



Military Survey (Geographic) Branch

Royal Engineers Association

Summer 2024 Newsletter – issue 92

Beachley Heritage Centre



The Army Apprentice College circa 1970/80

On the 5th of June 2024, my wife, Ann, and I were invited to visit the Beachley Heritage Centre by the Curator, Chris Ricketts (65A Plant Fitter). The visit was arranged after a zoom meeting between Ian (our Branch Secretary), Chris and myself. We had been told that the Centre was due to close and that they were looking for a place to exhibit/store their displays and equipment. We were eventually to learn that whilst their tenure at Beachley is by grace and favour of the current CO of 1st Battalion, The Rifles, (the resident battalion) they look as though they will be safe until at least 2035. Thanks to the CI at RSMS, Lt Col Daz Hembery, the Branch has however been able to offer them 'sanctuary' storage at Hermitage if things become difficult.

The Heritage Centre is located in the old Families NAAFI building, outside the security wire of the main camp by Beachley Gate, Beachley, Chepstow, NP16 7YG. Entry to the Heritage Centre is gained through the Beachley Gate and there is a large car park. Both parking and entry to the Heritage Centre are free. The main camp is currently occupied by 1st Battalion, The Rifles, although they are actually serving a two-year tour of duty in Cyprus. I will provide a little more information about the camp infrastructure at the end of this article.



Chris, Wendy, Stuart, Irene and Ann outside the Beachley Heritage Centre

Chris and his wife Wendy, run the Heritage Centre as volunteers and open it every Wednesday and Saturday between 1100 hrs – 1500hrs. On the day we visited they were ably supported by two more volunteers, Stuart Jupp (66C Plant Operator Mechanic) and his wife Irene. Chris is a superb ambassador for the Centre and kept impressing that this is ‘our’ collection, one which is owned by all ex-Apprentices.

The Heritage Centre tells the story of the Army Apprentices College based at Beachley Barracks and the young men that attended the facility between 1924 and 1994. The college was part of a system of educational facilities, throughout the UK, that offered military training, leadership, character development and trade training. The young men usually spent two and a half to four years at the College before being posted to one of the Army's technical corps.



In 1994 when all Army Apprentice training was dispensed with by the Government of the day, the last of the Beachley Boys passed out of the College in July 1994. Fortunately, one or two like-minded personnel managed to salvage and save many pieces of history from the skips which were being filled when Beachley Camp was being closed.

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24290465	W. J. WHITE	9. 4. 75.	23528592
24290219	M. C. BURNS	7. 8. 75.	23528373
24317552	W. C. WILLIAMSON	9. 12. 75.	23675329
24317916	J. P. BARR	7. 4. 76.	23697464
24326972	D. W. BARRACLOUGH	11. 8. 76.	23703939
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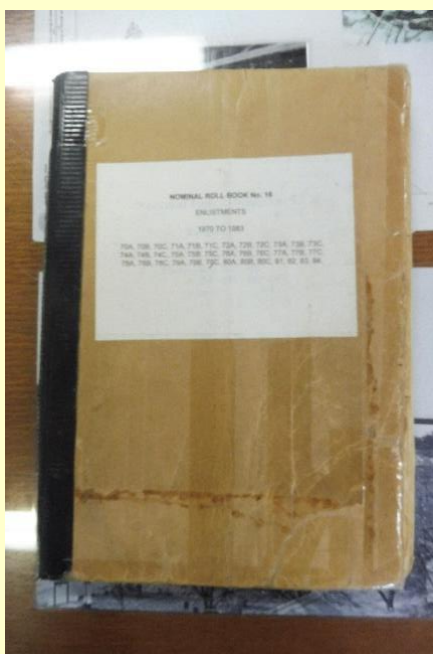


Three Familiar Names as Boy RSMs

There is a comprehensive website, armyapprenticecollegechepstow.co.uk about Beachley or simply type into your web browser, 'The Heritage Centre - Army Apprentice College and Beachley Old Boys Association Chepstow'. There is also a Facebook group, 'AAC Heritage Centre'. The website needs a little updating but has some excellent coverage of what is on show, the life of an Apprentice Soldier, the aims of the Centre and an array of wonderful photographs.

It was a real pleasure to visit the Beachley Heritage Centre and it was a privilege to have Chris and Wendy host us. The Centre's mission statement is: We care about our Heritage; therefore, we are committed to keeping that history alive, encouraging Esprit de Corps, and providing a safe environment for Beachley Old Boys, other military personnel that served at Beachley, and the general public to appreciate our legacy, share our history and bring back memories of Beachley, which is one of service.

We would thoroughly recommend a visit to the Heritage Centre but allow enough time to take a steady walk around the exhibits and a careful look through the Intake Books from 1924 up to 1994.



An Intake Book



A bed layout



A locker layout

If you are running short of time, ensure that you visit the Beachley Apprentice Gate, The Army Apprentice Memorial, in the old churchyard and the 'Moncrieff' Gun (Beachley Cannon) at the end because they are always accessible.



BOBA/AAC Memorial



The Beachley Cannon



Beachley Gate

As I said at the beginning, Beachley Barracks is currently the UK home of 1st Battalion, The Rifles. The Battalion is very supportive of the Heritage Centre and their efforts to keep the story alive. The main camp is surrounded by a high security fence and all the married quarters are now outside the wire because they are currently occupied by the Afghan interpreters and their families, but the single soldier accommodation blocks whilst still inside the wire are also occupied by Afghan families. It is not clear what will happen when the battalion returns to the barracks at the end of their tour of duty in 2025.

It is hoped that the Branch will organise a visit to the Beachley Heritage Centre and I would ask members to indicate to Mark Kieras, the Functions Organiser

REA-MilSvy-functions@outlook.com, if they and their partners are interested.

If you want to visit the Centre independently then I would recommend contacting Chris on admin@beachley.org to confirm they will be there on the day because on rare occasions they sometimes can't open.

Nick Collins

REA-MilSvy-heritage@outlook.com

The Nijmegen Marches



How hard is the annual International Nijmegen march?

Well for those who completed the march, it will remain with you - forever!

I completed my march in the summer of 1985

I might add that some say they have completed this march on numerous occasions, willingly! and you know who you are. RESpect.

History of the Nijmegen Marches:

A bit of the history of this event for those wondering what Nijmegen, Netherlands Marches is all about.

The objective of the Nijmegen March consists of Marching 40km (25 miles) distance over 'Four Consecutive Days' and shouting to yourself 'I enjoyed it!' so the brochure would tell us.

The International Four Day Marches at Nijmegen is the largest multiple-day marching event in the world held on the third week of July, with just about every western nation represented you can imagine taking part - young and old, with over 45,000 participants with more than 70 different nationalities. It was originally established to promote participation in physical activities across the Netherlands, in an attempt to organise national sports events.

It was established in 1909 as a walk/ march for the Dutch, but it has had a few bumps along the way in its time as you can imagine as it stalled during WW2. Over the years it has grown in nature almost encouraging an international flavour these days from its Dutch national pastime beginnings to the present day with many military units around the world taking part alongside civilian organizations and individuals. The route is well marked and has marshall volunteers lining the route but some participants carry a map just in case they are lost en route. It was a very unusual thing to participate in and on reflection, it was an enjoyable experience.

As we know the city of Nijmegen played an important role in Operation Market Garden. With two bridges across the Waal river, it was vital for the Allied advance towards Arnhem and Germany later on. On 20 September 1944, U.S. troops managed to capture both bridges and liberate the city.

The Nijmegen March is reputed to be the largest multiple-day marching event in the world. Thousands turn up at the event with a mix of both civilian and record military participants. Everyone it seems is welcome including Nato countries you would expect but outside in a wider sphere all to march for four days consistently.

The March in 1985:

Like many, I am sure who took part, you will remember and may even have the occasional flashback over about the pain of your feet, the aching limbs, the blisters you felt and overcame if you were lucky and the very very early morning rude awakenings before the birds got up to find yourself trundling or more likely stumbling out through the darkness of the military tented city into the Dutch countryside marching to your allotted days start line point, joined along with many other Military units.

For this challenge, you will need a certain amount of stamina and a daily commitment by putting your body forward through a trial, real hard exercise and some gruelling pre-training. You know it is going to be tough, it is meant to be, and it is intense, So no pressure.

After the second day, It does remind you a little of deja vu, of being here before and marching some more, so it can also be time-consuming. Leaving early and arriving back later to the tented city in the afternoon to a well-earned beer, meal and bed.

We generally passed the time on the march moving to the sound of Sgt Major Thurgate's beat but also listening to the many bands along the route and the marching songs from various nations and some, I might say, were hilarious. You can just forgive the Sergeant Major for trying to get our tight unit to follow his step and not the Light Infantry overtaking us, as they are designed to move around the battlefield faster than the rest of the Army.

We felt the second wind at times when we were enthusiastically being waved through the streets of passing villages, of people genuinely excited, that was a real highlight, like gladiators returning from battle in Roman times.

Who can also forget the joyous singing female Swedish military contingent who caused a bit of a stir, and nearly caused an international Incident? They sang an unfamiliar military tune with the words 'If you can catch us, you can have us if you can'

We tried, but we just couldn't catch them up sadly. Bit of a tease as they flew past us faster than the light infantry I thought.

I believe it was down to the fact they were wearing high-performance training shoes making them more nimble and we were dressed in the British cumbersome army-issue boots (pre-high leg boots). All very disturbingly unforgettable.

If you did this march annually you could prepare a repertoire of suitable songs and I could imagine bringing a songbook along with your favourite Military marching tunes to sing along to, I'm convinced many units to rehearse in private and try and outdo each other rival units.

On that subject who could forget the various USA marine units singing patriotic military songs at full gusto and flags waving like something from a Hollywood film like 'Full Metal Jacket'? They even seemed to have a song for each occasion a full repertoire to chew on. However, it was notable even to us that they were silent at times marching between the villages, resting their voices, tired after several days of singing I guess. Noticeably they picked up the beat when they saw groups of civilians waving at them.

I recall we pinched a few tunes from them and various other nations on our trip and our hilarious attempt to try it out ourselves with some success.

However, I couldn't understand what the Swiss army was singing about as we passed them who were outrageously almost dancing through their various checkpoints, to an indecipherable Swiss Yodling song I can only guess with Swiss army knives at the ready.

Who can forget the beer tent in the evenings was something to look forward to as it was full of Military banter certainly it seemed the rest of Europe against the USA, the very best of humour flying around. It was a highlight and all in the best possible taste. Several Scottish regiments were represented and rivalry between them was intense as who can play the bagpipes louder and better than the other. It was also really amusing watching an American soldier trying to play the bagpipes one evening as it's not easy. To his credit, he did manage to get out a squeaky tune to the amusement of everyone.

All Military participants' accommodations and facilities were at Camp Heumensoord a formation of tents from many countries, all surrounded in the central area by nations' units flags on poles which I remember were guarded 24/7 with barbed wire search lights. Once or twice you would hear Military police marching off a servicemen trying to scale a pole to reach a flag.

I can't forget on our arrival in Nijmegen several Americans approached us as they were trying to make a few dollars selling surplus Uncle Sam USA Military style issue z beds in the UK lines. The naive of you would wonder what is that all about, however it soon became obvious as there was suddenly a demand for comfy higher framed beds. I recall they were in high demand and much better than the UK-issue design beds it seemed that were designed so low to the ground and much harder to get out of in the mornings.

Our preparation Training at 14 Sqn was limited due to military commitments but we entered a team as they do most years in good spirits, for this annual event. I seem to remember doing some pre-training at Ratigen that year during military training. The Plan was to get us all to survive the grueling pace of the march which is like no other,

A flavour of the daily march:

Each day is a separate route from our tent at Camp Heumensoord
The daily marches are named

Tuesday- the day of Elst,

Wednesday - the day of Wijchen,

Thursday - the day of Groesbeek

Friday - the day of Cuijk.

Day 1: Tuesday the day of Elst:

The first marching day brings you to the Betuwe region where you walk over the famous dike between Lent and Oosterhout, past green orchards and through beautiful villages next to the two mighty rivers the Waal and the Rhine. The village of Elst had a blue theme with Balloons, flags, banners and partying spectators dressed in wild blue colours as you passed through.

DAY 2: the day of Wijchen:

The second marching day takes you through the Land van Maas en Waal region. We marched through a variety of woodland and wetlands, through villages where they were playing loud folk music and then over open farmland. I remember seeing hundreds of enthusiastic spectators In Wijchen, cheering us on along its route. There was a large musical roadshow that awaited us in Beuningen nearby. And then it was back to Nijmegen, where the whole town seemed to be dressed in a themed pink colour. As a tradition, we were offered an apple which was courtesy of the mayor.

DAY 3: the day of Groesbeek:

The third marching day brings you to the 'seven hills of Groesbeek'. You walk along waterways, through woods, over hills, through lovely green villages like Mook and Milsbeek, and past rolling vineyards. Once in Groesbeek, you merge with the spectators into one single, merging mass. You leave the town and then it's the infamous hills. Yes! the Netherlands does have a few hills which is a bit of a surprise. We then walked through the beautiful landscape of Hatertse en Overasseltse Vennen, past fruit-laden orchards, medieval towers and age-old farms and through floodplains and open farmland. Along the way, you pass through notably lovely villages like Alverna, Balgoij, Niftrik and Weurt.

DAY 4: the day of Cuijk:

The fourth and final days marching brought us along Via Gladiola, through beautiful wetlands into Cuijk where we were swept up into what I can only describe as one big party. We crossed over the River Meuse on a pontoon bridge constructed by Military Engineers. Once across the bridge, the excitement increases. The entry into the city and towards the finish, along the St. Annastraat, was very special in Gladiola as you feel like a guest of honour at a special party! We started to hear and see spectators all crowded into grandstands, bands were playing and hundreds of happy walkers were holding gladioli flowers, which is a symbol of a successful finish. People seem to be making it a family day out lining the route in Via Gladiola, placing

chairs and even couches on the roadside. The crowd helped to carry us through to the finish. Each year the finish is broadcast on national Dutch television. Our blisters, and aching muscles, were forgotten for that moment in time and 14 Sqn all made it to the finish line successfully within the four Days of Marches.

THE REWARD:

For participants who complete the march over all four days, a Dutch official medal cross is awarded. It has a strong significance, especially amongst the Dutch and the medal cross is allowed to be worn officially on the Dutch military uniform. Its full name is "Cross for demonstrated marching skill", defined by the Royal Decree on 6 October 1909.

Each year a walker receives a specific medal in bronze, silver or gold, with or without a crown, as well as ribbon numbers of varying design, to denote the number of times the event has been completed.

The experience at Nijmegen was a very unique special occasion and I remember the excitement of finishing the day's march and wearing the medals with pride on that day and also some were even carrying a Gladiola flower. It seemed the whole of the Netherlands was out waving you through the towns, almost forgetting your tired feet and it was a Wonderful experience.



The Year 1986

I remember the experiences I had previously. I was slightly injured so unable to do the march in 1986 but I volunteered as a first aid orderly representing 14 Sqn at Nijmegen, helping to relieve tired feet with bowls of hot water, popping and syringing the occasional blister and glueing shredded feet together with sticking tape. I was given a choice that year as I didn't fancy the cycle orderly job proposed as some I remember correctly they didn't recommend that particular job because you can't sit down for a week after becoming saddle sore. So being a first aid orderly was a much better prospect.

Andy Bell

135 Geographic Squadron - 75th Anniversary Parade

135 Geographic Squadron, Royal Engineers celebrated its 75th anniversary year (2023/2024) with a freedom parade in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell on Saturday 13 July 24. The squadron based in Ewell in Surrey is an Army Reserve squadron under 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) providing geographic support to the Army and wider Defence. The squadron was established in October 1948 and formed up for the first time in April 1949. Its links with the Borough of Epsom and Ewell date to 1955 when the squadron's antecedent regiment, 135 Survey Engineer Regiment (Territorial Army) moved there from Southampton.

The squadron has strong links to the borough with formal affiliations dating back to Epsom from 11 Dec 1962 and the Town of Ewell from 14 Apr 1981. The Freedom of Epsom and Ewell was granted on the squadron on 17 Apr 1999 on its 50th anniversary. This year to mark the anniversary, July 13th was chosen as this date coincided with various activities occurring in and around Ewell.

The Squadron exercised the freedom of the borough marching behind the Nottinghamshire Band of the Royal Engineers from the Army Reserve Centre to Bourne Hall Green to be inspected by the HM's Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Michael More-Molyneux, and the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Councillor Steve Bridger.

After the parade, the Squadron joined the community for the Ewell Village Fair at St Marys church. The freedom parade was a fantastic event showcasing the squadron to the local community, strengthening the bond between the military and the community and ends the year of 75th anniversary after a mountain biking challenge event in Aug 23 and formal anniversary dinner in Sept 23.

The squadron continues to provide deployable geographic capabilities to Defence and since 1991, has deployed 55 individual augmentees to Kuwait, Bosnia, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Afghanistan and South Sudan. Recent individual non-operational deployments include on board HMS Prince of Wales, Kenya, Morocco, Austria, Cyprus and Albania.



The Nottingham Band of the Royal Engineers



Lord Lieutenant of Surrey inspecting the Squadron at Bourne Hall Green



March past



Sqn at St Marys church en-route to Bourne Hall.



Sqn at St Marys Church returning to the ARC



General Salute



Sqn formed up after the parade with the Honorary Colonel

British team takes Engineer School's inaugural Regimental Best Mapper Competition title



On 9th April 2024, two teams of Geographic Technicians from 42 Engr Regt (Geo), embarked on a trip to Missouri, USA, to compete in the inaugural 'Best Mapper' competition.

The competition consists of twelve events designed around all aspects of the potential work that a geographic technician performs.

Whilst acclimatising before the event the teams wanted to experience all that Missouri had to offer. In St Louis they went to watch the St Louis Cardinals play baseball and to visit the Gateway arch, a nearly 630 ft tall monument built at the site of the founding of St Louis.

The next stop was Springfield, where the Sappers emersed themselves in the culture, visiting the world's largest fork and the world's largest bass pro shop. They were kindly invited to the bow and barrel range in St Robert where they were able to put into practice their marksmanship principles.

After a tough few days of 'acclimatisation', the competition commenced. The first two challenges the Sappers faced were centred around terrain analysis and briefing skills. The first ground brief was to be delivered to a small group of SNCOs; where a fifteen-minute window was given to prepare and deliver the brief with the only data coming from a 1:50k map. The second was a product brief delivered to a larger audience. A similar fifteen-minute window was given to prepare and deliver a brief off a product that had been created earlier in the competition.

Six of the events focused on the creation of a variety of geospatial products. Each product had a two-hour time limit and their own data store.

One of the products required the creation of a BSM layer through the plotting of coordinate data and application of the correct military symbology for various friendly and enemy units.

Two of the products required the creation and running of a multi-criteria analysis to determine potential friendly and enemy artillery locations. We utilised range rings to visualise the impact that they would have on the battlespace.

The next taskings required the creation of a cross-country mobility layer. One to be used to propose potential river crossing sites and the other to assist in identifying areas of key terrain.

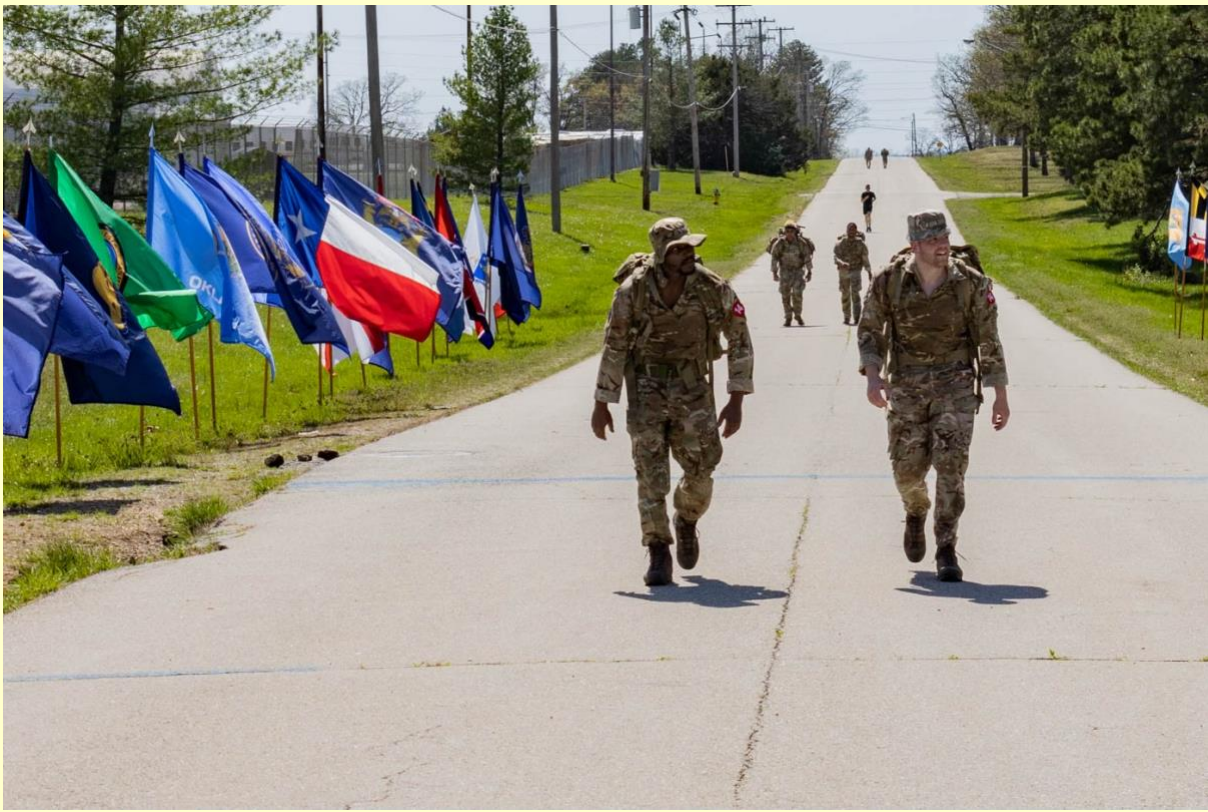
The final product was a route proposal identifying potential hazards along the proposed route and running a visibility trace to analyse each of those hazards.

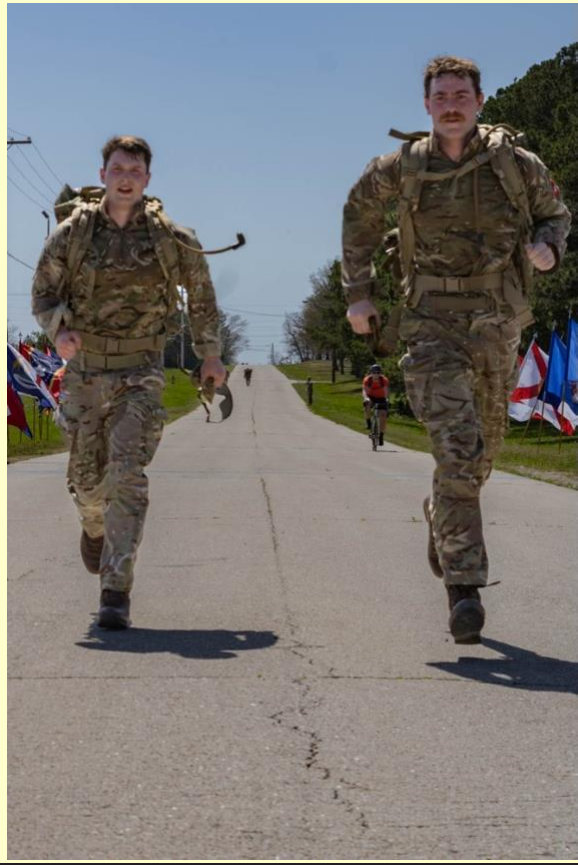
Once the Geospatial analysis tasks were complete, the remaining events were arduous tests of physical resilience. The first challenge was an AMRAP (as many reps as possible) of a variety of exercises, followed by a 1.5-mile run, a 3-mile sandbag run and a 12-mile loaded march. The final hurdle to overcome was a 6-mile land navigation event.

The teams placed very highly achieving first and fifth place.

The first-place team wear awarded the Steel De Fleury Medal. They were also given an Esri 1-year personal use licence, a Garmin instinct 2 solar and a Leatherman multi-tool.







The Pathfinder March 2024 – 16 Geographic Support Squadron

The Pathfinder March is a 46-mile/74-km Team or Individual run or walk around Cambridgeshire visiting many of the airbases of the famous World War II “Pathfinders” whose role was to locate and mark targets with flares ahead of the main bomber force. Starting and finishing at RAF Wyton, the route encompasses Warboys, Somersham, Bluntisham, Oakington, Graveley and Godmanchester.

This year, 16 Geographic Support Squadron entered a team of Geo personnel – 7 from the Sqn and 1 from Chicksands, and chose to support the Motor Neurone Disease Association charity.

Seven personnel started on the day, with 5 completing the march. One member completed the event earlier as work commitments prevented him taking part on the day itself.



Part of the 16 Squadron Team

Geo Branch made a donation of £200 to help with entrance fees and equipment. The team raised £4367.00 for the charity.



Presentation of the cheque to Motor Neurone Disease Association.

ATTENTION

Switch of Branch Accounts to Central REA Bank Account – Your Action Required

As first mentioned in the Autumn 2023 Newsletter and approved at the 2024 AGM, the Branch has decided to switch its bank account to the REA Central Bank administered by a dedicated Fund Manager, and the changeover of accounts has now taken place.

The new system will enable transactions to be made electronically rather than the more traditional ways (writing cheques with two signatures, etc), reduce much of the workload for the Treasurer, and will eliminate a lot of the inconvenience of paper.

Members should notice no difference to the operation of the Branch BUT will need to change their Standing Order/Direct Debit instructions for their annual subscriptions. Ted Davies has provided the following:

As the outgoing Treasurer I have been asked to update all Members.

Of course you have all read **Item 6 of the 2024 AGM Minutes - Switch to Central REA Account** The Branch would now request that all Life/Full Members* create a new Standing Order/Direct Debit Instruction for their Subscriptions Payment to:

Account Name: **RE Association Branch Funds**

Bank: **Lloyds**

Sort Code: **30-11-75**

Account No: **34412560**

Reference: **MSGxxxsubs (xxx = Last 3 digits of Service No)**

Note: This bank account is being used by multiple REA Branches so the **MSG** identifies our Branch which assists the Fund Manager in ensuring income goes to the correct Branch).

The annual subscription still remains at **£8**

Then delete the previous Standing Order/Direct Debit to Military Survey Branch.

Whilst not essential, it would help the Treasurer to know who has changed their SO/DD. Please contact him at REA-MilSvy-Treasurer@outlook.com

* Note: All Arms; Widows and Widowers; and Friends and Family Members are not required to pay subscriptions.

STOP PRESS! Appointment of New Treasurer

Following the transfer of our accounts to the Central Bank Account, and as voted upon at the AGM, John (Geordie) Hambling has now taken over from Ted Davies as the Branch Treasurer. Good Luck, John.

Ted took on the Treasurer role over 8 years ago and he has given the Branch and our Members sterling service in all that time. His work on the accounts was never faulted by auditors and he could always be relied upon to offer insight to previous activities and decisions.

Thank you, Ted!

Membership of the Branch and REA

Each year each Branch of the REA receives a grant from the association based upon the size of its membership. For 2024, our Branch received a lower level of grant because, according to HQ REA, our membership has dipped below 300. Our records still show us as having just under 400 members (including All Arms, Widows and Widowers, and Friends and Families) and this has highlighted a disparity between the records HQ REA and ourselves hold.

HQ REA have provided us with a copy of their records of membership for our branch and it appears that quite a few of our members are not recorded as such at Chatham. As a result, the Secretary will be working through the records and, in 'slow time', contacting our members who are not recorded by HQ REA so that they can register and the two lists brought into line.

Members who are unsure if they are registered at Chatham are welcome to contact the Secretary for confirmation either way. Registration is quite simple and will be cost-free to those who paid into 'the Day's Pay Scheme'.

The Secretary can be contacted at REA-MILSVY-Sec@outlook.com or 07952 286 268.

Bristol Branch - New Venue Barbecue

Roger Sutton, Secretary of the Bristol Branch of the REA as well as a member of Mil Svy Geo Branch, has reminded us that the Bristol Branch is moving to a new venue in September - The Royal Air Force Club, 38 Eastfield, Westbury on Trym, BS9 4BE, and they are holding a welcome barbecue there on Saturday 7th September commencing at 1630hrs. Any and all ex-Sappers are welcome, especially Mil Svy Geo Branch members. Please let Roger know at rogersocial623@icloud.com if you are planning to attend.

The Bristol Branch meets at 1930hrs on the Third Monday of each month - Its first meeting in the new venue being 16th September.

Photographic Technician Family Tree

I was extremely pleased with the returns I received for the Print Technician Family Tree and in particular I would like to thank Ted May in Australia for all his input. After discussing the end result with Bryan 'Chips' Miller, we have decided to be even more ambitious. Our intention is to add photos for all personnel, and these will be taken from the class two and one course photos held by the Branch. It is already very apparent that we do not hold photos for everyone so, hopefully, we will be able to capture the missing ones by sending out a plea to our readers. This will clearly increase the size of the document so we will publish the finished article via the Branch Facebook page and ask Dave Johnson to put it on the REA Mil Svy website so everyone can download it. If you are not on Facebook or don't own a computer we will discuss, at the next Committee meeting, a mechanism for those who want a hard copy.

On both the print and photo adult entry trees the badges will be changed from those of the Army Apprentice School/College to Royal Engineers. I have also received a comprehensive listing from Paul 'Scouse' Murray for Storeman Survey/Combat Survey but this will have to be approached in a slightly different way. It is also hoped to capture a tree for the Reprographic Technicians, which of course includes the printers who transferred from the RLC. We have very little information about Repro Techs and would therefore ask if anyone would like to help with this tree?

Finally, on to the Photographic Technician family tree. Once again Bryan has recreated a tree with its camera background, along with populating it with all the new information I held. So, once again please visit the tree and send me any amendments or comments so we will be able to eventually release a new version of the Photo Tree (complete with photos).

Nick Collins



Photographic Technician Family Tree



Apprentice Entry

49A	Abrahams	P (Paul)					
	Kidney	J (Jimmy)					
52A	McCulock	I (Ian)	69C	Greener	L (Leslie/Les)	82C	Owen
	Polkinghorn	(Bob)		Hindle	K (Kevin/Kev)		Pike
54A	Allengame	(Dave)		Nunn	P (Pete)		Smedley
	Barnett	M (Mick)		Osborne	B (Brian/Ozzy)	83C	Deakin
	Parsloe	H (Henry/Eric)	70C	Bowden	D (Derek)		Gill
55B	Batchelor	I (Ian/Butch)		Lomax	D (Dave)		Gunn
	Gardiner	C (Colin/Rosy)		Sleep	P (Paul)		Pugh
60A	Traynor	(Rob)		Williams	V (Vaughan)	84C	Coyne
60B	Browning	K (Ken)	71C	Chapman	S (Steve)		Faulkener
60C	Brown			Coventry	S (Steve)		Fergus
	Johnstone	F (Frank)		Gill	B (Brian/Gilly)		Glanville
61B	Cobbe	F (Frank)		Gough	J (John/Goughy)		Hill
	Miles	D (David/Dave)		Milne	N (Nicholas/Nick)		Rourke
	Jones		72C	Bebbington	J (John)	85C	Gallagher
62B	Fear	J (John)		Johnson	B (Brian)		Hallam
	Hiscock	P (Pete/Baldie)		Hayhurst	S (Steve/Harry)		Harkness
	Ledwidge	J (Jim)		Varker			Macclachlan
	McIntosh		75C	Cherryman	G		Porter
	Mumford	S (Steve)		Ladds	P (Peter/Pete)		Powell
63B	Glover			Williams	D (Dave)	86C	Abbott
	Jacobs	M (Michael/Jake)	76C	Burns	C (Craig)		Bain
	Jones	S (Stuart/Taff)		Bell	K (Kevin/Kev)		Costen
	Langran	P (Peter/Pete)		Lavelle	(Paddy)		Goble
	Preston			Mitchell			Willis
64B	Gordon	A (Alan)		Richardson			Wood
	Parr	I (Ian/Gramps)	77C	Bennett	D (Dennis/Den)	87C	Burton
	Stephens	R (Roy/Hank)		Dennis			Harris
65B	Allen	K (Keith)		Dodd	M (Malcolm/Mal)		Lowes
	High	S (Steve)		Wray	J (Jeremy/Sid)		Sweeney
	Stamp	A (Adrian/John)	78C	Park	A (Andy/Daffy)	88C	Fry
	Vidler	J (Bob)		McCabe	P (Phil)		Grand
66C	Cuthbert	(Cuthy)		South	K (Kerron/Elvis)		McKinney
	Dale	J (Jim)	79C	Curtis		89C	Challoner
	Davies			Edgar			Lockyer
	Oliver	S (Steve)		Howell			Marnoch
	Pether	M (Mick)		Jenkins	M (Michael/Jocky)		Wallace
67C	Haymes			Triggs	E (Edward/Eddy)		
	Ingram	C (Clive)	80C	Baker	D (David/Dave)		
	Reynolds	D (David/Dave)		Fagg			
	Wagstaff	A (Alan/Waggy)		Murray	P (Paul/Scouse)		
68C	Phillips	M (Michael/Mick)		Pocock	F		
	Ogieglo	J (John)	81C	Edwards	(Eddy)		
	Rickinson	E (Eric/Rick)		Graves	S (Shaun)		
				Joindrel			
				Martindale	(Marty)		

Original concept by Philip 'Cyril' Wright
Tree Keeper: Nick Collins
(nickclns7@aol.com)
Layout and Design: Bryan Miller



Photographic Technician Family Tree



Adult Entry

73	Griffiths R (Robert/Bob)	82	Griffiths R (Rupert)	87/12	Bowman J (John)
	Healey A (Arthur/Taff)		Palmer K (Kev)		Kleinmen M (Mike/Mick)
	Hullah J (John)		Parrish M (Mick)		Simpson J (John)
	Wilson R (Roger)		Yorke N (Nick/Snorkel)		Webster (Dave/Ponch)
74	Butcher K (Keith/Butch)	83	Adams T (Trevor/Trev)	87/13	Blake D (Dave)
	Harvey J (John)		Cooper (Tommy)		Grant D (David/Dave)
	Sutherland C (Colin)		Smith A (Alan)		Ould
76	Brook G (Geoff)	85	Dewar G		Whitteron M (Mark)
	Goddard P (Paul)		Gibson	88	Hodgetts M
					(Matthew/Matt)
	Pegram K (Keith)		Jackson		Little A (Adrian)
78	Lysenko M (Mick)		Matthews		McDonald
	Taylor G (George)		Smith A (Al/Adolf)	90	Adams M (Mark)
79	Chetwynd B (Bryn)		Rasool H		Atkin
			Jaffar		
	Fuell P (Peter/Pete)	86/10	Atkin R (Richard/Marmalade)		Fairgrieve G (Graham)
	Griffiths J (John)		Crayk A (Ade)		Roberts A (Adam)
	Mace R (Roger)		Lewis M (Mark)		Thompson J (John)
	Sumsion D (David/Dave)		Rudd A (Andrew/Andy)		
	Thomas R (Robert/Bob)		Sammarco C (Carlo)		
81	Middleton E (Errol)		Smith P (Paul/Wolfie)		
	Newton J (John)	86/11	Cosh S (Simon)		
	Ockleford A		McEntee (Terry)		
	Waight A (Adrian/Aid)		Neary F (Frank)		
			Symes G (Grahame/Swiller)		

Camera Operator

Barnett M	Overton A
Batt I (Ian)	Pallier G (Gerry)
Braybrooke R (Tony/Ricky)	Pickles E (Eric)
Churchill K (Keith/Kit)	Rennison
Collin E	Roberts K (Keith)
Cooper G (Gerry)	Ryan P (Paddy)
Eves D (Dave)	Simons B (Barry)
Frost B (Brian)	South J (John)
Garnett K (Ken)	Williamson M (Wilbur)
Hughes D (Dave)	
Hughes M (Taff)	
Key T (Tom)	
McGeorge J (Jim)	
Murray A	

Helio Worker

Allen J (John)	Hughes M (Taff)
Batt I (Ian)	Lambert K (Keith/Noddy)
Beavis P (Pete)	McIntosh C
Bee J (Joe)	Miller T
Cairns	Pallier G (Gerry)
Case R (Richard/Dick)	Parslow
Christie (Tom)	Roberts K (Keith)
Collin E	Ryan P (Paddy)
Cooper G (Gerry)	Salisbury (Johnny)
Davies	Simons B (Barry)
Fisk A (Alan)	South J (John)
Guest J (John)	Walker D (Don)
Hatley G (Geoff)	Williams (Taff)
Hiscock P	Williamson M (Wilbur)
	Verden D (Doug)

Original concept by Philip 'Cyril' Wright
Tree Keeper: Nick Collins
(nickdlns7@aol.com)
Layout and Design: Bryan Miller

Looking for old comrades - Malcolm Knight

Malcolm Knight, who served with 19 Topographic Squadron in Iraq 1956-58 is looking for old comrades who would remember him from those "good times, albeit unusual in military terms".

Anyone who remembers Malcolm and would like to get in touch is asked to contact the Secretary, Ian Thurgate, at REA-MilSvy-Sec@outlook.com.

Lost Members

The hardcopy of edition No 91 - Spring 2024 of the newsletter sent to two of our members has been returned as "No longer at this address" and the contact telephone numbers for the addressees are no longer valid. If any member has any contact details or updates on the whereabouts of:

Anthony Whittle last known in Putney, London.

Mrs Audrey Eldridge (widow of Terry) last known in Surbiton, Surrey.

would they please contact the Secretary on REA-MilSvy-Sec@outlook.com. Thank you.

Do you recognise this man?

The Branch has been contacted to try to contact this ex-Sapper. All that is known is that his first name is Gordon, and he served at SMS Hermitage and with 42 Survey Engineer Regiment in Cyprus during the period 1959. Given the date, he may well have been a National Serviceman but, equally, may not.....

If you recognise him and can name him, or better still it is you, please contact the Secretary, Ian Thurgate, at REA-MilSvy-Sec@outlook.com or on 07952 286268.



DEATHS OF OLD COMRADES

Memories of Pete Bryant

Peter (Pete) Bryant passed away on 5th November 2023 the news of which was received just before our winter edition was published and we hoped to say more about him in later newsletters.

Alex Johnstone recalls:

"I first met Pete when he was the Troop SNCO with 1 Tp, 19 Topo based at Nizwa, Oman in 1960.. One memory that stands out was Pete's keenness on sports, particularly team sports.

When he said that we need to be more active we said it was too hot! No problems. He had us playing volleyball at 0700 hrs!!



Pete Bryant immediately to the right of the two men without hats.

Alex Johnstone as "Self" in the row behind.

My next encounter was in 1966 where Pete was QMSI of the Survey dept at AAC Chepstow. Once again Pete ensured that the Dept was active in all sports whether against the apprentices or other Depts. He also regaled us with stories about his exchange posting to Canada with excellent movies that he and Betty had taken whilst there.

1971? saw Pete running the RTCO as WO1. I think cricket was his thing whilst at 42 Regt at Barton Stacey.

A few years later I met him when shopping in Newbury and, if I remember correctly he was the Branch Manager of a building society in the town. At Chepstow I remember he was studying accountancy in his own time so it obviously paid off.

My abiding memory of Pete was his gift of getting you to do something that you were not very keen on, but you ending up being pleased to do it." AJ

Ian Thurgate was one of the Apprentices when Pete was the Survey Dept QMSI at Chepstow, and remembers once at the athletics field when Pete ran a 100 yards sprint. *"We were young and very confident about beating the 'Q' who would have been in his mid-thirties. Instead we had to watch in wonder as he flew down that track leaving our runners in his wake!" IT*

Michael Vickers

HQ REA have notified us of the recent passing of Michael "Vic" Vickers an ex-Field Surveyor who served from 1956 to 1965.

The condolences of the Branch and all Members have been sent to his family.

Armed Forces Veterans' Breakfast Clubs

We have previously mentioned the Armed Forces Veterans' Breakfast Clubs which provide a chance for Ex-Military personnel - Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force; Regular and Reserves; Male and Female - to get together with others who have served and share each other's company.

There are clubs operating all over the country and, indeed, even some overseas. For personnel living in and around the Newbury/Thatcham area one is held on the first Saturday of the month at Thatcham Rugby Club, Henwick Fields, Thatcham, from 0900hrs. Roger Sutton has also let us know that there is one in Bristol held at the Toby Orchard Inn, Woodlands Lane, Bradley Stoke BS32 4QB (just north of Bristol and by the M4/M5 junction) on the third Saturday of the month also starting at about 0900hrs.

Searching "*Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Clubs*" will take you to the website from where you can search for details of breakfasts near you!

Royal Engineers Historical Society - 2024 Webinar series

Not a member? – Join the REHS today!

REHS members can access and view past webinars dating back to 2017 here - [REHS Members](#) . They can also gain access to other resources, attend our events and be part of our Battlefield Tours.

Membership is open to all and is available from as little as £15 a year for InstRE Members and £25 for non-InstRE Members.

Why not join up today! Click on the link here – [Membership!](#)

Army Benevolent Fund Talk – The War in Ukraine: Causes, Character and Consequences

A talk by Maj Gen (Retd) Mungo Melvin CB OBE MA

followed by lunch at 'The Bowlers Arms'
Falkland Newbury Cricket Club
on Sunday 13th October 2024

Army
Benevolent
Fund



Programme

1030-1100 Coffee
1100-1200 Presentation
1200-1230 Drinks
1230-1400 Lunch
By 1430 Guests depart

Since Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 we have all been reminded of the stark realities of total industrial war – last seen in Europe eight decades ago. Now well into its third year, the present conflict seems set to grind on as doubts surface as to the duration and efficacy of Western support.

Not only are the armed forces of Ukraine bravely defending their homeland, but also the Ukrainian civilian population is suffering great deprivation and suffering under a Russian blitz of aerial bombing, missile attacks and artillery strikes. This war is not a 'quarrel in a faraway country, between people of whom we know nothing' (Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, 1938). Rather, it concerns the very survival of a friendly, independent state in the face of wanton aggression.

Ukraine deserves both our respect and support for its struggle has become as much *our* war in the defence of democracy and the associated values we hold dear. Hence we must continue to give Ukraine the assistance it requires and at the same time strengthen NATO's capabilities to deter and to defend.

Major General Mungo Melvin, a military historian who knows Ukraine well, will give us an expert view on the war's origins and dynamics, explaining why its outcome will shape Europe's security landscape for decades to come.

Maj Gen (Retd) Mungo Melvin CB OBE MA

Mungo Melvin retired from the British Army in 2011, following a career of 37 years in the Royal Engineers and General Staff, much of it spent in Germany. He attended the German Armed Forces Command and Staff College in Hamburg, 1986-88, served as the chief planner in 1st (UK) Armoured Division during the First Gulf War and commanded an engineer regiment in the Balkans. Later highlights included Chief Engineer of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and General Officer Commanding of the British Army's Support Command in Germany. He also taught strategy at the Royal College of Defence Studies.

Following his retirement from active service, he served as a reservist 2011-2018, employed mainly as a military historian and senior mentor. He was a specialist military adviser to the UK's House of Commons Defence Committee from 2012 until 2017. During this period he was also President of the British Commission for Military History. Since 2012 he has been a Senior Associate Fellow of

the Royal United Services Institute, London. From October 2016 to June 2024 he served as Chairman of the Royal Engineers Historical Society, and been an Honorary Vice President of the Western Front Association since 2018.

His biography, *Manstein: Hitler's Greatest General* (2010) was awarded as the best military biography of the year by the US Society for Military History in 2012. As the British Army's senior advisor for the First World War centennial commemorations, Mungo Melvin edited the Army's *Battlefield Guide to the Western Front of the First World War* (2nd edition, 2015). His next major work, *Sevastopol's Wars: Crimea from Potemkin to Putin*, was published in April 2017.

Alongside editing the latest volume of the Royal Engineers official history, covering the period 2000-2019, published in April 2024, he has also embarked on a major new study into the role of decisive battle in warfare. Mungo Melvin continues to advise NATO and UK forces, and support various battlefield studies, both military and civilian.

The War in Ukraine: Causes, Character and Consequences

The Venue: The Newbury Falkland Cricket Club, Enborne St Newbury RG14 6TW (however depending on your SatNav, the post code lands you in a housing development hence further directions will be sent!). The venue has ample parking, minimal walking involved and though on the first floor has a lift hence wheelchair accessible.

Dress: Smart casual

Catering: Coffee/tea and biscuits will be provided on arrival, initial drink at reception with a cash bar for all other drinks. Catering will consist of a two-course main/desert meal. If you have any dietary/mobility issues please let me know.

Seating: Seating will be at round tables of up to eight.

Bids and Cost – By 4th October 2024: Cost £40 Per head. Bids and payments should ideally be made on line giving details as below to:

Tony Keeley: tonykeeley498@outlook.com

Bank details: Army Benevolent Fund Berkshire Committee, Sort Code 20-00-00,

Ac No 03710890 **(Note this is a change from the previous bank)**

Use Reference 'NameUkraine and inform me by email of payment.

If paying by cheque use 'Army Benevolent Fund Berkshire Committee' and send to:

Tony Keeley, Orchard Cottage, Chapel Lane, Ashampstead, Reading, RG88RU

For Queries: Tel 01635 578 506, or M 078 998 42456

Contacting Committee Members - Dedicated Email Addresses

To make things easier for members to contact us, and to allow continuity when committee post holders change, we have set-up dedicated email addresses for various post holders. These all start with "REA-MilSvy-" and are followed with the specific post details. The lists of email addresses in this format are given below, and it may be that more will be added in time.

When using them, please check before accepting your predictive text for the email as it may be for another committee post - Thank you

Secretary	REA-MilSvy-Sec@outlook.com
Functions	REA-MilSvy-Functions@outlook.com
Newsletter Compiler	REA-MilSvy-Newsletter@outlook.com
Heritage Member	REA-MilSvy-Heritage@outlook.com
Treasurer	REA-MilSvy-Treasurer@outlook.com

Committee Contact Details

<p><u>President</u></p> <p>Lt Col Alex Mayes RE CO 42 Engr Regt (Geographic)</p>	
<p><u>Chairman</u> Col (Retd) Mark Burrows email: markburrows04@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Events/Functions Organiser</u> Mark Kieras email: REA-MilSvy-Functions@outlook.com</p>
<p><u>Secretary</u> Ian Thurgate email: REA-MilSvy_Sec@outlook.com Mob: 07952 286 268</p>	<p><u>Webmaster</u> Dave Johnson email: webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk</p>
<p><u>Treasurer</u> John/Geordie Hambling email: REA-MilSvy-Treasurer@outlook.com</p>	<p><u>Wyton Sub-Branch</u> Cliff Nicklin email: cliff.nicklin@btinternet.com Mob: 07500 706350</p>
<p><u>Social Media</u> Colin Gardiner email: cgardiner@the-gardiners.co.uk</p>	<p><u>Heritage Member</u> Nick Collins email: REA-MilSvy-Heritage@outlook.com</p>
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