



Military Survey (Geographic) Branch

A member of the
Royal Engineers Association



18 December 2020

Dear Member

25th Anniversary of the Formation of 16 Geographic Support Squadron RE

Please find attached an electronic booklet celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Formation of 16 Geographic Support Squadron RE.

Originally the thought was to publish an article in the branch Newsletter, but it became clear a substantial record of the success of 16 Geographic Support Squadron RE would be more appropriate.

Working alongside the CO of 42 Engr Regt (Geo), Lt Col A J Harris RE and the current OC 16 Geo Sp Sqn, Maj G McCrea, the Branch has actually managed to provide all current members of 16 Sqn with a hard copy version of this booklet, which we hope they will keep for posterity?

You will appreciate that the activities of any unit are not always recorded for historical purposes, except at the time of hostilities with War Diaries. We therefore had to rely on the memories of the past and current OC's to build up a picture of the Squadrons activities over the last 25 years. In this regard we are most grateful for the response we have received, all of which is duly recorded in the attached booklet.

The aim is to try and achieve a similar kind of product for each of the Sqn's and RSMS, but this has to be a long-term ambition. To assist with this mammoth task, we are therefore looking for volunteers to assist with this project. We are pleased to say that 84 Sqn has almost been completed by Noel Grimmett and 135 Sqn is being painstakingly pieced together by members of the Sqn under the watchful eye of Capt Will Robinson. So, if you feel you could devote time to a history project for any of the Sqn's (13, 14, 19, 22, 47 or ASLS) it would be most helpful. It is also worth bearing in mind that the 200th Anniversary of the Formation of 13, 14, 16, & 19 Field Survey Companies is coming ever closer.

On the back cover of the 16 Sqn booklet, you will also see an advertisement for the release of Alan Gordon's book, *'The Regiment That Mapped The World'*. After ten years of research and writing Alan has finished the story of 42 Survey Engineer Regiment Royal Engineers and the book will be published in 2021 as a limited edition. There will be an opportunity to pre-order and details will follow in the new year.

We trust you will enjoy reading this modest record of the outstanding performance of 16 Geographic Support Squadron RE in supporting the Corps, Government, and the Nation in these difficult times.

Noel Grimmett
Editor – Survey (Geo) Branch Newsletter
Royal Engineers Association

Nick Collins