

Welcome to the

ROYAL ARTILLERY REGIMENTAL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



The Regimental Family Newsletter

Welcome to the Royal Artillery Association's Regimental Family Newsletter. It's been a while since we last sent out a newsletter in this format and I hope that we can produce them on a more regular basis.

IN THIS ISSUE

Reports on our fantastic event at the National Memorial Arboretum, Branches – Our Lifeline, Winners of the RAA Grand Draw 2011, A Forecast of Events, Making e-Donations, Veterans Information and some information on COBSEO, Reunions and Last Post.

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION – REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



The Royal Artillery Association held its annual Service of Remembrance on Saturday, 2 July at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, attended by an estimated 500 people.

The events commenced with a moving service conducted by the Ven John Blackburn, Honorary Chaplain to the RAA; Maj Gen John Milne CB read the lesson and George Beckett (North Staffs Branch) recited the Gunner Commemoration.

After the service, all those present attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the Royal Artillery Memorial Garden.

This year the wreath-laying was led by Maj Gen Milne on behalf of all members of the RAA and the DRA, Brig Eeles ADC on behalf of the Master Gunner and all ranks of the Royal Regiment. WO1 (RASM) 'Daz' Hall recited the Exhortation and SSgt Les Fellowes of 103 Regt RA (V) sounded Last Post and Reveille.

Worthy of special mention is Tug Wilson and the Standard Bearers who did us all very proud and without whom this event would lose a vital and much respected part of its tradition; and to all members of the serving regiment who turned out in force to support us.

RA cadet detachments from Leek and Lowestoft joined in the formalities once again and helped with charity collecting, wreath-laying and route lining as well as parading their own standards.

With the formalities over, the band of 103 Regt RA (V) led by their Bandmaster WO1 Ian Mitchell gave a 40-minute concert in the RA Garden that was enjoyed by many as they sat in the sunshine.

This whole service experience is proving to be the most widely attended event in the RAA calendar, drawing crowds from all over the country to take part in a day of loyal homage, comradeship and celebration in a location that is truly fitting for such purposes.

The RA Memorial Garden is a wonderful memorial and a credit to the Royal Regiment and all thanks go to the Stafford Branch for maintaining it so beautifully.

The next service will be held on Saturday 7 July 2012. We welcome all RAA members, serving Gunners, families and friends. Remember, for branches arriving by coach or minibus there is a subsidy available to assist with transport costs.

To see more pictures, simply go to: [NMA Picture Gallery](#)

Branches are the Association's Lifeline



We currently stand at 115 Branches and 12 Ladies Sections'. They consist entirely of volunteers and they are the lifeline of our association. Without our branches and Ladies' Sections we would not be as effective as we are. Our members provide a focus for comradeship and social activities as well as being the eyes and ears of Gunner welfare. We rely heavily on our members to provide the committees of branches and thank them tremendously for their time and effort in maintaining the Gunner spirit throughout the country.

The sad news is:

Felixstowe and Horsham branches have closed and Clacton-on-Sea will be closing shortly. However, we are still waiting for new branches to establish themselves in Nottingham and St. Albans. If you think you would like to set up a branch of the RAA just call 01980 845233 or 845362.

Winners of the RAA Grand Draw 2011

Royal Artillery Association Grand Draw 2011			
Prize No.	Amount £s	Winning Ticket No.	Winner
1	1000.00	15617	C Murden - Wakefield
2	500.00	21808	C Jones - Havering & District
3	150.00	29105	A Swindlehurst - 47 Regt RA
4	100.00	28045	Gnr Burnage - 32 Regt RA
5	50.00	23340	T Smith - Tenterden
6	50.00	07360	RAA Dorchester Branch - Dorchester
7	50.00	08608	B Andrew - Glasgow
8	50.00	21317	P Allan - Doncaster
9	50.00	03423	RAA Ballymena Branch
10	50.00	25540	C Hough - 7 Para RHA
11	50.00	21567	J Southcott - Hartlepool
12	50.00	03782	A Wolton - Bedford
13	50.00	30600	J McLeod -105 Regt RA (V)
14	50.00	03716	J Harradine - Biggleswade

The lucky winners will shortly be contacted by the RAA regarding receiving their prizes.

A FORECAST OF EVENTS

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August 2011 to December 2012		
10 August	RAA Grand Draw	Larkhill
13 September	NEC Meeting	Newcastle
7 - 9 October	RAA Gala Weekend	Folkestone
10 November	RBL Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
13 November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
4 December	St Barbara's Day Service & Celebration	Larkhill
2012		
13 March	NEC Meeting	Larkhill
29 April	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea
18 - 20 May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
29 May	RA Board of Management Meeting	Larkhill
7 July	RAA Service of Remembrance	NMA, Alrewas, Staffordshire
20 September	NEC Meeting	TBC
8 November	RBL Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
11 November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
2 December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill

For more information on any of the above events please contact Artillery House on 01980 845
362/233
or email: ArtyCen-RHQRA-RAA-MemSec@mod.uk or ArtyCen-RHQRA-RAA-MemAsst@mod.uk

On Line Donations

You can make an on-line donation to the Royal Artillery charities simply by clicking the picture below.



The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund helps all retired and serving Gunners and their dependants in need. Help us to help others and be part of the regimental family. Give now and play your part, and a worthwhile one, in assisting those who are less fortunate. Once a Gunner always a Gunner!

SIMPLE TEXT DONATIONS

It is now even easier to make a donation to the RACF. It's called Charitable Text Giving. All you need to do is to text RACF01 (followed by an amount) to 70070:

For example to give a £5 donation text the following to 70070:

RACF01 5

VETERANS' INFORMATION



Served in the Armed Forces ?

For FREE help and advice on any issue please call:

0800 169 22 77

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Pensions & Compensation



Compensation for those injured or bereaved by Service, Armed Forces Pensions, Medical Discharges.

What's New

Latest Videocast live today

The work of the MOD Medal Office and history of military awards

The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme
Communications Toolkit

AFCS Podcast - Latest update on the Armed Forces
Compensation Scheme Review

Service Records, Medals & Badges



Service records and eligibility to medals and badges.

For the latest veterans' information click on to:

www.veterans-uk.info/

Where you will find information on:

Welfare
Armed Forces Memorial
Veterans' Community
Service Records

And much, much more.....

COBSEO



Latest News

4th August 2011

A News item from The Poppy Factory about a Vacancy as Signs Supervisor, Kent



2nd August 2011

SAVE THE DATE - Mon 15 August 2011 - Official Launch of the HEROES RUGBY



COBSEO is an organisation that exists to work for the interests of the Armed Forces community in order to:

Represent and support the needs and opinions of members to all levels of government and other organisations

Identify, communicate and act on issues of common interest on behalf of members

Exchange and coordinate information between members

Act as a single point of contact for external enquiries

For more information on How COBSEO might be able to help you, log on to:

www.cobseo.org.uk

REUNIONS

LE OFFICERS' ANNUAL DINNER

The next LE Officers' Dinner will take place on Sat 24 Sep. It will be held in the RA Mess, Larkhill. The dinner is open to all serving and retired LE officers and their partners. Dress is black tie. Normal mess accommodation is no longer available at Larkhill/Bulford/Tidworth. However, one- and two-man rooms have been booked at Rollestone and West Down Camps and are available at nil cost; transport will be provided to/from these camps. To encourage attendance the dinner has been offset by £10 per head bringing the cost of the evening to approx £15 per person. For further information please contact Maj Craig Purvis on 01980 84 5928 or by email to: craig.purvis642@mod.uk

G PARA BTY (MERCER'S TROOP) RHA

The fourth all ranks reunion will take place at The Cliffs Hotel, Blackpool , from 18 to 20 Nov. A number of serving members of the battery will also attend. This year is notable in that F and I Btys are also holding their reunions in Blackpool during the same weekend. All ex-Mercer's personnel are welcome to attend this very popular and successful reunion, and if not already on the mailing list, should contact Eric Royle by email: ericroyle@live.co.uk

G TROOP (MORTAR LOCATING) FROM FIELD REGTS 1970-1990

G Troop (mortar locating) from field regiments 1970-1990 are holding a reunion at the Garrison Rooms, The Garrison Hotel, Sheffield on 29 Oct starting at 1900 hours. Cost is £15 per person, and includes a buffet meal. Rooms are available for those requiring accommodation. For more information please contact Mr Rod Howard by email at rodnevyhoward@hotmail.com

NÉRY AND EAGLES - 22ND ANNUAL REUNION

The 22nd annual reunion for former members of L (Néry) Bty RHA and N Bty (The Eagle Troop) RHA will take place at Barnard Castle on Sat 27 Aug. Letters were sent out in May, anyone who did not receive a copy can make contact through the web site at: www.lneryoca.org.uk

36 REGT RA

A 36 Regt RA reunion to be held on the weekend of 23-25 Sep at the Village Hotel, Coventry . For more details contact Monty on 07811442265 or email gunner460@yahoo.co.uk

RHA ASSN AGM AND REUNION DINNER

The AGM and 91st reunion dinner of the RHA Association will take place at the Artillery Centre, Larkhill over the weekend 8-9 Oct. Attendance is open to all past and present members of any RHA unit and their partners. Members who would like to attend should contact the dinner secretary for full details: R J Whiteway, The Hideaway, 18 Immenstadt Drive , Wellington , Somerset , TA21 9PT. Tel: 01823 665650 .
Email: rhaassn@hotmail.co.uk

1 RHA REUNION DINNER 2011

The 60th 1 RHA officers' reunion dinner will be held at the RA Mess, Larkhill on Friday 2 Dec. This year's era will be Topcliffe 1977-82. Would any former officer of the regiment who wishes to attend and who has not received details of the dinner by 1 Oct please contact Maj Iain Harrop on 01980 602344 or by email to: ian.harrop412@mod.uk.

11 (SPHINX) BTY RA ASSOCIATION

The 11th reunion of 11 (Sphinx) Bty RA will take place at the Queen's Hotel, Newport, Gwent on the weekend 23-25 Sep. Cost is £15 per person, which includes a buffet and

music. All serving members and former members of the battery are welcome to attend. For further details please contact either Arthur Giles on 02083 052499 or liaison11sbty@aol.com or Mal Roberts at: CEO@11sphinxbtyweb.co.uk

3 RHA OFFICERS' REUNION DINNER WARNING ORDER

The 3 RHA officers' reunion dinner will take place in the RA Mess, Larkhill, on Fri 25 Nov. The dinner is open to all officers who have served in the regiment, including LE officers who served prior to being commissioned. Further details will follow in due course. The dinner secretary will be Maj Tim Davies who can be contacted at 3 RHA, Caen Barracks, BFPO 30, by telephone on 0049 (0)5051 962 2737 or by email: 3rha-m-bc@mod.uk

3 RHA PPMA

The 12th annual 3 RHA PPMA AGM and reunion dinner will take place at the Copthorne Hotel, Birmingham, B3 3HJ on Sat, 10 Sep. Accommodation is available at the hotel and can be booked by phoning 0121 200 2727 quoting 3RHA PPMA. For hotel prices and further information please contact Paddy O'Neill by tel: 01206 751999 or by email to: boneill@conistonifa.com

94 LOC REGT RA

A 94 Regt RA reunion weekend will be held 16-19 Sep at The Beaches Hotel, Prestatyn. All ex-members of 94 Regt, relatives and friends will be made most welcome. For further details please contact Drew Strachan on 01343 544580 or email: drewstrachan@btinternet.com

19 GIBRALTAR (1779-83) BTY RA

A reunion for 19 Bty RA (50 Msl Regt RA) will take place on Sat 19 Nov. Loc: Newcastle Upon Tyne, Venue: QOY, Fenham Bks, Barrack Rd, Cost: TBC. Contact: Mark Taylor on 07904 264147 or 01912 395353 or by email to: marktaylor092@talktalk.net

21 (GIBRALTAR) BTY RA ASSOCIATION

The 14th annual reunion will take place on Fri 7 and Sat 8 Oct at the Belmont Hotel, De Montfort Street, Leicester, LE1 7GR. Please contact Chris Morgan on 01748 830645 or by email to chrismorgan222@hotmail.com

22 REGT RA

Warning order and diary date. The 22 Regt RA officers' reunion lunch will be held at the RA Mess, Larkhill on Sat 10 Mar 2012. Details from Lt Col Chris Bonney tel 01980 845899 or email:officerrecruiting@hqdra.mod.uk

SOUTH NOTTS HUSSARS

The annual reunion and remembrance dinner of the South Notts Hussars Assn will take place at the TA Centre, Hucknall Lane, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 8AQ on Sat 12 Nov. Tickets at £20 are available from the association secretary at the TA Centre

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email: rhaassn@hotmail.co.uk

52ND AIRBORNE GUNNER REUNION DINNER

The 52nd Airborne Reunion Dinner will be held on 20th October in the RA Mess, Larkhill. Please contact Capt Steve Bell on 94660 6003 or 01206 816003 for more details.



DICKSON – Bob Dickson died on 2 June after a long and painful illness. He served with 6 Regt RA and with 32 Regt RA as BSM 74 Bty (The Battle Axe Company) RA and as RQMS. He was a proud and strong but gentle man. Our condolences go to Beryl, Mark and Penny and their families.

EELES - Maj A T Eeles MC. Tony a Gunner officer between 1939-1958, died peacefully in his sleep on 4 July aged 90. A rich life full of action and love has come to an end. Adored husband of Valerie for over 50 years, beloved father of Simon, Philip and Nicholas. Private family funeral, and at a later stage his ashes will be scattered near Larkhill on Salisbury Plain. An obituary will appear in a future issue of the Gunner.

EMERTON – Capt Hector W Emerton died peacefully at home on 31 May aged 91 after a short illness. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery Hector spent WW2 in the naval gunfire support world, serving as an NGSFO in the Madagascar operation in 1942, and the Far East in 5 COBU. On OVERLORD he was the NGLO in HMS Arethusa supporting the D-Day assault on the Merville Battery. He was mentioned in Dispatches. After the war he was a founder member, and subsequently the last president of the Bombardments Units Association, and more recently a staunch supporter of the Amphibious Bombardment Association.

FEELEY – Norman Robert ‘Mac’ Feeley died on 11 May, aged 91. After service with the RAF in WW2 he was the chief clerk of 881 (AO) Bty RA TA from 1947 to 1967 and continued to host annual reunions in Windsor until 2007. He received a Lord Lieutenant’s (Berkshire) Certificate in 1962.

FERGUSON - WO1 Joe Ferguson died in Australia on 22 July after a long illness. Gunners will remember Joe as RSM of 6 Fd Regt RAA and then 6 Fd Force Group from December 1971 - 1976. He was a long - standing member and supporter of the Launceston Artillery Old Comrades Association followed by the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania. Joe will be sadly missed. Our regimental condolences to Val and the family.

FRENCH – I am sad to report the death of Harry French. Harry started his army career on 1 March 1945. He served in 36 HAA Regt RA, becoming BSM of 60 Bty, and in all served for 25 years. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and he is sadly missed by all. RIP.

FROST – Lt Col Robert ‘Bob’ Frost died at home on 25 April after a long illness, aged 80. Much loved husband and father.

GILMOUR– Gnr Craig Gilmour of 207 Bty, 105 Regt RA (V), died suddenly of a heart attack on 3 June, aged just 36. He deployed on Op Tosca (Cyprus) in 2009, but his studies for a university degree precluded him from training in recent years. He is survived by his partner, Sandra Thomson, to whom we extend our heartfelt condolences. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends in 105 Regt RA (V).

JACKSON Col PRS (Shaun) Jackson OBE died on 22 June. Much loved brother of Rory and Jacqueline, he will be sadly missed.

JORDAN – Maj Jeffery Philip Jordan, late of the Royal Artillery, died peacefully on 25 April aged 79. Beloved father of Richard and Phillipa, grandfather to Robert and Sophie.

MACKENZIE - Lt Col Roderick ‘Robbie’ Mackenzie MBE MC died in Christchurch on 13 June, aged 88. A WW2 Gunner who won an MC in Italy, he later served with The Kings Troop RHA and as CO of 23 SAS before retiring in the mid 1960s to farm in New Zealand. A full obituary will appear in next month’s Gunner magazine.

MATTHEWS - Peter Matthews serial number 24356303. He joined the Royal Artillery 21st April 1975 and left 17th February 1999. He reached the rank of sergeant and did operational tours of NI and also took part in OP Granby. He was immensely proud of his time in the regiment, he served in 26 Regiment and is survived by his wife Wendy and his son Gareth.

MORTIMER – Mick Mortimer died at home in Leeds on Sunday 26 June with his family around him. Devoted husband of Christine and proud dad of Kevin, Dawn, Donna, Christine and Suzanne. He served in 68 Bty, 42 Regt RA and was subsequently the secretary of the 42 Regt OCA, a job he derived much pleasure from and gave significant time and effort to. Mick will be sadly missed by his loving family and many friends in the association. Christine extends her grateful thanks to all those who have sent kind messages of condolence.

RAY - WO2 CM (Mark) Ray died suddenly while holidaying in Wales on 28 April aged just 43. Mark was a Gunner through and through, completing 22 years colour service. He always maintained the values and standards of the British Army and the Royal Regiment even as he made the transition to civilian life. Mark was a beloved husband to Stephanie, dearly loved dad of Elliot and Frazer, loving son of Wendy and the late Cliff and brother to Tina. He was greatly loved and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

ROBERTS – Lt T M J (Terry) Roberts died of a heart attack on 10 June, aged 80. He joined the Gunners as a boy soldier in 1945 and served in the Far East in the 1950s with 23 Fd Regt RA in Hong Kong and then 13 Bty of 14 Fd Regt RA in Korea. He was commissioned in 1971 but retired from the Army the following year. In retirement he was involved in military contract work in the Middle East and Africa. He is survived by his loving wife Norma, three sons Michael, Peter and Simon and six grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends in the Royal Artillery.

SHAW - WO2 Pete Shaw died of cancer on 19 July, aged 65. He served with 7 (Para) RHA, 14 Lt Regt RA in Malaya, 1st Bty in Singapore, 27 Regt RA in Lippstadt and his final tour with the TA in Suffolk. In retirement he and his wife Ida ran a successful garden centre near Blackpool. He will be sadly missed by his wife, sons Andrew and Anthony and many friends and family.

SMITH – Maj John Barrymore Smith (known as Barry) died peacefully at home on 4 June. Much loved husband of Beryl and father to Mark, Andrew, Julian and James.

SMITH– Capt P G W (Peter) Smith MBE died in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, on 24 June, aged 80. He served with the Gunners for 45 years and is survived by his wife Peggy, son Clifford and three grandchildren.

SUDDABY - George Suddaby died peacefully on 8 June, aged 96. He joined the RA in 1933 and served in the Waziristan campaign until 1938. Briefly back in the UK as a reservist he was recalled at the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 and served in France with the BEF, later surviving the Dunkirk evacuation. He took part in the 1st Army campaign in North Africa, and then in Italy. He was discharged in February 1946 and became a life member of the RAA, being active with the Lincoln and Scunthorpe Branches before moving to Scotland in 2003 after the death of his wife Ivy. He is survived by his son Richard, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was a much loved and respected gentleman who will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

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TURNER – SSgt Bob Turner died surrounded by his family in Salisbury District Hospital on 25 May after a prolonged illness. Enlisting in 1947 he served with many regiments before being discharged in 1979. He then spent 15 years working for the Family Housing and Welfare Service at Larkhill. A keen sportsman who was never happier than when playing golf at Tidworth GC with his friends. A devoted husband to Norah and beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he will be greatly missed by all.

The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund is your Gunner charity that provides benevolence for serving and retired Gunners and their dependants in need. The RAA provides the Comradeship and support for members of the Regimental Family. The RACF and RAA always welcome donations and legacies. You are receiving this message because you have subscribed to newsletters at the Royal Artillery Association website. You can choose to unsubscribe from our mailings at any time by following this [link](#). If you would like further assistance, please send an email to the administrator ArtyCen-RHQRA-RAA-MemSec@mod.uk