sovereignty was claimed by Argentina on the basis of previous Spanish occupation. In 1982, East and West Falkland had a population of only 1, 800.

The climate was temperate but windy, the terrain a mixture of downland, rocky hills and peat bogs. The capital, Port Stanley, had a small airport, but was not unlike a Scots fishing village. Outside Stanley people lived in sheep-farming settlements. A mutton-packing plant at Ajax Bay on the west coast of East Falkland had fallen into disuse. Further east lay the Falklands Dependencies, South Georgia, and the South Sandwich Islands.

The 150th anniversary of British occupation came when the Argentine military was looking for an external adventure to rally national support after a deeply shaming 'dirty war' in which thousands of people suspected of subversive activities had been tortured and 'disappeared'. British policy had long been one of appeasement, trying to get the islanders to accept some kind of sovereignty-sharing with the mainland, upon which they depended for contact with the outside world. The final signal may have been the announcement that the symbolically armed ice patrol vessel HMS Endurance was to be withdrawn.

An underestimation of Margaret Thatcher may also have contributed to the decision to invade on 2nd April 1982, when Special Forces overwhelmed the 50-man garrison of Royal Marines at Port Stanley after a brisk firefight and a detachment on South Georgia, where the defenders damaged a frigate.



On 31st March 1982, Margaret Thatcher's government received warning that invasion was imminent and an early meeting suggested that while nothing could be done to prevent it, in the opinion of the First Sea Lord, Admiral Leach, the Royal Navy could send a ‘retrieval force’ rapidly. The decision to mount Op. CORPORATE was taken early and owed much to the Prime Minister's speedy determination.

The operation was controlled from the Navy's headquarters at Northwood near London by Admiral Fieldhouse and his staff. The idea of swift retrieval was soon replaced by one of deliberate attack and a Task Force was assembled, incorporating the old aircraft carrier HMS Hermes and the new HMS Invincible equipped with Sea Harriers and helicopters, other warships, Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and chartered Merchant Seamen.

The landing forces, under Major General Moore, would eventually comprise 3rd Commando Brigade (Brig Thompson), with three battalion-sized Marine Commandos and 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Parachute Regiment under its command, and 5th Infantry Brigade (Brigadier Wilson), with 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and 7th Ghurkha Rifles. Special forces included the Special Boat Service and elements of the 22nd SAS Regiment - which included Paul Bunker ex-RAOC Junior Leader - and the Royal Artillery who furnished both Field and Air Defence Artillery.

The Argentine garrison was reinforced to comprise two brigades under Brig Gen Menendez, the islands' military governor. The British used Ascension Island just south of the Equator as a forward base, and on 18 April the main task group (Rear Admiral Woodward) sailed from it. On 12th April 1982, with two nuclear submarines in the theatre, Britain announced a Maritime Exclusion Zone around the Falklands. South Georgia was recaptured by Royal Marines and Special Forces on 24-5 April, and on 1 May 1982, a Vulcan based at Ascension Island (refuelling en route) bombed Stanley airport, inflicting little damage but demonstrated the RAF's long reach.

On the same day, aircraft from Woodward's task group attacked ground targets, while his ships came under attack from Argentine aircraft. On 2 May the old Argentine cruiser General Belgrano was torpedoed by the submarine HMS Conqueror south of the Falklands, after which the Argentine navy did not venture out of coastal waters.

On 4th May 1982, the Argentine air force sunk HMS Sheffield with an Exocet missile, and when the British landed around San Carlos on 21 May it mounted repeated attacks on warships in Falkland Sound. HMS Ardent and Antelope were sunk and other vessels damaged. On 25 May HMS Coventry, on radar picket to the north of West Falkland, was also sunk. Ship casualties would have been higher if bombs had burst on impact and British prospects would have been poor if troopships rather than warships had been lost. As it was, the sinking of Atlantic Conveyor on 25 May 1982 was to make land operations difficult: all but one of the heavy-lift Chinook helicopters she carried were lost.

The beachhead at San Carlos, which included the old meat plant at Ajax Bay whose buildings housed the field hospital, had been secured by 3rd Commando Brigade and its commander had been ordered to await the arrival of Maj Gen Moore and 5th Brigade. Pressure from London in the wake of naval losses provoked a change of plan and it was decided to send 45 Commando and 3 Para eastwards on foot, while 2 Para jabbed south to the settlement of Goose Green.

Meanwhile, having survived an horrific helicopter crash in appalling weather conditions on the Fortuna Glacier in South Georgia, Corporal Paul Bunker of the Special Air Service Regiment and his Troop, led the advance elements of the forces which captured the main enemy positions in Grytviken. This action resulted in the total surrender of all enemy forces in South Georgia. The next Troop Task was the Airfield.

Due to proximity of civilians close to the airstrip, the use of tactical air strikes was ruled out and the SAS were given the green light to conduct the raid. On the night of May 14th, D Squadron boarded Sea Kings from Royal Naval Air Squadron 846. Accompanying them was an Artillery Spotter from 148 Battery RA, who would direct gunfire from H.M.S Glamorgan onto the Argentine defenders.

Once landed on Pebble Island, the SAS force linked up with their Boat Troop colleagues who escorted them to the objective, using routes they had previously proved. Cut-off groups got in position to prevent the enemy leaving or counter-attacking the target area. A cover group, including a mortar team was established to keep any Argentinean defenders pinned down whilst the assault team went in.

As artillery fire from H.M.S Glamorgan and mortar fire from the SAS cover group slammed into the Argentine ammo and fuel dump, the assault teams moved onto the airstrip, placing explosives on the Argentine aircraft. The SAS placed their charges in the same part of each plane to prevent the Argentineans from cannibalising aircraft from spare parts. The assault teams also raked the parked planes with fire from M16s and M203 grenade launchers. Others fired 66mm LAW rockets at their targets.



Photo courtesy of Soldier Magazine

A montage of the Falklands Conflict of 1982



The response from the Argentine Garrison, housed in nearby buildings was noticeable by its absence. The SAS attackers had expected a heavy fire fight but instead only received light return fire. Only 2 SAS men - *including Paul Bunker* - were lightly injured in the raid.

Some 30 minutes after the attack started, the SAS began to withdraw, leaving burning on the airstrip behind them ,6 Pucaras, 4 TMC Mentors and 1 Sky Van transport aircraft. In one action, the SAS had destroyed half of the Pucaras the Argentineans had on the islands!



In short, Cpl Paul Bunker's Troop, successful and brilliantly executed raid on Pebble Island in the Falklands Islands, where eleven enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground, was a huge success.

By acting quickly and decisively and with great courage and coolness, Paul Bunker was personally involved in the destruction of seven of the eleven enemy aircraft – his actions later depicted in a painting by David Pentland..

However, on 19th May 1982, the SAS Regiment suffered a tragic loss when a Sea King crashed while "cross-decking" troops from H.M.S Hermes to H.M.S Intrepid and killed 22 men. The Sea King had taken off from H.M.S. Hermes at dusk. The Aircraft was slightly over loaded but because it was short fight, the pilot reduced his fuel load (SOP) to lighten the helicopter.

At 300 ft, the Sea King started its decent towards H.M.S. Intrepid. those on board heard a thump, then another from the engine above them. The Sea King dipped once, then dived. Within four seconds it hit the water. Some men were killed instantly, Paul Bunker being one of those men and others knocked unconscious in the initial impact. Amazingly 9 men managed to scramble out of the open side door before the helicopter slipped below the waves. They were the only survivors.

Rescuers found bird feathers floating on the surface were the helicopter had impacted the water. It is thought that the Sea King was the victim of a bird strike. One theory being is the Sea King helicopter was hit by a Black Browed Albatross, which has an 8 ft wing span. The SAS lost 18 men on this night, including Cpl Paul Bunker, former RAOC Junior Leader and SAS Operator.

The SAS Regiment had not lost so many men at one tine since the end of the second world war, the accident killed a member of the Royal Signals (264 (SAS) Signals Regiment) and the only RAF casualty of the war, Flt Lt G.W. Hawkins RAF.



The Clock Tower – Credenhill, Hereford where Paul Bunker's name is inscribed

"Corporal Paul A. Bunker of 22nd SAS Regiment (formerly of the RAOC) was one of twenty brave men, who lost their lives as a result of the tragic Sea King helicopter crash, whilst transferring between the carrier HMS Hermes to the assault ship HMS Intrepidon the 19th of May 1982"

REST IN PEACE

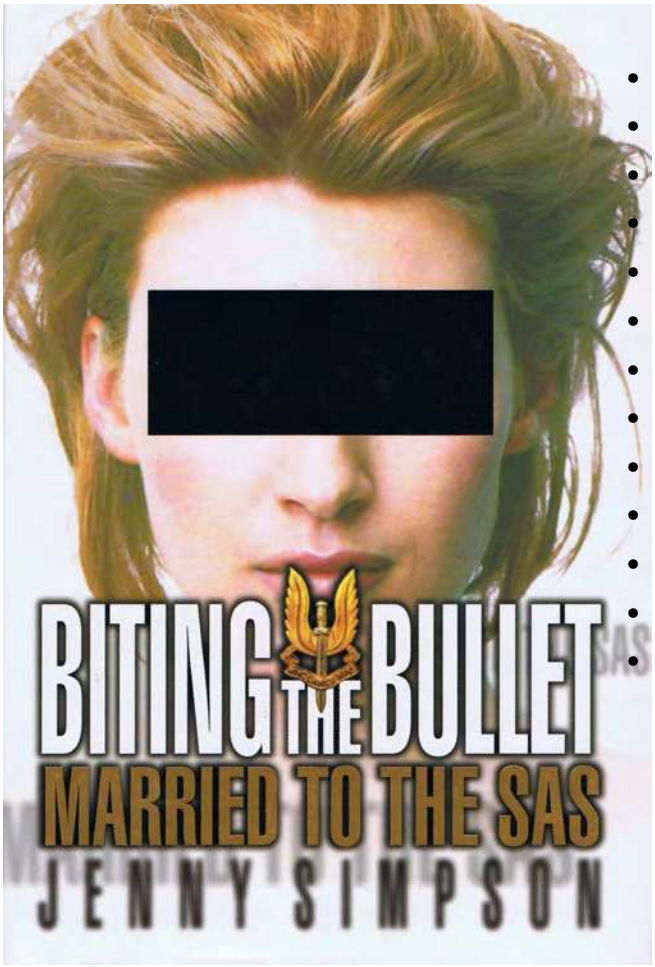
Paul Bunker's Raid on Pebble Island, Falkland Islands - 1982
as depicted by the artist David Pentland



"Some ten days later, Cpl Paul Bunker's Troop, successful and brilliantly executed raid on Pebble Island in the Falklands Islands when eleven enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. Acting quickly and decisively and with great courage and coolness, he was personally involved in the destruction of seven of the eleven aircraft"



Paul Bunker is mentioned (with an illustration) in the best selling book “Biting the Bullet - Married to the SAS” by Jenny Simpson





Hardcover: 284 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd; First Edition (1996)

Language English

ISBN-10: 0002558076

ISBN-13: 978-0002558075





Paul Bunker and his Memorial Plinth St. Martins, Hereford.

Both pictures courtesy of

“Biting the Bullet – Married to the SAS” – By Jenny Simpson

Paul Bunker is also mentioned in Michael Asher's book *"The Regiment – The Real Story of the SAS, The first Fifty Years*" on page 462. And I quote…

"…. The enemy set off a landmine that splattered turf and stones, hurling Cpl Paul Bunker, ex Royal Army Ordnance Corps, three metres into the air. Bunker hit the deck with only concussion and was dragged off by his mates….."

As a footnote note to this article, did you know that Vince Phillips – Bravo Two Zero fame, 1991 – was also a former RAOC soldier?

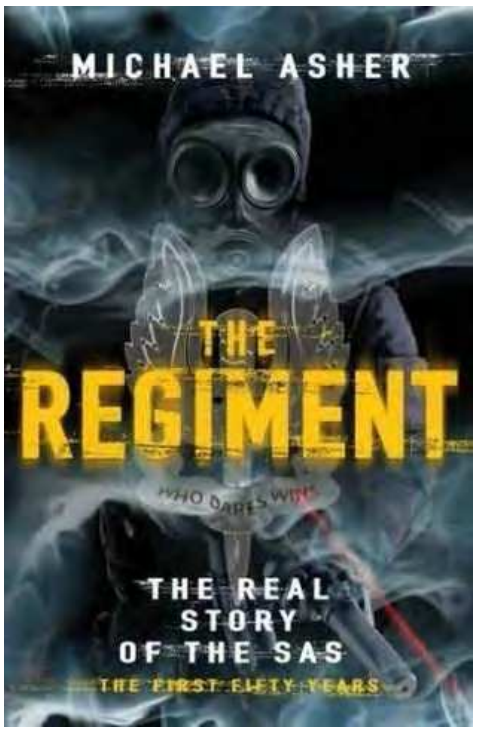
Indeed, Sgt. Vince Phillips is mentioned in the recent SAS book, SAS Heroes by former SAS soldier Pete Scholey. Vince has an entire chapter devoted to him and the book goes on to describe in detail, the ill-fated Bravo Two Zero patrol of the Gulf War in 1991.

Well, Sgt Vince Phillips - Joined the RAOC in 1972 and on completion of his basic training, Vince was posted to COD Bicester. Whilst serving at Bicester he developed into an outstanding cross-country runner which culminated in his winning of the Victor Lurdorum Trophy at the Corps Athletics. From COD Bicester, Vince moved to 16 Para Heavy Drop Company where he completed his Parachute Course at the end of 1972.

During his time with 16 Para Heavy Drop Company, he continued to demonstrate his outstanding qualities as an athlete and had the distinction of being a member of the Para RAOC team which won the Welsh 3000m in 1976 – The first RAOC unit to win the event! Perhaps there may be Members of the Ex-Boys' Association who knew Vince?

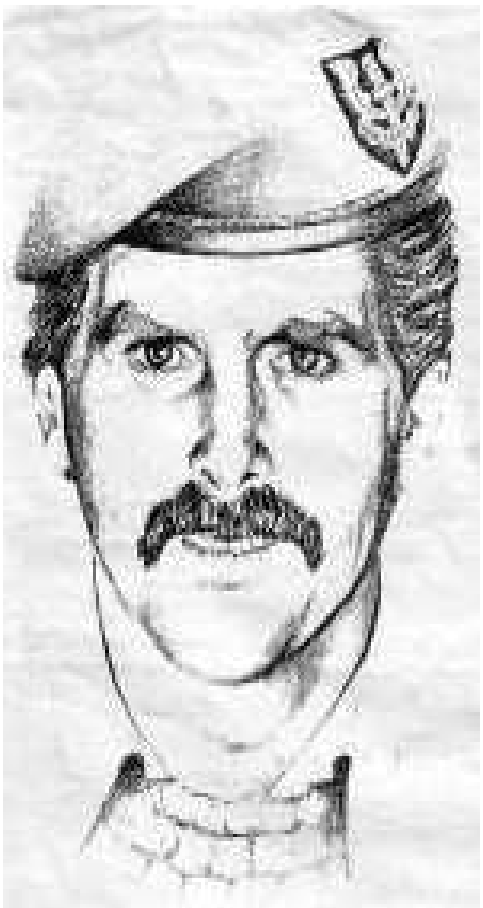
With the disbandment of Para Heavy Drop in September 1976, Vince volunteered to serve with the Commando Logistic Regiment and attended the All Arms Commando Course which he successfully passed in November 1976. Whilst serving with 3 Commando Brigade, Vince was awarded his Army Colours for marathon running.

In 1983, Vince applied for the SAS selection and after having successfully completed the course; Vince joined the Boat Troop of B Squadron SAS. The next 12 months saw Vince seconded to the Special Boat Squadron and after that, a tour in Northern Ireland before being despatched for special operations in the Gulf, where he tragically lost his life.

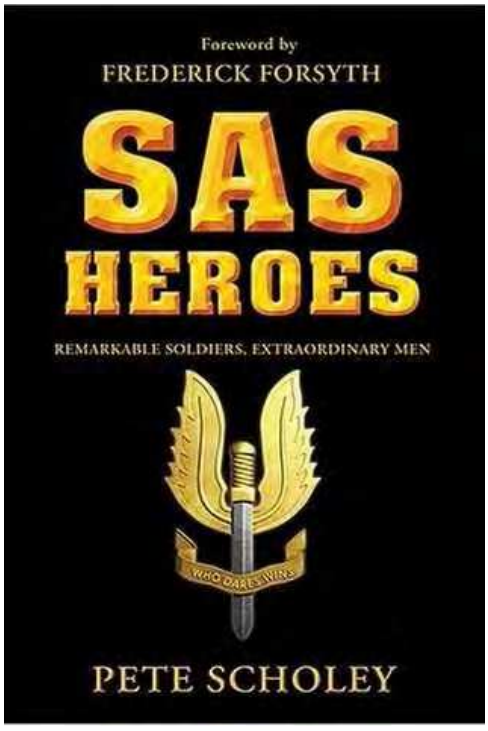


Cpl. Paul Bunker RAOC/SAS
is mentioned on Page 462





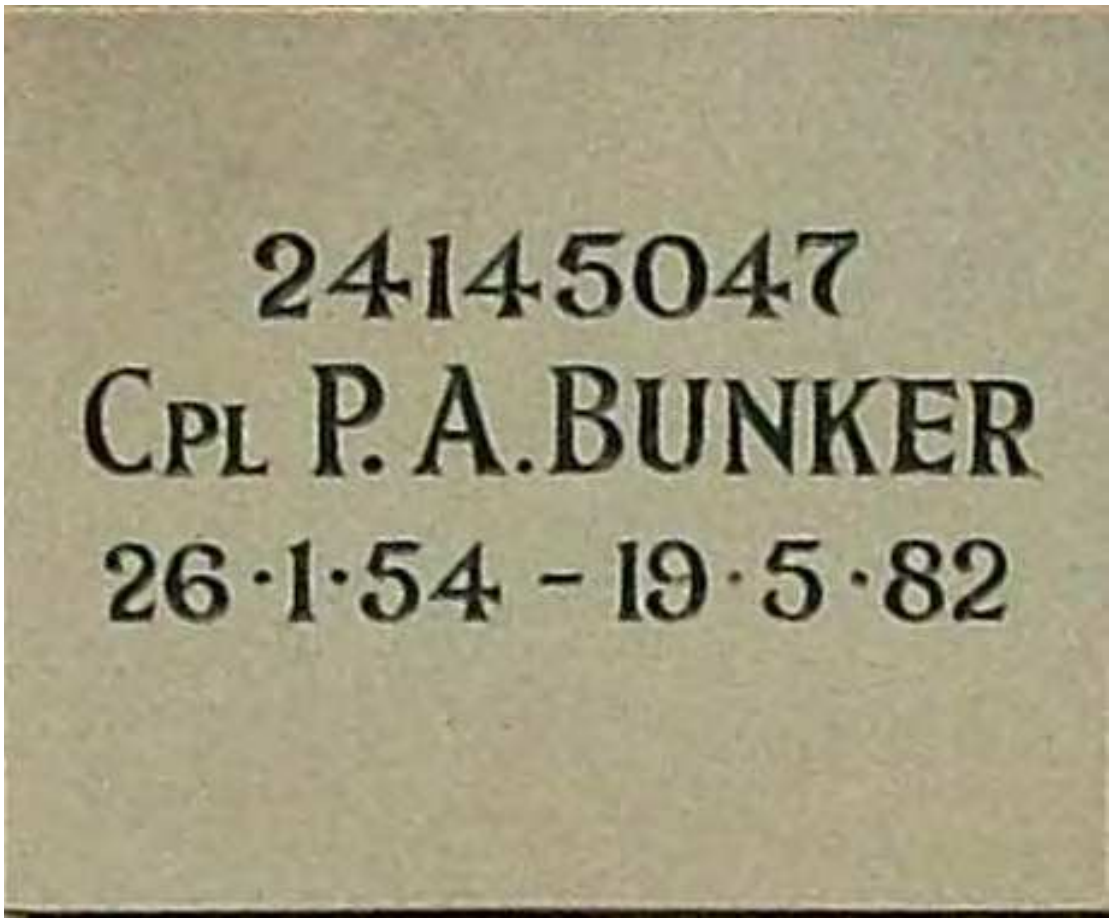
Sgt. Vince Phillips RAOC/SAS



Sgt. Vince Phillips RAOC/SAS on page 261

The Regimental Plot at St. Martin's in Hereford

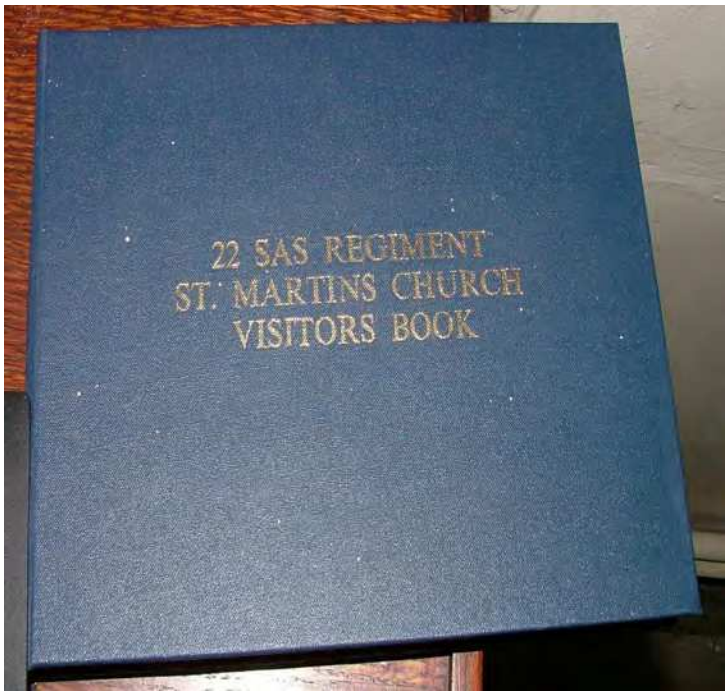




Paul Bunker's Memorial Plinth at St. Martin's in Hereford

22nd Special Air Service Memorial to the fallen of the Falkland Islands Conflict 1982







22nd SAS Regiment's Visitors' Book - where an appropriate comment was written by me, on behalf of the Ex-Boys' Association



Below are the details on the card (as seen above) that was attached to the flowers that were laid on behalf of the Ex-Boys' Association



Paul Bunker

* 25th January 1954 - †19th May 1982

RAOC Junior Leader (1969)

"May You Rest in Peace"

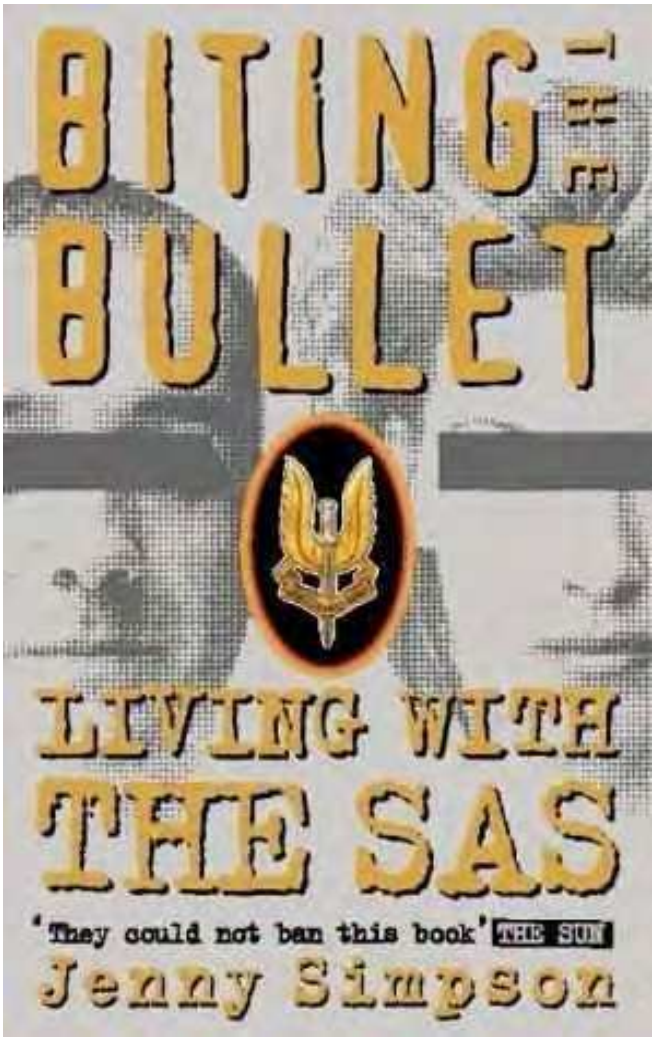
From the Chairman, Committee Members and all of the Ex-Boys' Association

The Stained Glass Memorial at St. Martin's Hereford, where the Falkland's War is commemorated on the right hand window pain



End

Book Review



- Paperback: 320 pages
- Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers Ltd
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 0006388264
- ISBN-13: 978-0006388265
- Product Dimensions: 17.8 x 11.4 x 2.5 cm

Synopsis:

When Jenny Simpson married, she joined a unique band of women - the SAS wives - and entered a world of secrecy and danger few outside it could begin to imagine.

According to the front cover of the book, this is the book the Government tried to ban – however, quite conveniently it was serialised in the Sun Newspaper!!

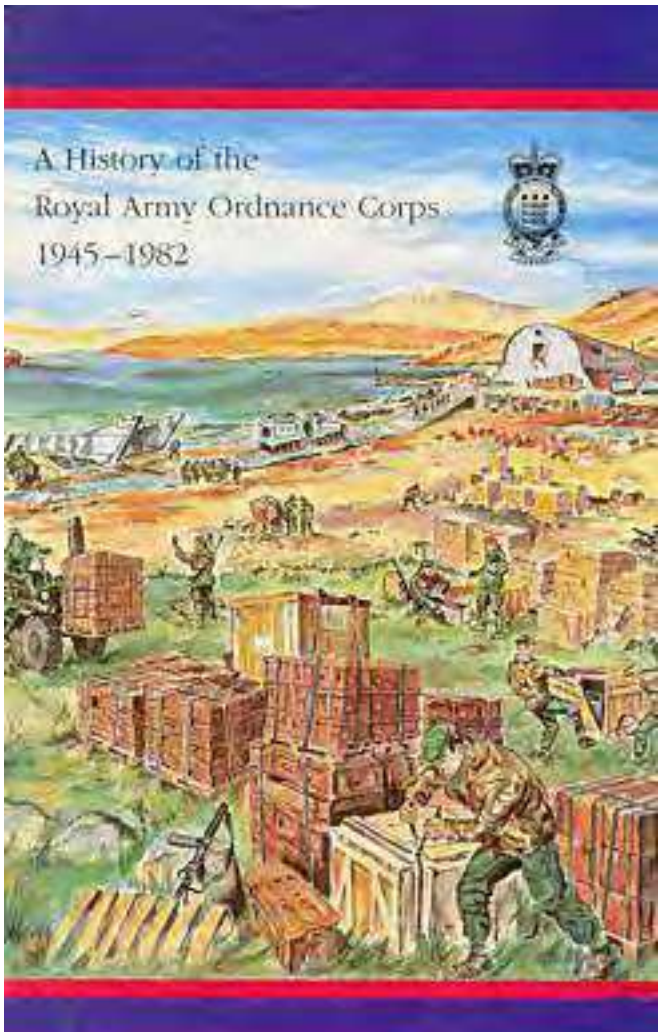
In this autobiography she reveals the facts of life as an SAS wife - months without knowing where her husband was or whether their lives were at risk, having to check their car each morning for bombs and nursing her husband though malaria and the traumas of seeing his fellow soldiers die. In fact, much like any other British Soldier and his wife!!

Anyway, this book is the paperback version, which was later released as a direct result of the success of the first edition Hardback.

In this book you won't find fancy menus that an SAS wife might cook with her Hexamine Blocks or what colour curtains they had in the Married Quarters, just a book about being married to an SAS solider.

Illustrated with photos including Paul Bunker etc, etc…

Book Review



- Hardcover: 595 pages
- Publisher: Trustees of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps
- Published 1991
- Language English
- Product Dimensions: 25.5 x 16 x 3.5 cm
- Heavy Book for Postage Costs

Synopsis:

This delightful and informative book is/was Bound in blue cloth with gilt lettering to spine and RAOC decoration to front board.

This is the fifth volume of the continuing history of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and deals with the tumultuous years from August 1945 until the end of the Falklands War in 1982.

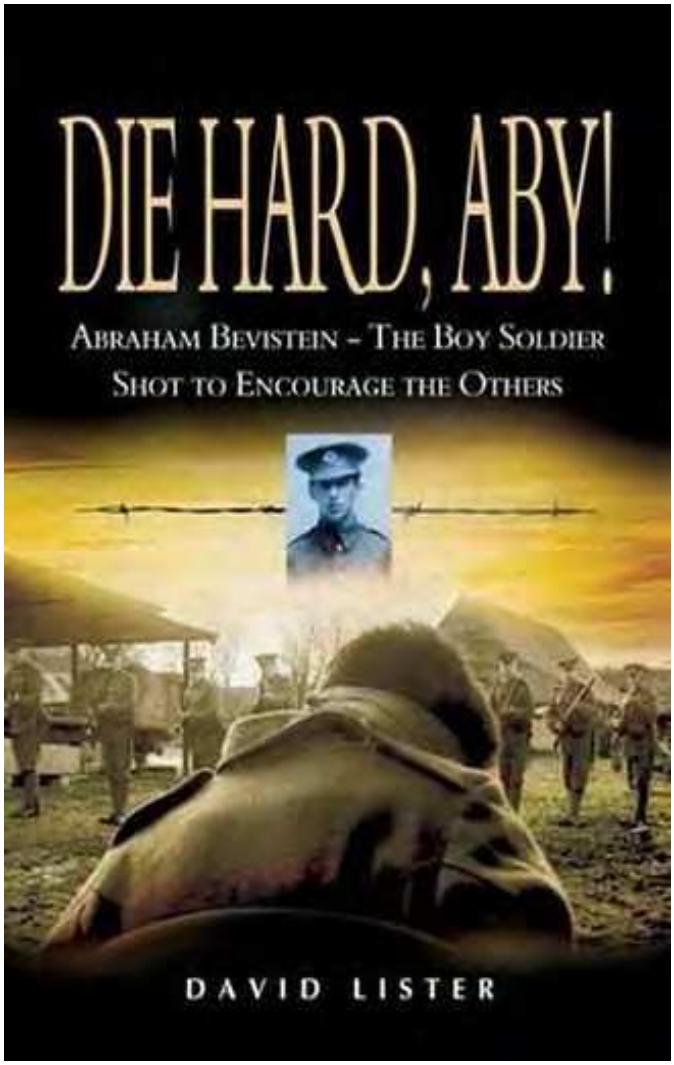
In carrying out its multifarious duties, the RAOC supported the Army and in some cases the other two services, in every theatre and operation during these thirty-seven years. Detailed Maps and various Black and White photographs accompany this factual book.

This history describes the duties of the corps both at home and in action in the numerous theatres of the wars that have occurred during that period including Suez, Korea, Northern Ireland as well as all the changes and reorganisations that took place in that time.

The front cover of this book many of you may recognise as being taken form the Shaun Steele painting showing troops of the RAOC at Ajax Bay, during the Falklands Campaign of May 1982.

There are several references to Boy Soldiers and Junior Leaders on pages 64 and 194. As a footnote to this review, it is perhaps interesting to note that the author of this book was the Inspecting Officer of the Passing Out Parade in August of 1973 and is clearly seen inspecting the Senior Platoon in the Summer Edition (No.5) of the 1974 issue of the “The Thunderbolt!” - Which incidentally is on line to view!

Book Review



- Hardcover: 244 pages
- Publisher: Leo Cooper Ltd (Feb 2005)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 1844151379
- ISBN-13: 978-1844151370
- Product Dimensions: 23.6 x 15.6 x 2.6 cm

Synopsis:

Die Hard, Aby, tells the story of boy soldier Abraham Bevistein. Thorough in it's research, every detail that remains of this short life seems to be laid before the reader, but rather than a file of facts, it is a story told with heart.

'Die Hard, Aby!' tells Aby's story, rather than that of the historic times through which he lived. If a well known battle rages while Aby sits in a trench several miles away, writing to his mum - we are with Aby. We follow him from the Russian occupied land of his birth, across Europe to his East End home, and then through school days and the events that led to the Great War. One of the first to join, we see him through training and on to duty at the Front.

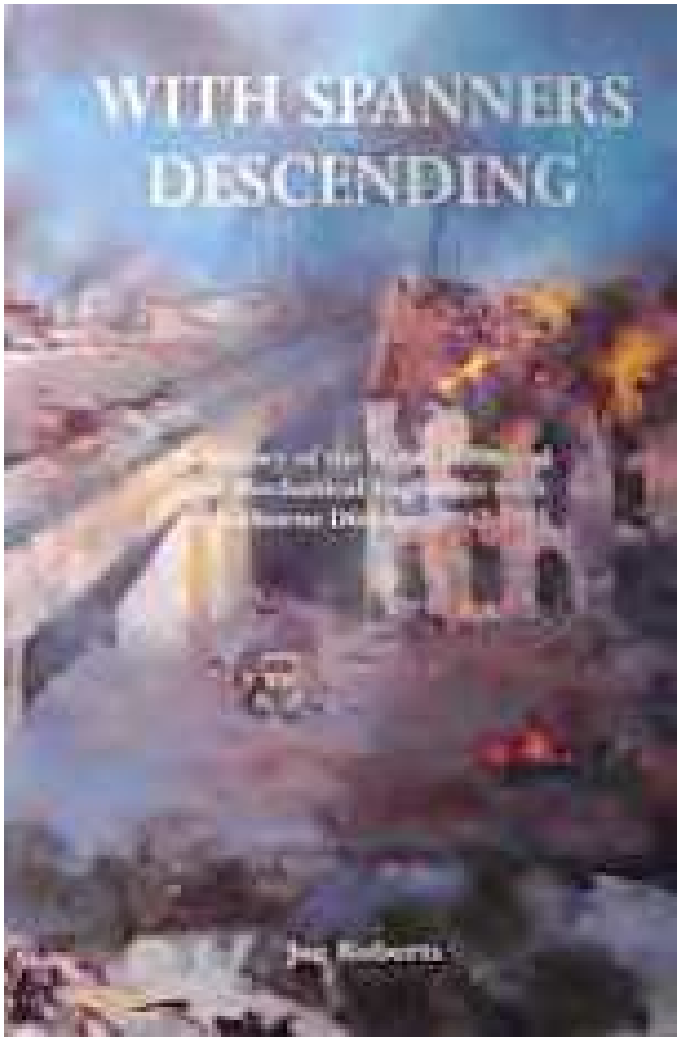
We are with him in the mud of the trenches and share his deprivations through the cold of the winter of 1915. After 10 months in France, we see what led him to leave the Front without authority. We are with Aby again when as a 17-year-old boy he walks to his fate on a cold, March dawn in 1916. Finally we examine the impact his short life had on his times and on ours.

His letters to his mother almost speak from the pages, and one can almost feel the heartbreak and fear from 90 years ago. I recommend this book to anyone who wants an intelligent read, factual, true, and moving. Almost the last line of the book states that a person is not truly dead whilst someone is alive to remember him. I think that through this book, the story of Aby and others like him will continue, lest we forget!

Although much bad press has been given towards the many historians who have tackled the issue of Britain's 'boy soldiers' during the Great War, this book does much to reveal one soldiers story with dignity and well-informed evidence.

Not only is Lister's account of Aby's life and war antics incredibly moving but it is also unique in style, which makes this book another well written page turner to add to the list. A fantastic piece of work from David Lister, written for a wide audience, leaving the reader horrified by the fact that we let the boy's onto the frontlines.

Book Review



- Paperback: 160 pages
- Publisher: The Bluecoat Press (1 Sep 1996)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 1872568289
- ISBN-13: 978-1872568287

Synopsis:

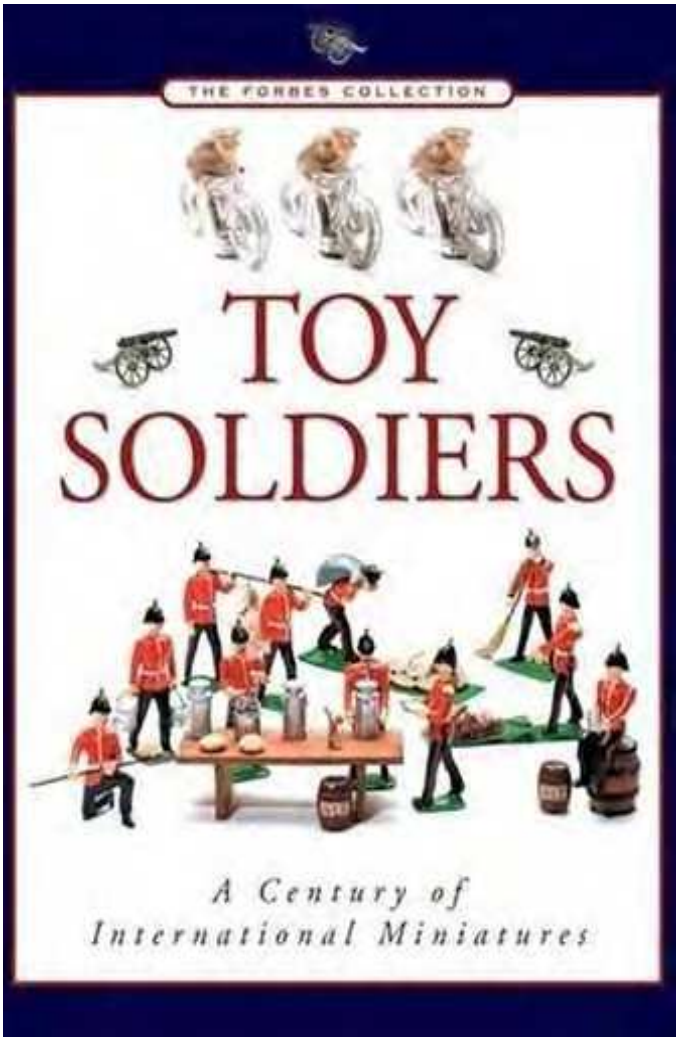
A very rare account of the role of the REME Units of the 1st Airborne Division during 1942-45.

An excellent account of the Arnhem Operation and the North West European Campaign. An essential read for those that perhaps took part of those interested in this particular theatre of war.

Profusely illustrated with rare archive images.

This is a very collectable book, I have seen this book go for over £75.00 on eBay - it may be worth checking your Library at home!

Book Review



- Hardcover: 80 pages
- Publisher: Running Press (3 Nov 2004)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 0762418796
- ISBN-13: 978-0762418794
- Product Dimensions: 32 x 23.2 x 1.4 cm

Synopsis:

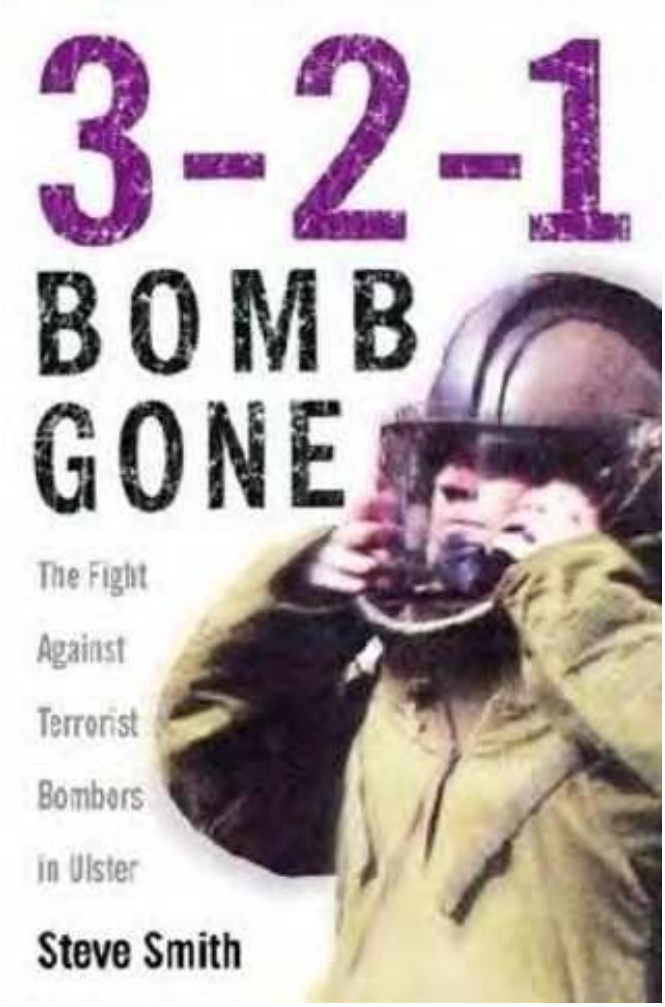
Although not an RAOC or REME book, I included this book, as there were photos of a lead soldier in the eBay section of this Newsletter.

Toy soldiers, which were mass-produced for more than 150 years, are extremely collectible. Now, the prestigious Forbes Galleries have opened their superb collection of toy soldiers for this stunning visual tour, featuring photographs and illustrations of some of the finest toy soldiers ever produced.

The Forbes Galleries in New York City include exhibits of the fabled Faberge Easter eggs and jewellery, toy boats, presidential manuscripts, fine art, and more than 10,000 soldiers of different styles and eras, made of solid lead, hollow cast metal, paper, composition, and other materials, beautifully displayed in dioramas.

Richard Scholl is a writer who specializes in antiques and collectables. He lives in Pennsylvania, USA.

Book Review



- Hardcover: 272 pages
- Publisher: The History Press Ltd; illustrated (16 Feb 2006)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 0750942053
- ISBN-13: 978-0750942058
- Product Dimensions: 23.4 x 16.2 x 3 cm

Synopsis:

Since the emergence of the terrorist bombing campaign in Northern Ireland in 1969, the dreadful atrocities committed by both nationalist and loyalist paramilitary groups against civilian and military targets in the province have regularly made news headlines throughout the UK, and on occasions, across the world. Behind these headlines there is the story of the Army's bomb disposal operators and how they have worked bravely and tirelessly to defuse terrorist bombs before they can kill and maim.

The Army has battled to keep abreast of the terrorists in the constantly evolving environment of booby trap bombs, ambushes and radio-controlled devices. Sometimes the operators have been lucky but on occasions they have paid with their lives while attempting to defuse a bomb.

At the time of publication, Colonel STEVE SMITH MBE was a serving Army officer and commanded the bomb disposal school for all three Services. Prior to this appointment he controlled the UK's counter-terrorist bomb disposal response worldwide for three years.

In the early 1980s he was a bomb disposal operator in Belfast. Steve Smith was awarded the MBE in 1993 for his work in Northern Ireland.

Book Review



- Hardcover: 801 pages
- Publisher: Leo Cooper Ltd; New edition (Dec 1984)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 0436506068
- ISBN-13: 978-0436506062

Synopsis:

This book delivers what it says on the front cover.

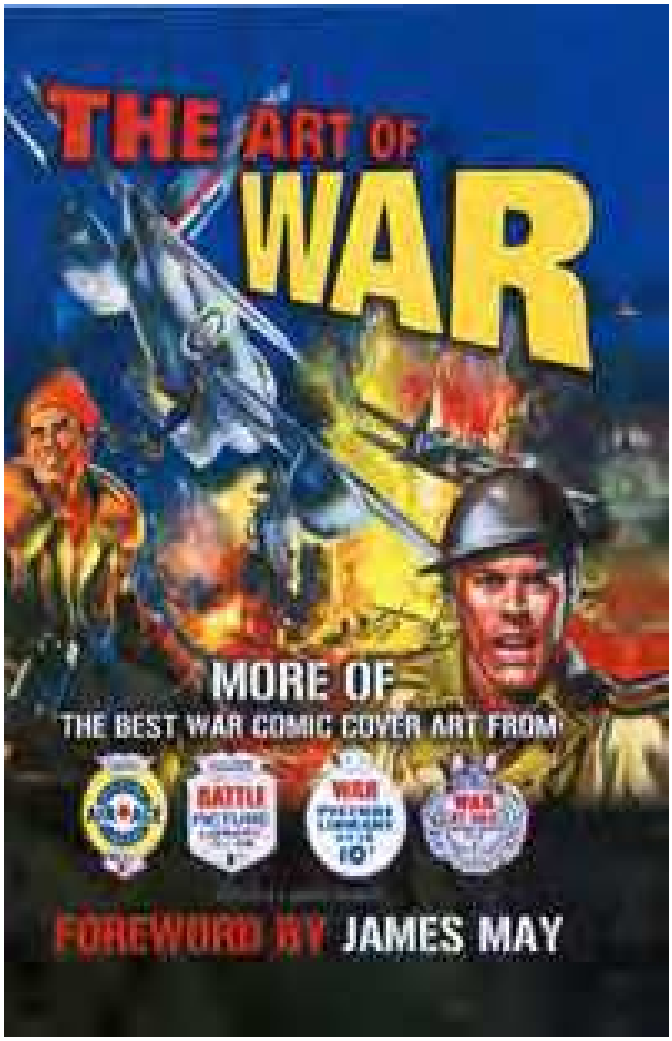
Nearly 800 pages of extensive history covering the 1945 - 1982 period of the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport.

This book is presented in Hardback and is illustrated throughout. Publishers Leo Cooper know a thing or two about military books and this publication is no exception.

An ideal reference point for historians of the Corps of Transport or perhaps model makers keen on detail and history.

Unfortunately, there aren't many books about the RCT or the RASC, so this detailed book makes an ideal starting point to your library of books associated with the history motor transport.

Book Review



- Paperback: 400 pages
- Publisher: Prion Books Ltd (6 Oct 2008)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 1853756628
- ISBN-13: 978-1853756627
- Product Dimensions: 25.7 x 19.8 x 3.3 cm

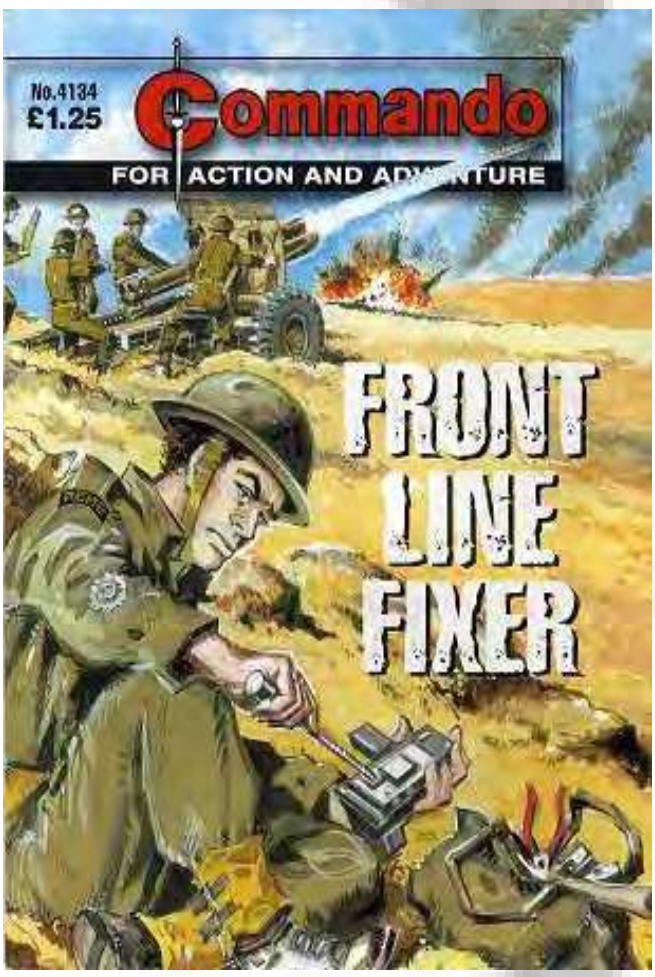
Synopsis:

From the 1950s to the '70s Fleetway and its successor IPC was the world's biggest comic-book publisher and its line of digest-sized Picture Libraries was the jewel in their crown. The most popular and longest lasting titles were "War", "Battle", "Air Ace" and "War at Sea", which ran for a combined total of over four and a half thousand issues.

This is a collection of the finest "War", "Battle", "Air Ace" and "War at Sea" covers, digitally re-mastered from the original archived artwork in a lavish format with the finest quality reproduction.

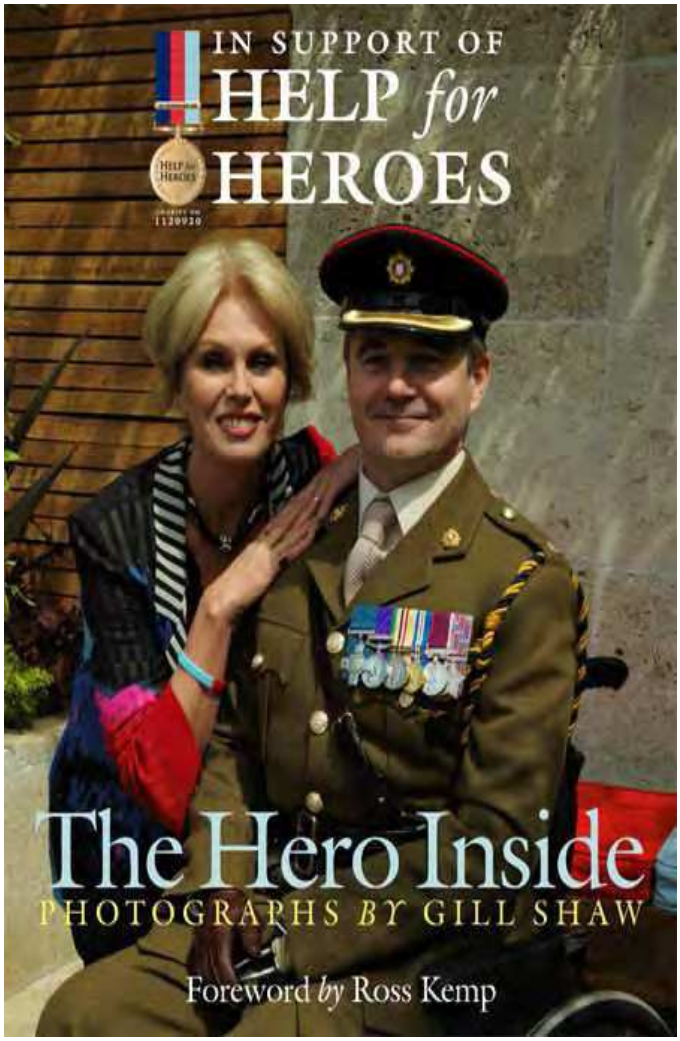
This book is a carefully selected collection of some of the most amazing war stories and striking war art ever produced, reproduced 25 per cent bigger than the originals, so you can feel every bullet hit, every blanket issued, every spanner dropped, every Land Rover washed and every nerve-shattering explosion!

This is military history as you've never read it before! Whether you are a seasoned campaigner or whether this is your first experience of War, this will have you marching shoulder to shoulder and dodging bullets with some of the toughest fighting men ever to storm the pages of a comic book!



Please note the REME shoulder title on this comic!!

Book Review



- Paperback: 128 pages
- Publisher: Quiller Publishing Ltd (17 Sep 2009)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 1846890764
- ISBN-13: 978-1846890765
- Product Dimensions: 24.4 x 18.8 x 1.4 cm

Synopsis:

The Hero Inside - Help for Heroes Charity Fundraising Book of Photographs – Please note the RLC Officer on the front page.

The Hero Inside is the officially authorised fund-raising book for Help for Heroes, the charity founded to support wounded servicemen and women in the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Conceived and photographed by Gill Shaw, this inspirational book is a thought-provoking and at times, emotional record of the experiences and traumas both on the battlefield and at home and is a tribute to our Armed Forces and those who support them on their return.

It is a positive an uplifting book of beautifully shot photographs of some of our heroes, with the aim of the photographer, Gill Shaw, to show our War Heroes in a positive light in these negative times.

With a foreword by Ross Kemp (Eastenders and SAS actor!!) and featuring Help for Heroes' celebrities, this superb book shows and tells us what life is like on battlefields and the support offered at home, along with support from some of the UK's best loved celebrities.

About the Author

Gill Shaw is a well-established international photographer whose first book Slightly Offstage raised money for children and adults with cerebral palsy. Gill has been the driving force behind The Hero Inside and has travelled throughout the UK to photograph and record the experiences of wounded troops on the battle field and at home.

At the time of publication, her son is/was currently serving with 2 Rifles in Afghanistan.

Know Your Regimental Ties

Reunions to attend? British Legion Meetings to attend? Not sure what to wear? Below is a selection of ties to suit all occasions!

Don’t leave home without one! Ideal Christmas Present!





Royal Army Ordnance Corps Bowtie



Royal Army Ordnance Corps - (Striped)

Royal Army Ordnance Corps - (Cap Badge Design)





Royal Corps of Transport Multi Motif tie



(Far left) Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers - (Striped) and (Multi Motif) tie (Far right)

[Know Your Regimental Watches]

Even more Reunions to attend? Even more British Legion Meetings to grace with your presence? Not sure what to wear? Want to be on time and look the dashing attendee? Below is a selection of watches to suit all occasions!

Don’t leave home without one! Ideal Christmas Present! All available on - you guessed it, eBay!!













These 28mm dials of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Service Watches are minted in England. Each medallion is finished in matt silver and set in an attractive stainless steel case with a scratch resistant mineral crystal, a quality Swiss movement with precision second hand for time-keeping accuracy and is water resistant to 3ATM. Your choice of durable stainless steel bracelet with folding clasp and safety lock or comfortable genuine leather strap complement the case design.



These stylish and practical commemorative Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Watches are price at only £99.95 representing remarkable value for a timepiece of this quality. The watch will arrive in a distinctive presentation box together with an individually numbered International 3-Year renewable Guarantee.

As a unique and lasting reminder of your Service the reverse of the exclusive timepiece can be engraved with up to 4 initials and your years of service and makes the ideal gift for that special RSM or MTI in your life!

Know Your Regimental Socks!!

Thought you had everything? The Personalised Golf Balls, the Regimental Tie, the Regimental Watch? Think again! Taking you a stage further in your Reunion Attire! Below is the ultimate gift for the ultimate retired soldier - the Regimental Sock!



These ribbed 100% cotton socks are in the colours of the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers.

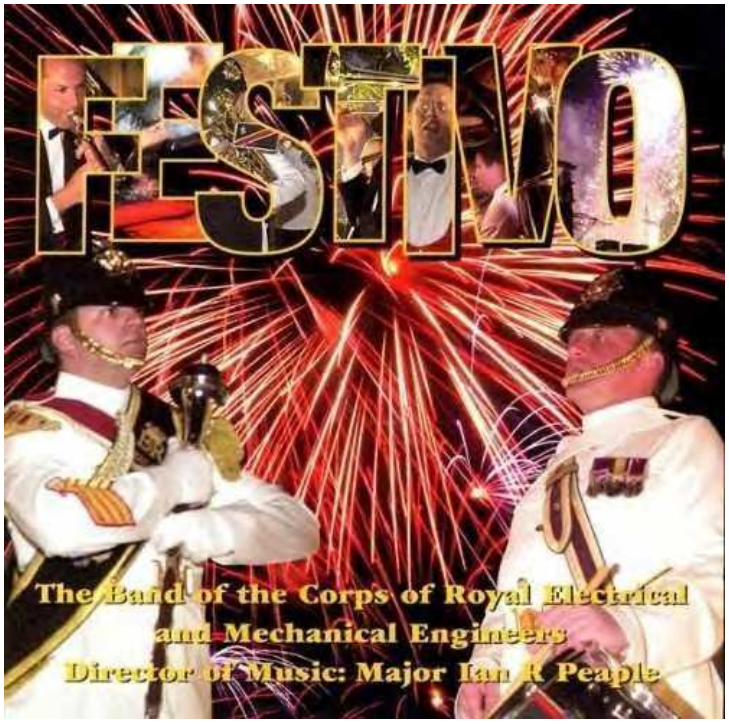


These ribbed 100% cotton socks are in the colours of the Royal Logistic Corps



Help For Heroes Socks. Help for Heroes is a new organisation that was established to provide direct help to our soldiers, sailors and airmen who have been wounded in one of Britain's current theatres of operation. The charity has been formed in order to raise money to support our wounded in their long battles towards rehabilitation and with rebuilding their lives.

Music Review





Early photo of the REME Staff Band

The Band of The Royal Mechanical & Electrical Engineers - Conductor: Major Ian Peaple

Recorded in February 2004, this very polished recording of the REME Band in concert mode is highly entertaining, including pieces often heard on the concert platform but rarely recorded.

Major Ian Peaple has prepared this recording with great thought and rehearsed the band to a very high standard. Beautifully presented, this is a must for band followers and those who enjoy good music played to a very high standard.

The Corps Band's first Director of Music was Captain Denis Plater who had transferred from the Royal Tank Regiment. Its establishment had initially been set at one Band Sergeant, two Corporals, three Lance Corporals and thirty-four Musicians and as the musical standards began to improve, the Band soon started to undertake engagements across the whole of the British Isles.

Today, the Band's expertise is seen and heard all over the world and it enjoys an outstanding reputation for musical excellence. In past years the Band has toured extensively in the USA, Canada, Germany, Bosnia, Italy, Cyprus, Uzbekistan, Guatemala, Mexico and throughout the whole of the United Kingdom.

The Band possesses a diverse range of musical ensembles all of which are in frequent demand. These include a Concert Band, Marching Band, Big Band, Dance Band, Pop Group, Chamber Groups, Fanfare Trumpets and a Disco.

The repertoire includes the following:- Entry of the Gladiators, Festivo, 42nd Street, English Country Garden, Gabriel's Oboe, Big Bands in Concert, The Jungle Book, Sentimental, The Best of the Seekers, Old Scottish Melody (Auld Lang Syne), Largo al Factotum, Trumpet Blues and Cantabile, The Greatest Love of All, The Lady is a Tramp, Arte et Marte, O Still Small Voice, Corps March and lastly, the National Anthem.

Playing Time approximately 69 minutes 12 seconds (*which is pretty exact really!*)

Music Review



The Band of The Royal Logistic Corps is based near Camberley, Surrey. It is one of the 22 bands of the Corps of Army Music and they supply the musical support to the Royal Logistic Corps, the largest Corps in the Army, throughout the UK and overseas. The band is available for all kinds of military, private and corporate events in the UK or Worldwide.

It can offer many different forms of musical ensemble including Fanfare Team, Rock Band, Concert Band, Cabaret Band and Full Marching Band.

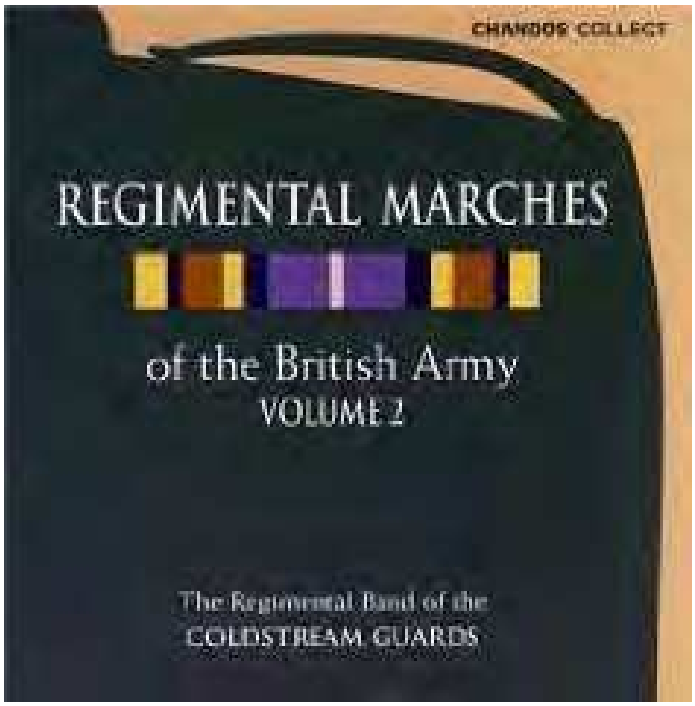
Nothing can match the splendour of a military band in uniform and its professionalism is second to none. Using a military band lends a degree of pomp and ceremony to an event – *especially when you are at home writing a Newsletter for the Ex-Boys' Assocation!!*

The Royal Logistic Corps makes up over 16% of the Army and whether the army is deployed on active duty or not you can guarantee that Soldiers and Officers of the Royal Logistic Corps, will be close by supplying, moving and coordinating supplies to keep the modern Army running smoothly listening to their band with pride!!!

The RLC Band supplies musical support to the largest Corps in the Army, in the UK, Europe and beyond. The band has a varied musical life to fulfil its time and to this end supplies many different types of ensemble and music from classical strings to rock music. This makes the opportunities for band members to pursue far more than just military music.



Music Review





Just like Vol. 1, which was featured in the last Newsletter, Summer 2009, Issue 11, this is a brilliant collection of top class marches for the military band enthusiast.

Although not the best of album covers it does do what it says on the cover and all excellently played by the Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards.

The quality of recording is good and the tunes are easy to listen. A great album, with some rousing music! Reminds me of Wellington Barracks at about 11:00 Hrs!

With 57 pieces of music to choose from and with at 116 beats per minute, you'll be '*footdrilling*' your way around the house in no time!!

Get your Ammo Drill Boots on and start playing this album at full volume. You will not regret buying this great Compact Disc – your next door neighbours might though!

Military Humour





Did you hear the one about the Italian solider who was medically discharged from the Army as a result of his withering hands? Apparently his arms were in the air too long!

Junior Leader Reports!!

Couldn't organise 50% leave in a 2 man Room

This Junior Soldier hasn't got enough grey matter to sole the flip-flop of a one legged budgie.

Gates are down, the lights are flashing but the train isn't coming.



Has two brains; one is lost and the other is out looking for it.

If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.

Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't watching.

It's hard to believe that this Apprentice Soldier beat 1,000,000 other sperm.

Got a full 6-pack but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together.

A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on.

He has been working with glue too long.

Some Junior Leaders drink from the fountain of knowledge; he only gargled.

Was left on the Wurlitzer a bit too long as a baby.

Wheel is turning but the hamster is long dead.

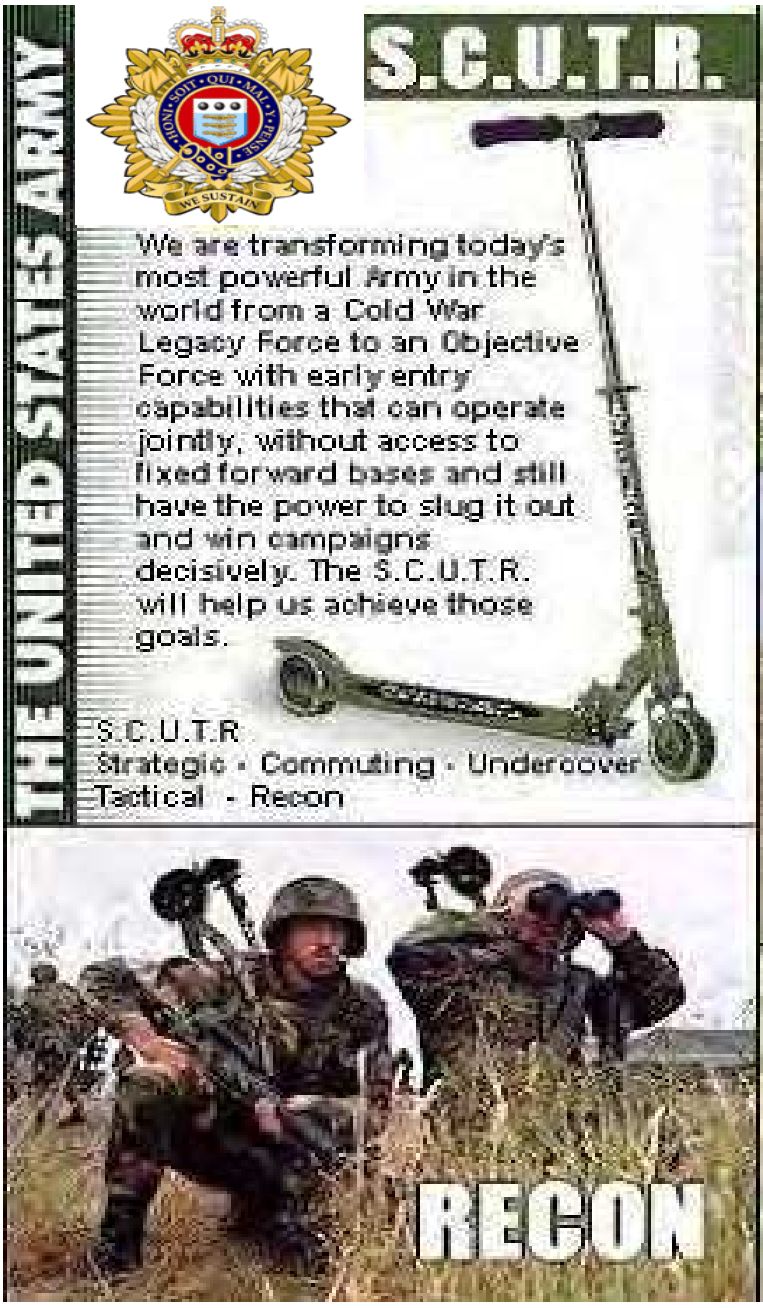
He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.



This Apprentice reminds me very much of a gyroscope…… always spinning around at a frantic pace but not really going anywhere!

"Government Defence Spending Cuts"

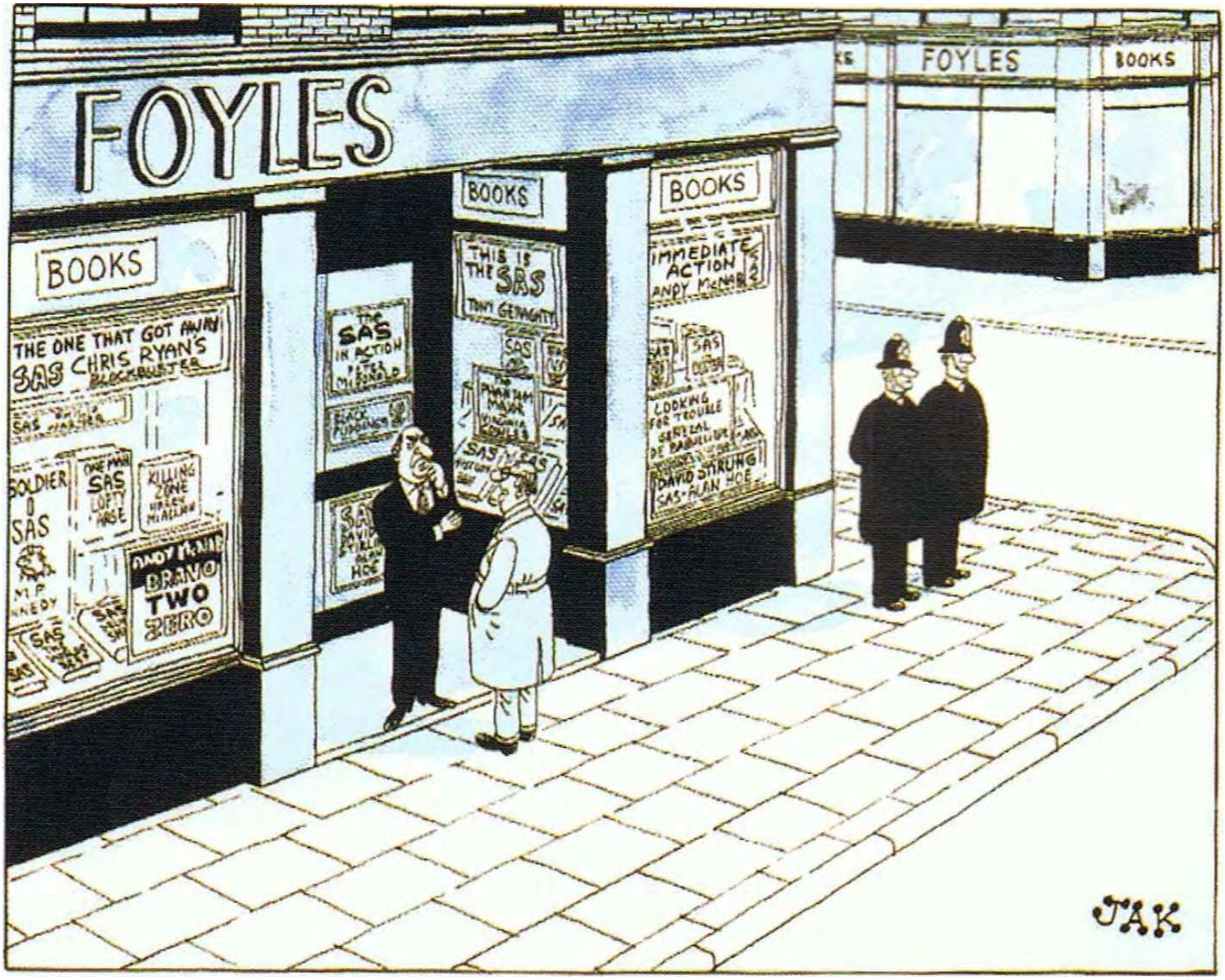



THE UNITED STATES ARMY
S.C.U.T.R.
We are transforming today's most powerful Army in the world from a Cold War Legacy Force to an Objective Force with early entry capabilities that can operate jointly, without access to fixed forward bases and still have the power to slug it out and win campaigns decisively. The S.C.U.T.R. will help us achieve those goals.
S.C.U.T.R
Strategic - Commuting - Undercover
Tactical - Recon
RECON


PATROL
DEPLOYMENT
FOLDS INTO LIGHTWEIGHT FIELD PACK!


YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG





"I say old chap, have you got anything that's not about the SAS? Perhaps a book on the RAOC or REME?"

With gracious thanks (*to the late*) Raymond Jackson otherwise better know as JAK

Raymond Jackson, (pen name JAK) of the London Evening Standard, was one of Britain's best-known newspaper cartoonists. "JAK" was born Raymond Allen Jackson on 11 March 1927 in Marylebone, London. He trained as a commercial artist at Willesden School of Art after a period in the Army Education Corps where he taught painting "in the style of Jackson Pollock". After working for an advertising agency and various magazines including Punch and Lilliput, he joined the Evening Standard in 1952. Starting as a general artist and illustrator on the television page, he eventually in 1965 succeeded "Vicky" as the Standard's Political Cartoonist.

"JAK" was a skilled draughtsman who created detailed scenes populated by a variety of sharply observed characters, drawn in ink on 17" x 21 1/2" abraded board using a mapping pen and a brush. His figures were distinguished by having three fingers on their hands and he signed his name, in capitals with characteristic "blob" serifs, in the bottom right or left corner. Many of his cartoons were republished in a series of Christmas annuals. His framed drawings were collected by many of the subjects who appeared in them. Some of his cartoons are in public archives including the Victoria & Albert Museum. The Queen's Elm pub in Chelsea was once decorated throughout with his cartoons.

He was a founder member of the British Cartoonists' Association in 1965 and admired by fellow cartoonists. As well as the Evening Standard, he also drew for the Mail on Sunday, the Daily Express and the Sunday Express and the SAS Assocation.

He died in Wimbledon, South-West London, on 27th July 1997.

Why soldiers should be over 42 and not 18 years Old

Kindly sent in by

Martin Fox (Alamein Platoon – 1981-1982)

I am over 42 and the Armed Forces thinks I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 42 to join the military..

They've got the whole thing ass-backwards. Instead of sending 18-year olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join a military unit until you're at least 35. For starters: Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.



Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. 'My back hurts! I can't sleep, I'm tired and hungry' We are impatient and maybe letting us kill some Terrorist that desperately deserves it will make us feel better and shut us up for a while. An 18-year-old doesn't even like to get up before 10 a.m. Old guys always get up early to pee. Besides, like I said, 'I'm tired and can't sleep and since I'm already up, I may as well be up killing some fanatical person.

If captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank and serial number would be a real stretch. Boot Camp would be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house, away from the screaming and yelling.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any push-ups after completing Basic Training. Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy, too. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet!

An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to start up a conversation with a pretty girl. He still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his head. These are all great reasons to keep our kids at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off into harm's way.

And finally, let us old guys track down those dirty rotten coward terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple of million mad old farts with attitudes and automatic weapons who know that their best years are already behind them.

End

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 are some examples already posted on the website, please take a look on the website: -

In Boys' Service | **In the Army** | **In Retirement**







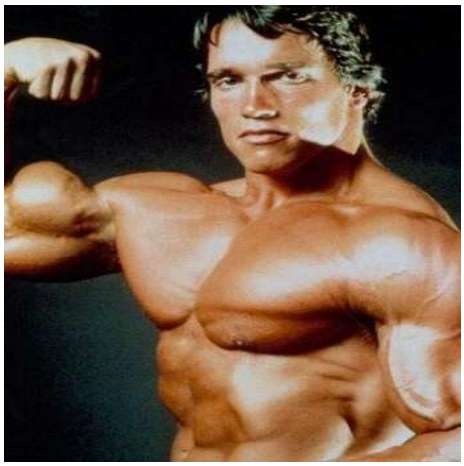







From top to bottom – Clive GEORGE, Bill CHAMBERLAIN and Dave BROWN

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

In Boys' Service	In the Army	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.

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 next Reunion Dinners!





RAOC ENLISTED BOYS' & BOYS' SCHOOL RAOC

JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION RAOC & REME

RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT RAOC & RCT

Vacancy One

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.

Bill has decided that at the end of 2009, at the very latest, he will relinquish this voluntary work. Having carried out this role out for over 5 years - undertaking searches, assisting in maintaining the Roll and contacting ex-Boys by whatever means possible and also trying to help ex Boys find Lost Pals, he feels it is time to take a break.

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 all 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

Vacancy Two

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

RAOC ENLISTED BOYS' & BOYS' SCHOOL RAOC

JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION RAOC & REME

RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT RAOC & RCT









The Last Post and Obituaries

It is with deep regret that we have been notified of the passing of the following Ex Boys since our last publication. Our thoughts and condolences are with the families at the time of passing and at the time of this announcement.

Their names have been added to the Ex Boys' Association Roll of Honour.



Howard BURGIN – (RAOC) – 1975

William C.C PEARSON – (RAOC) – 26th May 1979

David LADLEY – (RAOC) – 11th August 1979

Ian ARCHIBALD – (RAOC) - 15th February 1983

Brian Philip VANN – (RAOC) – 21st May 1985

George W. DOWN – (RAOC) – 20th September 1992

Robert *"Bob"* IZZARD – (RAOC) – July 2005

John WALKER - RAOC – 9thAugust 2009

Douglas MANN – (RAOC) – 27th September 2009



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

Members may be interested to know of a website by the name of lastingtribute.co.uk. Lasting Tribute invites you to celebrate the lives of family, friends and people in the public eye who are no longer with us.

Recognised as the trusted guardians of one of the largest and fastest growing online archives of tributes in the UK, with more than one million searchable records and over 3,500 new ones being added every week; this company provides an online tribute and memorial website where you can create your own online tributes to celebrate the lives of those no longer with us. There are many references to our Armed Forces and a recent entry is David Bowhay, late RAOC, who sadly recently passed away in 2009.

lasting tribute.co.uk
Celebrating life together



Ex-RAOC Apprentice in Aden Platoon - Sept. 1983 to Dec. 1984

"I would just like him to be remembered for being one of the finest men I had the privilege to serve with, and the honour to call friend. Rest in peace mate, gone but never forgotten! Deepest sympathies to your Wife Janet & family"

Wayne Cribbin
Ex RAOC Apprentice 1983-84

"John was a good friend, a leather easy chair in memory of John sits in the foyer of the Sgts' Mess in Gutersloh, his final post in the Army was SNCO SS 6 Sup Regt. I still have the notes he sent to me in NI having taken over a similar job.
A real gentleman who is still thought of fondly by all who knew him"

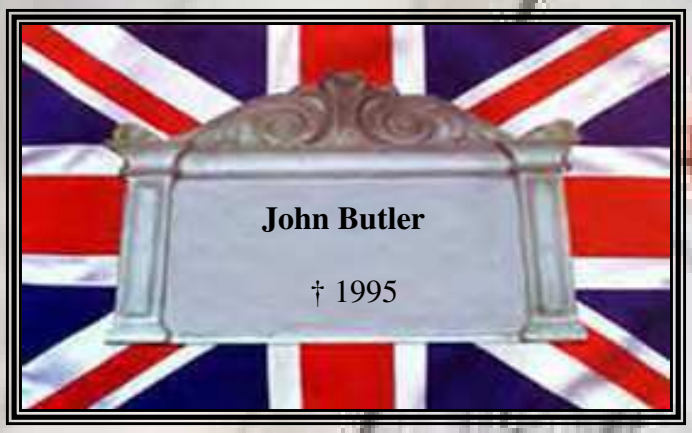
Regards
Gary "Gaz" Covell

"I remember him as a little guy with a massive spirit.
A good Full Back in Rugby because once he tackled you he would not let go. I would imagine he lived his life the same"

Bob Elliott
Ex Aden Platoon - Apprentice College

"I was in the same Platoon at the Apprentices College, he was a nice lad, quiet, got on with thing and enjoyed a laugh"

Geoff Treasure
Ex Aden Platoon - Apprentice College



RAOC Junior Leader approx 1961

"I served with John at CVD Marchington , El Adem Libya and 17 RVD Germany. He was a special kind of bloke and it was a privilege to not only have served with him but to have counted him a mate. We were particularly good mates in Libya as we were the only two in our department, MT maintenance. I have raised my glass to him and I send my deepest sympathy to his family. God bless to you all"

Regards Patrick *"Lucky"* Luck



Ex J/Sgt at the RAOC Junior Leader Battalion 1962-64

"Sorry to hear the news of my ex J/SGT of GORDON HOUSE. I trained Mick to be the best J/Sgt of the house during his time he spent with me. He was always a happy lad and was eager to help all the lads in the house. Mick was Battalion basketball player and was trained by Bill Disbury, he also boxed for the house"

Tom Richardson

"I had the honour of being his best mate, during our service career and after in civvy street. Mick (a proud Yorkshire man) settled down in Long Eaton, Notts, with his wife Margaret. Our families spent many good times together prior to his unfortunate accident.
I am still in contact with Margaret and his daughter Beverley. Mick and I were both heavily involved with Long Eaton Rugby Club, where he remains with great affection"

Des Chapman



Ex RAOC Apprentice Berlin Platoon 1983 - 1984

Served with Paul on numerous occasions, a real nice guy and a good friend. He is often remembered with fondness. Only the other day I was chewing the fat with a young Sgt when Paul's name was mentioned. The fact this soldier had been trained by Paul and still held him in high regard is testimony to Paul's high standards.

Gary Covel



Neil and I met in 8 Fd Wksp, Colchester in 1990. *We were both on our first commissioned post, I as Stores Pl Comd of the RAOC Stores Section, he the Admin Officer of the unit. He was a hard working man who had time for everyone. Ever willing to help anyone, he was a very popular man with soldiers and officers alike.*

We both came to Cyprus on Ex Lion Sun 90 and having been posted to Cyprus before he showed me round the local area on our time off. Having enjoyed Cyprus so much on exercise and thanks to Neil for showing me round, my wife Liz and I now live here in retirement. We were shocked to hear of his passing at such a young age especially knowing that Neil was a fit man.
Our deepest condolences belatedly go to his family.

Dave McCarthy

I knew Neil (Sammy) at Brat school and he took over the mantle of Cross Country champion, a really nice guy. Why do the good die young!?

Nigel Hancock



Ex Boy Soldier

George finished his service in October 1983 completing 23 years service finishing as a Warrant Officer Class One

Served in Germany, South Arabia, Singapore, Northern Ireland & UK

George received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (LS & GC), and clasps for South Arabia and Northern Ireland





Ex RAOC Junior Leader 1972 – August 1974

Died on 11th August 1979 as a result of an RTC whilst based at COD Chilwell

(Gazette Entry 197910-140)

Excerpt from the RAOC Corps Gazette
Thanks to Bill Chamberlain

PRIVATE DAVID LADLEY

MAJOR D. M. BRAITHWAITE writes:—

The news of Private David Ladley's death as a result of a car accident came as a great shock to everybody who knew and worked with him.

An Ex-Junior Entrant young Ladley joined Regimental Wing COD Chilwell in May this year on posting from Training Battalion and Depot. He was a quiet young man who settled down quickly and soon became a useful member of the 'Orderly Room Team.'

An athlete of some potential at middle and long distance he, although only with us a short time, represented the Unit at the Travers Clarke Competition.

For his wife and young son there can be no recompense but some consolation in the high regard in which he was held by his colleagues. To them we offer our deepest sympathy.



Ex Boy Soldier

January 1946 – November 1947

Douglas Mann became a Chelsea Pensioner in April 2005 and passed away on

27th September 2009 at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SR

During his career with the RAOC he was a highly rated boxer.



Douglas Mann (Chelsea Pensioner) standing far right of picture

Honours and Awards

Members of the Ex-Boys' Association may be interested to know that Her Majesty The Queen has recently given her name to a new form of recognition for the families of British Service personnel killed while serving their country.





The new Elizabeth Cross and miniature are to be awarded to the relatives of Her Majesty's Forces personnel killed on active service, together with a Memorial Scroll signed by Her Majesty The Queen.

The Elizabeth Cross will be granted to the next of kin of Armed Forces personnel killed on operations or as a result of terrorism in a mark of national recognition for their loss.

This is the first time the name of a reigning monarch has been given to a new award since the George Cross was instituted in 1940 by King George VI for acts of bravery by both civilians and the military. Prior to this, the Victoria Cross was introduced by Queen Victoria in 1856 for acts of gallantry by the Armed Forces.

Next of kin will receive the Elizabeth Cross - a sterling silver emblem in the shape of a cross over a wreath - plus a Memorial Scroll signed by The Queen, which will bear the name of the person who died.

The Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll will not just be granted to families who have lost loved ones in the recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; The Queen's recognition will also be available to the families of those who died in conflicts dating back to 1948, including the Korean War, the Falklands conflict and operations in Northern Ireland.

The Elizabeth Cross

In a message to Her Armed Forces, Her Majesty The Queen said:

"This seems to me a right and proper way of showing our enduring debt to those who are killed while actively protecting what is most dear to us all. The solemn dignity which we attach to the names of those who have fallen is deeply engrained in our national character. As a people, we accord this ultimate sacrifice the highest honour and respect"

Chief of the Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, said:

"I hope that the families of those who have given their lives will wear the Elizabeth Cross with pride and pass it on to future generations so that they too might know the price that has been paid for their freedom and way of life."

Defence Secretary Bob Ainsworth said:

"We owe so much to those who have died to protect our country and our way of life. The Elizabeth Cross was recommended by the military chiefs to Her Majesty to recognise the huge debt this country owes to the families those brave individuals have been left behind."

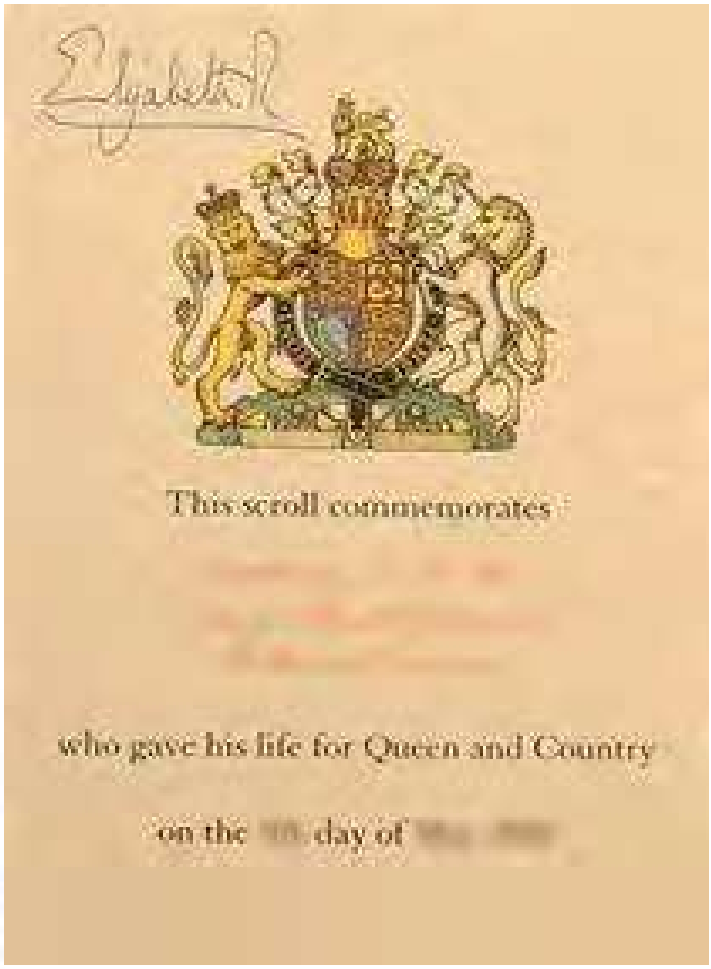


Below is an example of the Memorial Scroll signed by Her Majesty The Queen that is to be awarded to the relatives of Her Majesty's Forces personnel killed on active service, together with the new Elizabeth Cross

The arms of the Elizabeth Cross bear floral symbols representing England (Rose), Scotland (Thistle), Ireland (Shamrock) and Wales (Daffodil). The reverse of the cross will be engraved with the name of the person in whose memory it is granted.

The scroll is on parchment-style paper, headed with the Royal Coat of Arms and the following words: 'This Scroll Commemorates... who gave his/her life for Queen and Country on...'. The scroll will bear the signature of Her Majesty The Queen in the upper left-hand corner.

The Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll have been inspired by precedents from the First and Second World Wars. A scroll and memorial plaque were presented to the families of those killed in World War One. A scroll was given to the families of those who died in World War Two and in the Korean War in the early 1950s.



In June 2008 the MOD announced plans to introduce a new national form of recognition for those Armed Forces personnel who die on operations or as a result of terrorist activity whilst on duty. These plans were based on the recommendations of the military Chiefs of Staff and the final details have been recently been confirmed.

Families of those Service personnel who have died since 1948 are invited to read the information on the MOD Medal Office website which includes information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply. Information and an application form can also be obtained by calling 0800 085 3600.











"I greatly hope that the Elizabeth Cross will give further meaning to the nation's debt of gratitude to the families and loved ones of those who have died in the service of our country. We will remember them all."

Her Majesty The Queen



Remembrance Day Parade 2009 - London

This is an article kindly sent in by ex-boy Richard Bond and it describes his Rememberance Day Parade of 2009.

“Men and women of all ages wearing a variety of headgear from berets, Glengarrys and Gurkha Hats and most festooned with medals from campaigns from all over the world. We presented our tickets to smiling and polite Customs Officers in uniform and then stepped on the hallowed gravel of Horse Guards making our way across the square to find Colonel Browning who was standing rather self consciously holding his plastic covered card bearing our marker number B12. He, unlike us, was sporting the obligatory Bowler Hat and proved to be a charming and welcoming "contingent coordinator".

There were only six of us but for some time we were worried that the two members from Birmingham were not going to arrive but with time to spare they did arrive. Our contingent represented the Birmingham Branch, the Vehicle Specialist Branch and of course the largest Branch of all, RAOConLIne. We formed up and found ourselves between the REME Apprentices Association and the Home Guard Association who were dressed for the period with one rather elegant gentleman looking oddly like Cpl. Jones form Dad's Army.

I suppose we were all feeling a little self conscious about marching and I for one donning a beret with RAOC badge for the first time in many many years. But once we had stepped off and shuffled rather than marched in to Whitehall under the arch of Horse Guards I for one started to feel a little more comfortable.

There were some odd dress codes about despite requests from the Royal British Legion to "dress appropriately" with two of the REME contingent in jeans and coats draped over their shoulders and one ex member of the Army Air Corps in Anorak and Beret with the longest beard and pony tail on parade! We then stood for some half an hour waiting for the ceremony to start which did so but caught us by surprise due to the fact that whilst we were not far from the Cenotaph (actually directly in front of the Horse Boxes) we could not hear or see anything. We did however have a piped com entry coming from a speaker close by and a very large TV screen just ahead (I could have stayed at home for this I thought during one freezing moment).

The Artillery round fired to commence the 2 minutes silence was deafening and not as it seems when broadcast on TV and many old veterans jumped out of their skin. One poor fellow was taken ill just prior to this and had to be taken away by paramedics. So the Service started and we all sang our hearts out and then the moment I think we had all been waiting for the March Past and Salute, first at the Cenotaph and then again at the rear of Horse Guards. The commands were given and we stepped off at 100 paces to the minute but keeping the step was a nightmare as we had no one to call the step, the Home Guard contingent coordinator was calling the step but very badly and without rhythm and sin of all sins, "left left left right left" No no no we thought....!! Left Right Left Right" - but then we clicked, just short of the Cenotaph we picked up the beat of the drum from the Massed Bands and as we slipped into rhythmic step chins up, shoulders back and past we went taking our lead from the REME group we had fallen in with (our single rank of 6) - past the Cenotaph amid cheers and applause that came so unexpectedly I nearly stumbled. I felt somewhat a fraud at this point and not in any way deserving of such a welcome but soon realised that really the cheering and applause is really about those soldier who are in Afghanistan and Iraq now and who are the Veterans of the future. It was also odd so see rows of Police Officers standing and applauding with the crowd, I held my head high with my sholders back and marched as if Sergeant Major Fellowes was watching my every step!

An so it was, down Whitehall into Parliament Square and then right in the Horse Guards for the columns to march past the saluting dias. The pace had picked up now and we had remembered how to "step short" again and how to eyes right with a flourish and look the saluting officer in the eye... in this case it was the grey, sour faced Will Hutton Secretary of Defence and the "mystery" Royal who turned out to be The Earl of Wessex (Prince Edward) in the the uniform of Royal Honorary Colonel of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry - What surprised me was his complexion as we passed him.. It was oddly flawless and without a single blemish or wrinkle and the colour somewhat of a pale tan... very odd indeed.

I have lasting memories of general friendly banter, of old soldiers resplendent in row and upon row of medals which in some cases were theirs and the fathers medals. Of the many foreign veterans from all races and corners of the world, the Gurkha contingent with their officers looking so dashing in their hats and of the small children wearing the medals of the dead hero fathers from these current wars all marching with pride in their smart little blazers.

Once we have reassembled back on Horse Guards we started to make our farewells and reflect on what had been a wonderfully fulfilling if tiring morning most of which was spent standing about waiting. We all were firm in our desire to do it all again! Bernie and went for a drink in a pub off Parliament Square which was full of smartly dressed impossibly young naval officers, Parachute Regiment veterans and many younger members of the Parachute Regiment also. Even as we stood outside the pub foreign tourists stopped and asked many of these medal festooned veterans to pose for photographs and seeing a 76 year old former para being photographed in front of a 25 year old serving para sporting so many medals too was a sobering thought.

Bernie and I had a wonderful time and made an online friendship a real one while we shared this morning and excellent day honouring our dead of so many wars. We have to do this again but we need a very big increase in numbers to make a real impact on the size of the contingent we send next year. I am sincerely glad I made the effort to go and it was wonderful to meet Bernie and the other blokes - I wore my beret in regulation style!!”

Article courtesy of Richard Bond



Remembrance

Members of the Ex-Boys' Association on Parade at various Remembrance Day Parades up and down the country….



This photo of two of our proud members on the Tewkesbury Rememberance Day Parade

Malcolm Broadbent and Dave Smith

November 8th 2009 Photograph by Ernie Huck



Adrian Hayward-Wills (Standard Bearer) Royal British Legion

Parade Marshall:- Mr.Duncan Wallace (ex WO1) - (REME) Aston and Weston Branch

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Founder and Chairman

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Bill Chamberlain

Lost Pals:

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

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Next Newsletter Issue 13 Summer 2010

Membership Update

RCT Blazer Badges

Music Reviews

RAOC and REME Flags

Bugles

RAOC BOYS' SCHOOL
RAOC & REME BOYS' SCHOOL
RAOC & REME JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION
RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE
JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT RAOC & RCT

EX BOYS' ASSOCIATION

"Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

From all on the Committee



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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!!!!

Adrian Hayward-Wills