



## Military Survey (Geographic) Branch Royal Engineers Association



### Newsletter No 36 Spring 2010

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#### Chairman's Piece

As this is our first communication with the branch since the Christmas newsletter I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year, if somewhat belated. Now on with the business of 2010.

Over the last couple of months we have revamped the web site and I must mention both Mick Perry and Dave Johnson who have, between them, put in a great deal of effort. There is still more to do, for example we are looking to add additional pages displaying the committee meeting minutes; we have already added the audited accounts for anyone with that sort of interest! If anyone wishes to contribute ideas as to content or form do please e-mail them to the Webmaster, Dave Johnson.

The branch accounts have been audited and published on the web site although these are not finalised until accepted by the membership at the AGM. The branch is financially healthy. My thanks go to both the treasurer and to Chris Nash who has audited the accounts for the last two years.

The year ahead is planned to be one of our quiet years with an AGM tentatively set for Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> September. It is too early to determine the precise format of the day but as soon as it is firmed up we will broadcast it. Ahead of that on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, JAGO is holding its annual 'beat retreat' to which REA members are welcome. We hope to get details into this newsletter but in any case they will be posted on the web site.

It has been a long and hard winter with spring, in the Berkshire area at least, just beginning to break through. The allotment is dug but not planted, the boat maintenance is well under way and I'm looking forward to some pleasant weather for spring and summer. As was pointed out to me recently, it is only three months before the days start drawing in again! I wish you all a glorious summer and hope to see many of you at the AGM in September.

*Angus Cross*

#### **BEATING RETREAT**

**Hermitage 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

Members of the Branch are invited to attend the Ceremony of Beating Retreat. The President of the WOs & Sgts Mess has offered to open the bar at 1830hrs prior to the ceremony and intends to lay on a buffet supper afterwards for a small charge payable on the night. Those wishing to attend are requested to forward their details to Mick Perry at the address below:

**Returns are to include:**

Numbers attending and names:  
Numbers requiring the buffet:  
Vehicle Make, Colour & Registration Number:

Returns: e-mail [mandpdperry@sky.com](mailto:mandpdperry@sky.com) - Phone 01635-37510 or mail to: 101 Craven Road, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5NL

**Returns are required by no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2010**

## News from the Military Front

### RSM's Column

Since the Christmas break the Station has had a number of high profile visits, the highlight of these being the visit of the Duke of Kent at the beginning of March. Also of note were the visits of the Commanders of 145 Brigade and 8 Force Engineer Brigade. From the Senior Soldier's point of view, I am glad that we have moved away from the days where some of the visits seemed to involve lots of preparation and commitment of time and manpower for a visitor(s) who had a vague, if any, interest in what we actually did and vice versa. The perception amongst the soldiers was often "what was the point of that? Back then I suppose we had more soldiers around and certainly less operational commitment so those visits were perhaps less of a burden. These days the soldiers generally understand that visits are "filtered" and when they do happen they are pretty easy to justify and visitor needs little or no introduction. That has certainly been the case recently and it is always good to get our personnel of all ranks out talking to the visitors, and it is particularly impressive when our young soldiers give a calm and articulate briefing, easily demonstrating the units' capability as well as their own talents, and more often than not they are able to convey an understanding of "the bigger picture". Of course we are no strangers to our soldiers' ability to impress in this way, but we must not take it for granted.

### Operations

Since the last newsletter, the RE Geo "footprint" in Afghanistan in terms of personnel increased from the mid twenties to the mid thirties due to the airfield surveys being carried out. This obviously had already been done previously, but there were questions over the accuracy of the positioning of certain airfields and given the frequency with which they are used and associated safety concerns it was considered prudent to re - survey some of them. This was a relatively short deployment for around ten of our personnel for approximately 6 weeks. There will be another similar deployment to survey two more airfields in Jun - Jul time. The uplift of personnel in support of SF and the Counter-IED Task Force is ongoing.

### Training

13 Sqn carried out the most recent of the series of Pre Deployment Training exercises for the Regt at Bramley training area in Jan, for soldiers deploying in the next few months. These exercise are invaluable in ensuring our soldiers receive the additional training not covered in the "OPTAG" package, and specific to their role in theatre.

As mentioned in these pages and at REA Mil Svy branch meetings, our soldiers often work independently whilst deployed, making this training all the more important. The Sqns have been busy conducting their own technical training exercises, including preparing for Exercise Pinnock's Progress, which will have a section competition based theme, designed to test, amongst a raft of other things, the military skills and leadership qualities of our soldiers.

### Sports

Our main Sports teams are enjoying excellent seasons, and as we approach the "business end" of the winter sports season, the football, hockey, orienteering and rugby teams are all well placed to land some silverware. The football team in particular are gunning for 3 trophies including the Army Cup. The hockey team has this season rolled back the years and look like re - claiming some past glory. The orienteering team are winning frequently as usual and the rugby team finds itself in the sapper cup final having played just one match! There are also sterling efforts being performed in some of the more minor sports. All in all, the end of season Sports dinner night is shaping up to be a memorable occasion, with hopefully lots silverware to clutter up the room!

I hope you all enjoyed a break at Easter.

*'Once a Sapper, always a Sapper'!*

*Al Beeton*

WO1 (RSM) RE, Hermitage

## Contact Details

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## REA Diary

14 – 21 May	Spring Families Reunion, Mundesley Holiday Village, Norfolk
<b>24 May</b>	<b>Beating Retreat, Hermitage</b>
29 May	Trooping the Colour: 1 Grenadier Guards – ‘Major General’s Review’
5 June	Trooping the Colour: 1 Grenadier Guards – ‘Colonel’s Review’
9 – 10 June	Beating Retreat, London
10 June	Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day Parade (by invitation only)
12 June	Queen’s Birthday Parade
19 – 20 June	Aldershot/Minley Weekend
<b>4 September</b>	<b>Military Survey Branch AGM and Reunion, Hermitage</b>
17 – 19 September	Corps Memorial Weekend, Chatham
9 October	REA AGM and Annual Dinner
10 October	Sapper Sunday at Royal Hospital Chelsea
11 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
14 November	Remembrance Sunday

## History Matters

The project to write the ‘*Story of Military Survey*’ is still alive but progressing slowly as ‘real life’ continues to steal time from the task. We are still asking for personal input from members to add the colour and flesh to the often dry official records. Recent correspondence in the newsletter regarding mystery equipment led to a write up on Operation Firefly. Military Survey has always been involved in small tasks that don’t always get into official histories and quickly get lost from memory for example not many knew of or now easily recall Assumption Island, Buraimi Oasis Mosaic or ‘Op Moc’. If you were involved in such a task please write it up and send it to the editor. We are also very interested in reminiscences of details of daily life in places such as Zyyi or Normandy Lines and accounts of key events such as 13 Squadron’s withdrawal from Aden.

Some years ago Ian Winfield, a topo surveyor who later followed a career as a ‘postie’, provided the ‘General came to Dinner’ anecdote that follows this notice. Whilst the story is amusing and has probably been ‘polished’ by time and frequent telling, it does illustrate one of the small facets of military life that are poorly documented and seldom appear in official histories, that is, guard duty from a soldier’s point of view.

## The General Came To Dinner

The word was that the GOC was coming into the camp to dine in the Officers' Mess. The 'camp' was just south of Fayid in the Canal Zone of Egypt and the unit was 42 Survey Engineer Regiment. As usual, Sods Law was in full swing, and I had been lucky (!) enough to get picked for guard duty on that never to be forgotten night.

First, let me describe the scene; like most camps in the Canal Zone it was tented, with very few solid buildings. The guard tent was at the gate, which had the usual counter-weighted drop-bar and also, another common feature of Middle East army camps, a large square wooden sunshade for the gate guard. Our sunshade had the guard room clock fixed to it – remember that, it's relevant.

When the guard mounted at 1800 hrs, I was horrified to discover that one Spr Booker\* was among those playing. He was a Sergeant Major's nightmare; what you might call a sartorial disaster. You can imagine our feelings when Booker got first stag – it meant that he would be on the gate when the great man swept through. The Guard Sergeant was adamant. Booker would do his stag regardless.

The drill was to be that the gate sentry would call out "*Stand-to the Guard*" when the staff car hove into sight, at which time we, the remaining five and the Sergeant, would step smartly out and form a line opposite the gate sentry, the Sergeant would bring us to the 'present', the gate sentry already having lifted the drop-bar.

Well, it didn't quite go like that. We five off-duty chaps were laying about in graceful heaps inside the tent awaiting the call. At about 1900 hrs, we all heard Booker say, in a loud stage whisper "*He's coming*". We all looked out and, sure enough, coming up the track about a quarter of a mile away was a cloud of dust heralding the arrival of the great man in his staff car. We waited. A sort of coma seemed to settle over the whole affair. Booker was obviously agitated but mute. The Guard Sergeant was not going to move without hearing the magic formula "*Stand-to the Guard*". Impasse! We, the pawns in the game, were fortunate in that we could see both the track up to the gate and the gate itself. Booker meantime was getting rather fretful. He quite obviously couldn't remember what he had to do first. Should he call out the guard? Perhaps he ought to get the drop-bar up. Or maybe, he should come to the 'slope'. He made a decision. He would come to the 'slope' **and** get the drop-bar raised. He came to the 'slope' (I forgot to mention he had his bayonet fixed) and pushed down on the counter-weight.

To my mind, it had always been a mistake to try and attempt to do two things at once. One usually fails in one or other of the enterprises. In coming to the 'slope' he shoved his bayonet into the clock, and I suppose the shock of this drained his strength. His push down on the counter-weight was quite pathetic; it went up about six feet and then slowly resumed the horizontal. As it came to rest, the bonnet of the staff car, an open Humber, scraped under it, with a rending sound and the RASC Sergeant driver sat contemplating his navel and lower limbs which were covered in glass.

The great-man turned a rather fetching cerise colour. Booker meanwhile, gave another heave on the counter-weight, and as the car slid past he came to the salute: with his right hand to his cap, his left hand still holding his rifle at the slope in the bayoneted clock.

That's all there is to it really. In the guard tent, five of us were rolling on the floor in agony. The pain of laughing was almost too much. The Sergeant was standing like a broken man. We had a visit a little while later from the Orderly Officer, who was walking with a bit of a limp; he had a few well-chosen words with the Sergeant, who in turn spoke firmly to Booker. Booker seemed rather puzzled by the whole thing.

\* name slightly changed to save the Editor from Court proceedings.

## Treasurer's Input

### Audited Accounts - Financial Results

The audit has been successfully completed and the accounts and auditors comments are or soon will be available on the website. The Branch made an excess of income over expenditure of £643.82 in 2009. The auditor's comments were very positive and he congratulated the Treasurer on the accounts and books.

### Current Worth Of The Branch

On 23 March 2010 the bank account holdings were as follows:

Current account	£677.52
Reserve account	£8,010.42
RE (Geo) Support Fund	£1,925.66

Members have continued to donate generously to the RE (Geo) Fund, some extraordinarily generously. These funds, and those in the Reserve Account, are available for contributions supported by the Committee and by the AGM (where necessary). The situation is kept under review by the Chairman, with the Commander and RSM at Denison Barracks. It is anticipated that support from the Branch will be valuable to the units when Hermitage closes, if not before.

### Subscriptions And Debtors

By 23 March 2010 259 members have paid subscriptions (the vast majority by standing order) realising income of £2,072. 15 members have not paid their 2010 subscription, a potential further income of £120. Some Standing Orders will still come in but I look forward to receiving cheques from 2010 debtors as soon as possible (and I make the usual plea for a commitment to paying by SO from 2011!)

### Michael Gowlett

**PS** I repeat my message of last year – **“I have received one standing order from ‘Ground Control S’ with no name attached. Can this person (or anyone who knows who it is) please let me know so that I can put a member's name to the payment? Thank you.”**

### GOLF

It has been suggested that a branch golf day might be fun but I need to determine how much support there might be before anything is done. I would also like to hear from anyone who might like to organise a golf day. The intention would be to hold the first meeting later this year. The format would be along the lines of a bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf, followed by an early evening meal and presentations.

Those who are interested please give Angus Cross the information below either by telephone – 01635 521 776 or email him at [gusandmyra@btinternet.com](mailto:gusandmyra@btinternet.com).

Name; Telephone number: e-mail:

Areas you would travel to:

Scotland, NE, NW, Wales, Midlands, East Anglia, SE, South Central, SW

Would you organise an event and if so where?



**Editor's Bit**

We are trying to make the newsletter a bit more interesting than just the details of forthcoming events but to do that we need more input from members.

Everybody who served for more than a few weeks will have an anecdote to tell – good examples are Bev Hill's hilarious story of Buller Kent and the fake hammer throwing that appeared a several issues ago and Ian Winfield's yarn in this edition – we all knew a 'Booker' or two! So, why not put fingers to keyboard or pen to paper and share a story with the rest of us? If you are not in position to provide word-processed documents – no problem, just post your hand written into to the editor who is happy to type it. Similarly, please provide high resolution JPEGs of photographs or send me the originals and I will scan them and return them by 'signed for' mail.

The Branch website has many great anecdotes and a host of photographs that will take most readers instantly back to their youth. Unfortunately this treasure chest of memories is not available to those who are not on-line and I suspect that many who are able to access the internet seldom visit the website – out of sight and therefore – out of mind. With these members in mind we intend in future to publish the odd story and some photographs from the website in each newsletter – we assume that members who are happy to post things on the website would be equally happy for them to be put into the newsletter – if you don't want your website material used in the newsletter please let me know.

**NEWSLETTER DATES**

We will aim to produce four issues this year as follows:

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Dates for Input</b>	<b>Published</b>
Spring	By 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Mid to end April
Summer	By 15 June	Early July
Autumn	By 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Mid to end October
Christmas	By 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Before Christmas

**WHICH UNIT, WHERE, WHEN AND WHY?**



Above is a Helio wagon of the 'new' mobile train and left is an old Hippo repro truck that the train replaced.



The mix of wartime and post war mobiles suggests the early Sixties but any ideas as to the unit, the occasion etc? The editor would appreciate any thoughts on the subject.



**“MAPS & SURVEYS 2010”**

**The Defence Surveyors' Association Seminar: Saturday 19 June 2010**

This year's DSA seminar on historical military surveying, mapping and charting will be held at the Royal School of Military Survey on Saturday 19th June 2010. Cost of attendance is £15, to include tea and coffee breaks and a finger-buffet lunch.

1000-1025 - Registration and Coffee in the Conference Room on the ground floor of the Main Building.

1025-1030 - Chairman's welcome in the lecture theatre on the first floor of the Main Building.

**1030-1110 - War-time Experience, Peace-time Opportunity and the Emergence of the RN Hydrographic Service, 1803 to 1823**

*By Mike Barritt, Captain RN (Retd) Vice-President Hakluyt Society*

**1110-1150 - The Report on the Military Map of the UK 1892**

*By Dr Peter Collier of Portsmouth University*

**1150-1230 - Charles Close: His role in African Boundary Demarcations**

*By John W Donaldson, International Boundaries Research Unit, University of Durham*

1230-1325 - Lunch in the Conference Room.

1330-1345 - Presentation of Annual DSA Prizes by the DSA President, Major General PF Fagan

**1345-1420 - The Links between Photo Interpretation, Intelligence and Photogrammetry**

*By Chris Halsall, a former Chief Instructor of the Joint Services School of Photographic Interpretation*

**1420-1455 - Distance Measurement before the advent of Electronic Distance Measurement**

*By Jim Smith, author of "Everest The Man and the Mountain"*

This paper will lead into that by Alan Wright.

1455-1530 - Tea/Coffee Break in the Conference Room on the ground floor.

**1530-1605 - Trevor Wadley and 50 years of the Tellurometer**

*Alan F Wright, Brian Sturman, David R. Green*

**1605-1640 – Technologies For Fusing GIS, Terrain and UAV Data in Realtime Intelligence Support**

**By Richard Goodman, Principal Application Engineer, SG&I, Intergraph UK Ltd**

1640-1700 - Final Questions/Discussion

Bids to attend may be made to Mike Nolan as follows:

By Email - [maptnolan@googlemail.com](mailto:maptnolan@googlemail.com)

By Telephone - (01635) 253167

By Letter - MA Nolan, Tall Trees, Broad Layings, Woolton Hill, Newbury, RG20 9TS

Cheques should be made out simply to DSA.

For those arriving by car, it would be appreciated if bids could include car make, model and registration number.

**A Belated Tribute To Wilf Reid**

Wilf, born in 1932, joined the General Service Corps in 1947 at Middlesborough and proceeded to Taunton to join intake 47B and then moved to the Army Apprentice School at Harrogate as an Apprentice Tradesman where he trained for three years as a Trig Surveyor and Topo Draughtsman A3. Later, in 1959 he qualified as a Topo Surveyor A1. His career took him to the Far East where he gained the GSM and clasp and to home units including the School of Military Survey where he served as instructor to various levels of courses.

Wilf met and married Anne in 1970 when he was RSM at Hermitage and then was later posted as RSM to 42 Survey Engineer Regiment at Barton Stacey from where he retired from the service and was discharged in late November 1972.

After military service Wilf joined Fairey Air Surveys (later Clyde Surveys) at Maidenhead as a Field Surveyor and Project Controller. He spent time as on field surveys in Nigeria and later as the Company representative on a large project in Saudi Arabia.

After leaving Clyde on the break up of the company he worked for several years for the Newbury firm Pennington Solicitors as office manager. Not being able to settle after a short period of normal retirement he decided to take part time work with Young Offenders on Community Service and he was soon offered the job of taking over the program full time.

When he finally retired he and Anne divided their time between living in Andalusia, Southern Spain and their home in Newbury. In later years his health deteriorated and he had to have a triple heart by-pass operation following an aortic aneurysm. After suffering from severe pneumonia and cancer of the bronchus he sadly passed away peacefully in the presence of his family on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2009. Anne described him as the best husband, father and grandfather imaginable and all the family miss him terribly.

**Colin Price**

**Major Peter Jenkins**

Peter enlisted as a mature entry in 1942 at the age of twenty two having been a draughtsman with the Ordnance Survey since 1940. He trained at the Survey Training Centre (STC) at Ruabon until 1943 when he was posted to a field unit. During 1944 and 45 he saw service in Normandy, Paris and Frankfurt. With the end of the war in Europe he was posted to India where he remained until Indian independence. In 1948 he was posted as an instructor to the STC, then based at Longleat, and moved in 1949 with the unit under its new title of the School of Military Survey to Hermitage where he stayed until the following year when he moved to Germany to join 3 BAOR Map Depot.

A three year tour with 47 Squadron in Cyprus followed and then another with SMS before a move to the Far East in 1959 to run the Map Depot in Singapore as a WO1. The next tour saw Peter return to the School to take up the appointment of RSM and twelve months later in 1964 he was awarded his commission with his first duties as an officer being with 42 Survey Engineer Regiment, Barton Stacey.

In 1967 Peter returned to 3 Map Depot, this time as OC, where he stayed until 1970 when, after a brief spell at 8 Map and Air Chart Depot, he returned to Barton Stacey where he remained until completing his service in 1977.

Peter never took up a civilian career but retired to Leicestershire where he passed away on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March at the 'ripe old age' of 87. He was a life member of the REA and regularly attended Military Survey Branch functions. His dedication to Military Survey was quite evident when he became not only the oldest member of the Late Entry Officers but was ever present at their annual dinner.

**Ron Birch.**



### Norman Brindle

Norman completed his A3 in 1962/3 along with Chris Jobling, Lofty Branson, Jim Brown, Johnny Thorpe, Bernie Pollard, Brummie Beard, George Craven and others whose names, with all our apologies, we fail to connect with. Norm remained the same whenever anyone came across him, tending to overbalance with the exuberance of his own verbosity but always a lovable larger than life character. Next came service in 84 Squadron and surveys in Sarawak, (Sibu & Nanga Gaat) from where Norm left to return to SMS for an upgrading course. About a year later Norm, lucky devil, returned to 1 Troop in Singapore and spent time working on the Thai - Malay geodetic connection. A variety of postings followed thereafter but mainly at Barton Stacey and Hermitage before Norm left the comfort of the military in about 1978 having won the redundancy ticket. It is thought that he worked initially on the Thames Barrier but he eventually landed work in South Africa where he remained until he died.

A fellow surveyor from South Africa, Rex Allberry, recounts that he first met Norman in the early 1990's when working together as surveyors on a job in Middleburg. Rex had just suffered a double loss in his family and recounts that "*Norm showed so much compassion towards me and helped me keep my chin up. A real down to earth person whom I will never ever forget, his sense of humour will never be surpassed*".

Norm made contact with the Branch in 2003 through the web site and has had regular email contact with a number of his old contemporaries ever since. It must be said that Norm flowered in his communications with us all – in fact his emails were ever as loud and boisterous as he was in real life but with an added zest for self-deprecation especially in the latter years as his health began to suffer seriously.

Norman's partner, Flo Botha, writes, "*Norman, passed away on Saturday 12th December 2009. My family and I will miss his deep caring, carefulness and great sense of humour. To me he was a wonderful partner who I could always depend on. I will really miss my dear friend. Thank you all for being his friend and line of communication when he needed express his feelings or just to chat to his old army friends, you have no idea how much he appreciated the communication he had with you all. Thank you for being there for him. God bless you all.*"

And on a final note, it would do justice to Norm's sense of humour to publish his last missive regaling his continuing and ever deteriorating health. It demonstrates his rejection of the inevitable and his ability to cock a snook at all that could be thrown at him:

#### **Last Email from Norm September 2009 - he passed on three months later:**

"Having been hauled in for a further 3 days test, I can at last say with absolute certainty that I have as fine a collection of ailments as a man can accumulate over 67.5 years. Ignoring the Manic Depression accompanying my symptoms that is, the doctors all agree that it should not affect any of the first 18 holes I play at golf, but that I should avoid the 19th hole except to partake in H2O! To a man, as they waved laparotomy, Ultra Scan, Blood and ECG results at me they maintained absolute courtesy and silence especially as my credit card slips were thrust into their expectant hands. The only minor pause, other than checking the amounts, was when they thrust Boxes and Packages of Medication into shaking hands where there once was a Master Card.

From now on there will be fruit juices, where there once was beer; now tea where Scotch used to rule; now milk shakes where cocktails danced in their elegant glasses the Galliano simmering at sunset. Gin has become a lost relic of the "Best of British" once served by turban clad locals from Simla! A Singapore Sling has become a woman's way of carrying a handbag. Please forgive me Guys but it's going to be tough remembering a 12 yr old Glenfiddich as a virgin..... All my Best to You  
ALL..... NORmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

**Mick Perry**

**REA (Military Survey) AGM & Reunion**  
**ON**  
**SATURDAY the 4<sup>th</sup> of SEPTEMBER 2010**

**Location - Denison Barracks, Hermitage, the home of JAGO (HQ & 42 Engineer Regiment (Geo) ) and the Royal School of Military Survey**

**TO PLAN THIS OCCASION WE NEED TO ESTABLISH FIRM ATTENDANCE FIGURES. AND ASK THAT YOU TRY AND RETURN THE ATTACHED PERFORMA**  
**BY 1 AUGUST 2010**

**The AGM, reunion is once again held with the full support and invaluable assistance of the Commander, Colonel John Kedar and his staff.**

This year will be a low-key affair but we will be dining during the evening and hopefully enjoying the company of Sgts Mess members. This year there will a short AGM and a series of briefings, **to which wives and guests are invited**. The Commander normally speaks at the AGM and we hope, as in the past, to receive a brief on operations from a recently returned NCO or Officer. We shall also be presenting the annual prize to the deserving soldier.

**SO COME AND HEAR IT DIRECTLY FROM THOSE WHO SERVED AT THE SHARP END!**

The programme allows members to stay on and swing many a lamp late into the evening or to make their own arrangements to dine or attend another event in the local area with long lost friends. Alternatively you can depart for the comfort of home. Whichever, we encourage you to attend, to listen, to voice your opinion and of course to enjoy a convivial atmosphere, a good lunch and even better company.

### **OUTLINE PROGRAMME**

**Saturday 04<sup>th</sup> September 2010:**

**1230 - 1430 Early arrivals may make use of the Sgts Mess - bar snacks available on repayment.**

**1400 - 1630 Registration in conference room - tea/coffee/biscuits will be served.**

**1630 - 1800 AGM, presentation and briefings to including a break.**

**NB Timings and other details are liable to revision but these will be notified beforehand.**

Depending on numbers attending either the conference room or unit theatre will be the focus for the AGM and briefings. The conference room will be the venue for registration and light refreshments; it will also be used to display some of the historic photo albums and rogue's gallery.

Access to other areas of the unit may be available but this is subject to ongoing discussions, further details will be disseminated as necessary.

## Cost

We have kept the outlay to a minimum but we do have to reflect the true costs none of which can be offset against unit budgets. The unit and contract staff willingly looks us after and it is only through the kind generosity of them all that costs can be kept as low as they are.

The cost for each member and guest for tea/coffee (sadly expensive) at the AGM and a handsome meal during the evening, has been kept to an all-inclusive **£12 each**. Beat that downtown!

## Dress

Once again, for clarity and to avoid the many phone calls or e-mails on the subject, smart casual is to be the dress for the day. Do feel free to dress up but please do not dress down.

## Security - Access

**To reiterate previous advice: owing to the ever-present security situation you will have to identify yourself on arrival at the gate, so please have some form of identity with you.** Help us by forewarning anyone whom you might be aware of who intends "just turning up" - please, please - get him or her to contact us first!

## Transport

As last year we will attempt to provide transport but only to local hotels (M4/A34 junction) but this does remain to be confirmed.

**Finally**, if you feel that you have something you can contribute to this event that would be of interest to all, please do contact us. I look forward to seeing you on the day.

***Mick Perry***

## Event Organiser

Telephone 01635 37510

e-mail: [mandpdperry@sky.com](mailto:mandpdperry@sky.com)

### **Why Not Recruit a New Member or Two?**

Are you still in touch with someone who you first met at Hermitage and perhaps farther afield with Survey or Geo. Take a look at your Christmas card list – are all the old friends on it members of the branch? If not - give them a call and talk them into joining...it doesn't cost much and they might enjoy being a member. If everyone recruited just one new member – the branch would double ...now there's a thought!

## **REUNION AND AGM 2010**

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Please Send All Returns To: **M. Perry**  
**Military Survey Branch**  
**101 Craven Road**  
**Newbury RG14 5NL**  
[manddperry@sky.com](mailto:manddperry@sky.com)  
**01635 37510**

From:

Forename:..... Surname:.....

Address: -

Tele: - .....

E-mail:- .....

Type & Make of transport:.....Registration No .....

I will/will not be attending the Reunion and AGM on 04 September 2010, I will be bringing the following guests:

	<u>Forename</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
1	.....	.....	.....
2	.....	.....	.....

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR GEOGRAPHIC SUPPORT FUND NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT**

I enclose a cheque for £..... (Payable to: Military Survey Branch, REA)

Being the total of .....Numbers attending the AGM on the 04<sup>th</sup> Sep 10 @£12 each, **plus £..... FOR THE GEO SUPPORT FUND** - plus any unpaid annual subscription or annual subscription for new member joining this year £8.

**Please note that any excess funds or overpayments etc will go to the Geo Support fund unless you specify otherwise.**

If you have any special needs such as a vegetarian meal, **disabled access**, etc, please detail these below and every attempt will be made to accommodate your needs.

NB military units do not cater for severely disabled conditions (for obvious reasons) and we apologise in advance for any shortcomings that might cause individual inconvenience.