ARMY

RAOC ENLISTED BOYS' & BOYS' SCHOOL RAOC

JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION RAOC & REME

RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT RAOC & RCT

NEWSLETTER

XV

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- Collecting Beermats, The military career of Brigadier E.V Ranson RAOC, Army Wall Shields
- RAOC, REME and RCT Sweetheart brooches, Junior Leader Conkers! Indian Club Swinging
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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 (HW) Hayward-Wills, to the Fifteenth Ex-Boys' Association and Summer Edition Newsletter for 2011.

We hope that this Fifteenth Edition (Summer) Newsletter finds you well and refreshed after the long Winter Break and Royal Wedding!

As our regular readers will 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 Summer 2011 Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter, provides a further format to reach its members in addition to our extensive and ever expanding website.

In this particular edition, there is a short piece - *lifted from the RAOC Gazette* - about the military career of Brigadier E V Ranson, from Boy Soldier to Brigadier, an interesting read with examples of the Corps Gazette he may have read! An update from the National Defence Medal Association. Furthermore, there is an interesting article on Junior Leader Indian Club Swinging and collecting Army Wall Shields!

The Winter Newsletter 2010 was received with one rave review! Below is the kind comment the Committee and I received: -

"An excellent piece of work that must have taken quite some time to put together…" **IL**

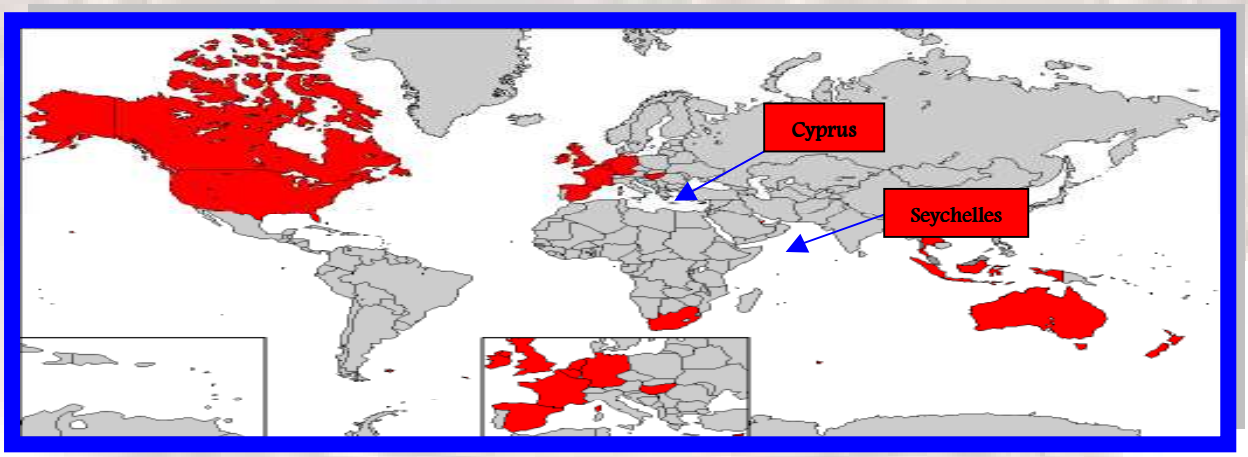
The RAOC, REME and RCT Ex-Boys' Association website and accompanying Newsletters are excellent platforms for members to stay in touch with each other. An awful lot of work – *all voluntary* – goes into these two portals for the Association. Feedback in any environment is essential for growth and prosperity; on behalf of all Committee Members of the Association please make use of these excellent facilities.

The website – *updated almost on a daily basis* – and newsletter, is without doubt one of the best websites and newsletters currently available to the ex-forces community. Please take a few moments of your time to visit the Website and the Newsletter – it would be very much appreciated by ALL on the Committee.

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

Membership

Our Founder and Chairman Mr. Paul Jones is pleased to report that membership has grown continually and in the month of August – *our third Bi-Annual Reunion Dinner of 2010* – we were delighted to announce we had reached our **552nd** Member! Moreover, we are thrilled to be reaching our 600th Member soon!



We are or course, as an Association, delighted to announce that membership continues to grow on a worldwide basis, as can be observed on the above map – we have members as far and wide as Seychelles and a Committee Member in Cyprus 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.

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. Bill Chamberlain either conducts this by a direct mail process or via a telephone call.



There are several younger members of the RAOC, REME and RCT Ex-Boys' Association whom will recognise the above logo, taken from an early edition of the RAOC Gazette – 1930's! – this logo will now form part of the Newsletter that will introduce and encompass the regular important notices of the Newsletter. This particular section is for those new members whom have recently joined the Ex-Boys' Association.

For example, the Association Forum; Membership Numbers; New Members; Reunion Notices; information pertaining to the various Associations of the RAOC, REME and RCT; The Thunderbolt Magazine and perhaps finally, items for sale within the Association Shop.



In its simplest form, "*Station Topics – At Home*" will form the regular "Standing Orders" of the Association Newsletter; editorial after this section will include information not seen before within the Newsletter, for example articles on Junior Leaders Boxing or Football. I will regularly include this page and above screen capture, for the benefit of our newest members of the Association, some of whom perhaps may have not seen previous Newsletters.

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!

George Tether has kindly included the possibility of linking members of the Ex-Boys' Association to their own web sites from the "Members" list. In computing, a hyperlink (or link) is a reference to a document that the reader can directly follow. For example, on the Members List and on the Personal Profile, a link will be visible at the bottom of the Profile enabling Members to visit another Website.

You can have up to two private link-addresses shown on your introductory-profile (the one on the "members" page, that all visitors can see). Please e-mail George directly with your link (s), should you wish it/them to be published. An example is sited below:-

Name	**Lawrence (Frank) TIDSWELL**
Regimental number (1st.4) & Corps	2391 .... RAOC
Enlisted	10.1962
3C9bWbcl	Watts ..... B
Passed out with rank	12.1963 .... J/Pte
Discharged with rank	12.1963 ....
Occupation now	Hotel owner
862	898
For Members	*» 'Members' click here to see Frank's Forum-Profile*
	» has no personal photo album
Non-members <click here> for access to the "Contact-Form" if you want to contact this member.	
Members personal web-link(s)	www.sunburstinn.com
	www.gulfbeachvacationcondos.com

Membership Numbers





Date	Membership Numbers	Membership History of the Ex Boys' Association
Apr-10	530	St. George kindly brought us to 530 Members
May-10	538	The General Election for a new Parliament brought Membership to 538
June-10	544	Hot Sunny Weather gave us 544
July-10	552	Summer Holidays took us to 552 Members
Aug-10	561	Our Ex-Boys' Association Dinner brought Membership to 561 – Cheers!!!
Sep-10	567	The Cricket Betting Scandal took us to 567 Member, How's Zat!
Oct-10	571	Hallowe'en brought Membership to 571 Members – Scary!!
Nov-10	570	Due to a bereavement of Assoc. Member, Membership level now at 570
Dec-10	576	The crisp white snow and Santa Claus brought us to 576 Members
Jan-11	580	New Year sales brought us a healthy 580
Feb-11	583	The February cold snap took us to 583!
Mar-11	586	The March Hare saw Membership to 586
Apr-11	592	The Royal Wedding brought Membership to 592
May-11	596	The winds and rain of May brought Association Membership to 596

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

EX BOYS' ASSOCIATION

New Members

540 **22/06/2010 Simon Mark ENGLAND - Bruneval 1976-78**

541 **22/06/2010 David Frederick VINCE - Baker 1958-60**

542 **25/06/2010 William John STOKER - Gordon 1961-63**

543 **27/06/2010 John Alexander McDOUGALL - Arnhem 1982-83**

544 **29/06/2010 Bruce SPENSER - Gordon 1968-71**

545 **05/07/2010 James Anthony DOHERTY (REME) - Gordon 1957-58**

546 **06/07/2010 James McCRUM - 1950-51**

547 **13/07/2010 Michael Eric TUCK (now DALY) - Mulcahy 1967-69**

548 **14/07/2010 Alexander Hastings CAMPBELL (REME) - Alamein 1979-80**

549 **16/07/2010 James Frederick ALBON - Hill 1962-65**

550 24/07/2010 James Joseph BRADY - Baker 1963-65

551 **27/07/2010 Clayton Francis PRATT - 1965-68**

552 **28/07/2010 Steven Robert SMITH - Arnhem 1984-85**

553 **19/08/2010 Robert HAYES (REME) - Steevens 1971-73**

554 **19/08/2010 Anthony Leonard KNOTT - Aden 1979-80**

555 **19/08/2010 Kenneth Roderick STENT (REME) - Body 1956-58**

556 **19/08/2010 Stephen Carl BROWN - Mulchay 1969-71**

557 **21/08/2010 Simon GRIMSHAW - Alamein 1984-85**

558 **24/08/2010 Roy Anthony DOUCH - Body 1963-65**

559 **24/08/2010 Francis Huey MURRAY - Body 1962-64**

560 **24/08/2010 Michael CARTWRIGHT - Body 1967-69**

561 **31/08/2010 John WAGSTAFF - Gordon 1963-64**

562 **01/09/2010 Ian Christopher MOLDEN (REME) - Hill 1969-71**

New Members

2010

563 **02/09/2010 David Edward Albert GUYATT - 1954-55**

564 **10/09/2010 Samuel CAMERON - Aden 1979-80**

565 **19/09/2010 Charles BUTCHER - Benghazi 1984-85**

566 **19/09/2010 Jonathan AYRES (REME) - Barossa 1976-77**

567 **23/09/2010 David SMITH (REME) - Rowcroft 1970-72**

568 **01/10/2010 Martin John ESSER - Body 1966-68**

569 **19/10/2010 Stephen Trevor HUGHES - Cutforth 1971-74**

570 **19/10/2010 Brian Edward JAMESON - Baker 1961-64**

571 **21/10/2010 Ian HATCHER - Watts 1964-64**

572 **09/12/2010 Christopher RIGBY - Brunival 1979-80**

573 **09/12/2010 Alan Edward ATKINSON - Body 1959-61**

574 **11/12/2010 Alan Ian WEBSTER (REME) - Aden 1977-78**

575 **16/12/2010 Duncan John CHILDS - Balaclava 1977-78**

576 **24/12/2010 Brian CROMBLEHOLME - Alamien 1980-81**

2011

577 **08/01/2011 Richard James ANKIN - Hill/ Body 1958-61**

578 **13/01/2011 John Andrew FAITHFUL - Gordon 1961-63**

579 **14/01/2011 Keith Eric WATTS (REME) - Arakan 1979-80**

580 **28/01/2011 John JACKSON - Hill 1962-65**

581 **10/02/2011 Glenn SINGLETON (REME) - Richards 1972-73**

582 **13/02/2011 Michael John JORY - Willams 1969-71**

New Members

583 **24/02/2011 Paul Leonard MARSON - Mulcahy 1972-74**

584 **07/03/2011 John Scott COLLINS - Mulcahy 1962-64**

585 **12/03/2011 Michael Edwin GARROD MBE - Mulcahy 1959-62**

586 **16/03/2011 David Michael CHISEM - Adjutant College HQ from 11/1976 to 08/1978**

587 **30/03/2011 Alan Emrys HOWKINS - Parsons/ Hill 1964-67**

586 **21/03/2011** ***Sadly, our member GORDON BROCKLEBANK passed away***

587 **07/04/2011 Mick PURKINS - Steevens 1971-72**

588 **07/04/2011 Paul Edward BEARD - Watts 1972-74**

589 **14/04/2011 Peter John Michael FIELD - O i/c Baker 1961-63**

590 **19/04/2011 William Andrew DAGLESS - Baker 1960-62**

591 **25/04/2011 Lee Jason WIGNALL - Bruneval 1979-80**

592 **26/04/2011 Brian Edward ASH - Baker 1965-67**

593 **04/05/2011 Ronald Francis RICHARDSON - Bodie 1954-56**

594 **17/05/2011 Michael Brian EDMONDSON - Haslar 1953-55**

595 **18/05/2011 Raymond TRUSSLER - Watts 1966-68**

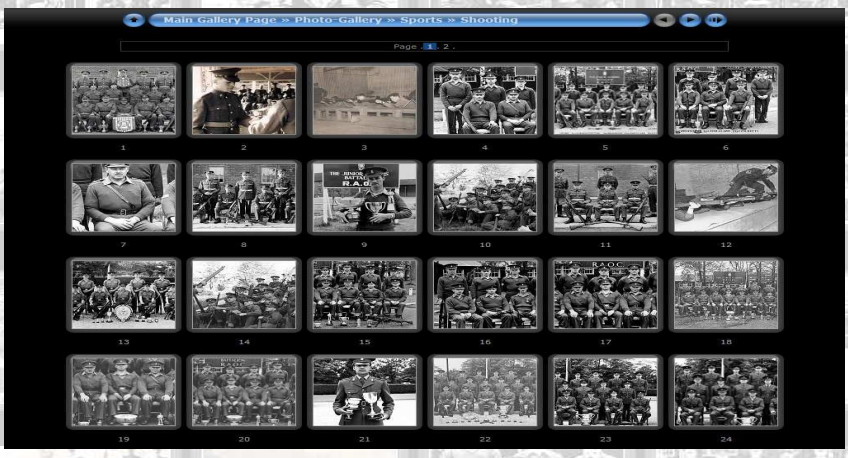
596 **24/05/2011 John William Edward FRYER - Mulcahy 1962-64**

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. When Members of the Ex-Boys' Association send photos etc to be scanned, would they be kind enough and place the correct postage on the envelope? As the receiving Post Office charges an extortionate amount in excess handling fees!!



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



Some recent donations/additions include photographs from the following members:-

Andy Wright – 1967/69 Album, Steven Smith – Other Sports Album, John Tonks – Corps of Drums Album,

Rodney Steed – 2010 Reunion, Keith Watts – Dettingen Barracks 2003/2004, Chris Gumbley 1964/1965 Album,

Keith Watts - 1979/1981 Album, Paul Thomson -1961/1963 Album, David Heelas - 1970/1972 Album,

Brian McKinnon - 1964/1966 Album, Simon Carrier – PoP (1982)

Photo Index of the Ex-Boys' Association

George Tether has been particularly busy (in fact, he's always busy for the Association!) with the photo indexing of **ALL** our photos that have been kindly donated to the RAOC, REME and RCT Ex-Boys' Association.

You will find this section when you click on to the Photo Gallery Section of the Home Page. Simply scroll down the page until you find the subject matter or years you are looking for and then click the line under the photo on the main-index page, thanks to George, it couldn't be simpler.

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



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; SSAFA, 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.

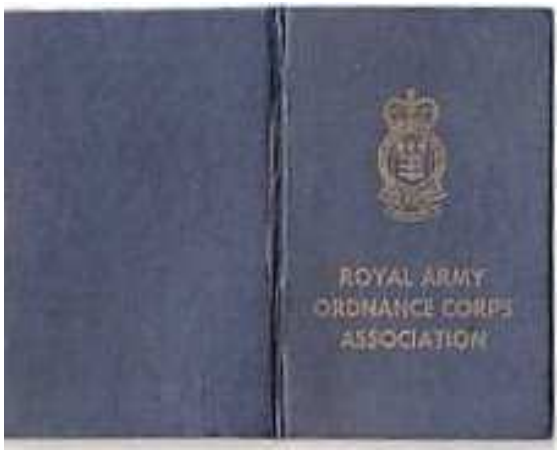
If you would like further information, please contact the RAOC Secretary at the following address:-

Dettingen House
The Princess Royal Barracks
Deepcut
Surrey
GU16 6RW

Telephone: 01252 – 83 33 76

Email: raocassociation@rhqtherlc.org.uk





Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

The aim of the REME Association are:-



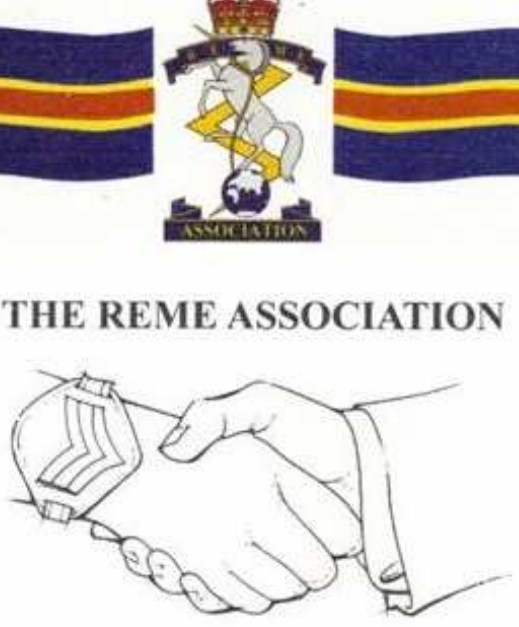
- To foster the esprit-de-corps and well being of the Corps.
- To keep those who have served in or with REME in touch with one another with a view to keeping alive a spirit of comradeship.
- To establish links between the serving and ex-Service members of the Corps with a view to helping the former during 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. Most branches meet monthly and details can be obtained from the REME Association Secretary. Life membership of the REME Association costs just £10.

THE REME ASSOCIATION



EXTENDS THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

To ALL Serving and Retired Members of the Corps

Join

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

Royal Army Service Corps & Royal Corps of Transport Association



SERVING
Ex-regimental members
and their families

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO.

President: Major General G.E.C Carrington CB, CBE Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel R.E Wills.

Controller: Lieutenant Colonel M.J.B Graham



For the past several hundred years, men and women have served in transportation regiments for land sea and air in British Army units; they have been imperative in the movement of vehicles, supplies and personnel and have often seen action on the front lines some have even been awarded medals for gallantry and valour.

Strong comradeship to regiments, squadrons and units have forged deep loyalties and bonds that often last for a lifetime. Ex-personnel and those who have worked closely with these regiments can retain their link by becoming members of The Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport Association.

The Association, as we know it today, was the result of the formation of The Royal Corps of Transport (RCT) in 1965 but the origins can be traced back over two hundred years to the first South African wars of the eighteenth century, when a memorial fund was set up to look after the interests of returning war veterans.

The first major development was in 1927 when Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) clubs and funds were amalgamated to form The Royal Army Service Corps Association. At that time there were Branches world-wide, from European Countries in the West, through Egypt in the Middle East to China in the Far East. Following the Second World War many new Branches were formed throughout The United Kingdom by men who wished to retain those bonds of comradeship forged in difficult times.

In 1939, there were 10,000 members of the regiment but by 1945 there were 135,000 and one soldier in ten was wearing an RASC cap badge, as such the association has been there to embrace and to aid a vast number of ex-personnel.

In 1965, the Corps was re-named The Royal Corps of Transport and the association assumed its present title. Membership then included some ex-members of The Royal Engineers whose trades had been transferred to the new Corps. The Association is for all former members of the regiment and for those who have had close links, members often participate in the meetings and activities of branches closest to them. Branches interact with each other on a regional and national basis through direct contact and through the association HQ



The Controller
RASC & RCT Association
Dettingten House
The Princess Royal Barracks
Deepcut
Camberley
Surrey GU16 6RW

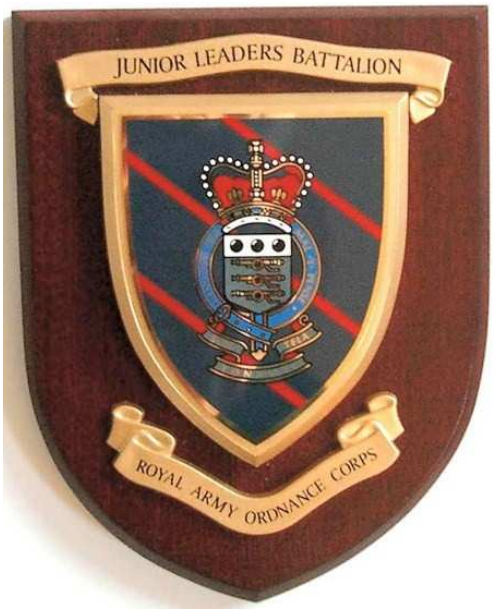
Tel: 01252 833391 Ext 5391 (Controller Secretary)
01252 833397 Ext 5397 (Accounts/Shop)
01252 833398 Ext 5398 (Benevolence)



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:-

E-mail Brian Wild using the Contacts Page on

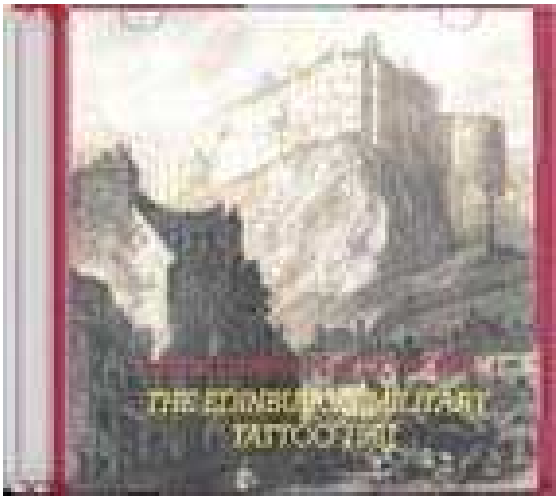
The Ex-Boys' Association Website



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 using the Contacts Page on the Website.





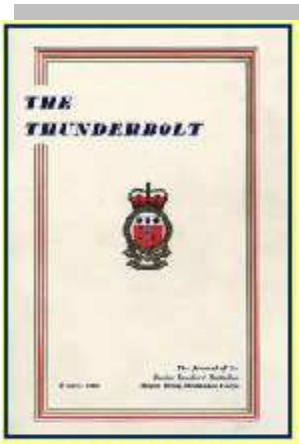


The Thunderbolt

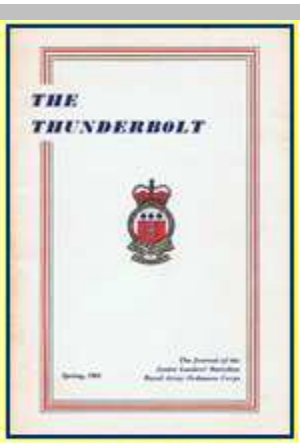
Members of the Association may be interested to know that we are now – *thanks to members of the Ex-Boys' Association* – in possession of a fine collection of College Magazines known as The Thunderbolt.

This Magazine is currently on-line and is free to Members wishing to download a copy for their records. The Thunderbolt Magazine provides a unique and personal insight into College life.

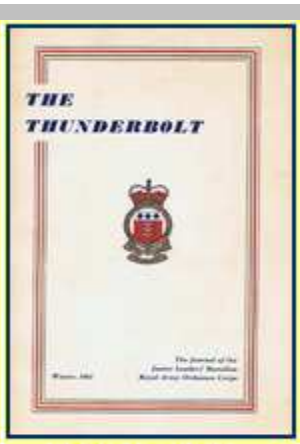
Below are examples currently on-line of the Thunderbolts we already have. Clearly the Association is keen to obtain a complete collection and would welcome further donations. Please contact Adrian Hayward-Wills or George Tether in the first instance via the Contacts Page.



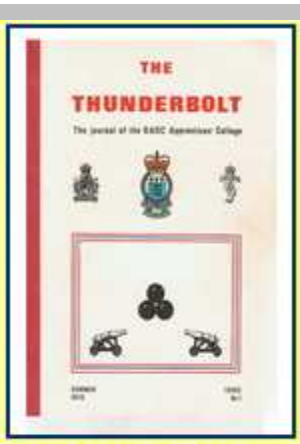
Winter 1960



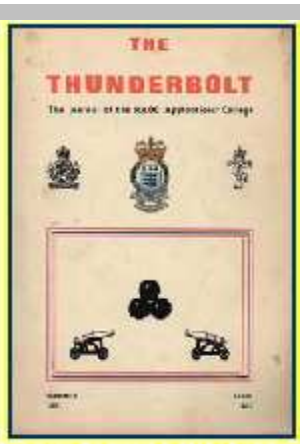
Spring 1961



Winter 1961



Summer 1970



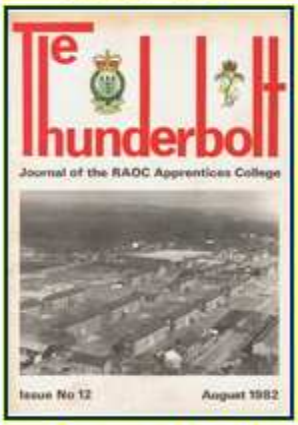
Summer 1971



Summer 1974



Spring 1981



Summer 1982



Summer 1983



1984

1902 **The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette** 1992

The Journal of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Ordnance Services, and the Official Organ of the RAOC Association

The requirement for a Corps journal - ***The RAOC Gazette*** - was first mooted at Woolwich in the 1880s and begun in 1896 with hectographs. A Hectograph is a printing process which involves transfer of an original, prepared with special inks, to a pan of gelatin or a gelatin pad pulled tight on a metal frame. After transfer of the image to the inked gelatin surface, copies are made by pressing paper against it. Hectography, requiring limited technology and leaving few traces behind, has been deemed useful both in low-technology environments and in clandestine circumstances where discretion was necessary.

In the earlier 20th Century, the process lent itself to small runs of school classroom test papers, church newsletters and science fiction fanzines. Prisoners-of-war at Stalag Luft III (the scene of The Great Escape) and at Colditz Castle during World War II, used an improvised hectograph to reproduce documents for a planned escape attempt. Well I didn't know that!

Anyway, these were created and sent to South Africa during the Boer War (1900-1901). The first Editor was Lt. Leon du Plergny, formerly a Conductor and known as the "Plug" by his clerks! The first printed edition was published in 1906 and continued uninterrupted until 1914. It was published post-war from 1920 until 1993 as a monthly magazine. The RAOC Gazette is still published every 6 months as a Membership Newsletter of the RAOC Association and as a sub-section of' The Sustainer, House journal of The Royal Logistic Corps. The latter is a quarterly magazine published as the Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer editions.

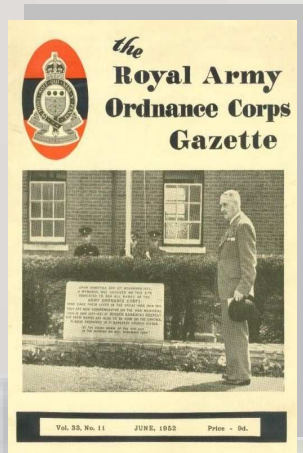
Ex-Boys' Association Committee members, Bill Chamberlain and George Tether, have been refreshing the Corps Gazette pages on the site with a new layout. This is now complete and has been an absolute labour of love and has taken Bill nearly four years of painstaking work to complete and they are the first original RAOC Gazette entries to be made available on the web; the benefits to historians and family tree researchers alike are immense.

Many front covers of the RAOC Gazette featured Boy Soldiers/Junior Leaders – below are some excellent examples. The extracts of the RAOC Corps Gazette found on the Ex-Boys' are scans taken from the originals; when an extract has been used to enhance an article in the Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter, then a reference to the Gazette will appropriately be made. Please see below wording for an example:-

RAOC Gazette Extracts have been collected by the Ex-Boys' Association and are produced with the kind permission of the RLC/RAOC Museum and the RAOC Association

These Corps Gazettes are a unique reference to the RAOC but in particular to life as a Boy Soldier. As in all other sections of this website and extensive Newsletter, we are totally dependent on material sent in by you, our fellow members. Comments on this new feature from Members, via the Forum or Newsletter, would be most welcome.

In conclusion, if you have ANY material that may help to complete the picture of life as a Boy Soldier, be it photos, Gazettes, memories, certificates, badges or any other item you think may be of use to the site, please do not hesitate to contact Bill, George or Adrian.









As always, eBay still impresses and produces objects of interest associated with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Below are some examples of recent finds on eBay in particular, this quite superb example of an Officer's KC Gilt and Enamel Collar Badge to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC), pre 1952. The badge has has two lugs in the east/west positions. (Size : 34mm H x 26mm W). Perhaps once worn by an Ex-Boy soldier or instructor!



Moving on from cap badges, below is an example of a Musical Cymbal taken from a drum set with a fine engraving of the RAOC Cap Badge and a wartime location Egypt 1942! Obverse and reverse of said cymbal







Regimental Army Mascots

By

Adrian Hayward-Wills

Searching through a eBay while ago, I noticed an article for sale that purported to be a piece of kit for an Army Mascot belonging to the RAOC/RCT! Military mascot refers to a pet animal maintained by a military unit for ceremonial purposes or as an emblem of that unit. It may also be referred to as a ceremonial pet or regimental mascot. It differs from a military animal in that it is not employed for use directly in warfare as a weapon or for transport.

Regiments of the British Army have long been prone to adopt members of the animal world as their mascot: dogs, goats and ponies are just a few that have graced ceremonial parades. When the custom of having Regimental mascots first started is not clear. The earliest record is that of a goat belonging to the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the 1775 American War of Independence. Some mascots in the British Army are indicative of the recruiting area of a regiment, such as the Derbyshire Ram, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Irish Wolfhounds and Welsh Goats.

British Army mascots are classified as either regimental pets or regimental mascots. The former are unofficial mascots since they are not recognized by the Army, while the latter are official mascots, having been recognized by the Army. Official British Army mascots are entitled to the services of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, as well as quartering and food at public expense. It costs the Army the equivalent of approximately £45,000 a year for the upkeep of official mascots. There are also mascots whose upkeep are borne by the regiment or unit itself. They are unofficial mascots which are properly referred to as regimental pets.

The Army is keen in preserving the distinction between pets kept by the soldiers and official mascots of the regiments. The case for official mascot recognition is presented before the Army Honours and Distinction Committee. By getting an official status, the mascot will receive a regimental number, assume a proper rank, with prospects of promotion and get its fare share of Army rations. There are three rules set down in 1953 that need to be hurdled to get official mascot status. First, the regiment must comply with the welfare guidelines issued by the Army Veterinary Corps to ensure that the mascot is properly fed and housed. Second, the regiment's Commanding Officer must give approval before the case goes to the Army Honours and Distinctions Committee. Third, the Committee will consider whether the mascot is "appropriate", can take an active part in army life, including ceremonial occasions, and have a symbolic and historic connection with the regiment.

A total of sixteen ceremonial pets are kept by ten Army regiments but only six are recognised as official regimental mascots by the Army. It is a privilege jealously guarded by those who have it. So far, the animals that have made the grade of official regimental mascot are the antelope, goat, ram, horse, pony and dog. Below is believed to be an item of clothing worn by an Army Mascot associated with the **RAOC** and **RCT**. This particular item was found on eBay and is/was suitable for a dog the size of a Jack Russell and the rank of LCPL!





An original gouache on grey paper depicting an officer in the Army Ordnance Corps, wearing the dress uniform of 1914.

The painting is signed with the monogram JVS and was probably intended for reproduction, perhaps in a book of uniforms of the British Army (comments welcome). I would date it 1930-1950 - it is difficult to be precise.

Gouache also spelled *guache,* the name of which derives from the Italian *guazzo*, *water paint, splash* or *bodycolor* (the term preferred by art historians) is a type of paint consisting of pigment suspended in water.

A binding agent, usually gum arabic, is also present, just as in watercolour. Gouache differs from watercolour in that the particles are larger, the ratio of pigment to water is much higher and an additional, inert, white pigment such as chalk is also present. This makes gouache heavier and more opaque with reflective qualities.

Gouache generally dries to a different value than it appears when wet (lighter tones generally dry darker, while darker tones tend to dry lighter), which can make it difficult to match colours over multiple painting sessions.

This, combined with its quick coverage and total hiding power, mean that gouache lends itself to more immediate techniques than watercolor. This Ordnance Corps picture is a delight and well detailed.

"En plein air" paintings take advantage of this, as do works of J.M.W. Turner and Victor Lensner. It is used most consistently by commercial artists for works such as posters, illustrations, comics and for other design work. For example, comics illustrators like Alex Ross use mostly gouache for their work. Industrial Designer and Visual Futurist Syd Mead also works primarily in gouache – the things you learn in this Newsletter!







Below is an Ordnance Corps Belt Buckle, presumably Officers







Top and bottom pictures are unusual examples of a locally made rug/carpet dated 1941





Mixed Services Organisation

An unusual Cap Badge, again on eBay with Queen's Crown and the Royal Corps of Transport on the wreath, with the letters MSO to top.

Research would suggest that at the end of the Second World War, there were over 2 million Poles stranded in Europe. Although Poland had been the first nation to succumb to Hitler's aggression, its Army remained in the field throughout the war and by 1945, it was the fourth largest Allied army, behind the USSR, USA and Great Britain. After the war, without an independent homeland, many Poles faced a future in exile. Some emigrated but some remained in Germany and were absorbed into military guard companies.

In 1947, the first British units employing Poles were formally established. They were formed in Fallingbostel on the site of the POW camps, in which some of the Poles had been incarcerated. 317 Unit MSO RASC was the first Polish tank Transporter Unit and it took the Diamond Ts and other equipment from 15 Company RASC. In 1952, 312 Unit MSO RASC, the second Polish Tank Transporter Unit, was formed.

These two units were based in Fallingbostel and Hamm: from these the proud Polish tank transporter tradition within 7 Regiment was developed. Unit titles changed over the years, but the personnel were the same; loyal and hard-working with an outstanding reputation amongst the customer units.

The first three senior Superintendents were holders of either the Polish Victoria Cross, the Virtuti Militar (VM), or the Cross of Valour (KW). The most dynamic of the early Superintendents was Staff Superintendent Stanislaw Ostapowicz, an Austrian trained officer, who had fought with the artillery from 1914-18, later winning the VM and the KW, with two bars, in the Russian War. By 1939, he was commanding an artillery regiment with whom he served until captured by the Germans.

Late in 1939, he dressed in the uniform of a dead corporal to avoid being taken for an officer when captured by the Russians. He escaped, only to be recaptured by the Germans. After the war, he set up an Officers' Mess for his Polish Officers in Fallingbostel, where behaviour was as strict as the old traditions demanded.

Although the MSO connection ended in 1985, the links remain with this special group of men. Each Christmas, 16 Tank Transporter Squadron hosts a party for Polish ex-members. On Christmas Day in 1990, whilst deployed on Operation Granby, the Commanding Officer's Orders Group broke bread together in honour of the Polish tradition. The flag of 7 Regiment is the Polish National Flag of white over scarlet and is flown at all Regimental locations.

The Polish Eagle is proudly worn on the Mess Kit. The Regimental grace and toast are both Polish and one of the Regiment's centre pieces is a magnificent silver Polish Eagle. These men from Poland made a deep impression on everyone who ever had the privilege of serving with them. Their ethos and traditions will not be forgotten.



1902 The 1992

Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette

The Journal of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Ordnance Services, and the Official Organ of the RAOC Association

RETIREMENT OF BRIGADIER E. V. RANSON, OBE

BRIGADIER "RANJI" RANSON, who retires shortly, rose from Boy to Brigadier in 40 years of unbroken service—1925 to 1965. During those 40 years he has held virtually every type of appointment in the Corps in every rank. He was the only DADOS of his time to become DDOS of an invasion Corps in a "gap" between two orbiting Colonels at the vital period of January 1944 when the invasion of Normandy was only a few months away.

As DADOS HQ Force 125 and 1 Corps throughout 1942, 1943 and early 1944 he played an important role in the preparation of 1 Corps for the invasion of Europe in 1944—a preparation not only of the RAOC backing for the invasion force but of the Force itself. It was a just reward for this work that he was promoted to become ADOS 51st Highland Division immediately prior to the invasion, and served with such distinction in that demanding Division that he was awarded the OBE and mentioned in despatches. Commissioned a Lieutenant in 1941, he was a Lt.-Colonel in 1944 and created OBE in 1945. This was pace making, and is typical of the drive and leadership he has shown throughout his career.



Photo Michael Mullett

After the war, as a student of the first long OOs course and later the first industrial management course at Nottingham, he was one of the founder members of the post-war RAOC at that tricky period when the Corps was coping with a return to peace procedures after six years of the new, unorthodox techniques of war and the laissez-faire that went hand-in-hand with it. It was at this time that the new ideas were being sorted as to how the Corps should do its job and with what. A lot that is commonplace in the Corps today had its beginnings during this period.

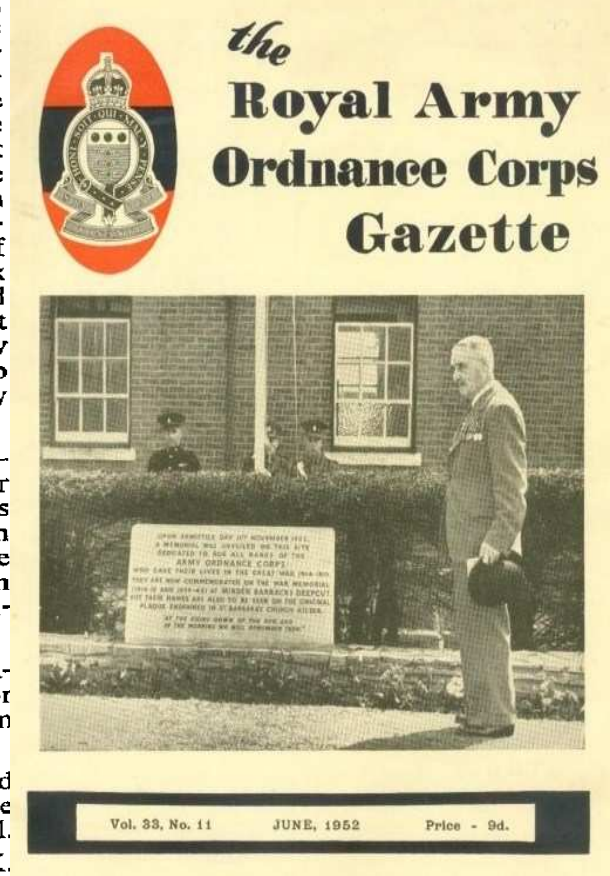
As a sportsman he has always made his mark at soccer—a sport in which he has played a leading part in the Corps for many years. He was of course a player of some note in his pre-war days and was a member of the original Boys' team from Hilsea to win the Army Cup in 1927. As a golfer he has also been well known in Corps golfing circles—a keen player who turns in a score that puts him in the treat-with-respect class.

Brigadier Ranson has served his last twelve years in planning and in command appointments where his great talents for businesslike planning and efficient management have been given full scope for the benefit of the Corps.

He can look back on a career that few can equal and many will admire. He carries with him into retirement the best of wishes from his many friends and the respect of us all.

W. A. K.





Newsletter General

A regular section of the Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter is the Book Review.

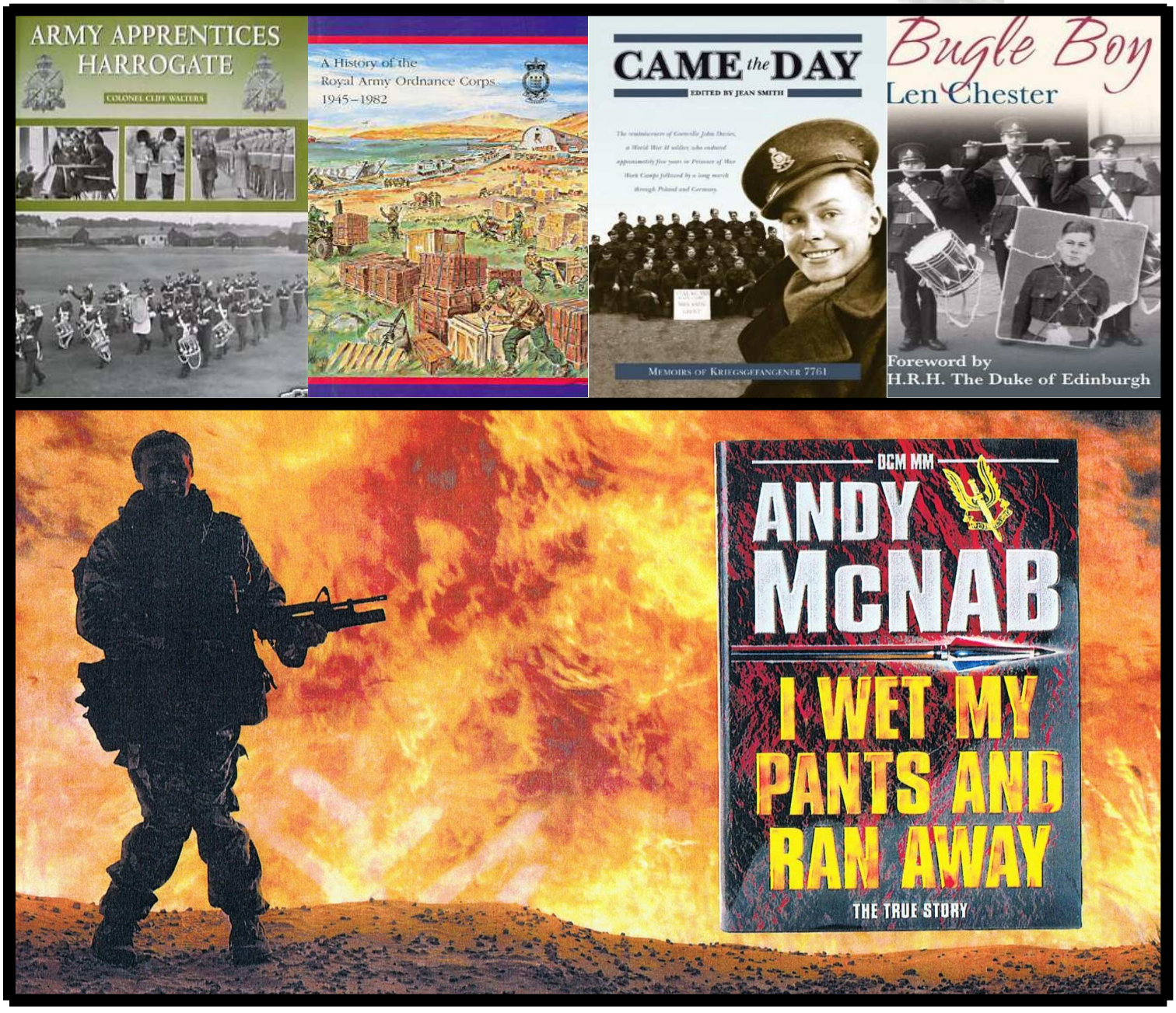
This particular section entitled "Book Review" includes reviews on relevant RAOC, REME and RCT books, both recently published and out-of-print books and perhaps members' own books that they have written and would like to be given a wider audience. Furthermore, this section will include a review on one of the subjects covered in the Newsletter. For example, there is an article on RAOC, REME and RCT Sweetheart Brooches in this particular Newsletter and I have managed to source a book on Sweetheart Brooches!

Should any of our members have an RAOC, REME or RCT associated book that they would like to do a review on, feel free to contact me using the Contacts page on the website.

I have included a number of useful pieces of information on the book, which include the following: -

- **Hardcover/paperback**
- **Publisher details**
- **Language details**
- **ISBN details**
- **Book Dimensions details**

Future books for review in the Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter include the following books - apart from the SAS one!!!!

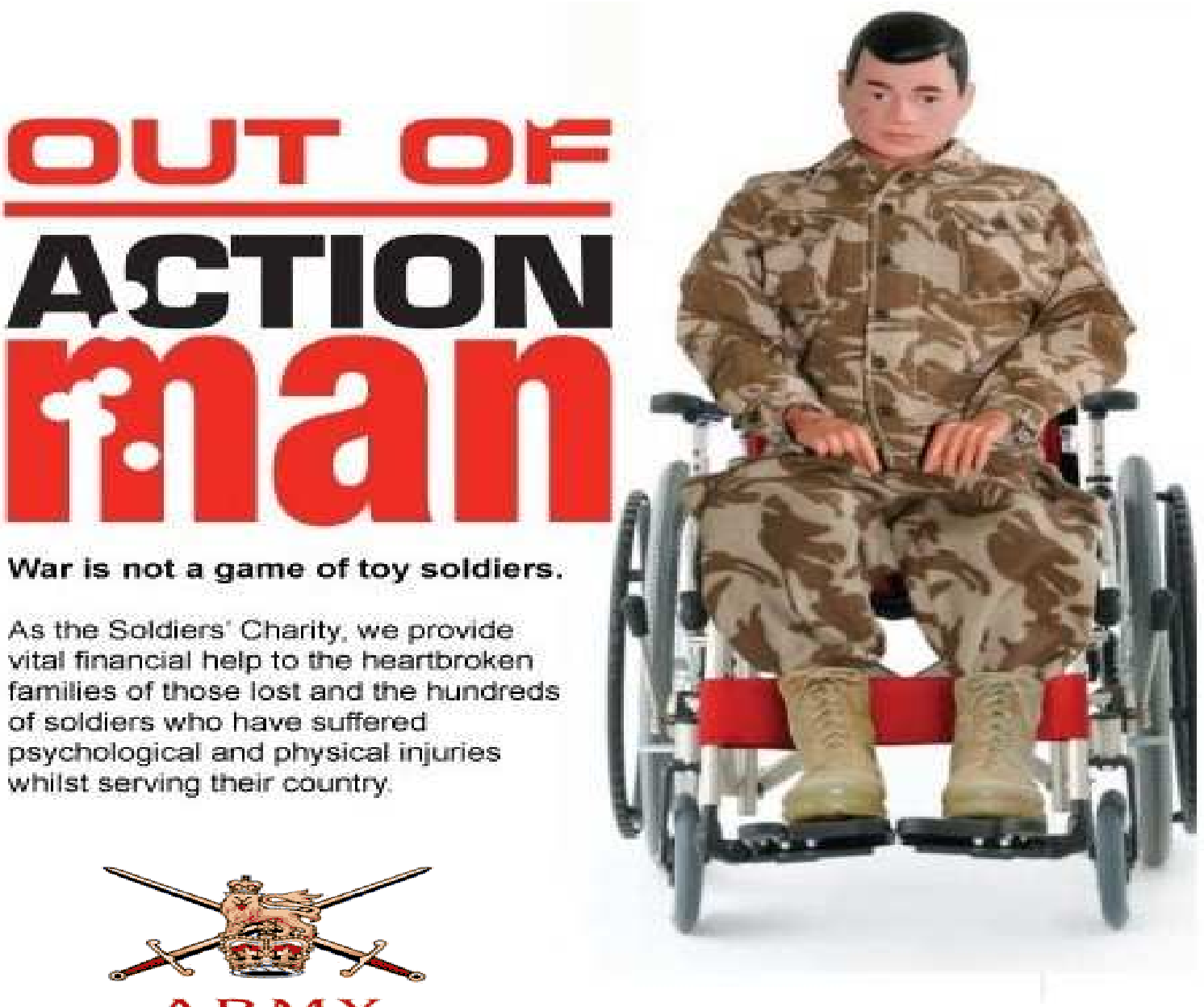


Please remember that it is Armed Forces Day on the 27th June 2011!! – **Fly the Flag!!**





General Information



The Army Benevolent Fund (**ABF**) is the Soldiers' Charity.

They provide support to soldiers, former soldiers and their families in times of need.

They work in partnership with Regimental and Corps Benevolent Funds and in co-operation with other Service charities. They identify and investigate eligible cases in "real need" and provide them with financial support.

Dependent on voluntary donations, the ABF must currently raise around **£5.5 million** each year to continue its vital work with members of the Army Family.

The ABF has a network of regional fundraisers across the UK and in other countries such as Cyprus and Germany.

Tegestology

Collecting Beer Mats - to you and me!

Adrian Hayward-Wills

A coaster or beermat, is a mat used to rest glasses of beer (or other beverages) upon. Public houses usually will have them spread out across the tables. They are used not just to protect the surface of the table but as they are usually made out of paper, they can also be used to absorb condensation dripping along the glass or serve as an ad-hoc notepad. Beermats are often branded with alcohol advertising. However, the ones we are discussing in this article are associated with the RAOC and RCT!

Beermats are not to be confused with bar mats, rectangular pieces of rubber or toweling material used to protect the counter top and soak up spilled drinks in the NAAFI or pub and then often wrung through at the end of a the night as a thirstquencher by parched Junior Leaders!!

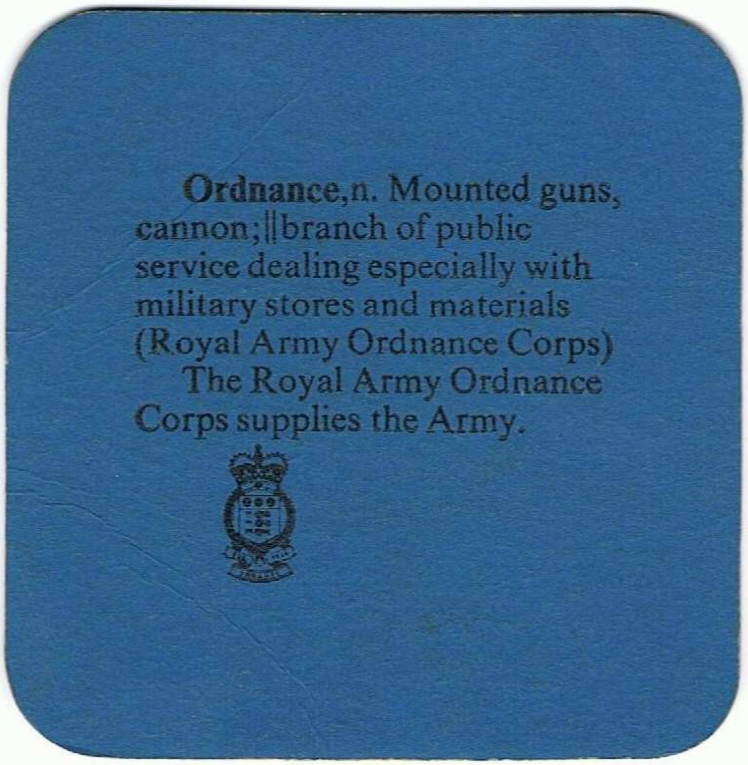
In 1880, the first beermats made of cardboard were introduced by the German printing company, Friedrich Horn. In 1892, Robert Sputh of Dresden manufactured the first beermat made of wood pulp. Watney brewery introduced them to the United Kingdom in 1920 to advertise their pale ale. The packaging company Quarmby Promotions, established in 1872, began manufacturing beermats in Milnsbridge in 1931. After it was taken over by the Katz Group, it moved production to Brighouse and in 2006 to Morley, West Yorkshire, before closing its production in 2009. In 1978, American Coaster Company introduced the United States to the beverage coaster.

In 2007, American Coaster Company acquired its competitor, AD-Mat International Coasters USA, Inc. creating the short lived, American Coaster Ad-Mat, Inc. In 2007, The KATZ Group purchased the assets of American Coaster. In 2009, The KATZ Group was purchased by the Koehler Paper Group, the premier paper producer for carbonless and thermal paper needs, also located in Germany. Coasters are often made from high grammage paperboard but may also be made from several layers of tissue paper. Important parameters for beer mats are water absorbency, wet rub and for obvious reasons, printability.

The Katz Group, based in Weisenbach, Germany, produces 75% of the estimated 5.5 billion beermats in the world, including about two-thirds of the European market and 97% of the US market. In addition to the factory in Weisenbach, the company has another factory in Großschirma, Germany and two conversion factories in the U.S., one in Sanborn, NY and the other in Johnson City, TN.

Beermats are usually adorned with a customized image - *usually advertising a brand of beer* - although they can also be used to promote a drinking establishment, sports franchise, businesses or special events. Recently, they have also been used to advertise political messages and parties, such as the UKIP beermats during the 2004 European Elections. Although they appear to be a disposable item, they are in fact quite durable and reusable. These RAOC Beermats (*featured below*) are a clear example of such durability.



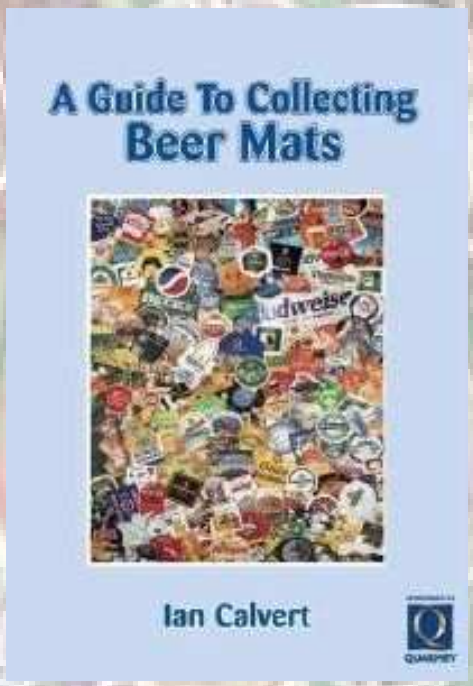


Some coasters are collectible items. *Tegestology* is a Latin term defined as the practice of collecting beermats or coasters, with practitioners known as *tegestologists*. Collecting coasters is an especially popular hobby in Germany, where they are known as *Bierdeckel*. There is an international collector's association called IBV in Germany which has been active since 1958.

The British Beermat Collectors Society was founded shortly afterwards in 1960 and currently has around 300 members spread across the world. Like the IBV, it organises regular meetings for collectors and also publishes a monthly newsletter. BeermatMania.com was founded in 2004 and boasts a gallery of over 42,000 images of British brewery beer mats based on the British Beermat Collectors Society numbering system. It also has a collectors forum and a monthly newsletter.

Other notable clubs associated with tegestology include two Australian clubs, the South Australian Coaster Collectors Club and New South Wales Coaster Collectors Club. There are many subcategories of tegestologists, including those who are solely interested in porcelain or other specific kinds of beermats.





British Beermat Collectors Society

Gallery

Gallery..... Go

WANTED

Articles, newspaper clips, photos, scanned images of mats advertising the BBCS

History



I'M ONLY HERE FOR THE BEER MATS

1ST B.B.C.SOCIETY

"A beer drinkers guide to Tegestology"

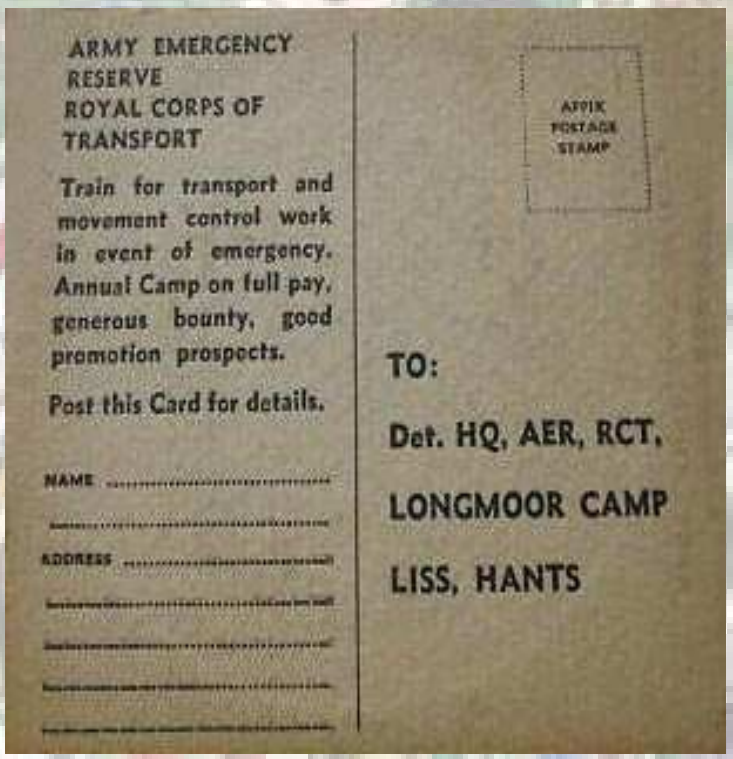
Click here

Below is another fine example of an RAOC Beermat that was printed early 1973 when CVHQ RAOC (TA) moved from Feltham, Middlesex to Deepcut. The mats were ordered to promote CVHQ RAOC's new depot!



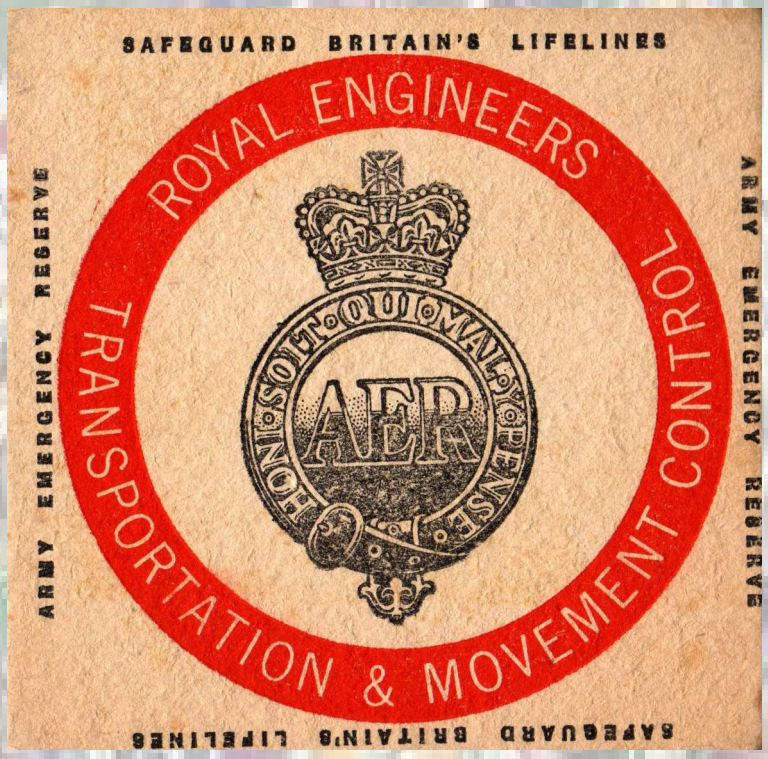
Below is a particulalry unusual Beermat.,as it is also a Postcard as well! This one dates back to the 1960's. It would appear that that this form of advertising for the Army was common practice – especially for the TA/Emergencey Reserve.



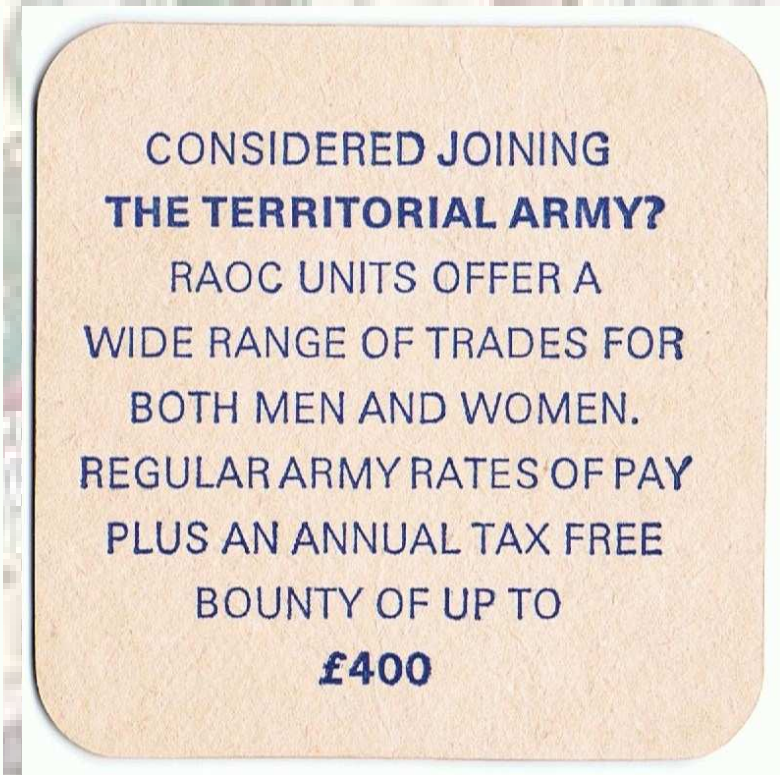


Other examples of military Beermats are below – What are you waiting for? Getting collecting or at least get drinking!!









End

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM CHELSEA

Wives and Sweethearts



Adrian Hayward-Wills

The National Army Museum in Chelsea, London is holding a "*Wives & Sweethearts*" exhibition, the exhibition runs until 30th July 2011.

The National Army Museum is the British Army's central museum. It is located in the Chelsea district of central London, England adjacent to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the home of the "Chelsea Pensioners". The National Army Museum is open to the public every day of the year from 10.00am to 5.30pm, except on 24 - 26 December and 1 January. Admission is free. The museum is a non-departmental public body.

The National Army Museum relates the overall history of the British Army, British colonial, imperial and commonwealth forces and the British Indian Army as a whole from 1066 to the present and its effects on national and international history. This is in contrast to other military museums in the United Kingdom such as Firepower – The Royal Artillery Museum, which relate the history of individual corps and regiments of the British Army. It also differs from the subject matter of the Imperial War Museum, another national museum in London, which has a wider remit of theme (*war experiences of British civilians and military personnel*) but a narrower remit of time (after 1914).

"*Wives and Sweethearts*" explores soldiers' relationships from the 18th century to the present day through a deeply-moving selection of letters and photographs. Displayed alongside are sweetheart brooches, jewellery and other touching love-tokens. Divided into themes that address the different stages or aspects of soldiers' love lives, the display asks why a relationship with a soldier is different from that with a civilian. Throughout history, how have those who have served in the Army combined their life with partners and families with their military duties?

'Courtship and Engagement' explores the beginnings of soldiers' partnerships. The section focusing on weddings highlights the immense contrast between wartime and peacetime marriage ceremonies, especially in the 20th century. 'Women of the Regiment' looks at the roles of women in the Army during the 19th century, while the images brought together under the heading of 'Army Families' show more modern soldiers and their families.

The largest part of the exhibition looks at what is perhaps the hardest aspect of life with a soldier; the long periods of separation it often entails. Finally, 'Reunion' takes into account the fact that soldiers' return to their loved ones, although usually joyful in the long run, can often be painful and difficult at first.

Highlights from the exhibition, revealing individual relationships and stories in poignant detail, include:

1. A gold ring in a crystal casket sent by Quartermaster Sergeant Porter to his wife after the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815, to let her know that he had survived.

2. A letter from Mrs Jones to her husband Sergeant Louis Jones serving in Gibraltar in 1902, to tell him of the death of their eldest child, Teddy, aged three.

3. Beautiful embroidered First World War postcards sent from the Western Front by Private H L 'Holly' Christmas to his sweetheart Miss Ada Manley in 1916.

4. A note sent from Sergeant Anthony Baker serving in the Korean War in 1950, to his wife 'To the only girl who ever mattered...'

5. A 'bluey' sent to colleagues by Captain Karen Timperley while she was serving in the Gulf War in 1991, revealing that during the conflict the Army Chaplain was inundated with requests to marry serving couples.

What are Sweetheart Brooches?

Brooches given as a token of affection (hence Sweetheart Brooches) have been in existence for hundreds of years, perhaps even as far back as Roman times. They are often seen as an extension of a love letter as seen in the National Army Museum, London in their recent Wives and Sweethearts exhibition.

They flourished during the Victorian era, giving rise to thousands of designs in gold and silver, embracing hearts, lovebirds, flowers and leaves, together with symbols of religious significance such as an anchor or a cross.

The most popular designs contained the mysterious word MIZPAH meaning "*The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another*" (an English translation of Jacob's and Laban's words in the book of Genesis Chap.31).

The Boer war and more particularly WW1 and WW11 gave rise to many thousands of these brooches, all with a military connection, now commonly known as military sweetheart brooches. Perhaps there are some ex-boys who gave such brooches to their sweethearts?

This term is now often used to embrace any piece of jewellery that has military significance. Examples of such Sweetheart Brooches are contained within the preceding pages.



Inscription reads: -

'The Lord watch between me & thee when we are absent one from another'

During both world wars 'sweetheart' brooches were given by servicemen to loved ones left behind. These could take the form of a miniature version of the regimental badge, sometimes gem set or perhaps an ensign, aircraft or wings. 'Sweetheart' jewellery today is very collectable.






















HONI·SOIT·QUI·MAL·Y·PENSE
ROYAL
CORPS
ARMY ORDNANCE
GOOD LUCK


HONI·SOIT·QUI·MAL·Y·PENSE
ROYAL
CORPS
ARMY ORDNANCE


HONI·SOIT·QUI·MAL·Y·PENSE
ROYAL
CORPS
ARMY ORDNANCE


HONI·SOIT QUI MAL·Y·PENSE


R
M




HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
GUARDS
MAL Y PENSE
GUARDS
HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE


HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
ROYAL
CORPS
ARMY ORDNANCE



The Military Brooch Collectors Club was formed in March 1982, by a few like-minded interested people who felt that there was a larger calling for collectors of military brooches. Over the years, membership has grown to almost one hundred and includes members resident in Canada, America and Australia.

Initially the club was known as “The Military Sweetheart Brooch Club” but in February 1985, it was changed to its present title of “Military Brooch Collectors Club”. This it was felt is a more all embracing title for the many and varied military brooches which are available to the collector.

Each member has a collection which they add too as and when possible. Many of these collections come together once a year when they are displayed at the annual meeting. At this same meeting there are usually several hundred brooches being offered for sale at very realistic prices. The annual meeting is open to the public free of charge, and many visitors get an intriguing glance into a new hobby, some even taking it up and joining the club.

There are collections to almost every Regiment or Corps of the Army and of course there is also great interest in the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. Some collections are put together by type of brooch or materials the brooch is made from. There are also collections of Town brooches from the Great War of 1914-18 and even a collection of silver, Boer War brooches

The club keeps in touch by means of a very active newsletter which is sent out quarterly (more often if there are interesting and informative items to tell members about)

Membership of the club is open to all and costs just £5-00p per year (£7-00p for overseas members) For more information contact the club secretary as shown below:- Mr. Cliff Housley

cliffhousley@homecall.co.uk

Military Brooch Collectors Club Contact Mr.A.G.Chadd Tel: 01255 423089

http://jusmmilitaria.com/index.php?main_page=page_4








ROYAL
ARMY ORDNANCE
CORPS


SUA TELA
TONANTI


SUA TELA TONANTI


HONI · SOIT · QUI · MAL · Y · PENSE
ROYAL
CORPS
ARMY ORDNANCE


STERLING




STERLING



A very rare Indian Army Ordnance Corps Sweetheart Badge










ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS


STERLING


ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS




HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
ROYAL
CORPS
ARMY ORDNANCE


REME




HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
ROYAL
CORPS
ARMY ORDNANCE

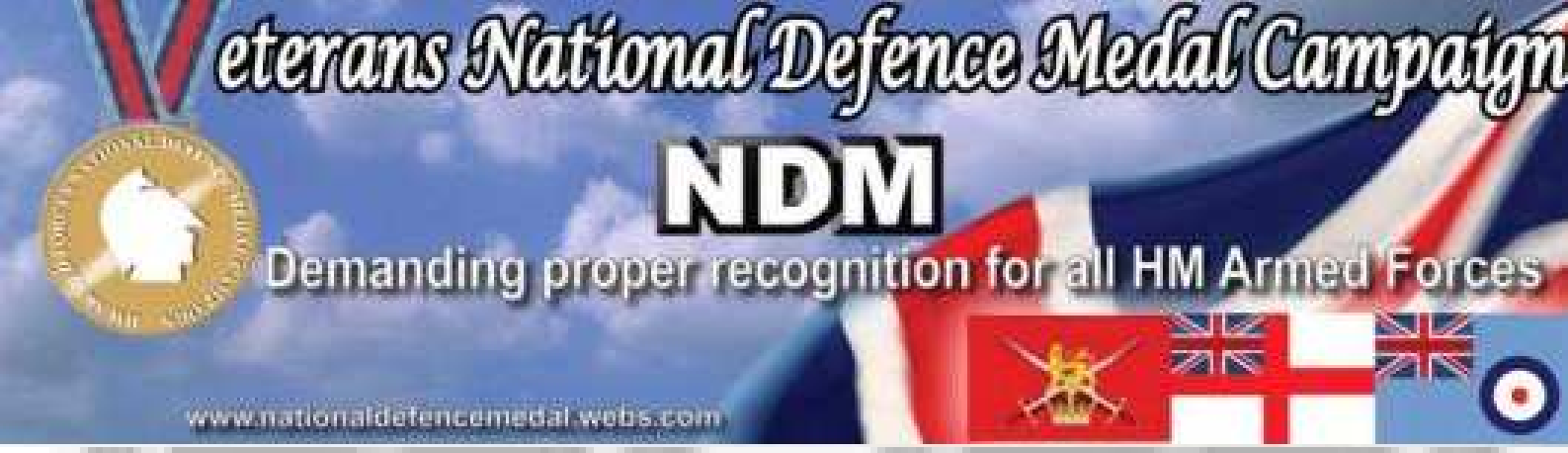

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National Defence Medal Update

"Below you will see a summary document presented to the Armed Forces Minister on 25th April 2011 from the MDM Campaign.

It does not cover every aspect of the campaign but focuses on the most immediate issue, the medal review and the problems with transparency and consultation. Despite the glaringly obvious flaws in the whole process, it seems unlikely the review will be sent back to be re-run properly. It seems to the officials at least, that it is adequate and they can get away with it.

So the time has come to get this information into the public domain. Unless we can draw attention to this shambles through the media, then they carry on treating veterans (and no doubt others too) in a offhand and disrespectful manner. We all have a part to play, we all need to contact local media and receptive MP's to help. My own impression is there are mandarins at Whitehall with far too much influence, they are not elected and are faceless, yet they undermine our whole democracy.

Now is the time for action, if we don't kick up a fuss nobody else will.

A Morland
Co-Chairman UK National Defence Medal Campaign"

To: Minister for the Armed Forces

Introduction

1. This short paper deals briefly with the commitments made by the various political parties to the Nation's veterans. It highlights correspondence between veterans, Members of Parliament and Ministers in respect of the National Defence Medal since the re-launch of the campaign and during the recent MoD Medal Review. Finally, it draws conclusions and makes recommendations in respect of the Coalition Government's Medal Review.

The 2010 General Election

2. The Iraq war and involvement in Afghanistan saw many deaths and serious injuries to members of the Armed Forces, which focussed the public's attention on the Services. Consequently, it was not surprising that 2010, the year of the General Election, saw an outpouring of support for the Armed Forces in all political party manifestos.

3. Veterans were encouraged by the significant support from Political Parties to address the injustice of the past medal system. Included in this support was a Military Covenant Commission's report for the Leader of the Conservative Party, David Cameron MP, together with a commitment by the Conservative Party to address the inconsistency in which medallic recognition of former service personnel had been implemented.

v **Military Covenant Commission's Report** – This report went to the Leader of the Conservative Party now Prime Minister Rt Hon David Cameron MP. Its recommendation on medals stated – *'A future Conservative Government should review the structure; membership and terms of reference of the Committee on the grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (HD Committee). The reconstituted HD Committee should then review outstanding claims that 'will draw a line in the sand'.*

v **Conservative Armed Forces Manifesto – Medals** *'Awarding of medals is decided by the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and medals (known as the HD committee). But the rules governing the awarding of medals have been applied inconsistently. The Conservatives will review the HD Committee, as well as the rules governing the awarding of medals. As part of that review all outstanding medal cases will be examined'.*

4. Further support was provided in the Liberal Democrat and UKIP manifestos.

v **Liberal Democrats Manifesto**- Although the NDM was not specifically in the Liberal Democrat manifesto, the Party's extensive support for the Armed Forces, veterans and families was encouraging. Ninety five percent of the Party's MPs had signed Early Day Motion 327 calling for a working group to be established to work with the HD Committee to implement the NDM as soon as possible. In addition, the Liberal Democrats Friends of the Armed Forces had been actively working with the NDM team to re-launch the NDM campaign, which was attended by the Liberal Democrat Deputy Leader (Vince Cable MP) and their Defence spokes person in the House of Lords (Lord Lee of Trafford). Lib Dem Leader Nick Clegg MP (now Deputy Prime Minister) had written a letter of support.

v **UKIP Manifesto** – The Party within its manifesto, clearly backed fully the Armed Forces and supported strongly the institution of the NDM. The UKIP Leader (Nigel Farage MEP) personally attended the re-launch of the NDM campaign.

5. Post the General election, the Coalition Government formed by the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats included in its 'Programme for Government' a Chapter on Defence, which specifically stated *'a review of the rules governing medals would be carried out.'* Veterans were further encouraged when the first policy motion agreed by the Liberal Democrats at a Party Conference, since being in Government, was the institution of the National Defence Medal.

6. Details of various key events and documents in support of a medal review and a National Defence Medal are at Appendix A.

The Medal Review

7. The MoD initiated a Medal Review on 19 November 2010 thereby meeting the Coalition Government pledge to undertake such a review. The start date of the review was not publicly promulgated nor were the terms of reference or the date it would report its findings (10 January 2011) to the Veteran's Minister. It was not transparent in its deliberations, it relied on material already held within the MoD much of which was dated; did not consult with veterans, Service organisations or with medal campaign organisers. The terms of Reference fell far short of the Conservative Manifesto pledge and the recommendations made by the Military Covenant Commission's report, by making a specific exemption in the Terms of Reference to a review of the HD Committee and an exemption in respect of a review of medals for Service such as the LS&GC and State medals such as Coronation and Jubilee although it encompassed the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee.

8. Despite various written requests it proved difficult to obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Medal Review, to identify a date of commencement or date when the review team would report its findings. It was disappointing the information was only achieved in late March as a result of a Freedom of Information request, some two months after the review team had reported. The MoD reply also identified that on 16 February the review findings had been passed via the Secretary of State for Defence to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, for final endorsement.

MoD reasons why a National Defence Medal should NOT BE instituted

9. Despite support for the NDM displayed by political parties; by Cross Party MPs through EDM 327; by Service organisations, by senior serving and retired officers; by public dignitaries and veteran icons such as Dame Vera Lynn the response from the Ministry of Defence was not encouraging. Parliamentary questions, an Adjournment Debate, letters to the MoD from MPs on behalf of their constituents, from Service organisations, from NDM campaigners and from individual veterans all met with negativity (See Annex B). The common MoD response was: the medal does not meet existing rules; Her Majesty's Armed Forces Veterans badge (HMAFVB) provides recognition of service and the NDM would be duplication; medals are not awarded solely for service; medals have to be earned.

10. The question raised throughout the NDM campaign by former servicemen and women, time and time again, is 'why would a government and a Nation not wish to appropriately recognise its veterans?' There is a need therefore to test the arguments for not instituting a National Defence Medal:

v **Imperial/HD Committee rules.** Government accept, and presumably the MoD, that there have been inconsistencies in the way the award of medals has been carried out in the past. The Conservative party manifesto said it would review the HD committee. The Military Covenant Commission's report to the Leader of the Conservative Party went further and recommended the Committee be scrapped. The Terms of Reference of the Medal Review also included a review of the rules. As the current rules are questionable, it would be inappropriate to use such rules as an argument for not instituting the NDM.

v **HMAFVB**. HMAFVB is continually used as the main reason why the NDM should not be instituted. It would be duplication; veterans have already had their service recognised by this badge! However, any idea the badge was authorised by Her Majesty or was introduced to officially recognise service in the Armed Forces is a myth.

Service personnel, when they join the Armed Forces, take the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the sovereign. It therefore would seem logical for the sovereign to be the one to formally recognise their service, as in Australia and New Zealand. Many recipients are under the impression the HMAFVB is a badge that has been approved by Her Majesty, they are wrong. However, Veterans are, in the main, pleased to receive their badge as in many cases the badge is all they have to show for their service to 'Queen and country'.

A Freedom of Information Act request identified the badge was first introduced in 2004 by the Labour Government's MoD Veterans Minister Rt. Hon. Ivor Caplin MP. It was to be an identification lapel badge issued to Second World War veterans, who were returning to Theatres of operations where they had fought, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the ending of WW2. As it was an identification

badge and not a medal it did not require HD Committee approval, did not require Her Majesty's approval and did not need Parliamentary approval – it was a MoD 'ID' badge. It is however, well designed and the WW2 veterans, many who have the pre 1945 Defence Medal, were delighted to receive it for everyday wear on their overseas visits.

The badge later became available to World War One veterans and to those who had served between the two wars. A pilot scheme was also held in 2005 to issue it to all Service Leavers. Although 27% of badges were either refused or returned, the pilot was deemed a success, and now all service leavers are issued with the HMAFVB in their leaving packs.

Service within Her Majesty's Armed Forces is a prerequisite to be issued with a Veteran's badge. However, it would appear only in the past few years have statements, emanating from the MoD, indicated the badge is awarded in recognition of service. Indeed as late as June 2008 an MOD document, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, stated, '*the extended availability of the UK Armed Forces badge was to raise the profile of veterans by assisting the wider public to recognise them. It's symbolism is intended to unite all veterans in recognising the commonality of service, to encourage a sense of unity and community between surviving veterans and to ignite public recognition of current veterans and their continuing contribution to society.'* It is a badge for day-to-day wear and serves a totally different function to that of a medal in recognition of service.

To date, no document has been forthcoming from the MoD in response to a FOI request for information, which officially discusses and/or authorises the change of a lapel identification badge to a badge awarded in respect of recognition of service.

v **Medals are not awarded solely for service.** The terms of Reference of the Medal Review exempted the Long Service and Good Conduct medal/equivalents from review. These medals are issued solely for service. It is one group of medals that is in desperate need of review as there are so many anomalies. For example the Regular Army's LS&GC was initially issued for 18 years service, and later reduced to 15 years, but not awarded to officers. However, the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (VRSM) is the Reserve Forces equivalent of the LS&GC, awarded for 10 years (this could equal as little as 280 days) service in the TA/Reserve and issued to all ranks, including officers. The Cadet Service Medal requires 12 years qualifying service. As these medals are solely for service it is difficult to understand the MoD argument that medals are not issued solely for service. As the 'Long Service' medals are the group with the most anomalies surrounding their issue and in need of review, it is surprising they should be specifically exempt from being included in the MoD's Medal Review!

v **Medals must be earned**. Despite the MoD claim that medals must be earned, one group of medals are not. They are the Coronation and Jubilee medals. In the past, rules surrounding their award have caused much concern within the Armed Forces. A typical example was a Regiment serving on the streets of Belfast, when the Silver Jubilee medal was struck. It was 500 strong but only six Silver Jubilee medals were allocated. The CO and Adjutant received one; the Captain running the accounts was allocated one because he did not have the same opportunity as other officers in the Regiment of patrolling the streets; lots were drawn between the rank and file for the remaining three!

There is a difficulty in using the reason 'Medals must be earned' for not awarding the NDM. Those who take the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen do so in the knowledge that by so doing, they accept they may be required to put their 'life on the line' in keeping the UK safe and secure. It is also difficult to understand how the Jubilee medals whose award has been so questionable were specifically exempt from the Medal Review!

v **Cost-** One factor was always going to be cost**.** From documents received under the Freedom of Information Act, cost played a significant part in how the HMAFVB was initially distributed. A proposal has already been put forward by the NDM campaign that avoids taxpayer's money being used in this current climate of austerity. However, MoD have made it clear that cost would never be the sole factor in determining not to award a medal.

Conclusion

11. The Conservative Armed Forces Manifesto, the Military Covenant Commission's report, and Coalition Programme for Government raised the hopes of former servicemen and women that past injustices of medallic recognition would be addressed through the Medal Review. However, the conduct of the review process, its lack of transparency, openness and failure by MoD to consult with or involve veterans has let them down. This should be of enormous concern and embarrassment to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Defence.

12. In addition, there appears to have been a concerted attempt within the MoD to devalue the NDM campaign, which seeks medallic recognition by Her Majesty and the Nation for those who have served Her Majesty and the Nation since the ending of the Second World War. It is time for the Coalition Government and the MoD to treat the 'veterans and their families with the dignity they deserve.'

Recommendations

13. The MoD should revisit the discredited Medal Review and establish a working group that involves veterans and leaders of various medal campaigns to address all outstanding medal grievances so that a 'line in the sand ' can be drawn, prior to Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

T G Scriven
Colonel (retd)
Co-Chairman UK National Defence Medal Campaign

End

Conkers in the Junior Army




By




Adrian Hayward-Wills

Conkers or conker, is a game traditionally played mostly by children in Britain, Ireland and some former British colonies using the seeds of horse-chestnut trees – the name conker is also applied to the seed and to the tree itself. It was also played by RAOC and REME Junior Soldiers! The game is played by two players, each with a conker threaded onto a piece of string: they take turns striking each other's conker until one breaks. The name may come from the dialect word conker, meaning "hard" (perhaps related to French conque meaning a conch, as the game was originally played using snail shells.

Believe it or not, this article will attempt to explain the sport of Conkers and its link with RAOC, REME and RCT Junior Leaders using the College Magazine “Thunderbolt”!

The name may also be influenced by the verb conquer, as the game has also been called conquerors, but this may be a back-formation. Another possibility is that it is onomatopoeia, representing the sound made by a horse chestnut as it hits another hard object, such as a skull (another children's "game", also called conkers, consists of simply throwing the seeds at one another over a fence or wall). Conkers are also known regionally as obblyonkers, cheggies or cheeser.

The hardest conkers usually win. Hardening conkers is often done by keeping them for a year (aged conkers are called laggies in many areas or seasoners in Ireland and Liverpool), baking them briefly, soaking or boiling in vinegar, or painting with clear nail varnish. Such hardening is, however, usually regarded as cheating. At the British Junior Conkers Championships on the Isle of Wight in October 2005, contestants were banned from bringing their own conkers due to fears that they might harden them. The Campaign For Real Conkers claimed this was an example of over-regulation which was causing a drop in interest in the game. In the World Conker Championship contestants are also restricted to using the conkers provided.

One factor affecting the strength of a conker is the shape of the hole. A clean cylindrical hole is stronger, as it has no notches or chips that can begin a crack or split. The first recorded game of Conkers using horse chestnuts was on the Isle of Wight in 1848 – the horse chestnut tree is not native to Britain, but was introduced from the Balkans in the late 16th century; it was not widely planted until the early 19th century. Previously, children played with snail shells or hazelnuts.

In 1965, the World Conker Championships were set up in Ashton (near Oundle) Northamptonshire, England and still take place on the second Sunday of October every year. In 2004, an audience of 5,000 turned up to watch more than 500 competitors from all over the world. 1976 was the first time that a non-British contestant won the Men's World Conker Championship. The Mexican Jorge Ramirez Carrillo took the place of a contestant that was unable to arrive on time at Ashton and defeated the 1975 champion at the finals. The Men's champion has been British in every other year except 1998 when Helmut Kern from Nauort, Germany, won.

In 1982, the RAOC and REME Inter Company Conker Competion took place, this is their story….





THE 1982 INTER COMPANY CONKER COMPETITION

A Company Conker stadium was the venue for this prestigious annual event. Won outright in 1981 by ACpl Burns, the competition for the individual and freestyle competition was more fiercely contested than ever.

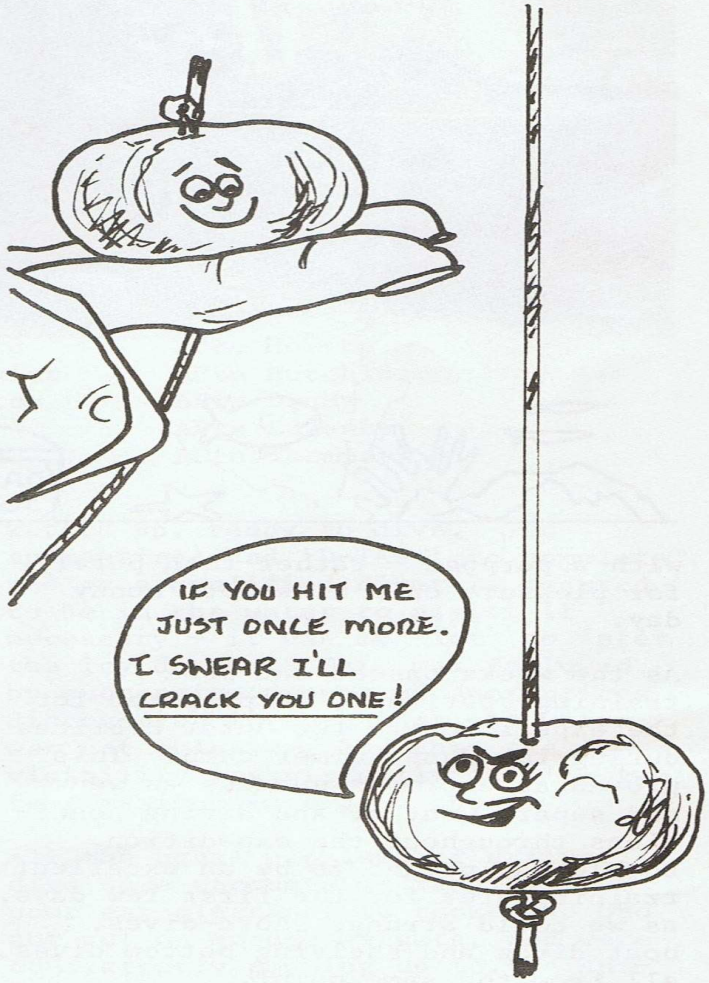
Two pools of competitors fought out the early conks; seeding had to be introduced for the first time to keep such obvious conking experts as Cpl Snelson and Capt Marwaha apart.

The Gym staff were prominent in the early stages. QMSI Martin, using the short string attack, demolished a number of renowned experts, but came up against an unstoppable conker swung in the traditional long string style of Lt Tween who went on to win the individual trophy.

The freestyle competition produced the usual crop of temperamental outbursts and protests over "stampies" last year's conkers and even a disguised ball bearing. This time fitness did indeed play a part and Lcpl Pilkington, with a mean 10 year old conker, boiled in embrocation, swept all challengers contemptuously aside.

We look forward eagerly to

CONK
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In 1993, Michael Palin – *he of Monty Python fame* - was disqualified from a Conkers competition in the United Kingdom for baking his conker and soaking it in vinegar. In 1999, the British charity "ActionAid" applied for a patent on hardening conkers, in protest at the patenting of life forms by large companies.

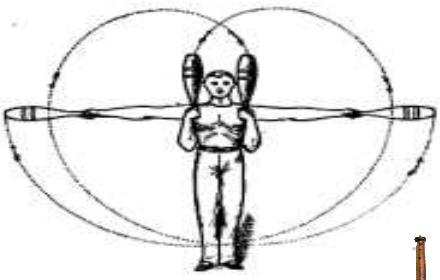
In 1999, the Irish Conker Championships began in Freshford Co.Kilkenny. 2000 saw the first Ladies' champion from outside the UK. Selma Becker, originally from Austria, to take the title. Again, the title of Queen of Conkers has remained in the UK, except in 2001 when Frenchwoman Celine Parachou won.

2001, Eamonn Dooley from Kilkenny Ireland smashed the world record and broke an amazing 306 conkers in one hour!!

In 2000, a survey of British schools showed that many were not allowing children to play Conkers as head teachers were afraid of the legal consequences if children were injured from shards while playing the game. In 2004 a headmaster bought goggles for pupils to wear while playing the game. This in turn prompted DJs on BBC Radio 1 to start their own Radio 1 Conker Championships. The TV programme Top Gear later staged a game of conkers using caravans (travel trailers) suspended from cranes. After putting on safety goggles, presenter James May commented "I now feel perfectly happy about being hit in the face by a caravan." Top Gear, along with other media commentators, mistakenly stated that the wearing of goggles during the game was due to an official Health and Safety Executive (HSE) edict when it was in fact an initiative which the schools themselves had put in place independently. In response to such concerns, the HSE stated that the goggles requirement was a myth and sponsored a Conkers tournament.

In 2004, several schools banned Conkers over concerns that they may cause problems (such as anaphylactic shock) for pupils with nut allergies.Health advisers said that there were no known dangers from conkers for nut-allergy sufferers, although some may experience a mild rash through handling them - Who's up for a conker fight then????

End





Indian Club Swinging

Adrian Hayward-Wills

Several thousand years ago, Indian wrestlers and warriors prepared themselves for battle by swinging wooden "clubs" to condition their bodies and build upper-body strength. This practice spread amongst many different countries throughout the ensuing years. In the 1800's, British soldiers started practicing "Indian Club" techniques and brought them back to Europe where they became part of the physical culture tradition. Shortly after, European immigrants brought Indian Club training to American shores where this technique was adopted into American school physical education programs and military physical readiness training. In 1985, Arnhem Platoon of the RAOC Apprentice College formed their own team. This article - *using excerpts from the College Magazine* "The Thunderbolt" *and the* "RAOC Gazette" - is a brief history of Indian Club Swinging and the impact it had on RAOC Apprentice Soldiers.

Indian clubs belong to a category of exercise (and juggling) equipment that was popular in the late 19th century and early 20th century in Europe, the British Commonwealth and the United States. They comprise bowling-pin shaped wooden "clubs" of varying sizes and weights, which are swung in certain patterns as part of an exercise program. They can range from a few pounds each, up to special clubs that can weigh as much as 50 pounds. They were used in carefully choreographed routines where the clubs were swung in unison by a group of exercisers, led by an instructor in the front, similar to modern aerobics classes. The routines varied according to the group's ability and the weight of the clubs used.



Indian Club Swinging Team - Circa 1985

Starting from the back left and moving up the sides of the triangle:
Unknown, Steve Smith, Kniveton, Sims, Nash at the front.
Right side front to back: Unknown, Bennett
At the back is Saunders, with Lavers just in front of him. Maas can just be seen behind Sims

Photograph kindly donated by Steven Smith

The Indian Club Swinging Team was formed in January of this year from members of Arnhem Platoon under the instruction of QMSI Martin APTC and their Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Ricky Dunne.

Training and practice has been carried out in their spare time as they complete the normal military training syllabus during the day. This practice has led to a number of public performances all over the country.

Our performances began in May when the team performed at the Corps open day at Blackdown. Later in the same month we went down to Maidstone to the 36 Engineer Regiment Open Day. In June we hopped off early from our Summer Camp in Tenby to sample the delights of the North and also to take part in the Northumbria Tattoo. This was an exceedingly taxing 4 days as it meant we had to stay in a 3-star hotel and get paid 1/2 NRSA for the privilege.

July saw us at the Army Exhibition for Schools at Bassingbourn, not only Club Swinging but also running a display of College activities ranging from external leadership and adventurous training to trade and educational training. Later in the same month we were invited to perform at a civilian County Show at Stroud in Gloucestershire.

We departed on leave on 8 August excited at the prospect of spending a week of September in Berlin, only to arrive back the week before to find that it had been cancelled. The show must go on, however, and we are preparing now for our final performance (thank goodness) which is to be at the Army School of PT in Aldershot. Then it is hang up the clubs and back to real training!.

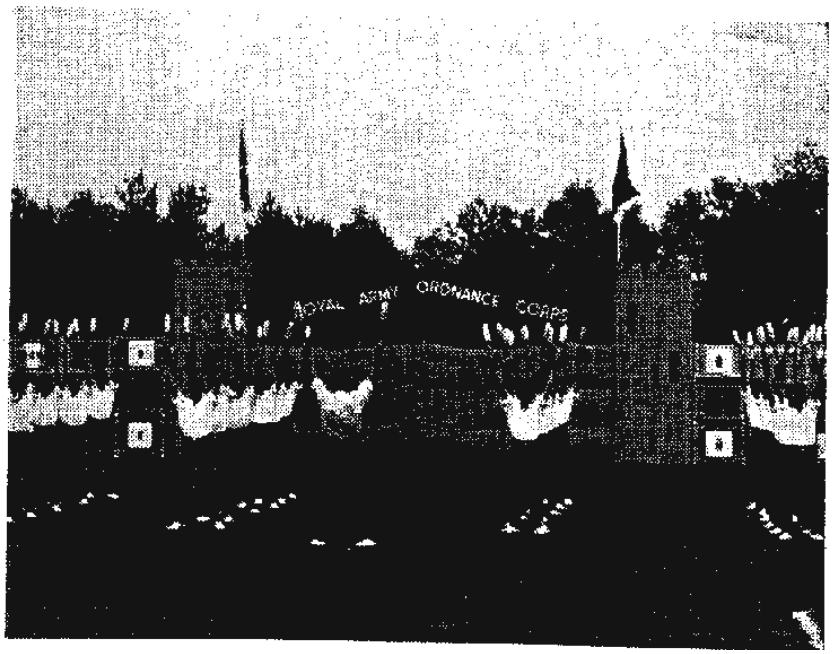
Throughout the term we have been exceedingly busy in our capacity as the Indian Club Swinging Display Team and our first two performances came in rapid succession following our return from Hythe. The Corps open day was the first and most important appearance, followed the following Saturday by appearing at Maidstone as part of a Royal Engineers Open Day.

THUNDERBOLT
Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College

Above articles courtesy of The Thunderbolt College Magazine - Circa 1985

1902 The 1992
Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette
The Journal of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Ordnance Services, and the Official Organ of the RAOC Association

Arnhem Platoon have also been kept very busy recently practicing their Indian Club Swinging. They now can provide a twenty four man display team but this activity requires a great deal of practice and dedication by all the apprentices and the permanent staff involved—Lieutenant Burton (OIC ICST) and Sergeant Dunne. The hours of work have paid off and the display is now very impressive as many of the Corps will see at various displays throughout the country this summer.



'A' COMPANY. Arnhem Platoon under the watchful eyes of Lieutenant Nick Wilkes and Sergeant Ricky Dunne have once again donned their Club Swinging 'hats' to give performances at Bassingbourne and Stroud

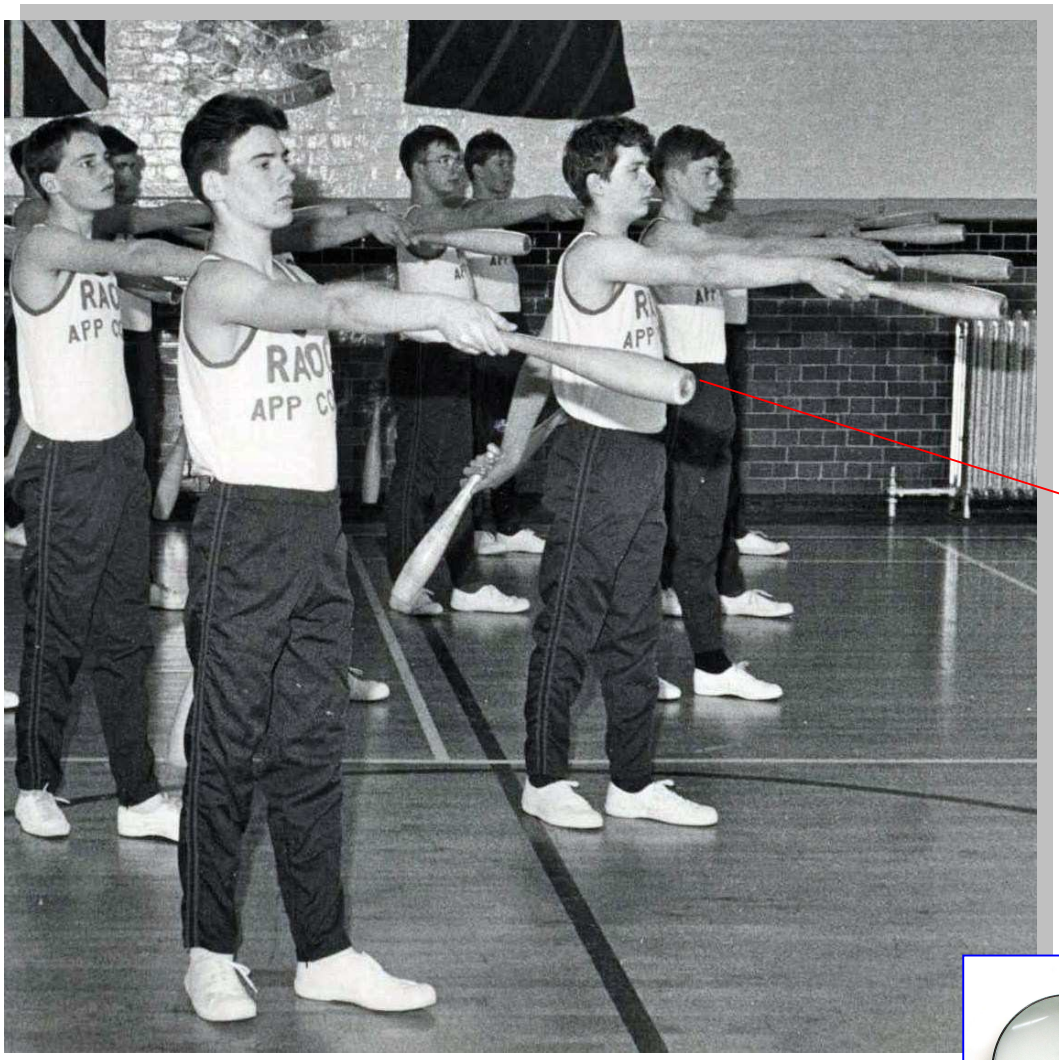
RAOC Gazette Extracts have been collected by the Ex-Boys' Association and are produced with the kind permission of the RLC/RAOC Museum and the RAOC Association – Circa 1985

Utilizing a series of graceful swinging movements, Indian Club training was a simple method for individuals to build stronger, healthier bodies while promoting joint integrity and improving overall strength. Sadly, Indian Club training fell out of favour in the 1920's but that didn't mean this ancient technique had to disappear forever; as evidenced by the photograph of Arnhem Platoon!

Indian clubs derive their name from the much larger and heavier objects of similar shape traditionally used by martial artists and pehlwani wrestlers in India to train for strength. The practice of swinging such clubs to develop physical fitness was first recorded in ancient Egypt and the Middle East. It was introduced to England by British soldiers who were stationed in India during the 19th century.

They were exceptionally popular during the health craze of the late Victorian era, used by military cadets and well-heeled ladies alike, and even appeared as a gymnastic event in the 1904 and 1932 Olympics. Gymnasiums were built just to cater to club exercise groups. The popularity of the Indian Club waned in the 1920s and 1930s as organized sports became more popular. Regimented exercise routines, like those requiring Indian clubs, were relegated to professional athletes and the military, who had access to more effective and modern strength training equipment.

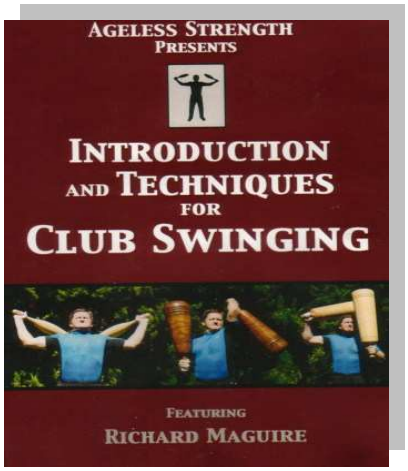
While torches and other sticklike objects have been used in juggling for centuries, the modern juggling club was inspired by the Indian club, which was first repurposed for juggling by DeWitt Cook in the 1800's. There are current physical fitness enthusiasts who have revived the popularity of Indian clubs in the modern day, citing the aerobic exercise and safety advantages over traditional free weight regimens. There are nostalgic replicas of the original clubs being manufactured, as well as modern engineering updates to the concept, such as the Clubbel

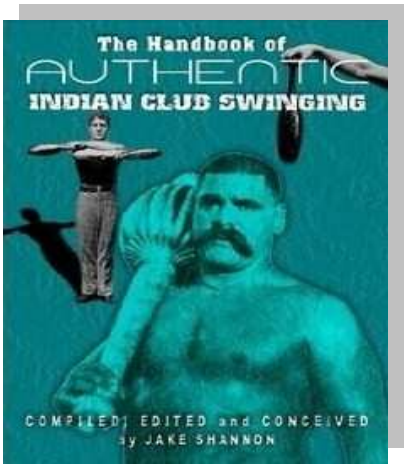


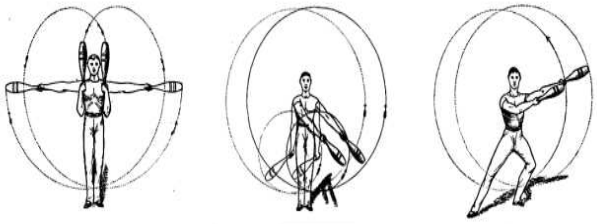












Know Your RAOC/REME and RCT Wall Shields

Adrian Hayward-Wills

Military Wall Shields have played an important part in Army life. In a new picture article starting in this Summer Edition Newsletter and for future editions, are pictures of Wall Shields from various Army units connected with the RAOC, REME and RCT.

Perhaps you may have a shield hanging on your wall at home and would like it featured in this particular section – better still, take a picture of it and send a short article about the Unit you served in! Association readers **WILL** be interested in your article.

Please contact Adrian Hayward-Wills (Newsletter Editor) in the first instance









Know Your RAOC/REME and RCT Wall Shields

Most Army Wall Shields have the same dimensions, these measurements being approximately 6 inches (15 cms) in width and approximately 7 inches (18cms) in height. Mainly constructed of wood but I have seen some in a composite material.

Three of the largest collections in the country I have seen are that of RMA Sandhurst, the Tower of London and H.M.S Victory.

So go on, photograph your wall shield - *preferably against a white background* – and send to me and receive the adulation you deserve!!



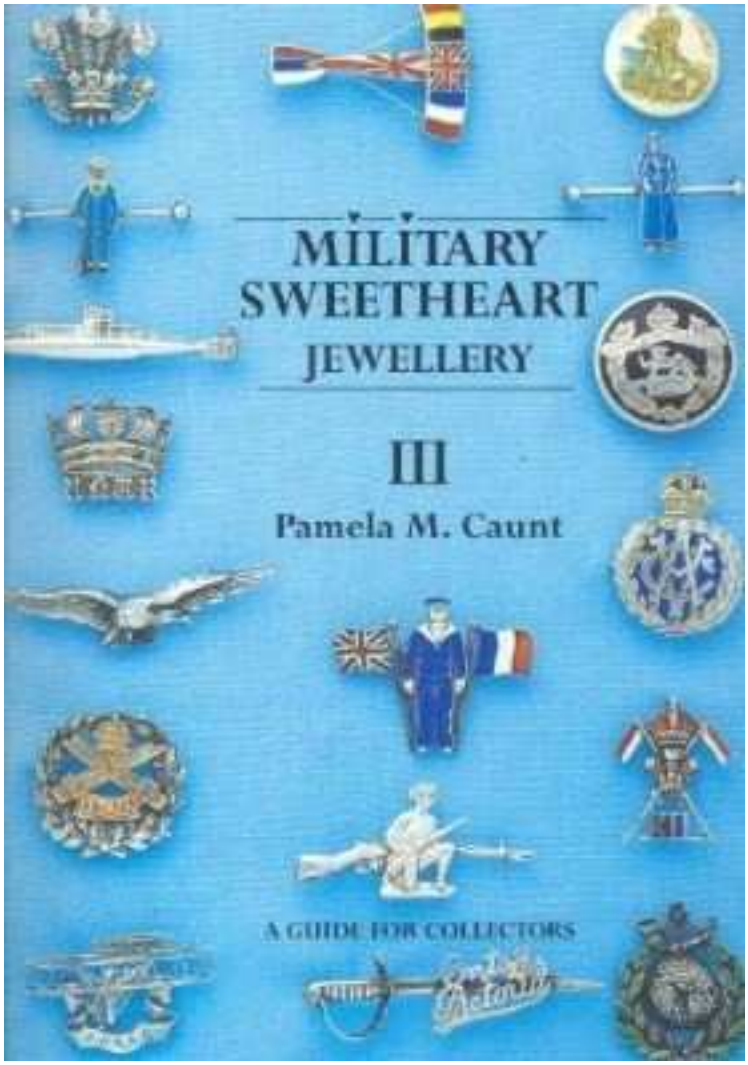






End

Book Review



- **Paperback:** 48 pages
- **Publisher:** Arbras (5 July 2001)
- **Language** English
- **ISBN-10:** 095237093X
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0952370932
- **Product Dimensions:** 20.2 x 14.2 x 0.4 cm

Synopsis

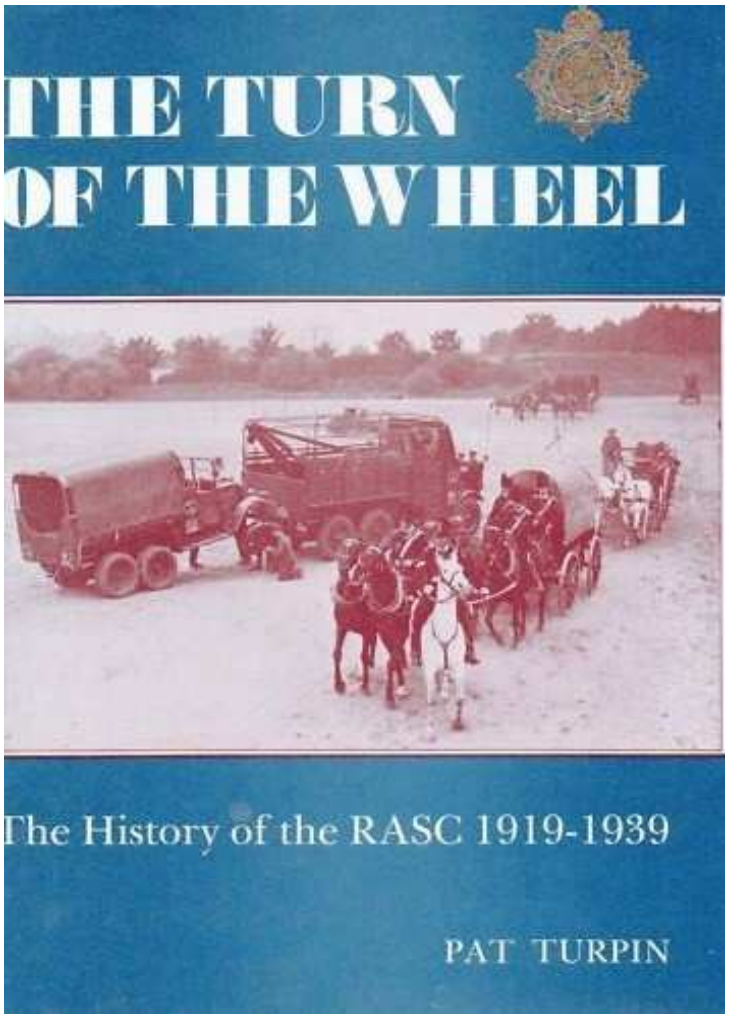
An essential book to go with your ever-increasing collection of RAOC, REME and RCT Sweetheart Brooches!

Nicely illustrated with an extensive collection of fine examples.

Start searching today to start your collection! Despite only being paperback and only running to 48 pages, this book does what is says on the front-cover.

Informs the reader/collector how to present and look after this ever increasing in value field of collecting.

Book Review



- Hardcover
- **Publisher**: Barracuda (1988)
- **ASIN**: B00408R056
- **Pages** 256
- Limited Edition and Numbered

Synopsis

Turn of the Wheel, 1919-1939; The History of the RASC 1919-1939 by Major General Pat Turpin. Published in hardback by Barracuda Books, 1988. First and limited edition numbered 283

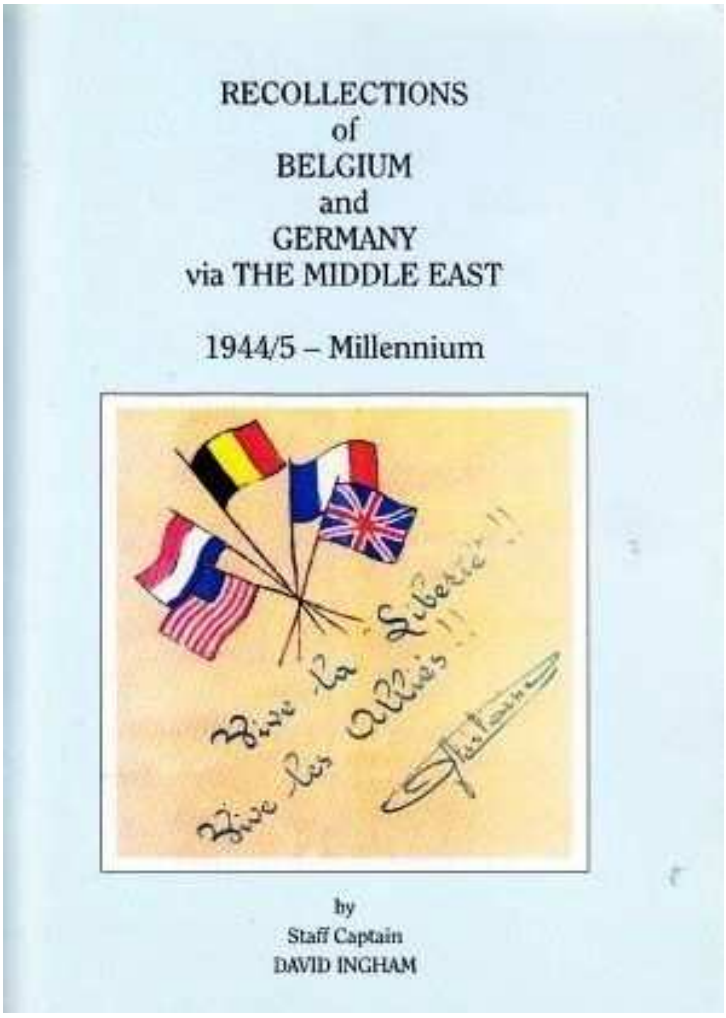
With the signing of the Armistice in 1918 came the end of another era in Army life -The horse. So long the mainstay of transport in the Army, the horse was being replaced by the lorry and the RASC was in the forefront of the development of mechanical transport, with all its attendant challenges of training, manpower and maintenance.

The development of wheeled vehicles capable of moving off roads, with the introduction of multi-axle drive and pneumatic tyres, were to restore mobility to the battlefield. The widespread use of motor transport led to the prime importance of the provision and handling of supplies of fuel and influenced the strategic importance of the oilfields.

Thus, as an Army could no longer fight, or even exist, without supplies and transport, the activities of the RASC, which provided both, is a history of the activities of the Army as a whole. Despite shortages of equipment and manpower, by the time of crisis in 1938 and 1939, the training of the Army's Transport and Supply service for its role in World War Two was both realistic and imaginative.

This account gives a fascinating new insight into the personalities and events which made this possible.

Book Reviews



- **Paperback:** 92 pages
- **Publisher:** David Ingham (Oct 2003)
- **Language** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0954619404
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0954619404

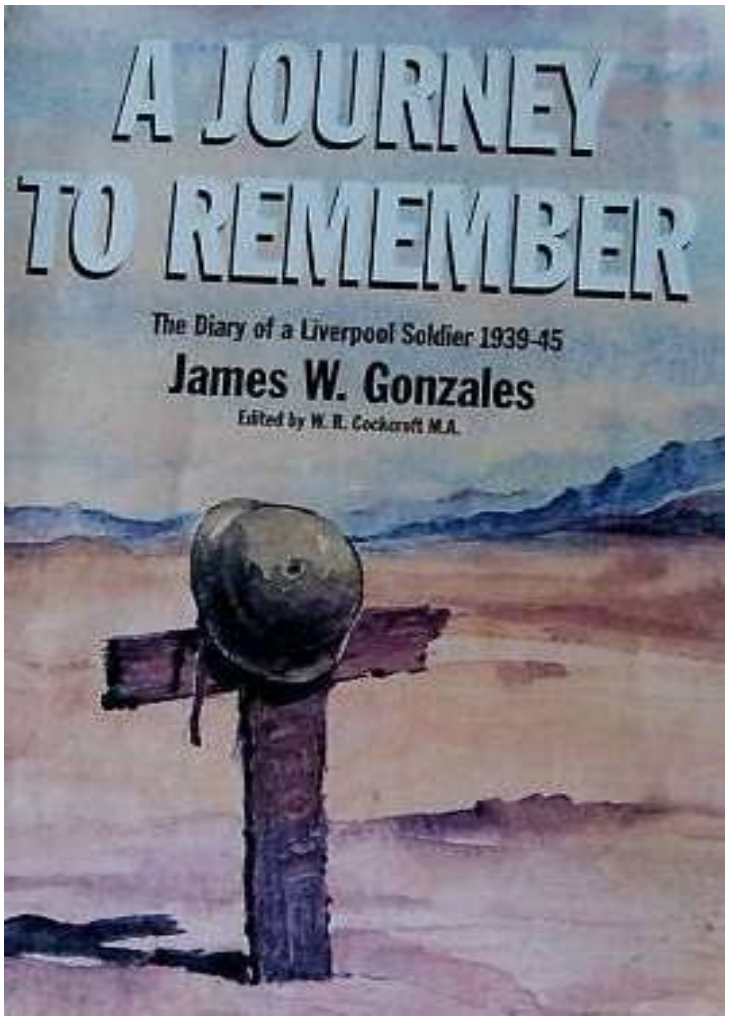
Synopsis

David Ingham 2003 1st Ed, Signed by the Author w/ a dedication.

A book about his time with the RAOC in Belgium and Germany, other than that not much else know – sorry!

A very limited private publication **. Only 200 printed.**

Book Review



- **Paperback:** 176 pages
- **Publisher:** Print Origination (20 Feb 1995)
- **Language** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0903348497
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0903348492

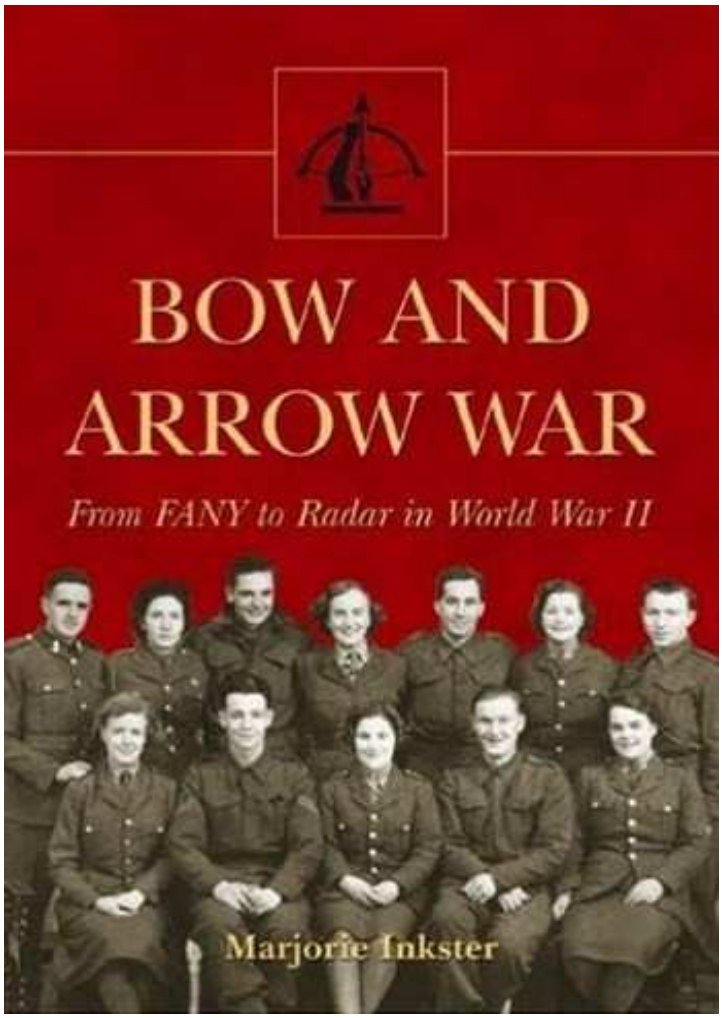
Synopsis

It is fortunate for future generations that James Gonzales ignored the rules against the keeping of diaries ,and is so able to give us this vivid and moving account of his experiences with the **Royal Army Ordnance Corps**, his part of which became the **Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers** in 1942.

The long journey of the 5th Division by sea and road to the east of India(to meet a Japanese threat which never materialised),and back via the Persian Gulf and Iraq ,showed that hardships and deaths are not only caused by the enemy. The Division then took a leading part in the invasions of Sicily and Italy and the author gives a graphic account of the brave deeds of many of his comrades and a modest one of his own part in the important task of keeping many different vehicles and machines in running order ,which lead to his promotion to staff-sergeant.

The descriptions of battle are skilfully interwoven with those of the relaxation provided by ENSA, films and the best opera. They combine to give a convincing account of the way our soldiers supported each other in facing years of hardship and danger fighting for their country.

Book Review



- **Paperback:** 112 pages
- **Publisher:** Brewin Books (Dec 2005)
- **Language** English
- **ISBN**-10: 1858582806
- **ISBN**-13: 978-1858582801

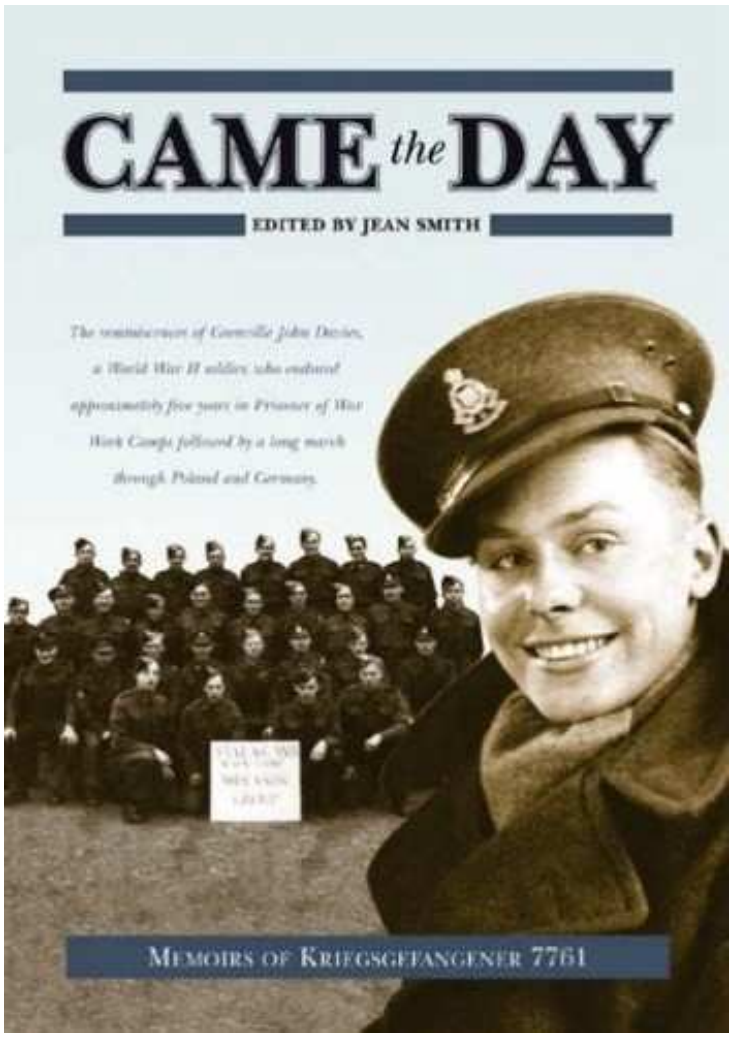
Synopsis:

This is the story of a 19 year-old who joined the FANY then trained as a radar mechanic during the 1939-45 war. From 1943 she was a radar maintenance officer on London gun-sites, including Hampstead, Primrose Hill and Mill Hill.

The work entailed taking responsibility for a group of **REME** craftsmen and NCOs and gives a detailed account of life in the Little Blitz of Autumn 1943 to May 1944. There is a lively description of the gun sites, the people working on them and in the Officers' Mess, of daily work practices, air-raids and history of the fast development of army radar.

There are insights into difficulties of planning and execution. Also there is praise for the **Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers** in workshops, without whom, no guns could have fired in our defence. In histories of AA Command, their work goes for the most part unmentioned.

Book Review



- Paperback: 136 pages
- Publisher: Brewin Books (May 2007)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 1858584019
- ISBN-13: 978-1858584010

Synopsis:

Grenville J Davies, a young man from the Welsh Valleys who came to live in Birmingham in 1935, relates his experiences when taken Prisoner of War at the beginning of WWII.

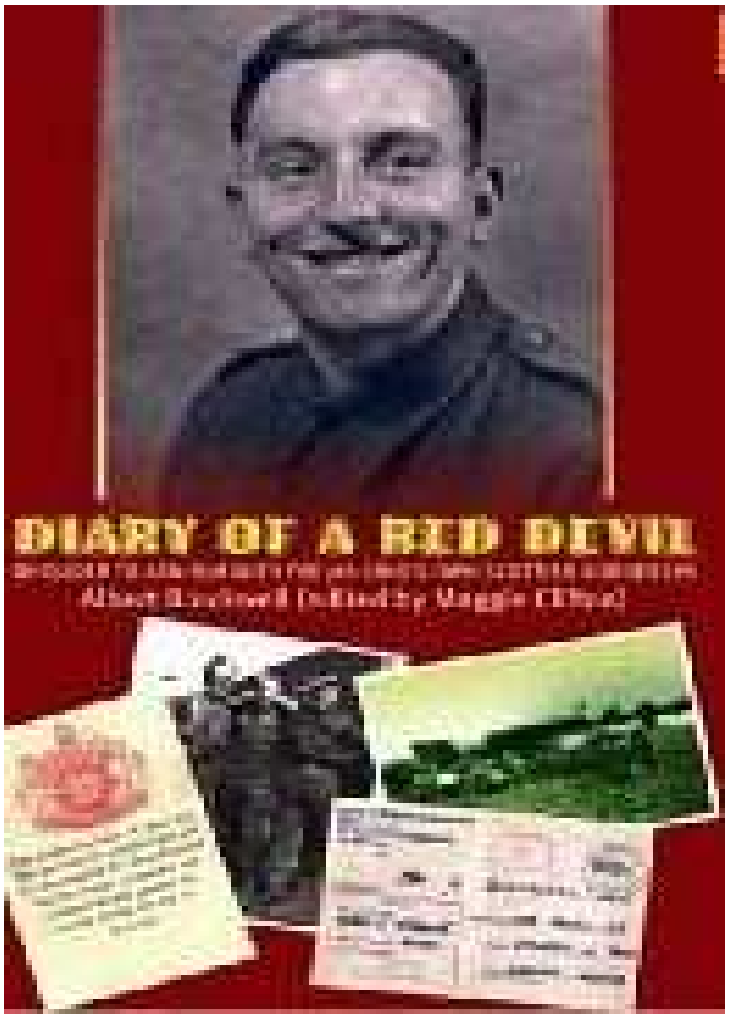
Held in Stalag XXA and XXB POW Forced Labour Camps in Poland and Germany "*Came The Day*" is retold from a diary that he was able to keep on scraps of paper obtained whilst in camp.

Knowing the Germans were withholding Red Cross parcels containing food and provisions, being thoroughly demoralised through near starvation, hard work and cruelty, interspersed with occasional acts of kindness, simply increased the mental instability of many men, some of whom were driven to suicide.

The story tells how prisoners, with no hope of escaping, did their best to live off their wits and impede the German war effort to the best of their ability. Note the RAOC Cap Badge!

Eventually, riddled with lice, disease, and in a state of near collapse, as the allies began to advance closer to the German borders, late one evening they were removed from their camps and aimlessly marched for hundreds of miles in the most atrocious weather conditions imaginable, not knowing whether at any moment they would be abandoned or shot.

Book Review



- **Hardcover:** 208 pages
- **Publisher**: Helion & Company (22 Jun 2005)
- **Language** English
- **ISBN**-10: 1874622132
- **ISBN**-13: 978-1874622130
- Product Dimensions: 23 x 14.8 x 2.8 cm

Synopsis:

Many books have been written about the Second World War and the majority of them either concentrate on a particular battle, campaign or unit. Individual accounts are certainly in a minority and those from the lower ranks even more scarcer.

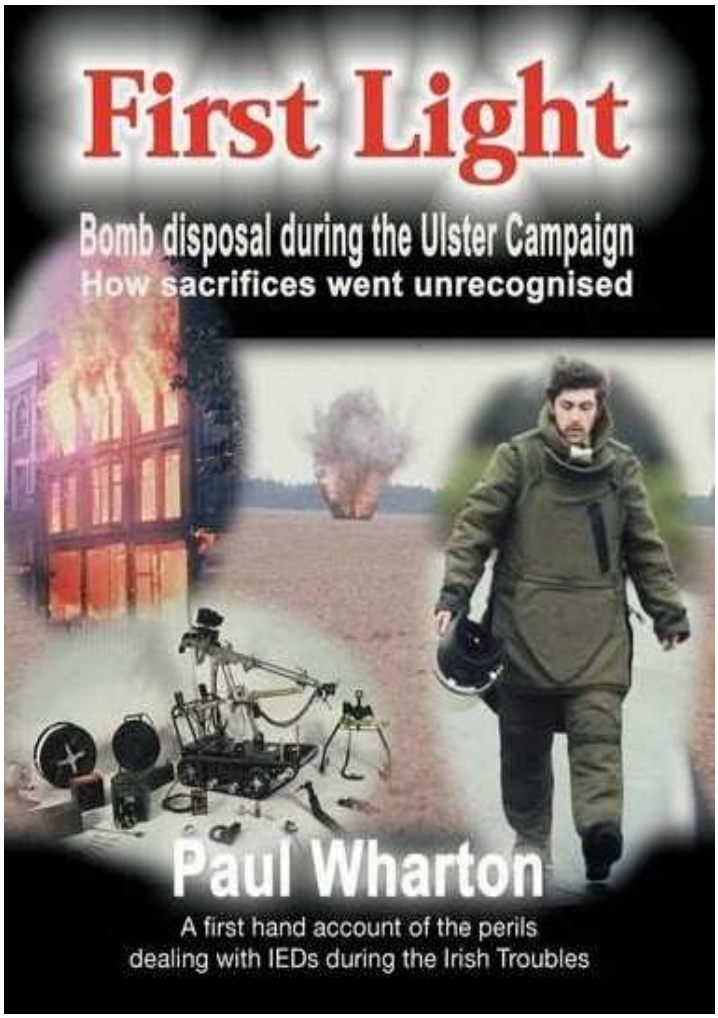
It relates the war time experiences of a young man, Albert Blockwell from the north-east of England, who in February 1940 was called up for service with the Army. Initially conscripted into the **Royal Army Ordnance Corps** and trained as a vehicle mechanic, he was then posted in March 1940 to a pre-war Territorial unit - The 7th Kings Own Scottish Borderers, then a home defence unit based near London. His diary is a most interesting account of a young vehicle mechanic who also had to learn to be an infantry soldier.

Albert remained with this unit for all his war-time service, later going to the Shetland Islands when the 7th KOSB were part of OSDEF (Orkney and Shetlands Defence Force). Then in late 1943, much to their surprise the unit was posted to Lincolnshire to become the third infantry unit in the 1st Airlanding Brigade then in the process of returning from Italy with the rest of the 1st Airborne Division.

Swapping their Glengarries for Red Berets Albert and his comrades had to adapt to their new way of getting to war by glider. The diary continues with a down to earth account of the highs and lows of the next few months. Then in September 1944 Albert flew to Holland on Operation Market-Garden and his account (written in PoW camp) describes the savage nine days fighting at Arnhem from the slit trench level.

Taken prisoner on the last day his account then describes the spartan life in PoW camp without pulling any punches. Sadly Albert died in 2001 but his diary survived and his daughter Maggie Clifton together with help from two published 'Arnhem' authors have edited a unique account of the fighting at Arnhem from the frontline soldier's perspective.

Book Review



- **Paperback:** 156 pages
- **Publisher:** Brisance Books (12 Nov 2009)
- **Language** English
- **ISBN-10:** 095635291X
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0956352910
- **Product Dimensions:** 24.4 x 18.8 x 1.4 cm

Synopsis:

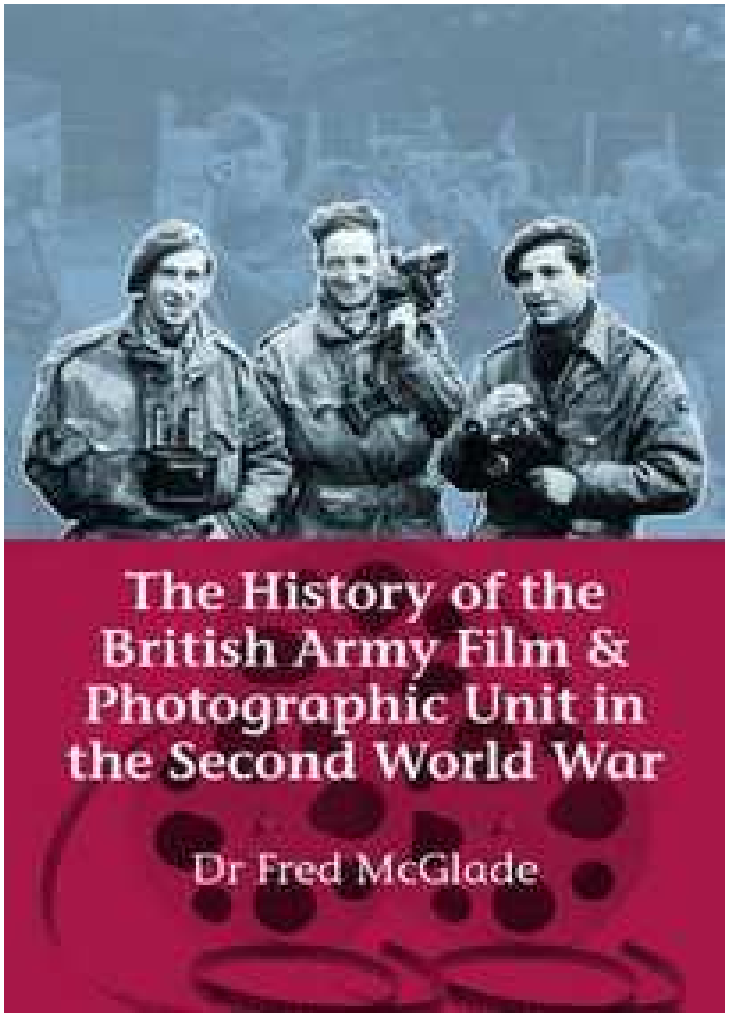
Paul Wharton states that the purpose of writing this book is to show how volatile the work could be for everyone who served as a Bomb Disposal Operator during the Irish Campaign and to provide an answer as to why it was that not one of the Operators who died received a posthumous gallantry medal. For those who served in the early years the work was especially hazardous, not least because the equipment and thinking were very immature.

Much of the book is autobiographical and Paul Wharton has used his experiences to paint a picture of how hazardous this line of work can be. He hasn't shied away from the mistakes he made, less than optimum Render Safe Procedures he applied and other difficulties he encountered. Wishing to dispel the Hollywood hype,

Paul Wharton maintains that Operators, many of whom were unaware that they would be required to carry out this line of work when they signed up, were simply ordinary people doing an extra ordinary job in highly unpredictable and unique sets of circumstances.

Their families came second to Queen and Country each time they entered the dragon's den and for the families of those who died it is they who lost the most and it is they who might wonder today why their loved one's sacrifice went unrecognised. Paul Wharton's autobiographical book First Light is a great combination of the historical, technical and personal interlaced with subtle and sometimes self-deprecating humour on the very relevant and topical subject of bomb disposal.

Book Review



- **Paperback:** 224 pages
- **Publisher:** Helion & Company Ltd (15 Nov 2010)
- **Language** English
- **ISBN-10:** 1906033943
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1906033941
- **Product Dimensions:** 22.8 x 15.6 x 2 cm

Synopsis:

At the beginning of the Second World War the Nazi hierarchy had, at an early stage, fully recognised the importance of controlling the depiction of military conflict in order to ensure the continued morale of their combat troops by providing a bridge between the soldiers and their families. Promoting the use of photographic record also allowed the Nazis to exercise control over negative depictions of the war. In contrast, the British military and political decision makers were reluctance to embrace any potential propaganda benefits of film and photographic material in the build up to and the early months of the Second World War. Military commanders in the field were conscious that their tactical blunders could be recorded on film and still photographs and made available to the British public. Visions such as the First World War use of troops as fodder for machine guns and the ensuing mud-coated corpses of British troops were not the sort of record of the conflict that British generals in the field were willing to contemplate. British politicians and their generals feared that a realistic presentation of the horror of war could have an adverse effect on recruiting.

The British Army Film and Photographic Unit's material represents some of the most frequently used records of historical events and key figures of the period. It is utilized by film producers and television programme makers without the cameramen who shot the footage being listed in programme credits. This book does not seek to denigrate the work of others such as Accredited War Correspondents but it does seek to accord to the combat cameramen of the A.F.P.U. the recognition they are entitled to, but have never received, for their enormous and unique contribution to the historical record of the Second World War. Based on memoirs, personal letters and interviews with the AFPU cameramen, this book reveals the development of the unit and tells the human story of men who used cameras as weapons of war.

Born in Belfast in 1953, Fred McGlade was brought up in a poor inner city area. He left school with little in the way of qualifications, his education having been disrupted by the 'Troubles'. The family home being *'burnt out'* by the IRA was the impetus for him to leave Belfast and he joined the **Royal Army Ordnance Corps** where he served for six years as a **Vehicle Specialist**.

After leaving the army he got involved with the road haulage/ logistics industry and this led to him going to Dubai where he obtained a job as an Insurance Assessor examining damage to shipping cargo onboard container vessels. After three years in Dubai, on his return to England the insurance experience he had gained led him to start up his own insurance brokerage, which he ran for 19 years.

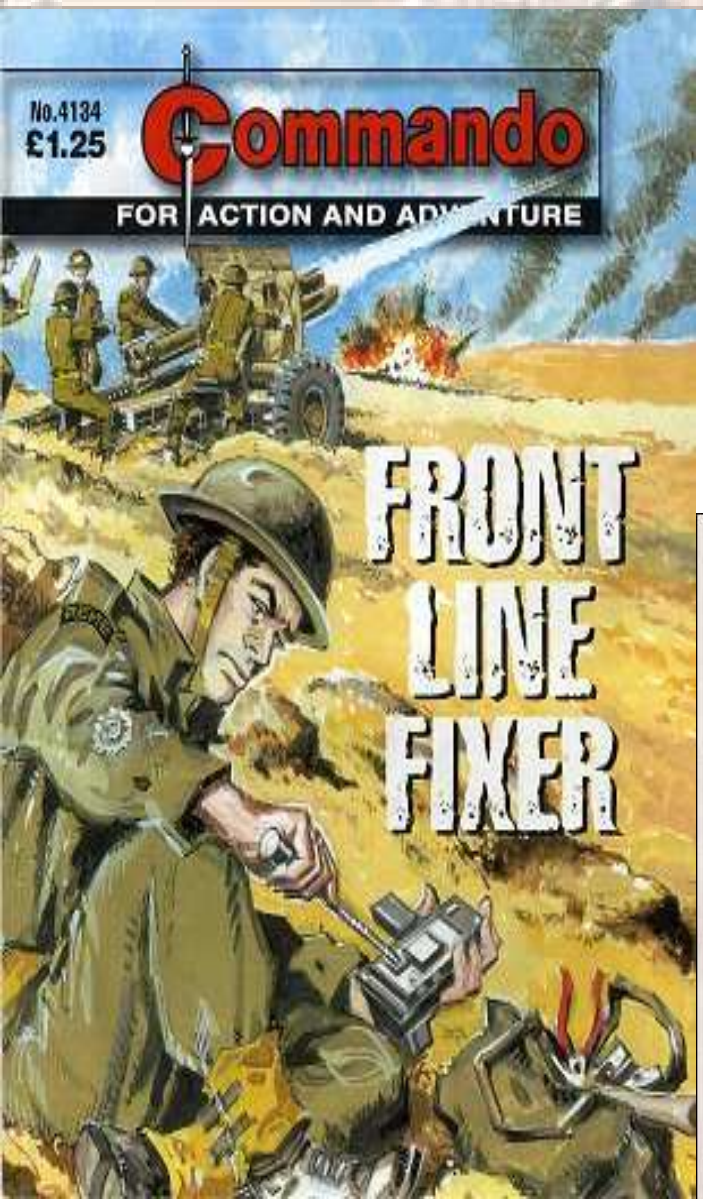


Commando has been publishing stories of action and adventure to its readers since the 1960s. These stories, with their mixture of excitement, danger and courage under fire and the dynamic artwork that accompanies them, have won Commando a loyal readership over the decades. Did you know there was a magazine published that told of a REME soldier? Well read on…..

Each pocket-sized edition houses a 63-page black and white saga of square jawed heroes and dastardly villains (mostly Teutonic types typically exclaiming "Achtung!" when surprised, "Schnell!" when in a rush, and "Aieee!" when shot), clashing mostly on the WWII battlefield.

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!

In these magazines you can feel every bullet hit, every blanket issued, every spanner dropped, every Land Rover washed and every nerve-shattering explosion! The below example is no exception!



This is an excellent issue of Commando War Stories in Pictures entitled "*Front Line Fixer*" which is the tale of a Craftsman from the REME in World War 2. The summary on the rear reads:

"To repair and maintain the vital equipment which keeps an army in action calls for a very special skill. To do it under heavy enemy fire calls for bags of courage and a cool, cool nerve. Jonathan Weeton of the REME had all these qualities - and more. He was a credit to the British Army, this sure fingered genius.....". I've been called that a few times over the years!!

Anyway, this issue was published in 1991. Commando issues to the REME are very rare and hard to find.

Issues of this age in good condition are becoming difficult to find.



Music Review



A Waggoner's Salute
By Land And Sea
Maiden Voyage (4th Mvt, The Shipbuilders)
Tall Ships
To Fly Without Wings
Feelin' Free
American Patrol
Chariots Of Fire
Luftwaffe March
Cable Car
Funiculi Funicula
Yellow Submarine
Sleepy Shores
Jet Set
The Battle Of Britain
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Coronation Scot
A Walk In The Black Forest
A Musical Joke
Lymington Quay
Troika
Royal Army Service Corps March

Recent-ish composition by the band of the Royal Corps of Transport Association Concert Band.

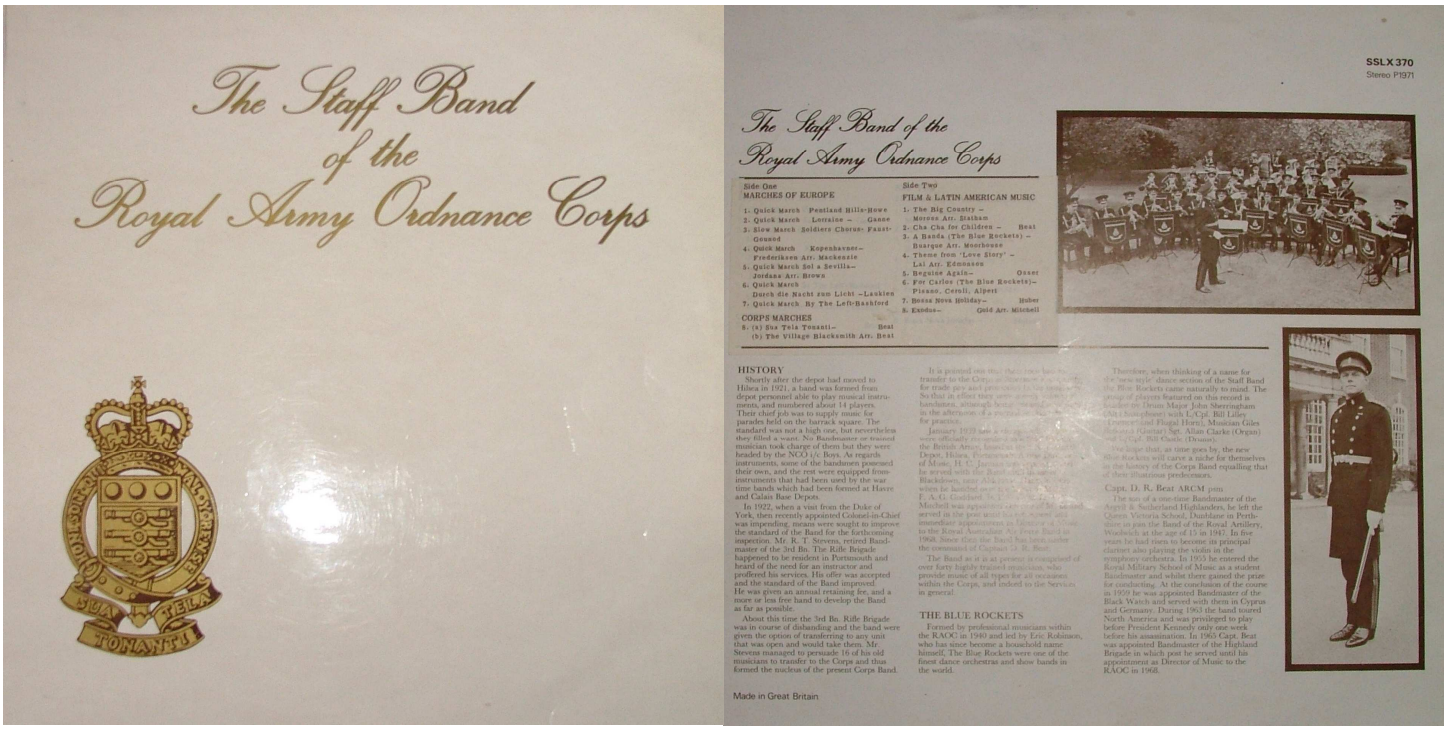
The Band possesses a diverse range of musical ensembles all of which are in frequent demand. These include a Concert Band, Marching Band, Big Band, Dance Band, Pop Group, Chamber Groups, Fanfare Trumpets and a Disco. Nothing can match the splendour of a military band in uniform and its professionalism 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!!*

Many recognisable tunes to the old soldier and perhaps one for the collection – however, rather a boring and predictable front cover!

This particular edition is sponsored by the RASC and RCT Association.

Available on eBay or Amazon.

Music Review



This particular LP was recorded in 1971 under the musical directorship of Capt. D.R Beat RAOC. It rightly includes the following Marches – Sua Tela Tonanti and the Village Blacksmith. It also includes tracks from The RAOC Blue Rockets. A Dance Orchestra Band consisting of members of the RAOC Staff Band!

There are several Quick Marches from Europe and music from film and Latin American music. For example, the theme from "Love Story.

Background to the RAOC Staff Band, in 1922, a retired Bandmaster of the 3rd Battalion The Rifle Brigade was asked to develop the Band into a more organised form. Mr. Stevens negotiated the transfer of 16 musicians form other bands in order to raise the standard of music.

In 1939, the RAOC Staff Band was officially recognised as a Staff Band of the British Army and Bandmaster H C Jarman was appointed as Director of Music. In 1968, Captain Beat was appointed Director of Music to the RAOC in 1968 and this recording was produced some three years after his appointment.

The Staff Band at the time of this recording carried out an intensive programme of Parades, concerts dances and many other forms of Official Functions. With tours in German and the Far and Middle East, West Indies and Central and North America, the RAOC Staff Band got some travelling in!

As previously noted, this particular Album/LP has the Corps tune "*The Village Blacksmith*", which from memory, can be used as a Quick March at the regulation infantry rate of 120 paces (a rate of marching 120 paces, each of 30 in. (76.2 cm) in a minute or it can be adapted as a Slow March at the regulation infantry rate 65 paces to the minute as the occasion demands!

I am of the opinion - *having looked at the photograph carefully* - that the photograph of Capt. Beat on the back of the LP is taken outside the Sgt's Mess Apprentice College Deepcut, where several Corps of Drums pictures have been taken over the years!

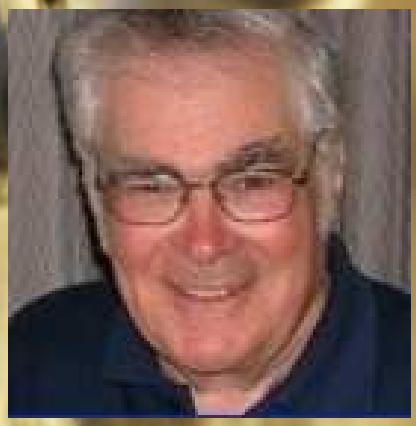
Old Codger's – Photo Gallery

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. Indeed, we can even place a photo on the website when its your Birthday!

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**











Top to Bottom Dave Cogswell, Terry Cook, Barry Drtiscoll

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.

Furthermore, submitting such photos also allows us to place a photo on the website when its your Birthday! Ideally for the newsletter, we would appreciate three (3) such photographs to enable a before, middle and retirement photo strip!

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!





Vacancy One

Ex Boys and 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 2011, at the very latest, he will relinquish this voluntary work. Having carried out this role out for over 6 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 all our other Admin roles, this is a voluntary position.

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

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 all our other Admin roles, this is a voluntary position.

If you are interested and wish to discuss this valued and important position in more detail, please email Bill Chamberlain, supplying a contact home phone number.



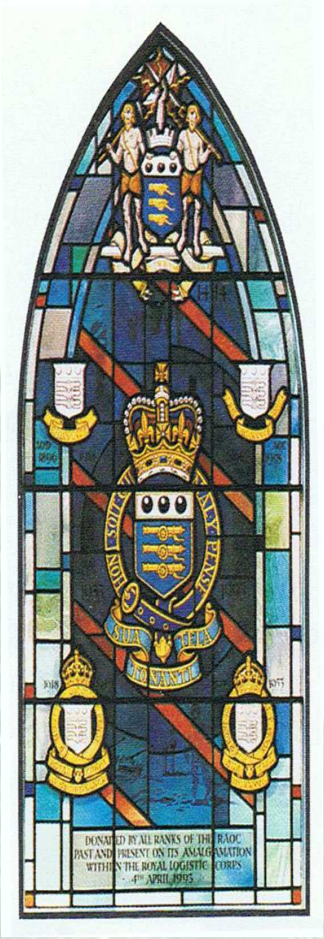




The Last Post and Obituaries

It is with deep regret that we have been notified of the passing of the following Ex Boys and Permanent Staff since our last publication. Our thoughts and deepest 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.



Douglas J. Simpson (RAOC) – *22nd February 1939 - †10th February 1982

Wilfred B. Laywood (REME) – *14th July 1942 - †29th August 1998

Brian C. KESSON (RAOC) – *1946 - †8th Sept 1999

Reginald A.J Wiggins OBE (RAOC) * 1911 - †1974

Gordon Brocklebank (RAOC) – * ? - †21st. March 2011

Harold Joseph P. NASH (RAOC) - * 16th Feb 1946 - † 30th Aug1999

Patrick J "*Paddy*" LENNON (RAOC) - * 10th March 1942 - †8th May 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.
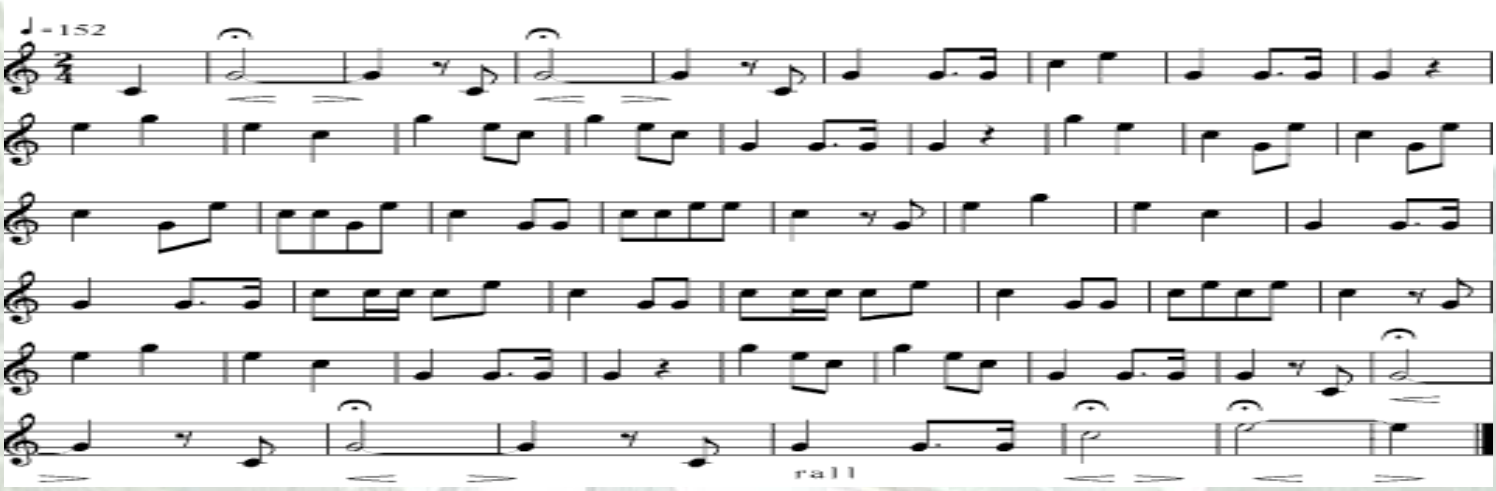
Members may be interested to know of a website by the name of lastingtribute.co.uk. Lasting Tribute invites you to celebrate the lives of family, friends and people in the public eye who are no longer with us.

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 passed away in 2009.

The Last Post

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

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

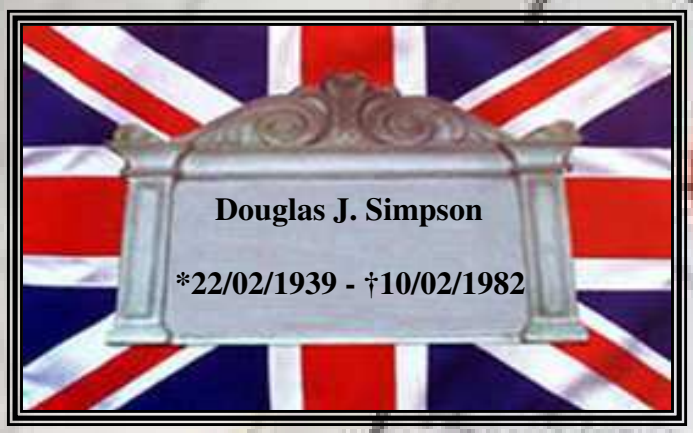


The Taptoe was also used to signal the end of the day but has more prosaic origin. Taptoe originated signalling the moment that beer barrels had to be shut, hence that the day had ended. It comes from the Dutch phrase Doe den tap toe, meaning "Turn the tap off" (not to be confused with "Taps" which has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

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

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

These buglers are quite often mistaken as being from the local fire brigade; however, they are present every day representing the Last Post Committee. They are indeed members of the fire brigade and can sometimes be seen wearing the uniforms but it is not the Fire Brigade hat organises "Last Post". "Last Post" was used by British forces in North America in colonial times but its function was taken over in the United States by "Taps", which has been used by the United States Army since 1862 which incidentally is a beautiful piece of music.





RAOC Boy Soldier 1954 to December 1956

Wilfred Laywood REME

***14/07/42 - †29/08/98**



Former REME Junior Leader (Gordon House)
from February 1958 to January 1959 when transferred to Arborfield.

"Wilf joined the "Boys" in Feb 58, at the same time as I did and I recall him as a great, fun guy, who was up for anything going. Sad to hear that he passed away at such a young age."

Bill Chamberlain





"Another one bites the dust",
"Sad to receive news this way, I have always wondered what and where Brian Kesson ended up!

He came from a little village just outside of Ringwood in Hampshire.
We played basket ball for Junior Leaders, for the men's team and then for the Army together.

A volatile character, with a wild side to him as a boy. I got on with him quite well.

Paul Jones

Sad news indeed!

Another Steevens House boy of my era, with whom I shared many memories of those developing years.
We met once again when he was a member of the Permanent Staff in 1973, but then lost touch.

He was a part of my life that will never be forgotten.

R.I.P Brian!

George Tether







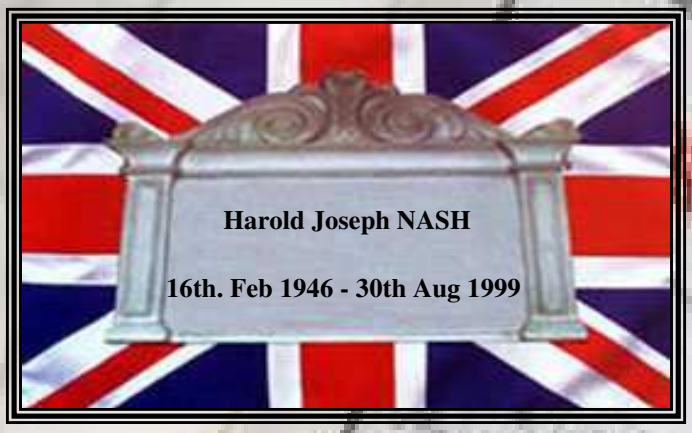
Gordon Brocklebank

1942 - 28 March 2011

RAOC Junior Leader in Steevens House

January 1959 - April 1960

A member of the Ex Boys Association







Harold Joseph P. NASH - Also known as "Lofty" or "Brummie"
23881128

Lofty was an RAOC Junior Leader of Hill House from September 1961 – July 1963

Lofty died following an aneurysm (he had had a quad bi-pass in 1984),
at his home in Bolton on Bank Holiday Monday.

He left a widow Jean, whom he married in 1965 and two sons Gary & Ian (born in Germany).

"Another shock for me, after finding out about his mate Kesson, and posting a message saying he arrived at BICESTER in 1963, with Lofty, I now find out that LOFTY had passed away, how sad.

A gentle giant, Lofty was very quiet man and I often wondered what and were he served?

***RIP** MR NASH,,ALWAYS REMEMBERED. STAN LOMAX*

Stan Lomax 12/4/2011







"Sgt Fenton was a great instructor when he was at the Junior leaders.
He died on a train of a heart attack in Germany, whilst travelling to his next appointment".

"He is laid to rest in the military cemetery in Rheindahlen. I did visit his grave some time ago whilst living in Germany and I laid some flowers on behalf of all those Junior Leaders who came in contact with him during his service at Blackdown.
A great Sgt and one can be proud of his contribution to the Junior Leaders Battalion".

William (Bill) Boyd - 17th November 2005

The above photo of "Pop" Fenton's Gravestone, was taken in the Autumn of 2010,
when Mick Wray and James "Paddy" Simpson visited Pop's grave at JHQ Rheindahlen, Germany.

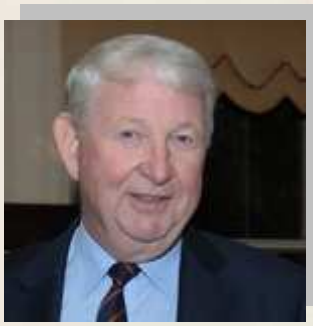




RAOC Junior Leader April 1958 - April 1960

Your Admin Team

If you require any assistance with regards to the Association, please feel free to contact any of the following. Contact can easily be made via the Association Website and clicking on to the Contacts Page!



Paul D. Jones

Founder and Chairman



George Tether

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



Bill Chamberlain

Lost Pals:

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



Dave McCarthy

All matters concerning ex-Boy's and members of permanent Staff where

their names are relevant to Nominal Roll, Battalion Structure, Intake & Passing Out Dates of ex Boy's etc

Your Admin Team



Brian Wild

Secretary and Treasurer



Adrian "HW" **Hayward-Wills**

Editor/compiler of the Newsletter; paper archivist for the Association

.



Allan Jones

Our contact for USA and Canada

Next Newsletter Issue 16 Winter 2011



Membership Update

Memorabilia

Book Reviews

Music Reviews

RAOC, REME and RCT Wall Shields

RAOC, REME and RCT Military Postcards

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

EX BOYS' ASSOCIATION



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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

