



## Military Survey (Geographic) Branch Royal Engineers Association



### Newsletter No 39 New Year 2011

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#### Fruits of the Branch Geo Fund

Some years ago we set up a fund to provide items to Geo soldiers deployed on operations to improve their quality of life in what are generally unpleasant conditions. Below tells of one use of the fund last summer.

#### And Then They Invented Television

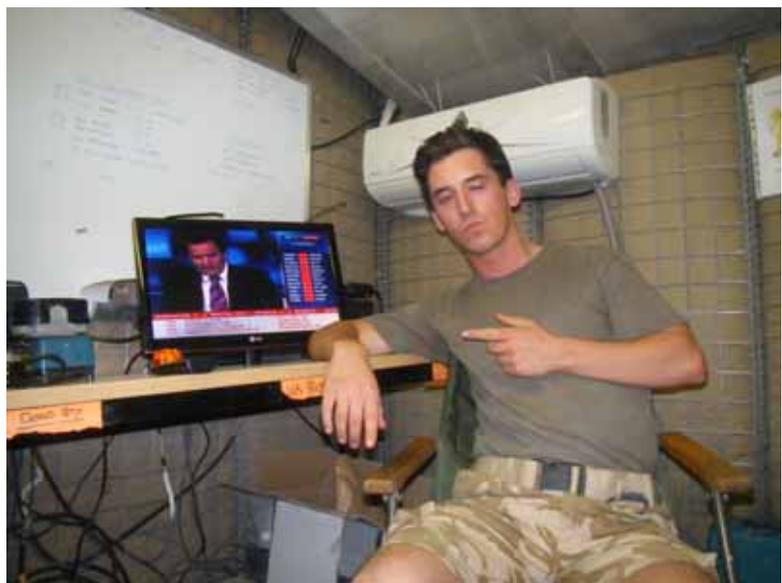
It was way back in the month of June that whisperings of the South Africa 2010 World Cup started spreading across the barren wastelands of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The high rollers at Camp Bastion were already putting up their England flags and dusting off their televisions ready for the big event, but when Sgt Wiggins was taking a breather outside the Geo Cell, he heard feint murmurs in the wind of two of his LCpls crying about the fact that they wouldn't be able to see anything of the glorious game (that's football to all you rugby boys) as television hadn't yet reached the outstations of Gereshk and Shawqat. Within minutes the phone rang and it was Capt Mayes on the line saying "don't worry I'm on the case". He had also heard the crying.

A quick call was made to Nick Collins, the unit welfare officer back in Hermitage, asking for two television sets to be purchased and sent to theatre to raise the morale of the boys. It was agreed that this was to happen and, with just a few button clicks, two 19 inch television sets had been purchased from the BFBS website.

The word quickly spread that the World Cup was coming to Gereshk and Shawqat and LCpls Allen and Aschauer set to work clearing prime space to set the TVs up and also selling front row tickets for the big matches.

Within two weeks of the purchase, the TVs arrived in Bastion and were promptly forwarded onto their final destinations.

All personnel from the GSG in Afghanistan would like to take this opportunity thank everyone from the REA Military Survey (Geographic) Branch for their kind donations and for making it possible for the guys to watch the World Cup during a tough and demanding operational tour.



*Sgt Wiggins*  
BSN Geo SNCO

*LCpl Allen catching up on some of the results.*

**Presidential Jottings**

On behalf of your committee, I wish you all a very happy 2011. Having said that, it seems probable that the economic difficulty the UK (and indeed, much of the world) has experienced during the last two or three years, will peak in terms of financial hardship for individuals during the forthcoming year. I believe that the REA, of which we form part, can expect increased demands on welfare to help our brother sappers, both serving and retired. As I see it, focussing on the needs of our own geographic population must be a priority within our branch. I would consider it a great service if you could be especially sensitive to any of our comrades who may be in need of support in these difficult times and to pass this information to our welfare officer, Noel Grimmett.

Your committee held a meeting on 16 December, followed by a very sociable festive dinner, which was attended by the new Commander, Colonel Mark Burrows and our immediate past president, Brigadier John Elder. Apart from routine committee proceedings, there was discussion concerning the emphasis and variety of our annual reunions. The consensus was that a change of venue and perhaps less time spent on 'official' business might attract our membership in greater numbers than have attended in the last year or two. We are required as part of the REA to conduct the branch business in accordance with its constitution but efforts are being made to reduce what might be perceived as the agony of long meetings and return to a more convivial format. Your suggestions on ways in which we can encourage greater participation from our members and, naturally, increasing our membership would be most welcome.

I am delighted to welcome Rod Siggs back to the committee in the capacity of secretary. He has already set out his stall as a really efficient operator and we are very fortunate to have had two such excellent secretaries in succession. Which brings me to the good news that Ken Hall has agreed to be co-opted back onto the committee so our fears of losing him to rural doings in darkest Somerset have been allayed.

I am also delighted to report that Mick Perry, having declared that the 2010 reunion was definitely the last he would organise, has agreed to continue for this year at least, although he tells me that the price might be imminent divorce! I relish the prospect of a long and productive relationship with a committee who lack nothing in talent and commitment.

This piece would not be complete without mention of our serving soldiers, particularly those on active duty in Afghanistan. I think I am right in saying that this particular conflict is of the longest duration that our armed services have been involved in since the Napoleonic wars. Our army, including military survey (to coin the phrase I best understand) seems to be forever shrinking in a world where conflicts do not appear to diminish. I cannot speak too highly of our soldiers, who are frequently required to shoulder responsibilities far above what our brothers across the pond would call 'their pay grade'. They do this willingly and efficiently and deserve our greatest admiration together with all the help and support we are able to provide.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our forthcoming AGM and reunion in September.

**BOB AVENELL**  
*Verwood, Dorset*

**Reunion 2011**

**When? Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of September**  
**Where? 135 Squadron's base at Ewell**

**See later in the newsletter for details**

## News from the Civilian Front – January 2011

**Staffing:** DGC has had a confirmed cut to its manpower as a result of recent savings measures. The capped figure of 506 (including 13 military staff) at the beginning of FY 10/11 is now falling to 477 at the beginning of FY 11/12. Work is in hand to achieve through natural wastage, i.e. retirements, transfers out of DGC and resignations.

**Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR):** Following the SDSR announcement of a reduction of 25% in MOD's civilian staffing civilians by 25,000 over the next five years, plans for a Department-wide Voluntary Early Release Scheme (VERS) is to be launched in April 2011. DGC is still awaiting the precise outcome of SDSR in terms of possible cuts to staffing levels.

**Pride Update:** Programme to Rationalise and Integrate the DIS Estate (Pride) is continuing to schedule. A key milestone was marked on 28 September 2010 in the construction of the new Pathfinder Building at RAF Wyton with the formal 'Topping-Out' ceremony, hosted by the construction company responsible for the new building and presided over by the Chief of Defence Intelligence Air Marshall Chris Nickols. The focus for work now turns to the installation of the internal infrastructure. The building is expected to be handed over to the MOD by December 2011.

PRIDE (Defence Intelligence Security Centre (DISC)) which will determine the best option for the future home for the Royal School of Military Survey (RSMS) and the Defence School of Languages (DSL) is uncertain at the present time pending the full outcome of SDSR, it is hoped that the future direction will become clearer by March 2011.

**Production – Support to Ops:** DGC continues to produce a range a geospatial products in support to Ops, standard series topographic line maps, digital datasets such as ditch analysis, cross country movement and compound map products.

**Production Systems Upgrade:** Production Generation Upgrade (PGU) continues, all the new equipment has been delivered and installed with most of the new workflows delivered, a good proportion of which have been successfully tested with staff familiarity with the new software and system continues to increase.

**Old Boys Reunion (Picnic in the Park):** This years event will take place on Friday 10 June 2011, those previous members of the Garrison, military as well as civilian who wish to attend should send their name, contact details directly to:

Tony Ruff – FGSSA Reunion Coordinator Production Division,  
Room 019, Hotine Building,  
Defence Geographic Centre,  
Elmwood Avenue,  
Feltham,  
Middlesex. TW13 7AH Tel: 0208 818 2702  
e-mail: [Tony.Ruff943@mod.uk](mailto:Tony.Ruff943@mod.uk)

### Notable Retirees

Dec 2010 – Denis Stephens

### *Pete Dowell*

#### Picnic In The Park

This is always a very pleasant afternoon out and gives a chance to catch with old friends from Feltham – why not give it go this year.

**News From The Military Front**

**RSM's Column**

Firstly, I would like start by wishing you all a happy New Year and good luck for the future. Talking of the future, the Wyton move is getting ever closer, and the word "PRIDE" is being mentioned with ever increasing frequency around Hermitage. Despite these distractions both eyes of the Regiment remain firmly fixed on ensuring that the forces in Afghanistan receive the level of Geospatial support that they have come to expect.

The build up to Christmas was busier than ever despite the best efforts of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The soldiers had their traditional hearty meal served by the tentative looking upper echelon. Thankfully there was little by way of section attacks attempted with the rather aero dynamic looking potatoes. The Christmas meal was rounded off by the QM and his charity raffle; ably assisted by the new Commander, Colonel Mark Burrows. The highlight of the raffle was a Sergeant in 16 Geo Sp Sqn who won the same t-shirt that he won last year, but still hadn't collected.

The officers and seniors verses the Corporals' Mess football match saw the CO and myself drag ourselves out of retirement to provide a legitimate target for the Cpls. After a hard fought match the Cpls took the victory by way of penalty kicks.

The Christmas festivities continued with the Officers Mess hosting the WOs & Sgts Mess for Christmas drinks, which carried on into the small hours leading some personnel starting in one mess, only to wake up in the other.

**Training**

**Foundation Degree Ceremony - Hermitage**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November marked a notable occasion when 45 Royal Engineer Geographic Technicians were awarded Science Foundation Degrees in Applied Computing at a Graduation Ceremony at Denison Barracks in Hermitage. This Foundation Degree programme, accredited by Sheffield Hallam University and run by the Royal School of Military Survey has now been running for 7 years and is one of a number of such programmes in the British Army however the graduation ceremony is the only offsite event sanctioned by the University. This ceremony was the culmination of up to 5 years of hard work and study. To achieve this award, students are required to follow an initial nine-month course, three years experience in an operational unit, and a further nine months' study at the School.

The Foundation Degree is designed to integrate academic and work-based learning through collaboration between employers and the training deliverers. All this training is designed to give the Geographic Technicians the vital skills they need when they deploy on operations, the key to the success of the programme being the strong partnership between the Royal School of Military Survey and Sheffield Hallam University. 27 graduands attended the ceremony, a good turn out as 7 are currently on operations in Afghanistan and others posted abroad



In spite of the severe weather in the north most of those attending made the ceremony on time though some cut it fine, being robed up within minutes of the start of the ceremony. Professor Phillip Jones, the Vice Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University, officiating with Air Marshal Christopher Nickols, the Chief of Defence Intelligence being the senior military VIP. The Engineer in Chief (Army) was represented by the former Hermitage Commander, Colonel John Kedar. Staff and students were suitably attired in academic dress making it an exceptionally colourful occasion. After presentation of degrees a number of prizes were awarded. Cpl Kellysue Leitch gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the graduates and prizewinners and following formal photographs all staff, graduates and families had the opportunity to meet together at a formal reception and buffet lunch, the former being kindly funded by the Royal Engineers' Association (Geographic Branch).



*Cpl Kellysue Leitch with the Vice Chancellor.*

It was quite apparent that the graduates realised the importance of the event but as always it is probably the parents and family who were most impressed by their sons' and daughters' achievements. What is in no doubt is that the Foundation Degree, as well as being an excellent tool for delivery of geographic training, is a very considerable aid in the recruiting and retention processes. However the achievement of the foundation degree is just the start as in January next year 27 former students will be enrolled with Sheffield Hallam University to continue their studies leading to a Bachelor of Science degree albeit over an extended period of up to 5 years, recognising that much of their time will be spent on operations.

### **Exercise River Cruse** Written by LCpl Culley

On the 15 July 2010, members of 13 Sqn were invited to Upnor for a trip out on Mk 3 raider boats with 36 Training Operations Boat Troop, based near 1 RSME. The route to be taken was from Upnor, along the Medway, up to and along the Thames just past Westminster.

After jumping on a minibus at 6 am we headed along the M4 to Upnor. After hitting a load of traffic on the M 25 we arrived a bit late but just in time to go straight into a briefing for the day events. This took about 30min and covered everything from the route in detail, weather and actions on in the event of emergencies. We were less than impressed with the weather report!

After the briefing we went off to get kitted up in our full body condoms (dry suits), helmets and goggles. Then we headed down to the boats; two safety boats and two Mk 3 raider boats. Everyone in a full body condom went in the Mk3's and the rest got a comfier seat in the bigger safety boats.

Soon we were heading down the Medway at a steady 6 knots... this was because of the speed restrictions. However, as soon as we had passed our marker the operators powered up to full throttle (32 to 36 knots) and it was a case of hold on tight. The river started to get very choppy and we had waves of approx 4 ft. As a result we ended up getting soaked but moral was at an all time high. This heightened further when we saw the boat in front come off a big wave and nosedive through the next wave. The boat then turned submarine for a few seconds, sub merging everyone in the boat and ripping Spr (Nick) King's goggles straight off his face.

After a while we made our way to the mouth of the Medway. This is where the continual bouncing off the waves started to wear thin because the seats didn't have the best cushioning. After smashing into a few more waves and creating our own tidal waves over the boat, one of

the Mk 3 operator's life jacket randomly inflated. This slowed us down while we waited for the safety boat to sort it out. As we headed to the Thames Estuary the operators pointed out a wreck three masts protruding from the water. These belong to the SS Richard Montgomery which, over laden with high explosives, sank there during WW2 after hitting the sand banks. We were informed that it contains enough explosive to destroy a small island and efforts to recover it were aborted as it was so unstable.



We continued and made it to the mouth of the Thames, where the waves died down, but was still a bit rough. We were able to travel faster than the safety boats and ended up so far ahead of them that when we looked back we could only see two little dots in the distance. So we had to head back towards them. When we got near to them they shouted out to us that we had to head back because a fuse had blown and they had lost all lights and power to the wiper blades. Moral dropped straight away because we all knew that we were missing out on the best bit of the journey, up the Thames

to Westminster. In addition we had to turn around and go back through the roughest part which had become even rougher than before. The waves were now between 4 and 8 ft. Everyone just wanted to have a break from the seats and the battering they were taking from the waves.

We got through it and back into the Medway without any more hick-ups and only a few tidal waves over the boat. When the water calmed down we got back up to full speed for a short distance taking us back to the Jetty. We then washed down and hung up the kit and, after a few farewells and thanks to the staff, headed off for a quick pub lunch. The day was a little let down due to the fact we didn't get on to the Thames but we all had a great laugh on the boats when the adrenalin was pumping and the operators made it an enjoyable experience.

### OPERATIONS

The tempo of operations in Afghanistan has not abated, it remains challenging and continues to bring the best out of many of our young soldiers, which has resulted in the awarding of a Task Force Helmand Commander's commendation for one young LCpl and a Meritorious Mast, a US Marine Corps (USMC) award, being presented to another.

November 2010 saw a shift in the geospatial support to Operations at the regional command level. The re-allocation of the Area of Responsibility and resources to a newly established USMC led Regional Command South-West headquarters in Camp Leatherneck (Bastion) has been completed, with the SSgt post moving on to its second incumbent already.

Of significance is the unrivalled success of the DATAMAN system in both Lashkar Gah and Camp Bastion, providing a common interface for situational awareness via web services. The DATAMAN is also becoming the place of choice for other functional areas to store and serve their data, all made possible by our adaptable and innovative data managers.

### Sporting Activities

As you would expect the unusually bad weather prior to Christmas had a hugely detrimental effect on sporting fixtures.

**Football.** Football within Hermitage Station has continued to go from strength to strength with popularity calling for the reintroduction of a B team. Both teams have begun the new season with some encouraging results in both the league and Cup.

**Hockey.** With only one fixture being contested due to the bad weather, the Survey Hockey Club only managed a 5-5 draw against an energetic Bovington.

## Promotions

After a number of lean years on the promotion front, the tide has finally begun to turn with the recent selection of three WO2s; Dom Andrew, Andre Noel and Martin Brown, all making the grade on a competitive Corp Sergeant Majors board; WO2 Andy Murray being selected for WO1; and SSM Gordon Chaplin being selected for WO1 and the coveted RSM. Our non Geo contingent (Andy and Gordon) proving that the Corp does not forget the mainstream soldiers who find themselves fortunate enough to be serving within our Regiment.

I will sign off here and thanks to you all for your valued support to the current crop of Geo soldiers out in Afghanistan. I look forward to seeing you all here at Hermitage in the near future.

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



WO1 (RSM) Conetta RE,  
Hermitage Station

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## Treasurer's Input

### Financial Results - 2010

The accounts show an excess of income over expenditure of around £470 (subject to audit) which is very close to the budget forecast of £420 which was predicted at the AGM. The overall accounts remain in a healthy state.

### Donations

Two donations from the RE (Geo) fund were awarded in 2010, as follows:

- £358 in August and £381 in October. Both were for welfare for soldiers in Afghanistan and mainly consisted of audio visual items – see front page for the story.
- The RE (Geo) fund currently contains £1714.32 which is available at the disposal of the Commanding Officer and RSM, through the Welfare Officer.

Two donations were also made from the Branch Reserve, as follows:

- £500 in August for sponsorship of JAGO sports activities. It was mainly used to fund the annual dinner and prize giving ceremony for the unit.
- £250 in October to help meet the costs of the Graduation Ceremony at which degrees were conferred by the Vice Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University.

Thus £1489 in total was donated in 2010. Members have continued to contribute generously to the RE (Geo) Fund. The committee continually seeks opportunities to support the unit from Branch funds.

### Subscriptions And Debtors

Subscription income in 2010 was £2144. There is a gradual diminishing, which is to be expected in an ageing membership, but the committee sees no need to increase subscriptions for the foreseeable future, though this can't be ruled out forever. The debtor problem remains under control. Only one member failed to pay his subscription in 2010.

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## MILITARY SURVEY REUNION (& AGM)

Saturday 10th of September 2011

Location: Ewell TA Centre, Welbeck Close, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2BG

### The Home of 135 Indep Geo Sqn Re (V)

Your Committee, in conjunction with 135 Indep Geo Sqn RE (V) and with the kind permission of Commander JAGO, the CO 42 Engr Regt (Geo) and most importantly, the OC of 135 Indep Geo Sqn RE (V) have arranged for this years reunion and AGM to take place at Ewell.

It is designed to be very much a **REUNION** and an opportunity to visit a unit that many of us will not have had a chance to visit before. We held an AGM there in 2001 with a magnificent turnout and this is a good time to visit them again to show our support for those many civilians who give up so much of their time to our volunteer army. The intention is to provide an opportunity at a different venue for members to once again meet friends and socialise during what will be a "normal" TA working day as they prepare for their annual exercise. We do hope unit personnel will join with us during the evening and have asked them to do so; please make them feel welcome part of our community and do encourage them to join with us as members.

To ensure the success of this occasion, it is vital, given the difficulties and cost of catering, to establish firm attendance figures as early as possible and therefore you are requested to complete and return the attached form **as soon as possible but at the latest before the end of July**.

### RETURN FORM ATTACHED – LAST PAGE

#### Outline Programme

**1300 - 1400:** Arrival and administration - tea, coffee - Bar open.

**1400 - 1600:** Tour unit facilities (To be arranged and timings confirmed).

**1615 - 1715:** Annual General Meeting.

**1745 - 2359:** Food is served - Dispersal!

We are, as ever, required to hold an AGM and this will be held prior to the evening meal. **It will be short** and include the election of committee members, a statement of milestones and achievements since last year and will seek your thoughts and suggestions for the future. In addition we do hope to have presentations from Commander JAGO and OC 135 Sqn as well as the prize giving to the deserving Sapper.

#### Menu and Cost

Once again 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 the catering staff willingly looks after us and it is only through their kind generosity that costs can be kept as low as they are! We have, however, noted various comments from members and once again this year we have decided to do something different to satisfy your impeccable tastes! This does mean a slight increase in cost over previous years (there is a small subsidy from funds to cover staff costs) to £14 per person, but this is inclusive of coffee/tea etc on arrival and to get your taste buds working I include the menu below for your delectation, **beat this anywhere if you can:**

A selection of carved cold meats – Roast Beef, Gammon, Turkey etc.

Seafood platter – Prawns, smoked salmon etc.

A variety of salads plus bread.

A selection of sweets along with cheese and biscuits.

### Dress

To forestall confusion and lots of questions it is anticipated you will agree that smart casual is right on this occasion. Dress up if you will but please avoid dressing down!

### Location and Accommodation

It is hoped that we will be able to include a location map and directions for parking in the next edition of the newsletter. You might also note that the unit is only fifteen minutes walk from West Ewell Railway Station, 25 minutes by train from London Waterloo. There are a number of Travel Lodges in close proximity as well as some small and medium sized hotels or you could take what is a very tempting option and stay in London at the Union Jack Club (at Waterloo) where a single room costs as little as £36.50 (no en suite or TV) or £50 (en suite with TV). A twin/double room with all facilities is £90.50. NB these are 2010 prices. Early booking is necessary.

### Security - Access

**To reiterate previous advice: owing to the ever-present security situation you will have to identify yourself on arrival, 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!

### General

Finally, if you feel that you have something you can contribute to this event that would be of interest to all, or some, please do contact us prior to the event to discuss inclusion.

**Mick Perry**  
**Event Organiser**

Problems - enquiries? - Telephone 01635 37510 - e-mail [mandpdperry@sky.com](mailto:mandpdperry@sky.com)

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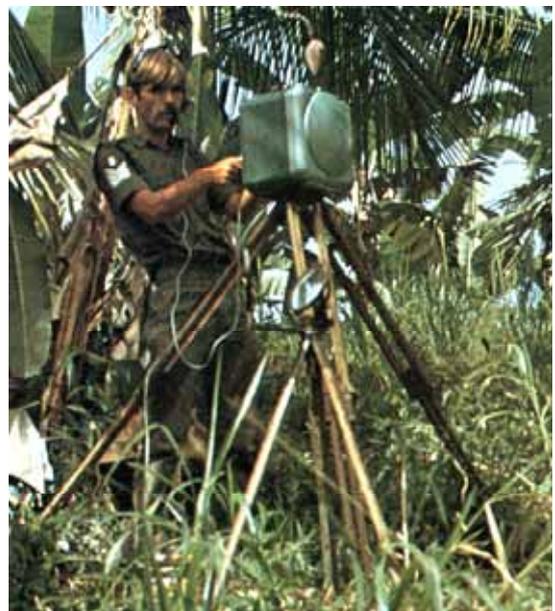
### Wanted: An Event Organiser

This man has served Queen, Country and Branch for years and it is now time to give him a break.

Mick has laid on excellent events for years but would very much like to stand down and hand over to someone else.

The role is not too onerous as regards time and effort. The only requirements are to live within a couple of hours from Newbury, attend up to four committee meetings a year, one of which involves a very pleasant Christmas dinner.

Why not contact Mick to find more about what the jobs involve? Come on – get involved!



## Ordnance Survey Apprentice Tradesmen Boys RE

### Reunion 2011

This unit was set up early in World War 2 to train 'bright' young boys in basic 'map construction'. Initially housed in an hotel in Milford on Sea it moved to the Grand Marine Hotel at nearby Barton on Sea where it stayed until 1943 when the unit moved to the small stately home of Bryn Howell near Ruabon in north Wales. Its near neighbour was the Survey Training Centre then housed in Wynnstay Hall and where the young boys progressed to as they reached man service age.

Many of those young boys went on to achieve fine careers in Military Survey and many of the friendships formed as 16 year olds lasted the test of time as the surviving, now very 'mature' boys meet up once a year back in Bryn Howell. The reunions are well attended with up to 50 making the journey to north Wales.

This year's event is on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of November and the organiser, George Sinclair, extends a warm invitation to anyone with a Survey pedigree who would like to join them. If you are interested then please contact George on 01206 560 580.



OS Boys at Barton-on-Sea 1942



OS Boys Gymnastics Team: Bryn Howell 1944

### Dennis Martin

Dennis died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October and his funeral was held in the parish church of Marston Magna near Yeovil on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October. Dennis was OC 135 Field Survey Squadron RE(V) from 1976 until he retired from the TA in 1980. During that period the Squadron was re-roled as an HQ AFCENT unit and the annual camps took place during AFCENT exercises in either Brunnsom or deployed in Germany. Dennis was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1978 and was awarded the MBE in the 1979 New Year's Honours List.

### Pete Bevis

Pete died just before Christmas following an illness. His funeral was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December in Christchurch Priory Church where 52 years previously he had married his wife Diz. Mike Payne paraded the Branch Standard at the ceremony, which was well attended by friends from his service with Military Survey.

Pete served a full career as a photographic technician retiring with warrant rank.

*On the right is a newspaper cutting describing the life saving actions of Pete and Kit Churchill whilst serving with 42 Regiment in Cyprus.*

### SAPPERS TO THE RESCUE

BY MAJOR K. J. T. HOILE

*3rd East Anglian Regiment, Military Observer in Cyprus*

Cpl. Keith Churchill and L/Cpl. Peter Bevis, both serving with 42 Survey Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, stationed at Zygi in Cyprus were largely responsible for saving the life of a Royal Air Force man's wife when she was dragged unconscious from the sea recently. The two N.C.O.s with the assistance of Sgt. Eric Knowles of the Royal Air Force Regiment applied artificial respiration, and the lady, after spending two days in hospital, is now safely reunited with her family. But for the speedy assistance of the N.C.O.s the woman would most probably have died.



No. 23700576, L/Cpl. P. Bevis  
No. 23038860, Cpl. K. R. E. Churchill

### HomeFront Forces

HomeFront Forces is a charity created to provide a free, secure age-appropriate website for children and families affected by operational deployment.

The HomeFront Forces dream is that a child separated from a parent can send a message to mum or dad while tea is cooking through the private secure '[Your Family Page](#)'. Parents and children will be able to post updates, share photos, videos, messages, send e-cards and play games online – all of which will help to keep the parent/child bond going whilst separated by deployment. To find out more visit [www.homefrontforces.org](http://www.homefrontforces.org).

## Highlights From The Committee

Your committee met for the fourth and final time in 2010 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at the Carnarvon Arms, Highclere, where the meeting was followed by a Christmas dinner with the former commander of JAGO, Colonel John Kedar, and the Branch's outgoing President and Secretary as guests to thank them for their support over the last few years.

Highlights of the meeting were:

- The Treasurer's update – as shown earlier in this newsletter.
- Discussion on the possibility of scanning the course photos from the 'Rogues Gallery' at RSMS with Dave Johnson agreeing to investigate options.
- Discussion on the 2011 reunion and AGM – details published in this newsletter.
- Distribution of cds with the latest draft of a 'potted' history of Military Survey aimed at new recruits into RE Geo. Comments to be made by the next meeting.
- Acceptance of Ken Hall's offer to assist the Secretary by continuing to print and distribute the hardcopy version of the newsletter and Mick Perry's agreement to take on the preliminary work for Reunion 2011 pending a volunteer coming forward to complete the task.
- The next committee meeting to be on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Any points for the meeting should be sent to the Secretary at least 2 weeks before the meeting.

## REA Diary 2011

- 20-27 May - Spring Reunion, South Downs Holiday Village, Bracklesham Bay  
28 May - Trooping the Colour - "Major Generals Review"  
04 June - Trooping the Colour - "Colonel's Review"  
08-09 June - Beating Retreat, London (Tickets available online from Ticketmaster)  
09 June - Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day Parade  
11 June - Queens Birthday Parade  
24-26 June - Minley Weekend \*  
15-18 September - Corps Memorial Weekend Chatham\*  
08 October - REA AGM and Annual Dinner \*  
09 October - Sapper Sunday at Royal Hospital Chelsea  
10 November - Field of Remembrance, Westminster  
13 November - Remembrance Sunday

\*National Events

**“MAPS & SURVEYS 2011”**  
**The Defence Surveyors' Association Seminar**  
**Royal School of Military Survey**  
**Saturday 11 June 2011**

The Defence Surveyors' Association will run the fourth in its series of annual seminars at Denison Barracks, Hermitage, on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2011.

As for previous seminars, the presentations will cover a variety of 'survey' subjects presented in generally chronological order. For further information or to book your seat contact Mike Nolan at [maptolan@googlemail.com](mailto:maptolan@googlemail.com) or call 01635 253167.

### Contact Details

**Hon Secretary**

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### Newsletter Dates 2011

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

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Dates for Input</b>	<b>Target Published</b>
New Year	By 10 January	End January
Spring	By 15 April	End April
Summer	By 15 July	End July
Autumn	By 15 October	End October

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### Branch Committee 2011

President: Bob Avenall  
Chairman: Angus Cross  
Secretary: Rod Siggs  
Treasurer: Mike Gowlett  
Welfare: Noel Grimmett  
Webmaster: Dave Johnson  
Newsletter Editor: Alan Gordon  
Newsletter Distribution: Ken Hall  
Event Co-ordinator: Vacant

Military Representative: WO1 (RSM) Alfie Conetta  
Civilian Representative: Pete Dowell

Auditor: Chris Nash

**REUNION (&AGM) 2011**

**PLEASE SEND ALL RETURNS BEFORE 31 JULY 2010 TO:**

**M. Perry - Mil Svy Branch  
101 Craven Road  
Newbury  
Berks, RG14 5NL  
[mandpdperry@sky.com](mailto:mandpdperry@sky.com)  
01635 37510**

From:

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

Address: - Tel No: -  
.....  
E-mail: -  
.....

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

I will/will not be attending the Reunion and AGM on 11 September 2011, 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 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 2011 @£14 each,

**PLUS £..... TO BOOST THE GEO SUPPORT FUND** - plus any unpaid annual subscription or annual subscription for new member joining this year £8.

***NB If you can only attend the AGM and not meal then you must send £3 pp to cover the cost of refreshments.***

**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 or require **disabled access** 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.