ARMY

RAOC ENLISTED BOYS' & BOYS' SCHOOL RAOC

JUNIOR LEADERS BATTALION RAOC & REME

RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT RAOC & RCT

NEWSLETTER

XVIII

HONI·SOIT QUI MAL·Y·PENSE

SUA TELA TONANTI

R·E·M·E

ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

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Introduction and Welcome

Dear Members,

A very warm "**HELLO**" from our Founder and Chairman Mr. Paul Jones, **all** the Association Committee Members who work behind the lines, George Tether, Bill Chamberlain, Dave McCarthy, Brian Wild and lastly, me the Editor of the Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter, Adrian (HW) Hayward-Wills, to the Eighteenth Ex-Boys' Association and Winter Edition Newsletter for 2012.

We hope that this Eighteenth Edition (Winter) Newsletter finds you well and refreshed after the Summer Holidays and of course for those that attended, an enjoyable Reunion on Saturday, August 11th 2012 in Coventry.

As our regular and observant 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 Winter 2012 Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter, provides a further format to reach its members in addition to our extensive and ever expanding (thanks to George Tether) website.

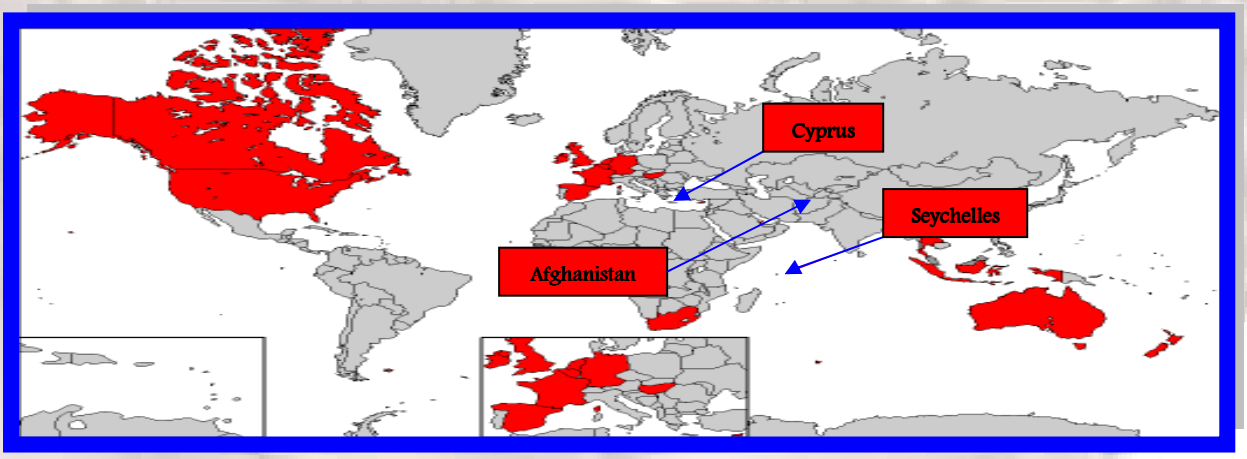
This is a shorter Newsletter from usual as I have been very busy at work and I am unfortunately not receiving any articles for publication. Please send an article on any subject associated with our respective Corps' - readers will be interested. In this Newsletter there is an update on my work in Afghanistan, where I am introducing change, direction and management to the handling of Detainees taken from the battlefield by NATO (ISAF) troops and in particular, human rights compliant prisoner and detainee handling.

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.

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. Moreover, we were and are thrilled to have reached our **650th** Member during the month of April 2012! As at November 2012, we are running close to 670!!



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 Afghanistan, the 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.

What's Inside?

In this particular Edition of the RAOC, REME and RCT Ex-Boys' Association Newsletter, you will find the following interesting subjects associated with our respective Corps. As the Editor of the Newsletter, I am always on the look out for items of copy, be it Rifle Shooting at Bisley or any items of kit, perhaps a Wall Shield or the Lee Enfield Rifle. Anyway, below are screen captures of this Summer's Newsletter and all for your edification and delight!



eBay is a great source of items and memorabilia associated with the RAOC, REME and RCT.

You can often find excellent photographs and information (not often correct though!) on items/lots that Sellers are auctioning off.

As with any purchase on-line, caveat emptor!

There are pages associated with the RAOC Gazette and the Magazine of the Colleges.

"The Thunderbolt" etc.

All the Journals we have are on-line and ready to be viewed!



What's Inside?



The ever-popular military Wall Shields article where members of the Association can display their Wall Shields that they were presented with upon leaving the Army or a Unit etc.

This particular article provides an opportunity for members to send in a picture and perhaps an article with regards their Wall shield that is languishing around their loft or study!

"Go on – send a picture in!"

There is the Book Review Section covering several books associated with the RAOC, REME and RCT.

This section of the Newsletter allows Members to send in either their own work or a recent book that they have read.

"Go on – send a Book review in!"



END

Station Topics At Home

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 ideally suited 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 Regimental 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". A point of interest regarding the website, we often receive requests for the re-sending of access details (password/username), where that person's e-mail address has changed and the Army Number is omitted. We cannot send access-details - ***for reasons of security*** - unless the Army Number is supplied. You need not necessarily use the website-form, an informal mail will suffice but please remember, the Army Regimental number **MUST** be there

The Forum for members is not only easy to navigate but it also 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 and an explanation as to what is a Forum!



The FORUM for members of the Ex Boys' Association R.A.O.C. R.E.M.E. & R.C.T.

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

George Tether has also 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

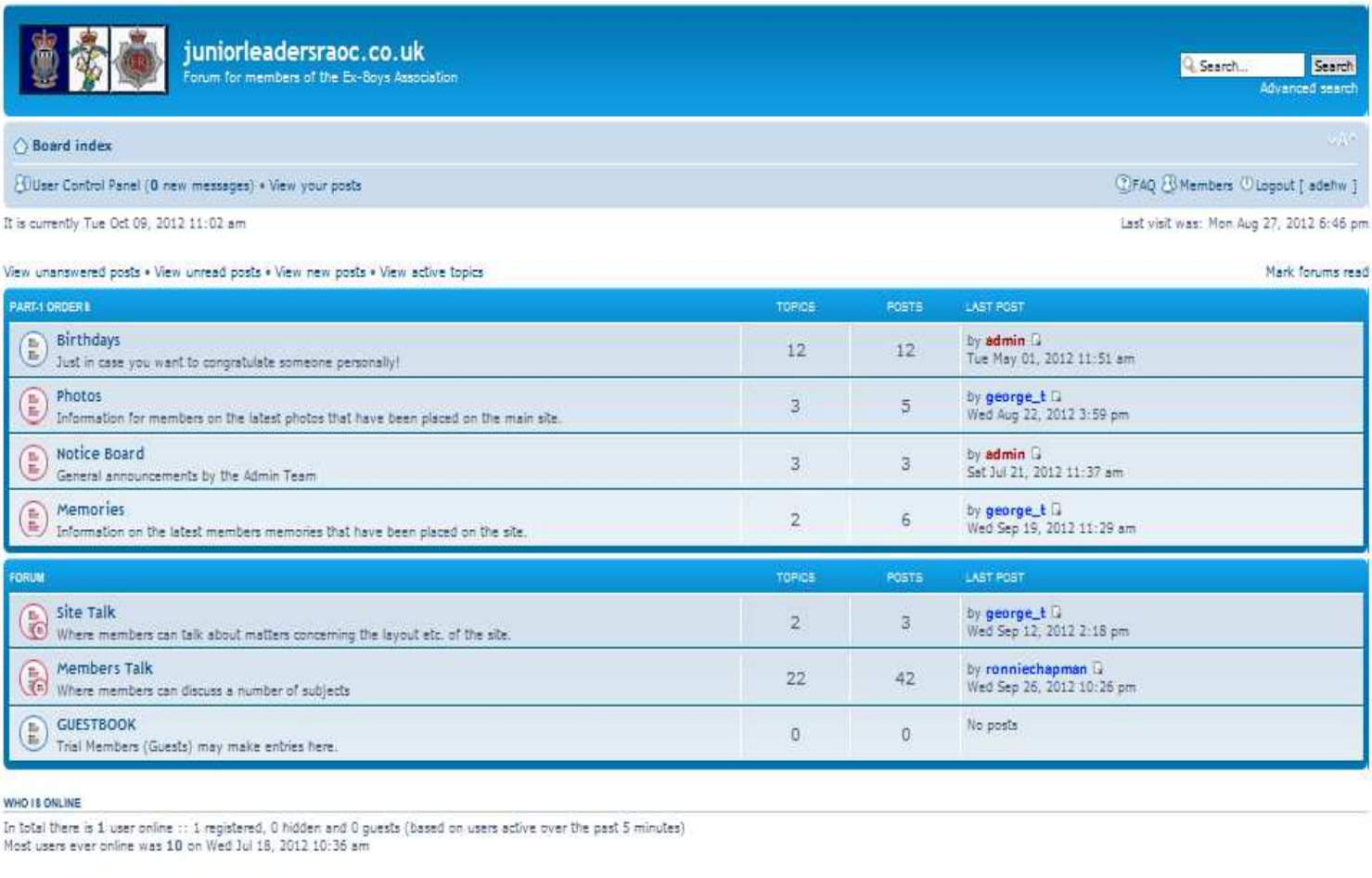
An **Internet forum** or **Message Board**, such as the RAOC, REME and RCT Ex-Boys' Association, is an online discussion site where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages.They differ from chat rooms in that messages are at least temporarily archived. Also, depending on the access level of a user or the forum set-up, a posted message might need to be approved by a moderator before it becomes visible. Forums have a specific set of jargon associated with them; e.g. a single conversation is called a "thread".

A discussion forum is hierarchical or tree-like in structure: a forum can contain a number of subforums, each of which may have several topics. Within a forum's topic, each new discussion started is called a thread and can be replied to by as many people as so wish. Depending on the forum's settings, users can be anonymous or have to register with the forum and then subsequently log in in order to post messages. On some forums, users do not have to log in to read existing messages.

A forum consists of a tree like directory structure. The top end is "Categories". A forum can be divided into categories for the relevant discussions. Under the categories are sub-forums and these sub-forums can further have more sub-forums. For example, Photos, New Members, New Features, Memories, General and Birthdays etc. The *topics* (commonly called *threads*) come under the lowest level of sub-forums and these are the places under which members can start their discussions or *posts*. Logically forums are organised into a finite set of generic topics (usually with one main topic) driven and updated by a group known as *members* and governed by a group known as *moderators*. A *post* is a user-submitted message enclosed into a block containing the user's details and the date and time it was submitted. Members are usually allowed to edit or delete their own posts. Posts are contained in threads, where they appear as boxes one after another. The first post starts the thread; this may be called the TS (thread starter) or OP (original post). Posts that follow in the thread are meant to continue discussion about that post, or respond to other replies; it is not uncommon for discussions to be derailed.

Posts have an internal limit usually measured in characters. Often one is required to have a message of minimum length of 10 characters. There is always an upper limit but it is rarely reached – most boards have it at either 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, or 50,000 characters. Most forums keep track of a user's postcount. The postcount is a measurement of how many posts a certain user has made. Users with higher postcounts are often considered more reputable than users with lower postcounts. Some forums have disabled postcounts in the hopes that doing so will reduce the emphasis on quantity over quality of information.

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



END

Membership Numbers











Date	Membership Numbers	Membership History of the Ex Boys' Association
Jan-12	640	The January New year Sales brought us to **640** members
Feb-12	649	A Romantic Valentine's Day gave us a healthy **649** Members!
Mar-12	659	The March Hare brought a Hopping **659** Members!!
Apr-12	662	The April Showers along with a Hose Pipe Ban brought us **662** Members
May-12	663	The May Day Holiday brought Membership levels to **663** Members
June-12	664	The wettest June on record gave us **664** Members
July-12	668	Wimbledon brought Membership to **668** Members "New Balls!"
Aug-12	670	A superb Ex-Boys' Reunion brought us to **670** Members in the Association
Sep-12	672	September brought a small increase of Membership to **672**
Oct-12	676	A cold and wet October brought **676** Members
Nov-12	677	Armistice Day brought Membership to **677**
Dec-12	???	Santa Claus will hopefully deliver some more members for the Association

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 on Parade

629 David John HILBORN - Baker 1970-72
630 James KELLY - Parsons 1970-72
631 Anthony Dudley CROWHURST - 1974-75
632 David Lewis HABGOOD - Hill 1963-65
633 Paul Brian MOSS (REME) - Parsons 1972-73
634 Peter William UPTON - Body 1962-65
635 Curtis Vaughn CHERRY - Arakan 1985-86
636 John HARDCASTLE - See 'Comments' 1971-73/1979-80
637 Timothy Robert NEWNES - Benghazi 1984-85
638 - Roger RUDD - Baker 1970-72

639 - William Smith MURRAY (REME) - Watts 1970-71
640 - Roy EDDINGTON - Berlin 1984-85
641 Trevor Robert BOYCE - Steevens 1959-61
641 Michael John FRYER (REME) - Baker 1957-58
642 Brian WICKS - Parsons 1961-63
643 David Alexander DEWAR - Horne 1972-74
644 Derek CATTERALL - Baker 1970-72
644 - Maj. Gen. David Leslie Burden
645 Keith Jervis JONES - Brunei 1978-79
646 William CHAMBERS - 1968
647 Robert Walter CHARLTON - Cutforth 1973-74
648 Colin James WESTWOOD - Watts 1965-67

649 Michael TIPPER - Mulcahy 1962-64
650 William John EGBEARE (REME) - Tope 1958-60
651 Ian FOSTER - Anguilla 1976-77
652 Graham PYE - Arakan 1975-76
653 Michael John WHITE (REME) - Rowcroft 1969-70
654 Michael Ian BARR - Hill 1962-64
655 Alan Michael VANSTONE - Steevens 1965-67
656 Alan James JENSEN - Parson & Body 1964-66
657 Andrew Thomas CARR - Steevens 1971-73
658 Raymond John Edward (Jim) BOND - Gordon 1964-66
659 David BURKILL (REME) - Cutforth 1971-73
660 Raymond Howard DICKENS - Boys Training Wing 1946-47
661 Terry JENNIANS - Burma 1976-78

New Members on Parade

661 Clive Edmund CALOW - Watts 1962-64
662 Fergus KIDD - Parsons 1966-68
663 Edwin Allan LARRARD – Watts 1967-69
664 Stanley TRACEY (REME) – Parsons 1974-75
665 Ronald CHAPMAN – Hill/Rowcroft 1969-71
Hugh Macdonald KAY – Association Member Passed away
665 John Anthony GAUNT – Parsons 1959-60

Clive CRAISTER - Association Member Passed away
665 Nicholas DOHERTY – Swiney 1975-76
666 Malcolm William JACQUES - Steevens 1963-65
667 Barry James QUIGLEY – Steevens 1964-66
668 Martin John Kenward – 1965-68
669 Clayton Edward MARQUAND - Body and Haslar 1953-55
670 Ian Michael WARNER – Horne 1972-74

671 Keith Walter MITCHELL – Horne 1954-56
672 Peter GIBSON – EBTW 1947-48
673 Leslie Stewart FREEMAN - 1955-57
674 Christopher Michael FUDGE (REME) – Rowcroft 1958-60
675 Michael LAMB – Balaclava 1980-81
676 Paul GARDINER – Williams 1969-72
677 Denis CLARK -

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.



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



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 Tether, 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

RAOConLine http://www.raoconline.com

HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

RAOConLine http://www.raoconline.com

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

RAOConLine forum is FREE for all to view and only requires a simple on-line FREE registration to enable you to reply to or post new messages. The RAOConLine Fellowship Branch of the RAOC Association exists for former RAOC to interact beyond the Forum

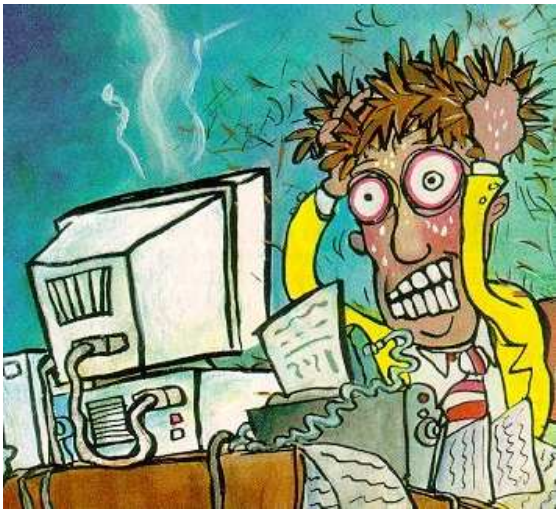
If you are not already a member, perhaps you should consider RAOConLine who will put you in touch with the nearest Branch of the RAOC Association and perhaps former comrades in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

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



Committee Information

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 indicated that he would be relinquishing this role at the end of 2011; however no one has come forward to indicate a willingness to carry on this valuable and worthwhile side of our business.

Bill has kindly agreed to carry on searching for "Lost Pals" and assisting in reuniting old friends but is adamant that he will give up doing this by the time the August 2012 Reunion takes place.

Having carried out this role out for over 7 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 and make, the 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.

An interest in Family History and the use of a Family History search programme would be an advantage. Bill would be willing to help anyone taking over this 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.





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.

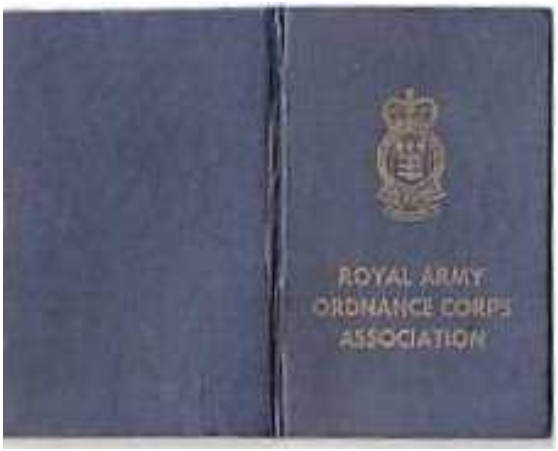
If you would like further information, please contact the RAOC Secretary at the following address:-

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 and 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 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

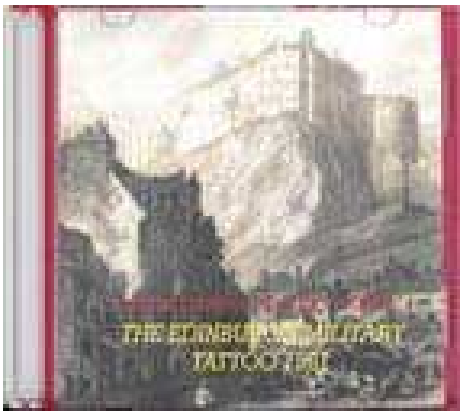
The Ex-Boys' Association Website



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.

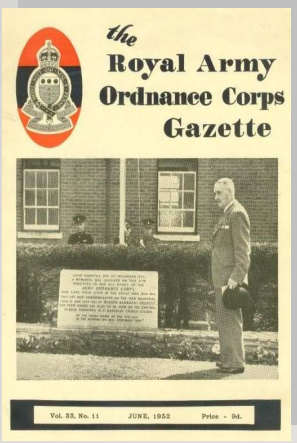






1902 **The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette** 1992

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



THE RAOC GAZETTE







In the past, you could find extracts of the RAOC Corps Gazette on the Ex-Boys Association website that were copied from an original owned by one of our members or extracted from official Gazettes by permission of the RLC/RAOC Association & Museum.

The RLC Museum now has plans to digitalise all RAOC Gazettes for viewing on-line and feel that we may undermine that project by displaying the images for viewing. They have also advised that Copyright may be being breached.

We have therefore, reluctantly, removed the Gazette extracts from our site

You can visit the RLC Museum Website to keep yourselves abreast of events:-

http://www.rlcmuseum.co.uk/docs/majorholdings.html

Corps Journals

The RLC Museum archive holds a complete set of RLC and forming Corps Journals dating from the nineteenth century to the present day. These are available for consultation in both hard and electronic copy.

The Corps Journals provide information on Corps activities, unit news, Corps sport, operations and it is also possible to glean information on individual soldiers and officers on such matters as gallantry awards, transfer between units and promotions etc.

They have stated a target date of early 2012 for the Gazettes 1914-1964 to be made available online.
It is understood that a charge (or subscription) will be made to view the Gazettes.

What remains in force is that, as in all other sections of our web-site and Newsletter, we are totally dependent on material sent in by you, our fellow members; this can be from private collections or perhaps from internet auction houses such as eBay or QXL.com

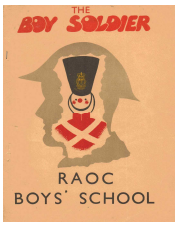
If you have **ANY** material that may help to complete the picture of life as a Boy Soldier, be it photos, your personal memories, certificates, badges or any other item you think may be of use to the site, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

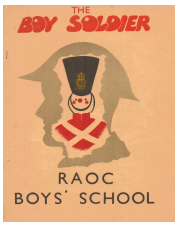
EX BOYS' ASSOCIATION

COLLEGE MAGAZINES COLLEGE MAGAZINES COLLEGE MAGAZINES COLLEGE MAGAZINES

The Thunderbolt





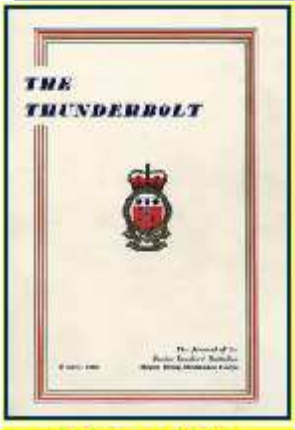




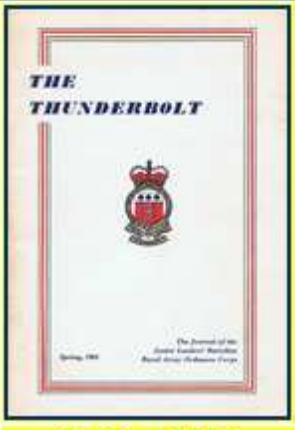
Members of the Ex Boys' Association may be interested to know that we are now – *thanks to members of the Ex-Boys' Association, Ron Richardson & Mike Comerford* – in possession of a fine collection of College Magazines known as **The Boy Soldier** & **The Thunderbolt**.

This Magazine is currently on-line and is free to Members wishing to download a copy for their records. The Boy Soldier (RAOC Boys School) and The Thunderbolt Magazine, provides a unique and personal insight into College life.

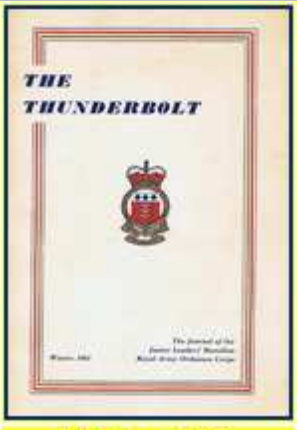
Below are examples currently on-line of the Thunderbolts we already have. Clearly the Association is keen to obtain a complete collection and would welcome further donations. Please contact Adrian Hayward-Wills or George Tether in the first instance via the Contacts Page.



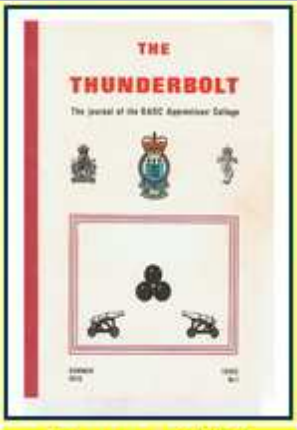
Winter 1960



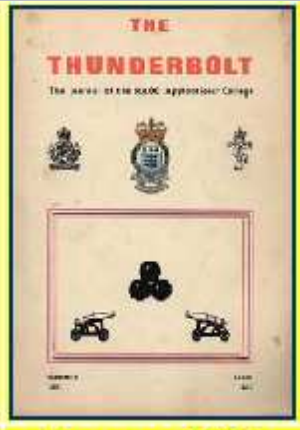
Spring 1961



Winter 1961



Summer 1970



Summer 1971



Summer 1974



Spring 1981



Summer 1982



Summer 1983



1984

Newsletter General

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

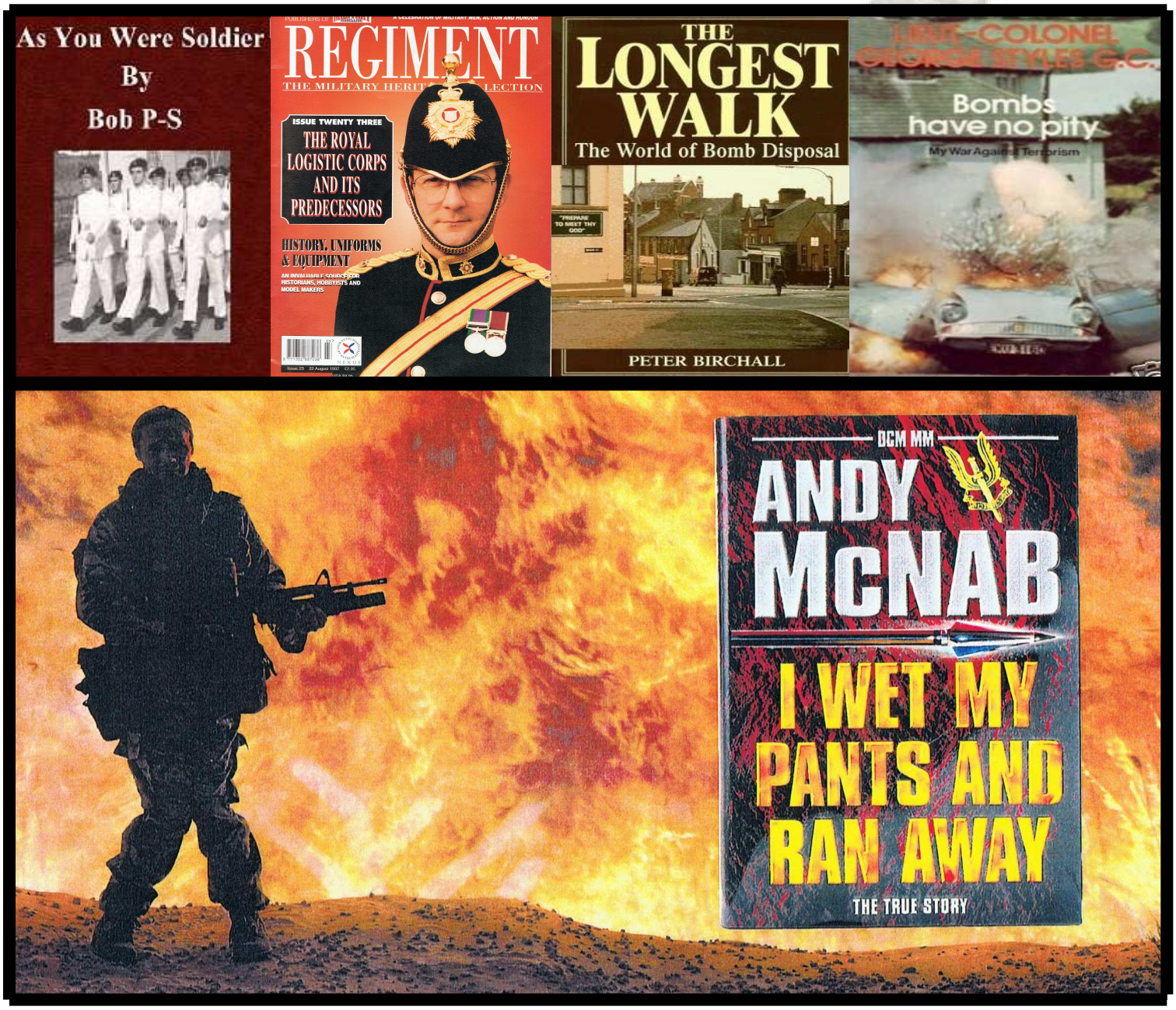
This particular section entitled "***Book Review***" includes reviews on relevant RAOC, REME and RCT books, both recently published and out-of-print books and perhaps members' own books that they have written and would like to be given a wider audience. Furthermore, where possible, this section will include a review on one of the subjects covered in the Newsletter.

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 may include the following books - apart from the Andy McNab SAS one!



juniorleadersraoc.co.uk
Forum for members of the Ex-Boys Association



Definition of Reunion

In August of 2012, the RAOC, REME and RCT Ex Boys' Association held its 4th Biennial Reunion Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Coventry and what a great gathering that was! Before we see a few select photographs, what actually is a reunion? The dictionary defines a reunion as the following:-

Noun:

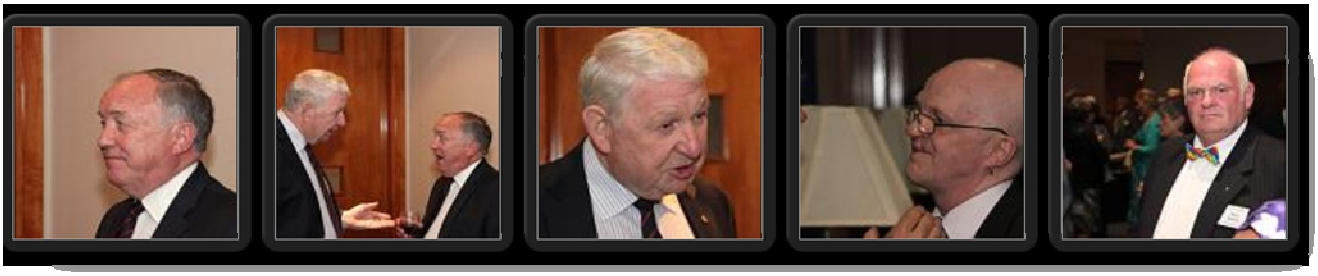
An instance of two or more people coming together again after a period of separation: *she had a tearful reunion with her parents*

- a social gathering attended by members of a group who have not seen each other for some time: *a school reunion*
- *[mass noun]* the action of being brought together again as a unified whole: *the reunion of East and West Germany*
- *[mass noun]* A bunch of lads getting seriously drunk in a Coventry based hotel whilst talking about the good 'ol days!

Origin: Early 17th century from the French reunion or Anglo-Latin *reunio(n-)*, from Latin *reunire* 'unite'













The night was well organised, and the Piper did his job well. Food was great and service was excellent. We would like to congratulate the committee on this great night. Looking forward to 2014"





REUNION














REUNION

Know Your RAOC/REME and RCT Wall Shields

Adrian Hayward-Wills

Military Wall Shields have played an important part in Army life. In this now popular and regular feature - which was started in the Summer Edition Newsletter (2011) - 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 basic dimensions, these measurements being approximately 6 inches (15cms) in width and approximately 7 inches (18cms) in height. Mainly constructed of wood but I have seen some in a composite material.

Five of the largest collections in the country I have seen are that of RMA Sandhurst, the Tower of London, H.M.S Victory and more recently, at Bramshill Police Academy in Hampshire and a smaller one at the National Arboretum, Alrewas – well worth a visit!"

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









END





As always, eBay still impresses and produces objects of interest (and on some occasions, desire) 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 these Wall Shields pertaining to the RAOC and in particular, 16 Heavy Drop.

For your information, 16 Parachute Heavy Drop Company was formed in December of 1961 at Arnhem Camp, Watchfield in the Royal County Berkshire. Prior to 1961, there had been in existence two units, which were the forerunners of the present day Heavy Drop Company. The first Royal Army Ordnance Corps unit to be involved in Air Dropping was the 2nd Air Maintenance Company, which was operational during the Suez emergency of 1956. This particular unit was superceded by 2nd Airborne Company, RAOC.

The tasks of 2nd Airborne Company covered both Heavy Drop and Air Maintenance. Those RAOC soldiers involved in Air Maintenance, dealt mostly with the packing of ammunition and fragile Radio and MT spares. A re-organisation took place when it was realised that it was impracticable to have both tasks carried out by the one unit. 2nd Airborne Company became 16 Parachute Heavy Drop Company under the command of 16 Parachute Brigade whilst the Air Maintenance Platoon became an organic part of the Army Air Supply Organisation. The Heavy Drop Company at this time was organised into a HQ, a HQ Platoon and a Heavy Drop Platoon.

During the period 1961 to August 1965, there were three Heavy Drop units in existence. 16 Parachute Heavy Drop Company based in the United Kingdom, 17 Heavy Drop Platoon based in Bahrain and 18 Parachute Heavy Drop Section which was located in Cyprus. The Officer Commanding was responsible for co-ordinating all the technical activities of the three units.

On the 1st August 1965 the company was re-organised to meet the changing requirements of the formations it was supporting. 17 Heavy Drop Platoon became the third platoon of 16 Parachute Heavy Drop Company and 18 Section was re-designated to No 6 Section. In August 1967, 3 Platoon was detached to the far east to support FARELF. It was based at Changi, where a platoon remained until 1970 when it returned to Watchfield. On the 19th February 1971, the unit marched into it's present location at Royal Air Force Station, Hullavington. In January 1975 the last remaining element of the company which had by then become known as the Heavy Drop Detachment Cyprus, was brought back to the United Kingdom.

Since the formation of the Heavy Drop Company members of the unit have served as infantry with elements of 16 Parachute Brigade in a number of operational theatres. In 1964, 17 soldiers served with 3 Para in Bahrain. In May 1964, 17 Heavy Drop Platoon served as infantry in the Radfan whilst in 1965 a platoon was attached to 2 Para in Borneo.

Throughout the life of the Heavy Drop Company the achievements of the unit sports teams have been second to none. The unit has won during the last 15 years, every major UK RAOC competition, except Cricket, and many Army and District events. The Army Cross Country Challenge Cup has been won five times in the last eight years. In 1966, a Platoon from the unit became the first winners of 16 Parachute Brigade Infantry Platoon Competition. Perhaps the achievement which will be remembered longest is the winning of the coveted Welsh 3000 trophy in June 1975, when the unit beat the much fancied Ghurkha and Para Brigade teams to set up a record which is likely to stand for many years to come. Unfortunately, 16 Heavy Drop RAOC was disbanded on the 1st September 1976.







An important piece of British Military history associated with the Ordnance Corps. A Woolwich, Royal Military Academy, silver and bronze medals are very detailed (as per photograph) - both are in a crisp clean condition with little or no wear.

Sir Webb Gillman was a prominent Army General during WWI. An early picture shows him as Lt. Webb Gillman of the Royal Horse Artillery at Meerut, India 1896. Records indicate that he was commissioned in 1889 following his attendance at the Royal Military Academy Woolwich. The record entry in the Woolwich archives shows entry to the academy as a cadet in 1888 and leaving as a commissioned officer in 1889. Please note the Ordnance Corps fine detailing to the medals and the fact that Sir Webb Gillman was a Master General of Ordnance!

Service

Commissioned 1889. Joined Royal Field Artillery 1889; South African War 1899-1900; Aro Expeditionary Force, Southern Nigeria 1901-1902; staff duty, Sierra Leone 1906-1908; Staff College 1909; General Staff Officer Grade 2, War Office 1912-1914; World War I 1914-1918; France and Belgium 1914; General Staff Officer Grade 1, 13 Div, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Gallipoli 1915; Brig Gen, Royal Artillery, 9 Army Corps, Gallipoli, Oct-Dec 1915; General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force and Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Egypt and Mesopotamia 1915-1916; Major Gen, British Salonika Force, Balkans 1916-1917; Commanding Officer, 17 Div Aug-Dec 1917; Chief of General Staff, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force 1917-1919; member of Army in India (Esher) committee 1919-1920; Commandant Royal Military Academy, Woolwich 1920-1924; visit to French Moroccan war zone 1925; Inspector of Artillery, War Office 1924-1927; **Master General of the Ordnance** and member of the Army Council 1927-1931; General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command 1931-1933.









END









A delightful solid gold Ordnance Corps Sweetheart Brooch circa pre WWI - Length 41 mm and maximum height of 13 mm







RAOC PLAYING CARDS

Adrian Hayward-Wills



I saw these RAOC playing cards on eBay the other week and thought I would do a quick article on Playing Cards!

A playing card is a piece of specially prepared heavy paper, thin cardboard, plastic-coated paper, cotton-paper blend, or thin plastic, marked with distinguishing motifs and used as one of a set for playing card games. Playing cards are typically palm-sized for convenient handling – these RAOC cards are the same size.

A complete set of cards is called a pack (UK English) or deck (US English), and the subset of cards held at one time by a player during a game is commonly called a hand. A deck of cards may be used for playing a great variety of card games, with varying elements of skill and chance, some of which are played for money. Because playing cards are standardised and commonly available, they are used for other purposes, such as illusions, cartomancy, cardistry, and building card structures.

The front (or "face") of each card carries markings that distinguish it from the other cards in the deck and determine its use under the rules of the game being played. The back of each card is identical for all cards in any particular deck, and usually of a single colour or formalised design. Usually every card will be smooth; however, some decks have Braille to allow blind people to read the card number and suit. The backs of playing cards are sometimes used for advertising. For most games, the cards are assembled into a deck and their order is randomised by shuffling.

Introduction into Europe



Playing cards first entered Europe in the late 14th century, probably from Mamluk Egypt, with suits (sets of cards with matching designs) very similar to the tarot suits of Swords, Staves, Cups and Coins (also known as disks or pentacles), and which are still used in traditional Italian, Spanish and Portuguese decks. The first documentary evidence is a ban on their use in 1367, Bern, Switzerland. Their presence is attested in Catalonia in 1371. Wide use of playing cards in Europe can, with some certainty, be traced from 1377 onwards.

The Mameluke deck contained 52 cards comprising four "suits:" polo sticks, coins, swords, and cups. Each suit contained ten "spot" cards (cards identified by the number of suit symbols or "pips" they show) and three "court" cards named *malik* (King), *nā'ib malik* (Viceroy or Deputy King), and *thānī nā'ib* (Second or Under-Deputy). The Mameluke court cards showed abstract designs not depicting persons (at least not in any surviving specimens), though they did bear the names of military officers.

A complete pack of Mameluke playing cards was discovered by Leo Mayer in the Topkapı Palace, Istanbul, in 1939. This particular complete pack was not made before 1400 but the complete deck was matched to a privately owned fragment dated to the 12th or 13th century.

It is not known whether these cards influenced the design of the Indian cards used for the game of Ganjifa, or whether the Indian cards may have influenced these. Regardless, the Indian cards have many distinctive features: they are round, generally hand painted with intricate designs, and comprise more than four suits—often as many as thirty two, like a deck in the Deutsches Spielkarten-Museum, painted in the Mewar, a city in Rajasthan, between the 18th and 19th century. Decks used to play have from eight up to twenty suits.



There are theories about whom the court cards represent. For example, the Queen of Hearts is believed by some to be a representation of Elizabeth of York—the Queen consort of King Henry VII of England, or it is sometimes believed to be a representation of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII. The United States Playing Card Company suggests that, in the past, the King of Hearts was Charlemagne, the King of Diamonds was Julius Caesar, the King of Clubs was Alexander the Great, and the King of Spades was the Biblical King David (see King (playing card)). However, the Kings, Queens and Jacks of Anglo-American designs today do not represent anyone in particular.

They stem from designs produced in Rouen before 1516, and, by 1540–67, these Rouen designs show well executed pictures in the court cards with the typical court costumes of the time. In these early cards, the Jack of Spades, Jack of Hearts and King of Diamonds are shown from the rear, with their heads turned back over the shoulder so that they are seen in profile; however, the Rouen cards were so badly copied in England that the current designs are gross distortions of the originals.

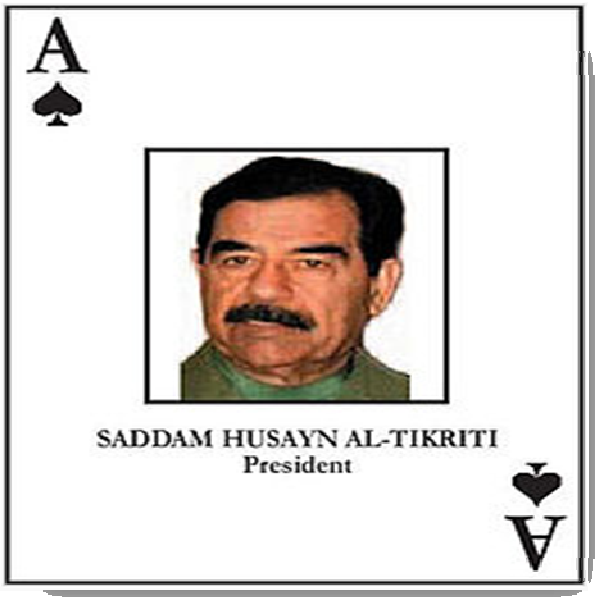


Gulf War II

In the 2003 invasion of Iraq by a United States-led coalition, the U.S. military developed a set of playing cards to help troops identify the most-wanted members of President Saddam Hussein's government, mostly high-ranking Baath Party members or members of the Revolutionary Command Council. The cards were officially named the "personality identification playing cards".

Each card contains the wanted person's name, a picture if available, and the job performed by that individual. The highest-ranking cards, starting with the aces and kings, were used for the people at the top of the most-wanted list. The ace of spades is Saddam Hussein, the aces of clubs and hearts are his sons Qusay and Uday respectively and the ace of diamonds is Saddam's presidential secretary Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti. This strict correspondence to the order of the most-wanted list was not carried through the entire deck, but some time later in 2003, the list itself was renumbered to conform (almost) to the deck of cards. The card backs feature a green military camouflage pattern.

According to US Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jim Brooks, a spokesman for the Defence Intelligence Agency, such playing cards have been used as far back as the Civil War and again in World War II—Army Air Corps decks printed with the silhouettes of German and Japanese fighter aircraft fetch hundreds of dollars today—and in the Korean War. Troops often play cards to pass the time and seeing the names, faces and titles of the wanted Iraqis during their games will help soldiers and Marines in case they run into the wanted individuals in the field, Brooks said.



Developed by five US Army soldiers, 2Lt. Hans Mumm, SSgt Shawn Mahoney, Sgt Andrei Salter, Sgt Scott Boehmler and SPC Joseph Barrios, who were assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency, the deck of cards was first announced publicly in Iraq on 11 April 2003, in a press conference by Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy director of operations at U.S. Central Command.

On that same evening Max Hodges, a Houston-based entrepreneur, found and downloaded a high-resolution artwork file for the deck from a Defence Department web server. Discovering the following day that the file had vanished from the military web server he became the first eBay seller to offer the artwork file, in PDF, which could be used to reproduce the deck.

He quickly contracted Gemaco Playing Card Company to print 1,000 decks for about $4,000 and started selling both the decks, in advance of receiving them from the printer, on eBay, Amazon.com and his own web site. When some of his early auctions for a $4 deck of cards quickly rose to over $120, it did not take long for other eBayers to jump on the bandwagon and print or order decks of their own to sell. In just a few days, hundreds of sellers materialised and the price dropped to just a few dollars per deck.



Texas-based Liberty Playing Card Co received an order to manufacture the cards for the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait and by claiming to be "the authorized government contractor" quickly became another popular domestic supplier for the commercial market. The U.S. military inadvertently included in the jokers the trademarked Hoyle joker owned by the United States Playing Card Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. Although The U.S. Playing Card company does not object to the government's use of the image, they do object to other companies using the trademarked image. Thus, in some sense, the U.S. military inadvertently granted the U.S. Playing Card Company exclusive rights to manufacture the authentic decks, if the trademarked images on the jokers are considered a requirement for being authentic.



There are also two jokers: one lists Arab titles, the other Iraqi military ranks. There are no cards for most-wanted No. 45 (was #26), Nayif Shindakh Thamir, No. 53 (was #34 - Died in 2003) Husayn al-Awadi, or No. 54 (was #35) Khamis Sirhan al-Muhammad, although knight cards could be used for this purpose, but in this case the whole deck would be rearranged. Khamis Sirhan al-Muhammad was captured in January 2004 and held without charge for six years before being released on 30 July 2010. He has since fled to Syria where most of the other 6 uncaptured members of the deck of cards are reported to be hiding.

The 13 June 2003 edition of the BBC One satirical news quiz, *Have I Got News for You*, featured a set of the playing cards in one round, spoofing guest host Bruce Forsyth's 1980s game show *Play Your Cards Right*. The two teams played a version of the latter's main game, retitled *Play Your Iraqi Cards Right* (although during the segment it was revealed that the writers' first choice had been *Play Your Kurds Right*), with the same rules (and audience participation).

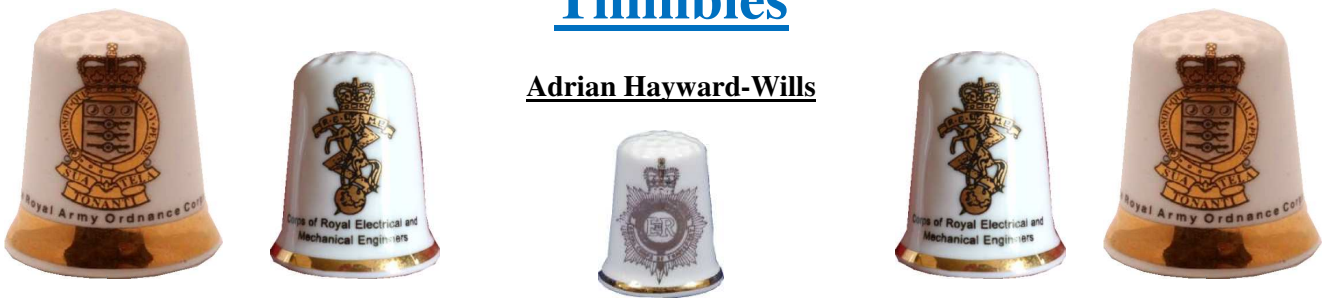
Much of the humour of the round came from the reactions of the two team captains: while Paul Merton was clearly familiar with the game and greatly enjoyed it, his opponent, Ian Hislop, admitted he'd never seen *Play Your Cards Right* and appeared mystified by the game's rules and etiquette (when at one point Merton and the crowd shouted the traditional cry of "lower, lower," to predict the next card in the hidden sequence, Hislop commented, "I'm not sure this program could get much lower!")



END

Thimbles

Adrian Hayward-Wills



I was searching through eBay the other day, when I stumbled across these little beauties, admittedly not my cup of tea but my sister does collect them! Anyway, the three that I found on eBay are the following; the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers and lastly, the Royal Corps of Transport! Clearly there are loads of other military units available.

As we all know, a thimble is a small hard pitted cup worn for protection on the finger that pushes the needle in sewing. Usually, thimbles with a closed top are used by dressmakers but special thimbles with an opening at the end are used by tailors as this allows them to manipulate the cloth more easily. The Old English word *þȳmel*, the ancestor of thimble, is derived from Old English *þūma*, the ancestor of our word thumb.

The earliest known thimble was Roman and was found at Pompeii. Made of bronze, its creation has been dated to the 1st century AD. A second Roman thimble was found at Verulamium, present day St Albans, in the UK and can be viewed in the museum there.



According to the United Kingdom Detector Finds Database, thimbles dating to the 10th century have been found in England, and thimbles were in widespread use there by the 14th century. Although there are isolated examples of thimbles made of precious metals—Elizabeth I is said to have given one of her ladies-in-waiting a thimble set with precious stones—the vast majority of metal thimbles were made of brass. Medieval thimbles were either cast brass or made from hammered sheet. Early centres of thimble production were those places known for brass-working, starting with Nuremberg in the 15th century and moving to Holland by the 17th.

In 1693, a Dutch thimble manufacturer named John Lofting established a thimble manufacturing factory in Islington, in London, England expanding British thimble production to new heights. He later moved his mill to Buckinghamshire to take advantage of water-powered production, resulting in a capacity to produce more than two million thimbles per year.

By the end of the 18th century, thimble making had moved to Birmingham, and shifted to the "deep drawing" method of manufacture, which alternated hammering of sheet metals with annealing, and produced a thinner-skinned thimble with a taller shape. At the same time, cheaper sources of silver from the Americas made silver thimbles a popular item for the first time.

Thimbles are usually made from metal, leather, rubber and wood and even glass or as in these Army examples, china. Early thimbles were sometimes made from whale bone, horn, or ivory. Natural sources were also utilised such as Connemara marble, bog oak, or mother of pearl. Rarer works from thimble makers utilised diamonds, sapphires, or rubies.



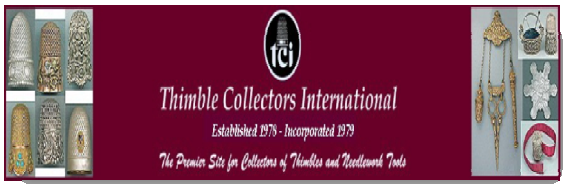
Advanced thimble makers enhanced thimbles with semi-precious stones to adorn the apex or along the outer rim. Cabochon adornments are sometimes made of cinnabar, agate, moonstone or amber. Thimble artists would also utilise enamelling or the Guilloché techniques advanced by Peter Carl Fabergé. Originally, thimbles were used simply solely for pushing a needle through fabric or leather as it was being sewn. Since then, however, they have gained many other uses. In the 19th century they were used to measure spirits, which brought rise to the phrase "just a thimbleful". Prostitutes used them in the practice of thimble-knocking where they would tap on a window to announce their presence. Thimble-knocking also refers to the practice of Victorian schoolmistresses who would tap on the heads of unruly pupils with dames thimbles.

Before the 18th century the small dimples on the outside of a thimble were made by hand punching, but in the middle of that century, a machine was invented to do the job. If one finds a thimble with an irregular pattern of dimples, it was likely made before the 1850s. Another consequence of the mechanisation of thimble production is that the shape and the thickness of the metal changed. Early thimbles tend to be quite thick and to have a pronounced dome on the top. The metal on later ones is thinner and the top is flatter.

Collecting thimbles became popular in the UK when many companies made special thimbles to commemorate the Great Exhibition held in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London.

In the 19th century, many thimbles were made from silver; however, it was found that silver is too soft a metal and can be easily punctured by most needles. Charles Horner solved the problem by creating thimbles consisting of a steel core covered inside and out by silver, so that they retained their aesthetics but were now more practical and durable. He called his thimble the Dorcas and these are now popular with collectors. There is a small display of his work in Bankfield Museum, Halifax, England.





Early American thimbles made of whale bone or tooth featuring miniature scrimshaw designs are considered valuable collectibles. Such rare thimbles are prominently featured in a number of New England Whaling Museums.

During the First World War, silver thimbles were collected from "those who had nothing to give" by the British government and melted down to buy hospital equipment. In the 1930s and 40s red-topped thimbles were used for advertising. Leaving a sandalwood thimble in a fabric store was a common practice for keeping moths away. Thimbles have also been used as love-tokens and to commemorate important events. People who collect thimbles are known as Digitabulists.

Additional Information:-

Thimble Collectors International (TCI) provides information about thimble and needlework tool collecting to TCI members. They do this through a quarterly publication, TCI Bulletin. Their biennial convention features advanced learning opportunities from internationally acclaimed experts. Additionally, they promote research and scholarship, publishing specialised booklets on thimbles and related needlework tools! – Life doesn't get better!

END







British Liberation Army - 21st Army Group

Christmas Card





By
Adrian Hayward-Wills

Whilst looking for articles for the Ex-Boys' Association – because nobody sends any in! I noticed this superb example of an RAOC Christmas Card associated with British Liberation Army on eBay.

21st Army Group

The 21st Army Group was a British Headquarters formation, in command of two field Armies and other supporting units, consisting primarily of British and Canadian forces. Established in London during July 1943, under the command of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), it was assigned to Operation Overlord, the Western Allied invasion of Europe and was an important Allied force in the European Theatre of the Second World War. The 21st Army Group operated in Northern France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany from June 1944 until the end of the war in Europe in 1945, after which it was re-designated the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) – a title no doubt we are all familiar with!

Commanded by General (later Field Marshal) Sir Bernard Montgomery, 21st Army Group initially controlled all ground forces in Operation Overlord (United States First Army and British Second Army). When sufficient American forces had landed, their own 12th Army Group was activated, under General Omar Bradley, and the 21st Army Group was left with the British 2nd Army and the, newly activated, First Canadian Army.

Normandy was a battle of attrition for the British and Canadian troops, drawing in most of the available German reinforcements, especially armoured divisions, around Caen at the eastern end of the lodgement. The Germans lacked the ability to prevent the American breakout at the western end of the Normandy beachhead in early August 1944. Following the German attack towards Mortain, the American breakout and an advance by the 21st Army Group the German armed forces in Normandy were nearly enveloped in the Falaise pocket, and subsquently routed retreating towards the Low Countries.

Advance into the Netherlands

After the successful landings in the south of France by the U.S. 6th Army Group, the 21st Army Group formed the left flank of the three Allied army groups arrayed against German forces in the West. It was therefore responsible for securing the ports upon which Allied supply depended, and also with overrunning German V-1 and V-2 launching sites along the coasts of western France and Belgium.

By 29 August, the Germans had largely withdrawn across the Seine River without their heavy equipment. The campaign through Northern France and Belgium was largely a pursuit, with the ports - formally designated "Fortress Towns" by the Germans - offering only limited opposition to the First Canadian Army. The advance was so rapid, 250 miles in four days, that Antwerp, Belgium was captured on 4 September 1944, undefended, and with its port facilities intact.

On 1 September 1944, the 21st Army Group was relieved of operational control of the American armies, and those armies formed the 12th Army Group. By mid-September, elements of 21st Army Group had reached the Dutch border, but were halted due to lack of supplies, and by flooding caused by the widespread German demolition of Dutch dikes. German control of some of the channel ports, and previous Allied bombing of the French and Belgian railways, resulted in a long supply line from Normandy served mainly by trucks.



Operation Market Garden

After the break-out from Normandy, there were high hopes that the war could be ended in 1944. In order to do so, the last great natural defensive barrier of Germany in the west, the Rhine River had to be crossed. Operation Market Garden was orchestrated to attempt just this. It was staged in the Netherlands with two American and one British airborne divisions and a Polish parachute brigade being dropped to capture bridges over the lower Rhine before they were blown by the Germans. The airborne formations were then to be relieved by armoured forces advancing rapidly northwards through Eindhoven and Nijmegen to Arnhem, opening the north German plains, and the industrial Ruhr Valley, to the Allies.

However, the British armoured forces had only one main highway to operate on, and crucial information about the German forces in the operational area was either missing or ignored. The scratch forces remaining after the retreat from France were much stronger than expected, thus giving the armoured units of the XXX Corps a much tougher fight than had been anticipated, slowing the advance. The American divisions and the Polish parachute brigade that had fought south of the Rhine were relieved but the British 1st Airborne Division in Arnhem was practically destroyed.

Battle of the Scheldt

Since the approaches to the port of Antwerp had not been cleared when the city was captured it had allowed the German army time to reorganise and dig in along the approaches making the port completely unusable. Thus an operation was needed to clear the approaches and thereby ease the supply problem.

The island of Walcheren was strongly held by German forces and commanded the estuary of the Scheldt which flows through Antwerp. Operations by II Canadian Corps cleared the approaches to Antwerp both north and south of the water during the Battle of the Scheldt. Walcheren itself was captured in late 1944 by the last major amphibious assault in Europe in the Second World War. A combination of Canadian forces and Royal Marines undertook the operation.

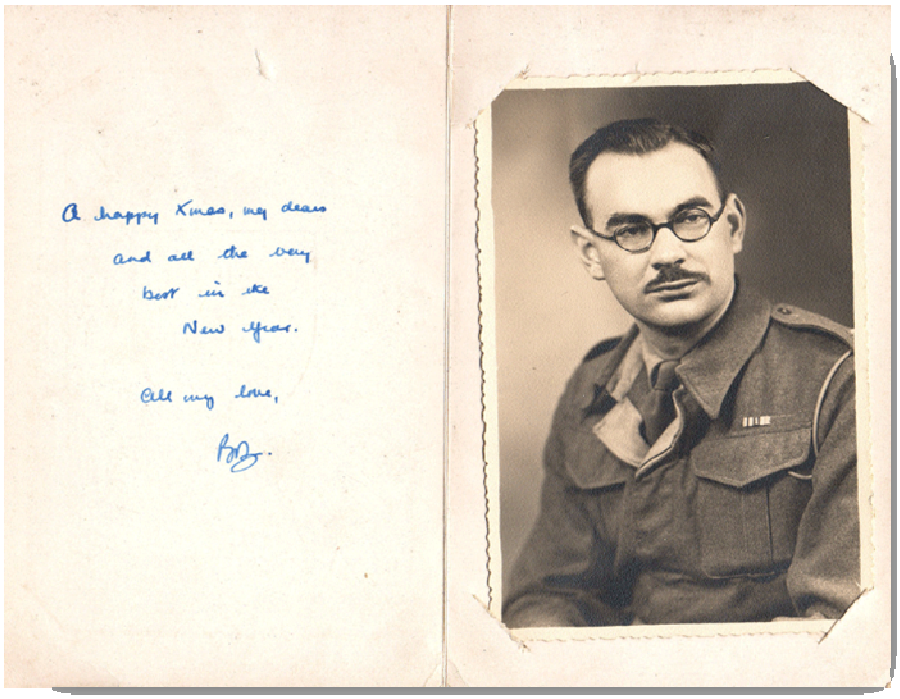
Battle of the Bulge

After the capture of Walcheren came the last great German offensive of the war. In a repeat of their 1940 attack, German formations smashed through weak Allied lines in the Ardennes in Belgium.

The Battle of the Bulge presented a command problem to General Eisenhower. It had sliced through US lines, leaving some American formations north and south of the new German salient. However, the headquarters of U.S. 12th Army Group lay to the south, and so Eisenhower decided to place American forces north of the "Bulge" salient under 21st Army Group. They, with the American 3rd Army under General George S. Patton, reduced the salient.

After the battle, control of the U.S. 1st Army which had been placed under Field Marshal Montgomery's temporary command was returned to Bradley's 12th Army Group. The U.S. 9th Army remained under Montgomery longer, before being returned to American command in Germany.

Battle for the Roer Triangle

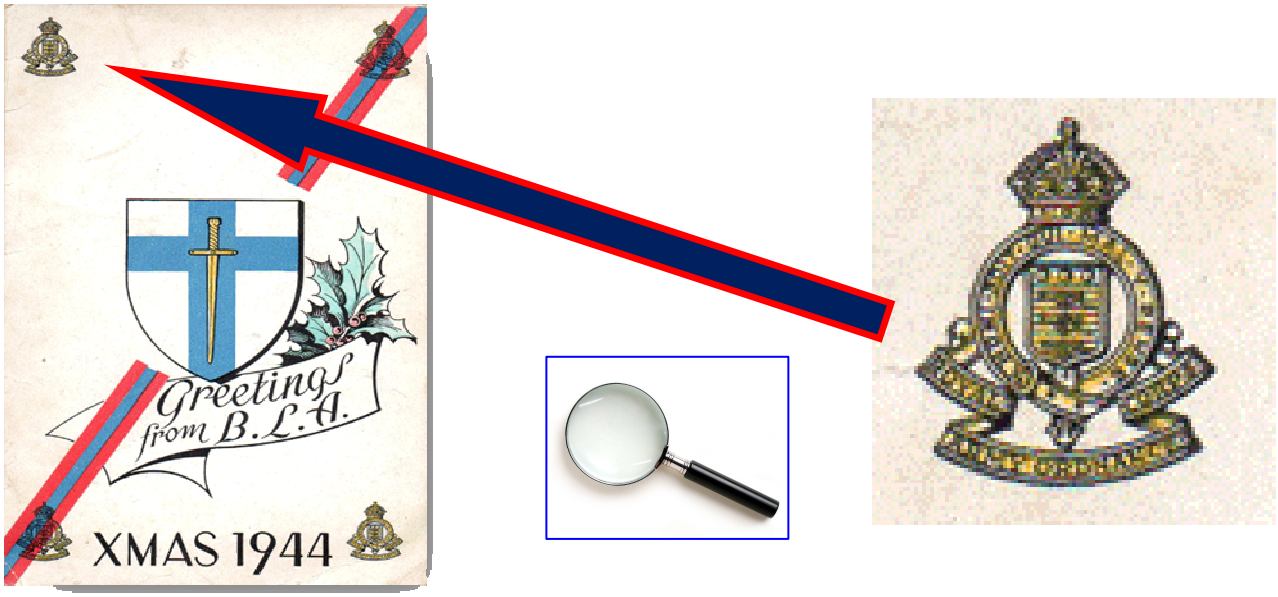


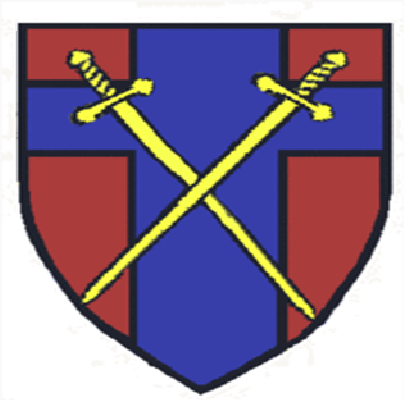
Prior to the Rhineland Campaign the enemy had to be cleared from the Roer Triangle during Operation Blackcock. This large methodical mopping up operation took place between 14 and 27 January 1945. It was not planned to make any deep thrust into the enemy defences or capture any substantial large numbers of prisoners. It proceeded from stage to stage almost entirely as planned and was completed with minimal casualties.

Rhineland Campaign

Allied forces closed up to the Rhine by March 1945. Twenty-First Army Group at this time comprised the British Second Army under General Miles C Dempsey, the First Canadian Army under General Harry Crerar and the US Ninth Army, under General William Simpson.

The First Canadian Army had executed Operation Veritable in difficult conditions from Nijmegen eastwards through the Reichswald Forest then southwards. This was to have been the northern part of a pincer movement with the US Ninth Army moving northwards towards Düsseldorf and Krefeld (Operation Grenade), to clear the west bank of the Rhine north of Cologne. However the Americans were delayed by two weeks when the Germans destroyed the Roer dams and flooded the American route of advance. As a result the Canadians engaged and mauled the German reserves intended to defend the Cologne Plain.



21st Army Group	
 Shoulder flash of the 21st Army Group	
Active	July 1943 to August 1945
Allegiance	United Kingdom
Role	Army Group headquarters
Size	2 Field Armies
Part of	Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)
Commanders	
Notable commanders	Bernard Paget Bernard Montgomery

Operation Plunder, starting on 13th March 1945, the British 2nd Army and the US 9th Army crossed the Rhine at various places north of the Ruhr and German resistance in the west quickly crumbled. The First Canadian Army wheeled left and liberated northern Holland, the British 2nd Army occupied much of north-west Germany and liberated Denmark and the US 9th Army formed the northern arm of the envelopment of German forces in the Ruhr Pocket and on 4 April reverted to Bradley's 12th Army Group.

British Army of the Rhine

After the German surrender, 21st Army Group was converted into the headquarters for the British zone of occupation in Germany. It was renamed the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) on 25 August 1945 and eventually formed the nucleus of the British forces stationed in Germany throughout the Cold War.

As the potential threat of Soviet invasion across the North German Plain into West Germany increased, BAOR became more responsible for the defence of West Germany than its occupation. It became the primary formation controlling the British contribution to NATO after the formation of the alliance in 1949. Its primary combat formation was British I Corps. From 1952 the commander-in-chief of the BAOR was also the commander of NATO's Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) in the event of a general war with the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. The BAOR was formerly armed with tactical nuclear weapons.

The 1993 Options for Change defence cuts resulted in BAOR being replaced by the 25,000 strong British Forces Germany (BFG) in 1994. The BFG is concentrated in North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony. The divisional HQ is located at Herford, near Bielefeld, with garrisons at Gütersloh, Hohne, and Paderborn. Additionally, the Rhine Garrison area contains Rheindahlen Military Complex. The BFG presence is estimated to contribute 1.5 billion Euros annually to the German economy.

Administrative support for British service personnel in Germany and across Continental Europe is delegated to United Kingdom Support Command. The four Army garrisons in Germany are under the direct administrative control of UKSC. The General Officer Commanding UKSC also functions as head of the British Forces Liaison Organisation (Germany), which is responsible for liaising and maintaining relations with German civil authorities.

Under the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, the British Army in Germany will be reduced by half by 2015 and permanent deployment will end by 2020, although some training will still be undertaken with regards NATO capability

There are as of August 2012 only 21,500 British Troops in Germany and along with families and civilian component the total number of people is around 40,000. The 1st Armoured Division is currently equipped with Challenger 2 MBTs, Warrior IFVs, AS-90 Braveheart howitzers, Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, armoured personnel carriers, Gazelle and Lynx helicopters.



END



AFGHANISTAN – UPDATE

By

Adrian Hayward-Wills

The United Kingdom government is engaged in Afghanistan as part of a 50-nation coalition to prevent international terrorists, including Al Qaeda, from again using Afghanistan as a base from which to operate, threatening our security and that of the region. The people of Afghanistan highlight security and justice as two of their main priorities but the current system is often not able to deliver. This has a bearing on the Afghan public's confidence in the ability of their Government. As such, the Taleban have sought to set themselves up as alternative security and justice providers, often offering their own brutal forms of justice - as recently demonstrated by the execution of a woman who allegedly had committed adultery.



Therefore it goes to say that legitimate justice, prisons and policing is essential for long term security and peace in Afghanistan. With Afghan and international partners, the UK is playing a key role helping the country develop its Prisons, Detention Centres, legal system and Policing sector - the rule of law must be a core part of any conflict prevention and peace building and capacity building strategy. However, any serious effort to promote the rule of law in a fragile or post-conflict state will encounter major political and insurgent obstacles. For example, the recent spate of green-on-blue attacks on soldiers, mentors and advisors to the Afghan government.

In 2012, Afghan soldiers, policemen, security guards, largely in units being trained or mentored by international forces, have turned their guns on those mentors, the very people who are funding, supporting and teaching them and pulled the trigger. It's already happened at least 21 times in this half-year, resulting in international deaths, a 50% jump from 2011, when similar acts occurred at least 21 times with 35 coalition deaths.

Keeping my eye in at the Afghan National Army (ANA) Range – Glock 9mm

The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and the British Embassy Kabul, co-ordinates international stabilisation and development work across the 34 Provinces of Afghanistan, working with the Government of Afghanistan, the ISAF (NATO) elements in the Province partnered with their ANSF counterparts – combined Force Helmand (UK, Denmark, Estonia), The Marine Expeditionary Force (US) – and international donors, for example UNDP, UNODC.

As part of the 'rule of law' team based at the British Embassy in Kabul, I am working to successfully deliver a single plan that has been agreed between the Government of Afghanistan and its international partners. The plan is structured around seven themes: Politics and Reconciliation; Governance; Rule of Law (Justice, Police and **Prisons**); Security; Economic and Social Development; Counter Narcotics and lastly, Strategic Communications.

The British Embassy in Kabul and the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) supports the Afghan government in delivering governance and improved development across the 34 Provinces. Success in Helmand, where the insurgency and drugs trade interact to create particular challenges, is critical to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. Despite the difficult security situation, progress continues to be made on human rights protection in Afghanistan -but significant challenges remain. Afghanistan is a conservative country with strong religious traditions and local customs, which are sometimes at odds with international human rights norms. Divisions continue to exist in Afghan society over issues such as women's rights, religious freedom and freedom of expression.

Progress on human rights issues is admittedly slow and is linked to progress in other areas, such as education, healthcare, the economy and prisons (Detentions). Building a legitimate, stable and secure Afghan government is also critical to promoting and protecting human rights. Making progress on security in Afghanistan goes hand in hand with improving the human rights situation both inside and outside prisons. This is why I introduced the UNDP to deliver Human Rights sessions to the

National Directorate of Security (NDS) the very organisation that deals with the recruitment and training of Detention Centre staff. However, more recently I have engaged with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) not only to include lessons in training of corrections staff but also in the delivery of much needed welfare equipment to detainees and surprisingly staff! - Pictured below at a (Counter Narcotics) Detention Centre, ICRC vehicles.

President Karzi and NATO (ISAF) share the common objective that Afghanistan will assume the lead on security and governance responsibilities across Afghanistan by 2014 – (Transition). The process will see the gradual handover of control of Afghanistan's security and administration, from foreign troops, diplomats and consultants, to Afghans. The international community and the Government of Afghanistan are working hard across the whole country so that all areas complete the transition process by this date.



Working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The structural and institutional challenges facing a Justice Advisor are considerable; a comprehensive approach means that governance, rule of law, reconstruction, counter-narcotics and prison capacity building are just as important as military action on the ground – indeed, this is often regarded as the 2nd Front in Afghanistan, other than corruption!!

The absence of the 'Rule of Law' - whether manifested in injustice, impunity or lawlessness - can be a major underlying cause of conflict. It can also jeopardise other key international priorities, such as economic growth and poverty alleviation, human rights and democratic transition and combating organised crime and terrorism. In a post-conflict context, the absence of the rule of the law can undermine people's sense of security and their faith in the transition. For all these above described reasons, promoting the institutions, political will and culture necessary for the rule of law must be an international priority in fragile post-conflict states.

My role in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is two-fold; primarily it is delivering on transformative change and influencing the National Directorate of Security (NDS) policy decisions and secondary taking the lead on developing and strengthening the skill sets of Afghan prison officers (known as Detention Centre Officers) and building a sustainable targeted response appropriate to needs and requirements of the individual officer and Detention Centre. Subjects taught by me - *but more latterly by recently HMPS trained NDS Tutors* - are many and varied during the four week course but include the following important areas:-

Suicide Awareness
Handcuffing and Escorts
Dealing with Difficult Detainees
Human Rights (Now delivered by UNDP)
First Aid (Now delivered by outside agency KBR)
Control and Restraint – (C & R Instructors Course)

The various criminal justice institutions are key to security and are rightly one of the most immediate priorities in conflict and post-conflict situations. But they are only one element involving in establishing the rule of law. Informal or traditional justice systems often provide justice to far more people than the formal courts. Justice and rule of law programmes which include prison/detention centre training need to support a wider, coordinated strategy with local buy-in. This has happened and is progressing, buildings are built, equipment is purchased and in place, trainers are trained and the path is lit.



Working with French (ISAF) Infantry Soldiers, Kabul Afghanistan

On 20th November 2012, France ended its combat mission in Afghanistan, withdrawing some 400 troops from Kapisa, a strategic province northeast of Kabul. The French troops (above picture) had been stationed mostly at two bases in Tagab and Nejrab districts since 2003. Total tactical withdrawal will take place in December of 2012 – two years before the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the United States, are due to depart!

With a death toll of 88 French troops since 2003 have been one of the largest contributors to the ISAF (NATO) mission in Afghanistan with a peak deployment of 4,000 troops. French opinion has gradually soured on the on-going mission and a string of insurgent attacks that raised the French death-toll preceded a decision by Sarkozy and his successor, to speed up French withdrawal.

Shame really, a good bunch of lads!!

Background

The murder of Ottawa rookie Cst. David Kirkwood, on July 11, 1977, launched a response that, today, has become the nationally recognised ceremony honouring police, corrections officers and peace officers killed in the line of duty. Following Kirkwood's senseless killing, Ottawa police officers vowed to keep his memory alive and to ensure that the magnitude of his sacrifice and that of others like him, would never be forgotten by Canadians.

Accordingly, on Sunday, September 24, 1978, a special service and tribute was held. The site selected was Parliament Hill, the place where laws are made that directly impact on police officer safety and ultimately, the quality of life for all. Following that first ceremony, a number of features have become tradition and at the same time, some modifications to the event have occurred as well.

The ceremony was expanded to honour other Police Officers murdered in the line of duty and this criterion of inclusion was itself modified years later to include all officers killed in the line of duty. This current criterion has been applied retroactively and names of officers killed in the line of duty, from years gone by, are now being added to the Memorial stone. The original ceremonies were limited to police and correctional officers killed but that criterion was expanded, in 1995, to include all peace officers so that all areas of law enforcement (Corrections, Prisons etc) are now included in one single ceremony.

In November of 2012, I was cordially invited by the Canadian Embassy in Kabul Afghanistan, to attend a memorial service for all those Canadian Correctional Officers that have been killed on active duty. The Memorial Service was very moving and the list of those Officers that had been killed on duty was long. Last Post and Reveille was bugled, Wreaths were laid and speeches in French and English were delivered by dignitaries.



END

Whilst looking for articles for the Newsletter (as no-one send any!) I discovered the below excellent Pin Badge associated with the Royal Australian Corps of Transport on eBay – now there's a surprise!

The RACT was formed on 1st June 1973, when the road transport, amphibious transport, air dispatch and postal functions of the RAASC were amalgamated with the water transport, terminal and movement functions of the RAE (Tn). The RACT is responsible for the movement of the Army, its equipment and personnel, using all modes of transport available, in Australia and overseas, in peace and in war.



The RACT badge is a seven pointed Federation Star incorporating the Royal Cypher which was common to both the RAE and RAASC badges. Encircling the Royal Cypher is a circlet containing the name, Royal Australian Corps of Transport. This is enclosed by a laurel wreath and the Corps motto 'Par Oneri'

The Corps Motto "PAR ONERI" means "Equal to the Task"

As the Corps was formed by amalgamation, it was first Australian Army Corps to receive approval to wear the braided lanyard. The lanyard is blue and scarlet - Blue representing the RAASC and the Scarlet, the RAE (Tn) Service. The RAASC March Tune 'Wait for the Wagon', itself taken from the RASC, has been retained.

This tune had its origin in 1875 at Aldershot, UK. As the size of the RASC grew, the tune was expanded by including the South African folk tune, 'Vat Jou Goed en Trek, Ferreria' ('Pack Your Things and Trek, Ferreria'). This composite tune was first played at Kensington Barracks, London, by the RASC Band on VP Day, 14th August 1945. It was approved by the Colonel-in Chief, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester and was officially notified in Army Order No 36, 1946.

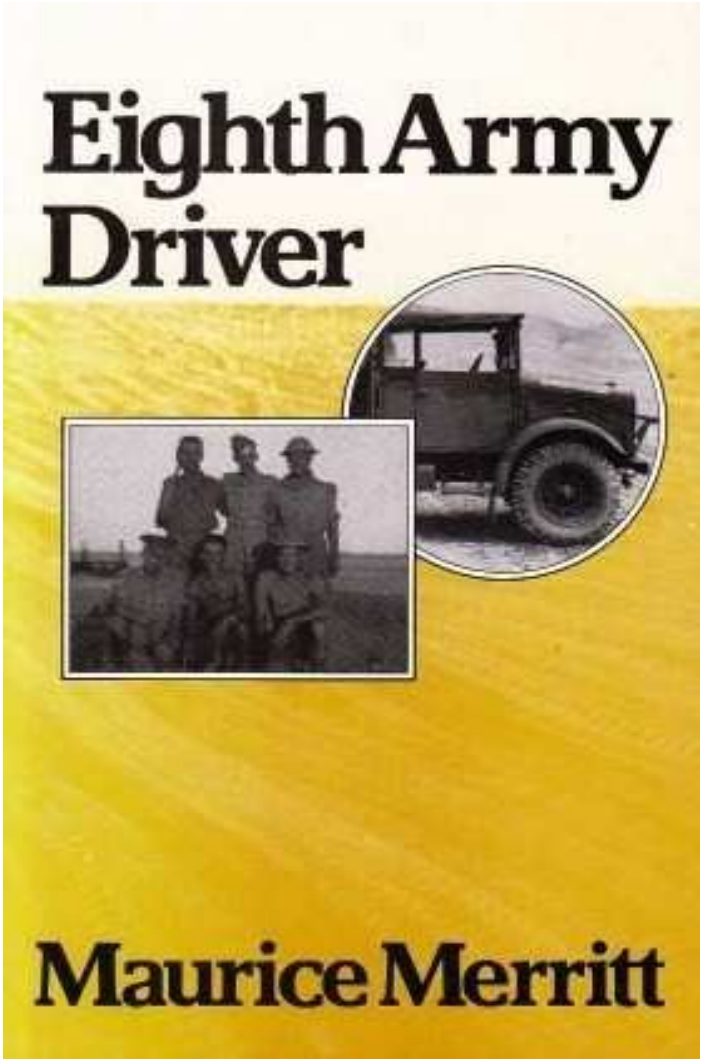
On Saturday 4th June 1983, at Puckapunyal, the RACT was presented with its Banner. It is red with gold embroidery and has HRH Princess Alice's cypher on the obverse side and the RACT badge on the reverse side. The Banner is housed in the Army Logistics Officers' Mess at Bandiana.







Book Review



- **Hardcover:** 192 pages
- **Publisher:** Midas Bks. (7 Dec 1981)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0859362825
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0859362825

Synopsis

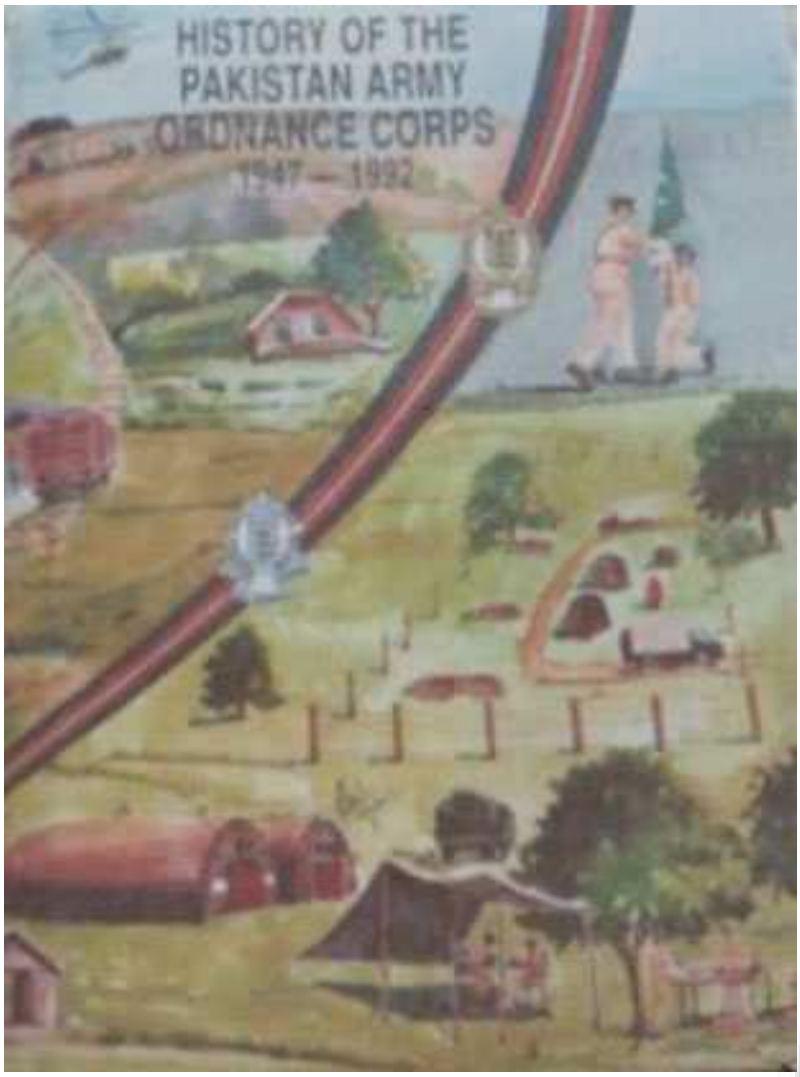
The Eighth Army was one of the best-known formations of the British Army during World War II, fighting in the North African and Italian campaigns. It was a British formation, always commanded by British officers, however its personnel came from throughout the British Empire and Commonwealth; complemented by units composed of exiles from Nazi-occupied Europe. Subordinate units came from Australia, British India, Canada, Free French Forces, Greece, New Zealand, Poland, Rhodesia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

The Eighth Army was formed from the Western Desert Force in September 1941 and put under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Cunningham. It got its number from the fact that the French had fielded seven armies previously in the same war, the British had fielded the British Expeditionary Force.

The Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) was a corps of the British Army. It was responsible for land, coastal and lake transport; air despatch, supply of food, water, fuel and general domestic stores such as clothing, furniture and stationery (but not ammunition and military and technical equipment, which were the responsibility of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps), administration of barracks, the Army Fire Service and provision of staff clerks to headquarters units.

In this book, Ex-Private Maurice Merritt of the Royal Army Service Corps writes here about his war; the story of the Lines of Communications men, detached from actual combat but isolated by the empty desert land in North Africa; virtual prisoners in their Bedford water tankers, serving thirsty troops over a million square miles of barren terrain – living the dream, one nightmare at a time!

Book Review



Synopsis

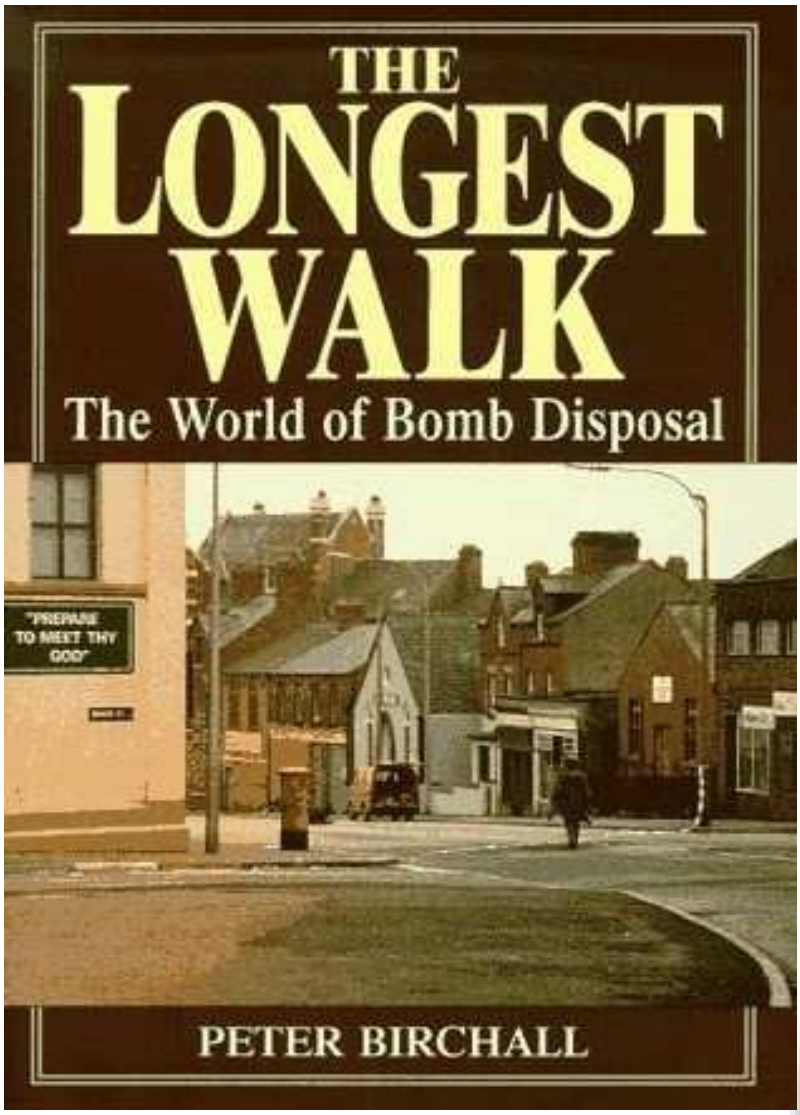
The idea for this book was conceived by Major General M H Vahidy. By the time he left office in April 1992, substantial ground was covered and the project stood visible in a draft form. Undoubtedly, a history of the Corps was required. As younger generations must know their roots and old guards are obliged to leave behind imprints of their times.

The intention is not to give a synopsis of the History Book which the reader can himself read and enjoy, but here, I would still like to briefly mention the main features. While the history book contains record of events chronologically, there are so many sections which provide the reader some food for thought and reflections. The section on 'Sturrock Committee Report' in fact, in concise form, highlights the salient features of the stores accounting which eventually formed the basis of our provision system.

The difficult days of post-Independence and the struggle against all odds is recorded in the section 'Their Finest Hour'. The reader will be able to have a glimpse of the challenges faced. The section on 'Random Reflections' and 'Extra-Curriculum Quagmire' is a very subtle way describe some of the case histories (without mentioning names) but drawing lessons for generations to come.

There are also separate sections on Ammunition and Computerisation which vindicate the concern on not keeping pace with modern development and technology. History has always been a good teacher and source of inspiration to future generations. I am sure this book will amply serve that purpose. One for the Christmas Stocking I think!

Book Review



- Hardcover: 223 pages
- Publisher: Weidenfeld & Nicolson (Oct 1997)
- Language English
- ISBN-10: 1854093983
- ISBN-13: 978-1854093981
- Product Dimensions: 24.8 x 16.5 x 2.5 cm

Synopsis

This is an excellent book, for people who want to know exactly what goes on in the life of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) person and the fascinating yet dangerous world of Bomb Disposal.

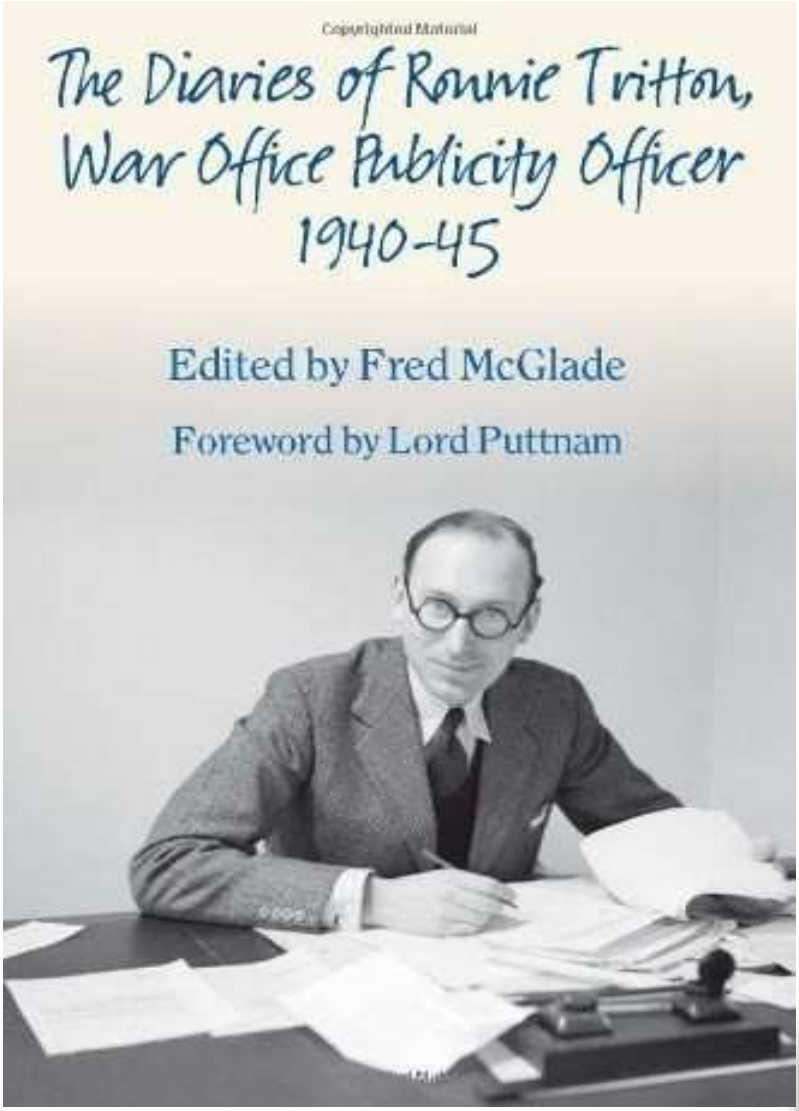
I found it very interesting as to what the EOD Personnel have to go through, to be able to dispose of a bomb and to make the area safe for passers-by. This informed account of their work takes the reader through the history of the topic and we gain an insight into the recruitment, training, equipment and forensic science aspects of the work and find details of the deeds of bravery and leadership that feature on the Roll of Honour of the men of bomb disposal. This is a volume that takes you inside this dangerous world and leaves you thankful that there are men who are prepared to undertake such perilous work.

Conspicuous courage is an essential qualification and 321 EOD at the time of this book was the most decorated unit in the entire British Army. Its members have been awarded 2 George Crosses, 29 George Medals and 281 other medals for outstanding gallantry, many posthumously.

Peter Birchall (the author) has a very good idea in writing this book, as there doesn't seem to be enough information, in this line of work. It describes how 321 EOD's pioneering devices - notably the remote-controlled 'wheelbarrow' - have been exported around the world, earning it a global expertise that is sought by many other nations facing the threat of global terrorism.

It's about time someone wrote a book about the every day life of an EOD Officer!

Book Review



- **Paperback:** 594 pages
- **Publisher:** Helion and Company (20 July 2012)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 1907677445
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1907677441
- **Product Dimensions:** 23.2 x 15.6 x 3.4 cm

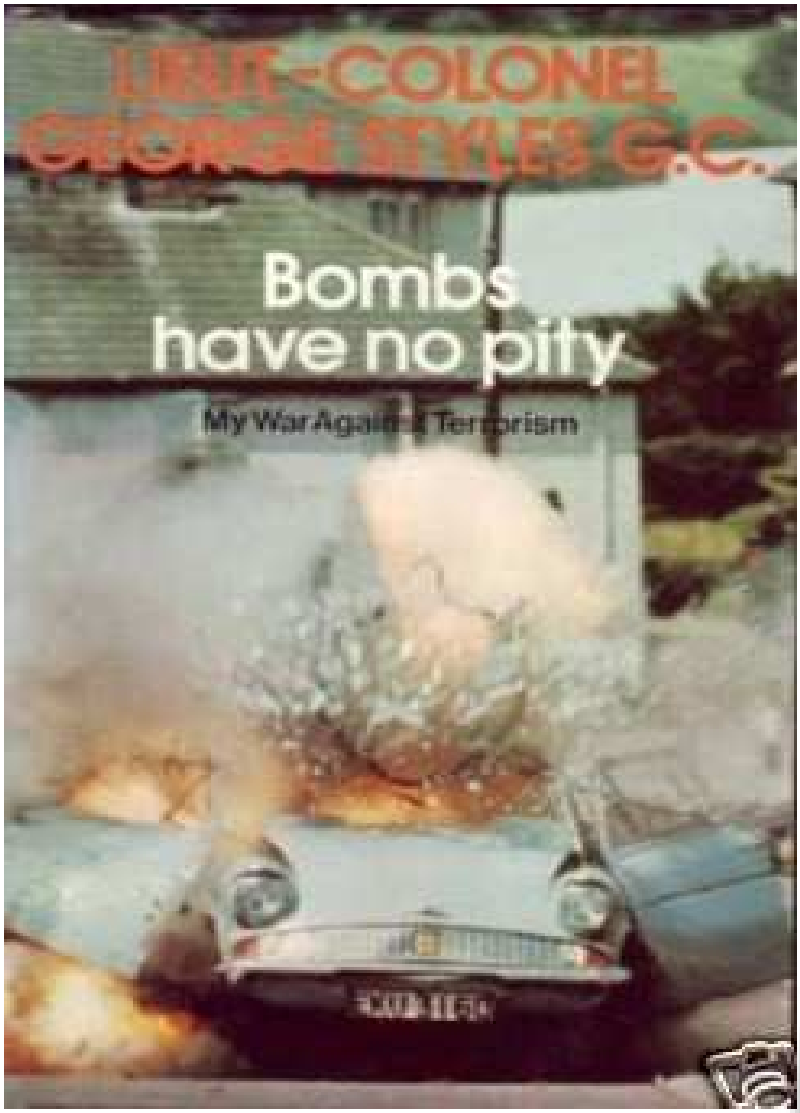
Synopsis

Ronnie Tritton was recruited in 1940 for the position of War Office Publicity Officer by Major-General Beith, Director of Public Relations at the War Office, to transform the dysfunctional department. The first civilian to hold the post, it was hoped his professional skills gained in Public Relations for the Savoy Hotel Group would be a valuable tool to overcome the British Army's negativity towards the use of any form of visual publicity. Internal conflicts between the service film units, the newsreel companies and the Americans proved a difficult balancing act for Tritton, as these diaries reveal.

They are also an invaluable source of evidence not only for the growth and war effort of the Army Film Unit /Army Film & Photographic Unit, but also for the newsreels. 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. During that time he enrolled with the Open University, where he gained a BA (Hons) Humanities and an MA History. After the sale of the insurance brokerage he was accepted as a History and English tutor at a Young Offenders Institute, where he worked for almost three years. He then decided to attempt a PhD, studying full time for three years at Lancaster University. This he successfully completed in 2008.

Book Review



- **Hardcover:** 192 pages
- **Publisher:** Luscombe; 1st ed edition (Jun 1975)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0860021335
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0860021339
- **Product Dimensions:** 23.2 x 16.7 x 2.8 cm

Synopsis

The gripping story of Lt. Col. George Styles war against terrorist bombs. He was in charge of bomb disposal in Northern Ireland at the beginning of the bombing campaign and then tasked with finding ways of defeating the attacks both in the Province and on the mainland.

The George Cross awarded to Lieut.-Colonel George Styles in 1972 is the highest bravery award given to any living member of the British Armed Forces in Northern Ireland since the emergency began in 1969.

For more that two years, at the height of the terrorist bombing campaign, George Styles led the Army Bomb Disposal teams in tackling more than 6000 bombs. Many received his personal attention, and his George Cross was awarded after he had worked for a total of 16 hours defusing two massive bombs in Belfast's Europa Hotel.

A professional soldier who had won his commission in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from the ranks, served in Malaya (against the terrorists) with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and in Germany, he conducted a single-minded campaign against both bomber and sniper in Northern Ireland when he was put in charge of the bomb disposal teams in the Province - and particularly against the system which allowed them to obtain their deadly materials with such ease.

After receiving his G.C. he left Northern Ireland and was given the task of finding new ways of defeating the bombers, both in the Province and on mainland Britain. He retired from the Army in 1974 to advice industry as a 'specialist' in bomb counter-measures.

Old Codger's – Photo Gallery

This is a Bugle Call for RAOC, REME and RCT 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 - 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: -

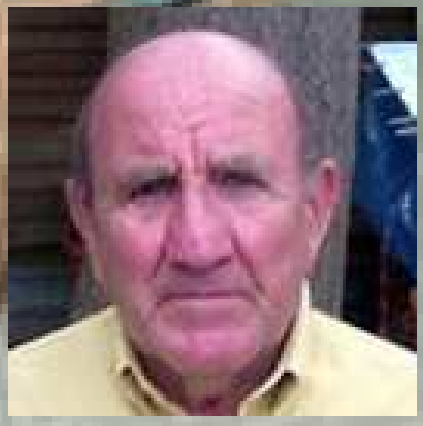
In Boys' Service | **In the Army** | **In Retirement**











Top to Bottom:- Chris McHale, Stuart Madden, Ben Ridley

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!




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

EX BOYS' ASSOCIATION



Ex Boys and Lost Pals (1)

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 2012, at the very latest, he will relinquish this voluntary work. Having carried out this role out for over 7 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



Public Relations Administrator (2)

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

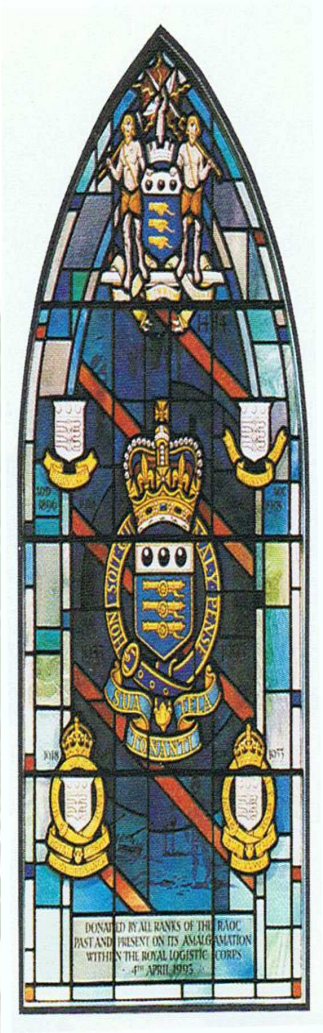
For the Last Post details contained within this Newsletter, the Ex-Boys' Assocation, are dependent on information from either relatives or Ex-Boys themselves. Please forgive any inaccuracies or omissions that have perhaps been quoted from memory.

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 an entry associated with the Boys' Service, is the late David Bowhay, late RAOC, who sadly passed away in 2009.

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.



Hugh Macdonald Kay - RAOC Boy Soldier

Clive Craister - RAOC J/CSM at Blackdown

David S. Brown - RAOC

Edward Ronald (Ted) Young – RAOC

Ronald J. Prewer RAOC

Col. Hugh G. Heap OBE
Major, OC "C" Coy, RAOC Apprentices College 1973-75









I remember Dave as a very gentle giant and a most pleasant person to be with.

He had a big heart for everyone and it's a pity that it was his heart that let him down in the end.
He loved his family (Theresa and son Graham) and Mum was always around too.

He spent many hours pottering in his garden and he showed me around it on my visit, telling me of all his plans for the future. Like so many that die young, these plans were never to be realised.

I will miss those Skype-calls to you Dave but you will be in my memory forever and I'll look you up, when St. Peter calls.

George Tether, August 2012

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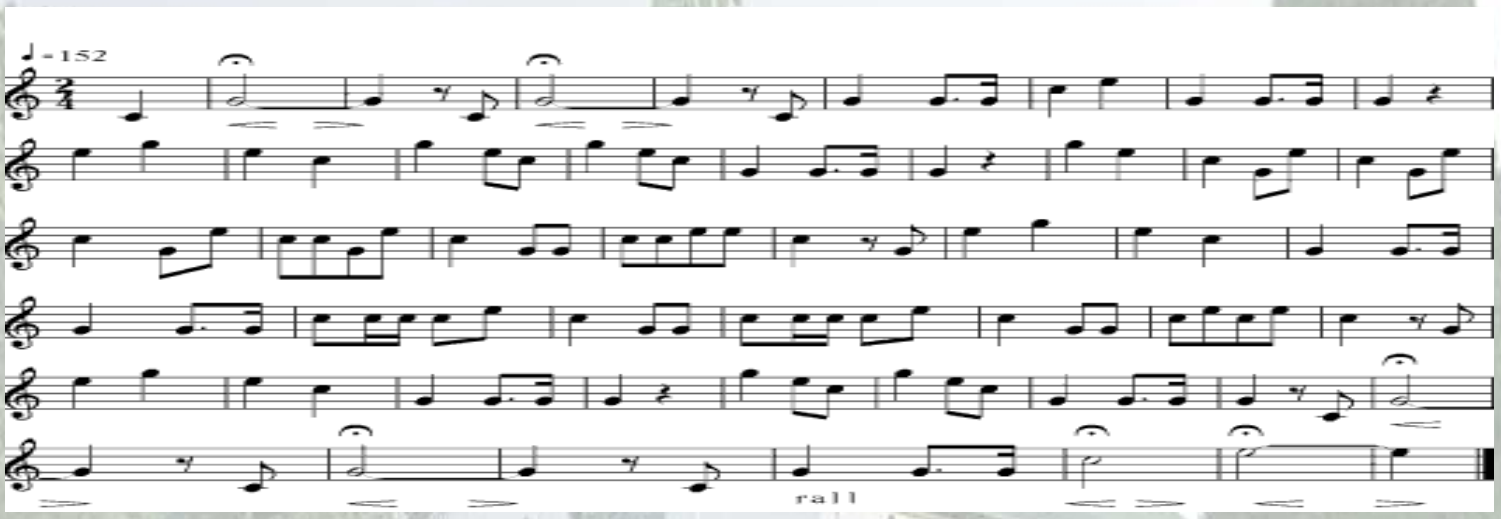
EX BOYS' ASSOCIATION

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The Last Post

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

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



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

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

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

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

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 Jones

Founder and Chairman



George Tether

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



Bill Chamberlain

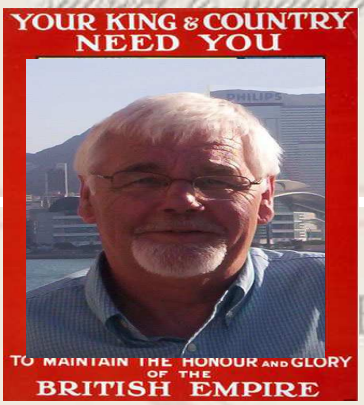
All matters concerning the location of Lost Pals and recruitment of Members for the Association



Dave McCarthy

All matters concerning the Battalion Structure,
Nominal Rolls and Passing Out Dates of Ex-Boys

ing ex-Boy's and members of permanent Staff where



Brian Wild

Secretary and Treasurer to the Ex Boys Association



Adrian Hayward-Wills

Editor of the Ex Boys' Association Newsletter

Next Newsletter Issue 19 Summer 2013

Membership Update

Memorabilia

Book Reviews

Music Reviews

RAOC, REME and RCT Wall Shields

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The Editor, Patron, Chairman and the Committee members of the Ex-Boys' Association assumes no liability whatsoever for any action taken in reliance on the information contained in this newsletter.

Happy Reading!!!!

Adrian Hayward-Wills