

The Military Survey (Geographic) Association



Autumn 2012 Newsletter

Issue 45



Chairman's Piece – October 2012

Well here we are at the end of the summer that never was and approaching the end of, in my case a very busy year. I've seen 3 months of building work on my house, a daughter's wedding wasted efforts on the allotment as the weather did for most of my efforts and now I'm slowly working my way through the decorating of the house.

Enough of that though what about the association, for we are now officially the Military Survey (Geographic) Association. At our AGM which had a fairly reasonable turnout there was a very solid vote in favour of the name change which as I explained at the time I don't expect to make much difference to people's perception of the organisation in the short term but over time I'm sure it will be beneficial. We had an informative and interesting briefing by the Commander in which he announced that there is now an aspiration to move the School at roughly the same time as the Regiment, ie 2014 which will see us having to relocate our functions sooner than expected. However there will be time for one last Hooley at Denison Barracks in 2014 before they all go.

Pete Dowell the civilian liaison member from Feltham is retiring from the civil service in the near future and is therefore giving up his place on the committee. Pete has been with us for the last three years and has done a great job keeping the association informed as to what is happening at Feltham and the activities of our civilian counterparts. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us to thank him for his contribution over the last three years and to wish him and his wife the very best for a long and healthy retirement.

On that note I'll close but just on the off chance there is someone out there who would like to make some small contribution to the organisation we are always looking for new blood to join the committee. Contact any of the current members and you can be assured of a warm welcome. **Angus Cross**



Key Committee Members: Bob Avenell, Rod Siggs, Angus Cross, Alf Isherwood, RSM Robinson

Highlights from the AGM and Reunion

The Chairman welcomed the 27 members present, remarking on the good turnout and thanking them for their attendance, especially Keith (Joe) Brown, who had travelled from Oman to be at the AGM for the first time. He then outlined the evening's format; the customary briefing from Colonel Mark Burrows, the Commander Joint Aeronautical and Geospatial Organisation (JAGO), on current Geo matters followed by the presentation of the Association's Annual Award and then the AGM which he again stressed would be kept to the minimum possible and said the important parts had all been circulated by the Newsletter, Website and had also been displayed on the notice board prior to the meeting. Key points from Colonel Burrows' presentation are included later in this newsletter as is the citation for the annual award.

Key points from the AGM are:

- The Chairman reported that during 2011/2012, membership had remained relatively stable at approximately 350 despite seeming to be frequently sent "sad news". He asked that anyone hearing of the death of a former Military Surveyor should let the Secretary know.
- The Standard Bearers have turned out four times for funerals and each time they had been thoroughly appreciated. Our thanks go to Mike Payne, Mick Nottage and Jack Crompton for undertaking these duties.
- The Chairman stated that the overall position is that we are "fit and healthy". We have paid for the production of the Photo Database of the RSMS Course photos which had required a lot of work and brain power to reach this stage. There had been no call on the Soldiers Fund for support this year because the COPF was a lot healthier than it had previously been. However, he thought the Fund would be called upon to support our Soldiers in the near future as the move is likely to throw up various requirements. He was, therefore, not unduly worried that we had nil spends this year.
- He said that the name change from "Branch" to "Association" suggested by the Committee (the rationale for which has been expounded at the previous AGM and in the Newsletters), must be voted upon. He said it had led some to the perception that we are leaving the REA, which we most definitely are not. However, before the vote there was a comment from the floor that it seemed we were straying from the REA principles and were becoming insular. In the discussions that followed it was reiterated that we were only changing our name to try and gain more members from those who seem to have an adverse perception of the REA. We therefore wished to give the REA less prominence in our title but our involvement with the REA will not be diminished. A **majority vote was then carried** to adopt the name of **The Military Survey (Geographic) Association**.
- The Chairman spoke of the reason for the separation of the AGMs and Reunions – "It is a legal requirement that we hold an AGM to vote upon the Audited Accounts", he said. However, a concerted effort had been made to reduce the AGMs to the barest minimum but it is accepted that many still do not wish to travel any distance to sit through the formal procedures. The reunions are therefore going to be the main platform to get us together and for which the organisation was originally formed. By having separate functions it is hoped to encourage the membership to attend the reunions again in the numbers that were seen at our organisation's conception. The Chairman explained that accordingly the next AGM would be held early in 2013, following the audited accounts, but the next reunion would not be held until 2014, when it was hoped we would join in with an event to mark the Regiment's withdrawal from Hermitage.

A demonstration of the Course Photo Database was given after the AGM by Dave Johnson.

2012 Annual Military Survey (Geo) Update
By Colonel Mark Burrows, Commander JAGO



The Chairman introduced Colonel Mark Burrows, Commander JAGO, who gave us a full brief on current Geo (Mil Svy) matters. There are approximately 40 members of Geo staff deployed on current operations, for many their second or third time. However, in reality 200 are involved due to the process of rotation with all the preparation/training, actual deployment, and the train down and rest and recuperation periods following deployment.

Most of the Geo troops are confined to Camp Bastion but can get rare excursions to support the Battle Groups. The main emphasis is now on training and mentoring the Afghanistan Troops and Police although great difficulty with the Darri/Pashtun maps and language is experienced. The Commander said there had been an approach from the Afghan Government for our Geo organisation to set up and run the equivalent of an Ordnance Survey, but this had been declined. However, UK would certainly be involved with other nations to get the Afghan's started.

The Group had supported the Olympics/Paralympics by providing map reading training, help to ensure all the support and emergency services were working off the same mapping and used the same grid referencing system, and developing map symbology suitable for all users from the Cabinet Office to the Dorset Police. They had also been involved in "OP ESCALIN" which was the name given to preparations to counter a possible strike by fuel truck drivers.

Despite all this the Regiment still managed to hold regular Wednesday sports afternoons are current Army champions at squash and hockey and 4 Division Sports Unit of the Year. Orienteering, as we would imagine, is strong and Sgt Ball (Repro Tech) is currently the Combined Services Rugby Captain.

Colonel Burrows then gave us an update on the Wyton move – during April 2013, HQ JAGO ceases operation. Colonel Burrows will adopt the title CRE Geo at the new HQ Joint Force Intelligence Centre and by July, 14 Sqn will relocate from Germany to Wyton which will be called the Defence Intelligence Geospatial Fusion Centre (Def Int Geo Fusion Centre). 42 Engr Regt (Geo) will move to Wyton when 14 Sqn are declared operational. The Commander said he felt there was lots of potential at Wyton and the RAF seemed to be looking forward to Geo's arrival, although they clearly don't seem to understand the machinations of "deployment" or being a "deployable unit".

Despite all the military cuts being made (approximately 1 in 5 posts being lost) the Geo strength had actually obtained a net gain of 25 posts over the last two years.

It will come as no surprise to those with recollections of the weekends shared with the US 649th Topo Battalion stationed at Schwetzingen, Germany, or those who went to the first Gulf conflict that we normally strike up a pretty good liaison with US Forces and the Colonel said we are again showing the ability to integrate well in Afghanistan with the US Marine Corps.

Lastly, the Commander reminded us that there was to be a Heritage Centre set up at Wyton and he asked that if anyone had any "spare" Mil Svy (Geo) old equipment or items of interest he would be pleased to receive it.

Rod Siggs

Military Survey Association Award 2012

Sapper Dale Jones



The President presenting the award

Sapper Dale Jones is an outstanding all round junior soldier. He has demonstrated maturity, competence and professionalism to a level far above that expected of such a junior Sapper.

He is a very capable and proficient Geographic Technician and is reliable and efficient in the work environment. He is highly motivated and proactive, often planning and running events within the Squadron in place of the senior LCpls and Cpls.

Spr Jones is also an excellent sportsman and has been highlighted on PT sessions as one of the fittest in the Regiment. He also plays Golf to a very high standard and has managed to play in a number of games and events recently whilst maintaining high standards in his regular work.

Although he is based in Germany as a member of 14 Geographic Squadron RE, he is currently “on detachment” with the Intelligence Augmentation Cell, part of the Defence Crisis Management Centre at the Permanent Joint Headquarters, Northwood, on OP ATLANTA. This alone proves that Spr Jones is entrusted to uphold the highest traditions of Military Survey (Geo) in providing vital Geo support at the highest level.

The Association Award is presented annually to the individual who has given outstanding and loyal support to the Regiment; whilst participating and contributing in a variety of activities throughout the training year. The fact that Spr Jones has been selected for this honour, demonstrates the significance of his outstanding contribution to unit life, during this period.

Beware the Orderly Officer

People still occasionally ask me if I have ever fired a shot in anger. Well, praise God, I never did except, once, I nearly had to, as you will see.

One night in the spring or summer of 1955 I was on guard at the back of the camp at Fayid in the Canal Zone in Egypt. It must have been around 11.30 pm as all the tent lights were out but I could hear ‘Jazz Hour’ on the American Forces Network from various radios as I strolled along behind the tent lines. I was just passing the ‘desert rose’ when I spotted someone enter the far end of the shower block. Against the distant perimeter lights I could see an SD cap silhouetted – it was the orderly officer, a certain National Service subaltern.

When he was halfway through the building I challenged him but he continued to walk towards me. When he came out of the shower building I challenged him a second time. Still he came towards me. I put a round up the spout’ and applied the safety catch, which he must have heard. I said “Sir?” and he walked right up to me with his face about a foot from mine with a look of faer. I asked “are you alright sir?” I could have shot you if I hadn’t recognised you.” He turned on his heels without saying a word and disappeared into the tent lines. I never told anyone what had happened as I heard no more.

I told this story at a British Legion meeting a couple of years ago and our Colonel immediately said “well he was p.....d wasn’t he!”

Michael Sharp

The Hermitage Course Photographs Archive



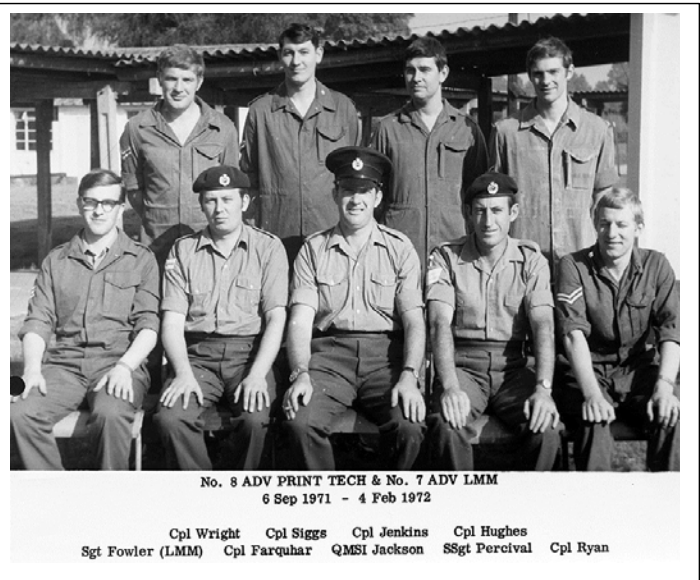
The project to create a searchable digital archive of all the available Hermitage course photographs is now as complete as is possible at this time. It contains all the available soldier course photographs from the early Sixties, when a new course regime was introduced, up to 1993 when the trade structure was radically revised. It also includes all the main SMS/RSMS courses held for Military Survey's civilian staff during the same period and the Long Survey/Army Survey courses up to number 97.

First and foremost, the Association has ensured that a unique historic record has been preserved which was under some threat of being lost, or at least difficult to

access, due to the move of the RSMS. Copies of the archive will be provided not only to the RSMS but also to all relevant libraries and museums so that it will available for research in the future.

The database, which is searchable via names and courses, is designed to run from a CD and should updates be produced at a future date they will be made to run with this CD.

A secondary aim was to make the archive available to Association members who may wish to see a record of their times at Hermitage. It is now available to members at a small cost of £5 to cover CD production, packaging and postage.

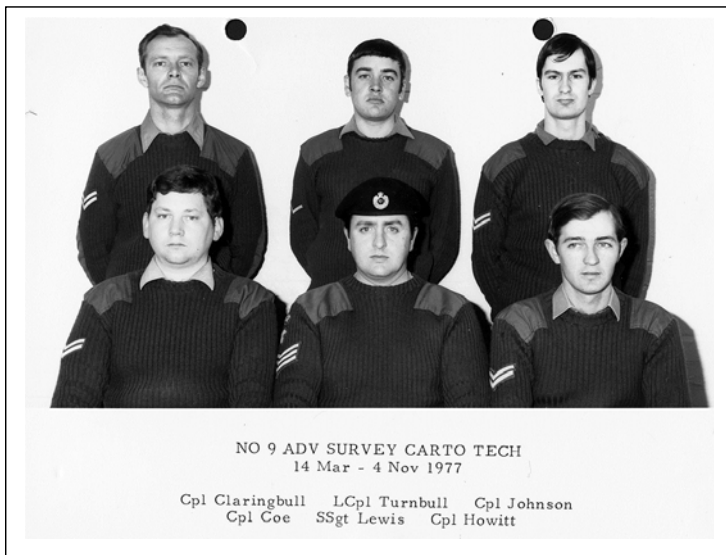


Many thanks for those who registered their interest in having a copy earlier – please now send postal details and a cheque as below.

Applications for a copy should be sent to:

Rod Siggs
Military Survey Association Secretary
11, Merlin Way
Southwood
Farnborough GU14 0PF

Please enclose a cheque for £5 made payable to Military Survey Branch REA.



News from the Civilian Front – October 2012

Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)

DGC Staffing: Voluntary Early Release Scheme (VERS2) is now underway with staff departures taking place between now and 31 March 2014, the aim being to achieve a DGC target level of 405 by the end of FY14/15 which includes 13 military posts.

Programme to Rationalise and Integrate the DIS Estate (PRIDE)

Units that are due to relocate to RAF Wyton under the PRIDE Programme have had the opportunity to attend familiarisation visits to the site which have included briefings and tours of the facilities offered. DGC staff have also attended numerous events at RAF Wyton in order to gain a better understanding of the environment and work that will be undertaken within the newly created Defence Geospatial Intelligence Fusion Centre (DGIFC) relocated within the Pathfinder Building. The plan remains for the Joint Forces Intelligence Group (JFIG) HQ to commence relocation from Feltham to Wyton in Feb 2013. Any possible relocation of DGC to Wyton remains unlikely before the 2017/18 timeframe.

Production – Support to Ops

Production in support of Ops continues, plus DGC received significant praise from numerous quarters for its work in providing geospatial support to Op Olympic.

Production Systems Upgrade

The planned upgrade of the Production Generation Upgrade (PGU) equipment will be commencing in the New Year as will the completion of the migration of all workstations to version 10 of ESRI ARCGIS. The management workstations have been upgraded and staff have reported improved performance and reliability. These upgrades will ultimately lead to improved production flexibility, leading to reduced production timelines and improved re-use of geospatial data.

Collaboration with Ordnance Survey (OS)/Continuous Improvement (CI) Initiatives

CI improvement training continues across most areas of DGC. Significant improvements in terms of best practices and production time frame reductions have been achieved to date. This is an ongoing process.

New DGC Organisational Structure

Following DGC's Management Team decision to conduct a feasibility study into a possible reorganisation of DGC, two Task Teams have now been established to trial the new concept of working. The Task Teams comprise approximately 20 staff from different skill bases, Foundation (Production), Research and Application Support all fully integrated and located into one area. So far it has proved successful with a wide range of tasks being completed, it has also provided an opportunity for staff from different backgrounds to develop their knowledge and skills. The final decision on whether to adopt this new model will be made next year once all the reports and evidence have been evaluated by Director DGC and the Management Team.

The Olympic Games and the Armed Forces Support to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG)

The temporary camp that was built on the sports field at Feltham to accommodate the Service personnel who provided security support to the Olympics is now being dismantled and will be returned to DGC at the end of October 2012. It is envisaged that the field will be useable again next summer.

Old Boys Reunion (Picnic in the Park): Next year the Feltham Garrison Sports and Social Association (FGSSA) will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on Friday 21 Jun 13. 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 Foundation Division,

Room 019, Hotine Building, Defence Geographic Centre, Elmwood Avenue, Feltham, TW13 7AH

Tel: 0208 818 2702 or e-mail: Tony.Ruff943@mod.uk

Finally I have to announce that this is my last newsletter as both my wife, Pam and I have resigned from DGC in order to start our next life as retired civil servants. I would like to thank all the committee members past and present for what has been an enjoyable 3 plus years and to wish everyone well for the future.

Notable Retirees

August 2012 – Dave Tarrant October 2012 – Pam & Pete Dowell

Pete Dowell

The John Stevens Memorial Award

One of our long standing members, Brian Kinnear, thought very highly of the late Captain John Stevens who had a very profound effect upon his military career and life afterwards. In fact so highly was this regard that Brian wishes to commemorate John Stevens' life and service with Military Survey and to that end he has donated a considerable sum of money for a memorial award to be made each year to a young serving Geographic Soldier.

John Stevens will be remembered by many members; he joined as boy soldier in 1950 and spent a full career in Military Survey as an air surveyor achieving the rank of WO1. He was then commissioned and retired in 1988 with the rank of captain having transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps for the final few years of his service.

The Chairman of the Association has charged the RSM and Secretary to write some Terms of Reference (TORs) for the memorial award in order to formalise and handover control to the Regiment, thus ensuring continuation into the future.

Originally, it was planned that in keeping with one of John's major interests and skill at shooting, a shooting trophy would be the most appropriate award. It was hoped that the best young soldier, scoring the highest points during the annual skill at arms competition within the 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) could be awarded the John Stevens' Memorial Award. However, such annual skill at arms competitions are now a rare thing due to the call for soldiers on operations and other technical reasons.

However, another regular event, the "Annual Cadre", at which all prospective junior soldiers from the Regiment have to demonstrate all their soldierly skills in order to become promoted to lance corporal, seemed to fit the bill. The current intention is now to select a member of the 2013 Potential NCO Course due to pass off on the 8th of February next year. One idea mooted is for the course member's themselves to select the winner hence the John Stevens' Award would go to the 'Soldier's Soldier'.

John's son Roderick Stevens, who lives at Thatcham, will be asked to present the first Award, and Brian, who is not in the best of health, will be kept informed of progress.

THE COMPUTING VEHICLE TYPE VO 1

At the 2011 Defence Surveyors' Association seminar, Rod Siggs gave a talk mainly on the post-1950's mobile train from its inception to its phasing out of service after the Iraq War. This talk prompted some research into the earlier, World War Two mobile train vehicles based on the Leyland Retriever 3-ton chassis, those introduced later in the war on the Foden and Thornycroft 10-ton chassis and the early post-war Leyland Hippo 10-ton chassis. Work continues on this but it is hoped to publish an illustrated account shortly.

In the meantime it is thought that contributing a few illustrated notes on the computing vehicle based on the Bedford RL chassis might generate a few memories from some of the "fieldies" within the Association.

Descriptions and photographs of the mobile train have appeared from time to time in the Ranger and souvenir publications such as the 250th Anniversary booklets. Additionally, "Military Engineering Vol XIII – Reproduction" contains a section on the mobile train and first mention of the Computing Vehicle :

"In addition to the above reproduction vehicles which are described in more detail in the following paragraphs, there are two ancillary vehicles for technical personnel:

Topo Drawing Vehicle Type VT 1 and Computing Vehicle Type VO 1.

The first vehicle is equipped to carry 10 topo draughtsmen with drawing tables, a layout table for slotted template, and various items of photo-interpretation equipment: there are also facilities for scribing. At present the vehicle exists in prototype form only.

The second vehicle is a standard 3-ton GS vehicle especially adapted for the use of computers: it is also fitted with a radio transmitting and receiving equipment for general communications purposes as well as for reception of radio time signal information. Neither of these vehicles is described further in this book."

Any further information on the Topo Drawing Vehicle Type VT 1 would be appreciated. Doubtless there still exists a Complete Equipment Schedule and User Handbook for this vehicle, but the School Library, once a repository for this type of publication has clearly been the subject of archive vandalism and little remains of the vast amount of material that once existed in file boxes on its shelving in the 1980's.



Truck at Tenom

First acquaintance with the Computing Vehicle was on taking over, from Ken Harding, 2 Topo Troop of 84 Survey Squadron in Tenom, Sabah in 1966. The Troop was based in some ex-Public Works Department (PWD) huts on the Keningau road just beyond the traditional Government Rest House. The computing vehicle, together with its single-axle 10KVA generator, were parked alongside the huts, the vehicle being jacked-up, and it was used as the Troop Commander's office. This special-purpose box-bodied vehicle on a Bedford RL chassis was to be my daily place of work for the next year, all computing by the field survey techs and A-tradesmen being carried out in the PWD huts in which the troop was based.

The entrance was at the back via a metal ladder. Inside, on either side, were two worktops with drawer units for FACIT calculating machines and swivel office chairs. All work tops were provided with angle-poise lamps. The left side worktop was shorter than the right because the radio was on the rear, left wall.

This was a C11/R210 Larkspur Range radio. At the front of the box was a full-width row of about four filing cabinets under a 2-3 drawer plan press and worktop.

Above the front plan press were the outlets of a row of two or three air-conditioning units and externally these projected over the drivers cab. On my arrival I found that these constantly leaked a trickle or stream of condensation into the vehicle but the simple expedient of re-levelling the vehicle on its supports resolved this. Actually, there was no computing done in the vehicle at all, except the monthly battle to resolve the Imprest and Lands & Surveys

Accounts. Because of the air-conditioning, it was really quite a comfortable working environment despite the outside temperature.



The vehicle never took to the road at Tenom but at the end of 1966 it was decided that the Troop should move to Labuan and this of course entailed a Troop move. Tenom had no road link with the capital, Kota Kinabalu, then called Jesselton but known colloquially as Api Api (fire fire) due to its history of wooden houses catching fire. Tenom was located at the end of a narrow-gauge railway line which ran southwards from Jesselton along the China Sea coast for some distance the landward side in those days being padi in which water buffalo or Kerbau browsed, backed by forest; before turning east along the banks of the River Padas gorge. After a six hour journey in a rail car one emerged from this gorge on the Tenom plain and turned north a few miles to reach Tenom. From Tenom a gravel road ran a further 30 miles north to Keningau the former Troop base before the move to Tenom.

The problem was that along this railway line there were several tunnels one or more of which would not allow the vehicle to pass through on a low-loader truck. The solution was to move the vehicle by rail as far as Papar and then drive it to Jesselton. Came the day of the move the Troop personnel, less LCpl Holliday, moved by rail-car to Jesselton. LCpl Holliday, for some very minor misdemeanour, had the unenviable job of accompanying the 3-tonner, Land Rover and assorted kit that went on the slow steam train. My Troop Sergeant, Alf Isherwood, and I travelled separately to Papar where we off-loaded the computing lorry from a low loader onto Papar Station platform and somehow from there on to the road.

From Jesselton, the computing vehicle, the 3-ton Bedford RL and the troop Land Rover and trailer and Cpl Watson's car and all the troop stores were moved to Labuan by an RPL (Ramp Powered Lighter) where the troop was allocated two huts very near the old civil airport terminal. The vehicle could just be fitted between these huts and it resumed its static duty as troop office.

It was in Labuan that the radio came into its own. With some assistance from the RAF a special aerial was rigged up which allowed communication to the hilltops on the mainland whose trig points were being occupied to re-observe to second order standard the traverses hurriedly observed to third order standards by the troop shortly after the Indonesian Confrontation began. The observing teams, as well as using their tellurometers for line of sight communications were equipped with A13HP sets.

The Comp Truck was still there between the huts in mid-1967 when I left it on RHE. What its ultimate fate was I know not. I assume it was at some time back-loaded to 84 Survey Squadron in Singapore.

The author of this short note would welcome any further information or anecdotes from "fieldies" relating to the Computing Vehicle or from draughtsmen on the Topo Drawing Vehicle. (Contact via editor).

Notes: One of the images illustrating this note are of a vehicle at Barton Stacey belonging to 19 Squadron and for younger readers - RHE - meant Return to Home Establishment - that is, posted back to the UK.

Mike Nolan

Exercise Skye High 1978

In the autumn of 1978 Air Survey Troop of 19 Squadron went on an adventurous training exercise in the north west of Scotland designed to get them out of Block 101 and into some fresh air – very, very fresh as it turned out!

The main party travelled by train taking the sleeper from Kings Cross to Inverness and then on the incredibly scenic route across the Highlands to the Kyle of Loch Alsh where we met up with the road party. The sleeping compartments had been booked in the name of '19 Topo Sqn' but some railway wag labelled the compartments '19 O'Bottom Sqn'...probably ex RCT, no wonder the trains never ran on time!

Our accommodation was a couple of huts at Balmacara, a few miles south of the Kyle, which were okay if somewhat austere – still – we came from the huts of Barton Stacey so no change then! Part of the deal for the use of the huts was that we were to do a number of days work for the National Trust of Scotland. This took the form of clearing culverts and ditches on tracks way up in the hills and, whilst it was hard work (and a million miles from pushing a dot), it was quite satisfying. It was during this phase of the exercise that the Regimental 2i/c, Dick Ellis, visited for a couple of hours having made the day-long trip north before almost immediately heading back south again.

I can only remember three of the 'adventurous' pursuits. We were taken by 3-tonner to the palindromic hamlet of Glenelg where we visited the famous brochs and then started to walk back to Balamacara up over the high ridgeline. However, the farther we walked the stronger grew the wind until near the crest it was blowing a full Scottish gale and so we took the easy option of finishing the downhill bit in the truck. On returning to the camp we found our cook desperately hanging on to the window frame in the main room which had blown inwards in the gale.



Our second walk was a 20-mile circular one that involved a 2500ft ascent taking us to the Falls of Glomach, Britain's second highest waterfall. On the last leg Brian Higgins fell ill and collapsed with breathing difficulties. We managed to get the Land Rover to him and whisked him off to the local GP who diagnosed a severe chest infection to be treated by antibiotics and a week's rest in the local guest house where the landlady cosseted 'the poor wee lad' with magnificent home cooking.

The final highlight was a day on the Royal Navy tender that looked after the Sound of Raasay submarine training range – recently famous for the grounding of *HMS Asute*, the Navy's latest very high tech submarine. The civilian crew said that they augmented their 'meagre' pay by fishing for mackerel which were incredibly plentiful and they happily lent us their fishing tackle. However, the sum total of the Troop's catch was six small fish so unlike Higgins – we soldiered on with compo yet again that night.

Most evenings we went to the bar of the Balmacara Hotel and 'relaxed' allowing us to get to know our new troop commander, Alan Milne, and likewise, for him to get to know us – warts and all! In all, Ex Skye High was fairly typical of adventurous training exercises during the Seventies and Eighties – not too adventurous but generally good fun away from Barton Stacey.

Alan Gordon

MILITARY SURVEY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

1900hrs Friday the 15th of March 2013

Location: Sgts Mess, Denison Barracks, Hermitage

As you will all be aware from the last newsletter and the 2012 AGM (if attended) our next AGM rapidly follows the last one and in subsequent years will continue to be held in the spring separate from any major reunions which will be run separately later in the year.

We are financially obliged to hold an AGM and this will take place on the evening of the 15th March 2013 and would encourage all members that are able, to attend. None of our meetings are boring nor are they long and anyone who has attended a meeting as currently chaired will be aware that they are short, to the point and entertaining; this will not change.

We intend to provide sustenance; what this will be is dependent on the numbers attending and it could vary from light bites all the way up to a barbeque (probably too cold) if numbers were really large. We shall support this from central funds but you will be asked to contribute something towards this on the night rather than in advance, any such charge per head is expected to be minimal and as you all know the beer is not expensive.

Thus your Committee with the kind permission of Commander JAGO, Col Mark Burrows and of course the RSM, WO1(RSM) W (Will) Robinson, extend an invitation to members to attend the AGM in the Sgts Mess Hermitage at 1900hrs on Friday the 15th March 2013.

Note: the bar will be open from 1800hrs and the committee will be present to welcome you.

Food will be served after the AGM is finished and the presentation has been made to the deserving Sapper - about 2000hrs. It is hoped that the Commander or the CO will brief members on current and future operations as well.

As ever, we do need to know what the attendance might be and thus we ask that members make a commitment as early as possible indicating their attendance or otherwise – thank you.

Accommodation: We are hopeful that a number of rooms will be available in the Sgts Mess and that this might be reciprocated by the Officers Mess. These will be allocated on a first come first served basis. **You need to contact me directly should you wish to take up this offer - assuming it will be available.**

Dress: Smart casual or better if you wish!

It is vital to establish firm attendance figures early and so once again we would request that you return the attached form **ASAP** but in any case before the 28th February 2013.

Mick Perry - Event Organiser

Problems, enquiries Tel 01635 37510; Email mandpdperry@sky.com

URGENT ----- RETURN THE FORM ATTACHED ON THE LAST PAGE ----- URGENT

BEFORE 28TH FEBRUARY 2013

Deaths of Old Comrades

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of the following old comrades.

Pamela Hartley

Association member Thomas Hartley's wife Pamela passed away on the 19th of September in the East Surrey Hospital. She regularly attended reunions with him and was well known and popular with all who met her.

Martin Henshaw

Martin joined the army as a boy soldier, trained in a repro trade and was later commissioned. He commanded 22 Squadron on two separate occasions and between these appointments he was seconded to the Singapore Armed Forces as an advisor in the setting up of their Mapping Unit. After retiring took up the appointment of Paymaster at Hermitage. A fuller obituary is on the website.

Peter Hunt

Peter Hunt was SI Air/Carro and then OC 47 Squadron in the early 1960s before he returned to his native New Zealand to take up an academic appointment at the University of Otago. His love of wild places saw him spend two years in Antarctica and four months as a surveyor on an expedition blazing a trail across the Great Australian Desert. He died recently after a long illness. A fuller obituary is on the website.

Tom Key

Tom joined the army as an adult recruit in 1962 and trained as a camera operator, a trade at which he became extremely well respected. He had a very pleasant mild manner that earned him friends wherever he was posted and he was particularly well known for the way in which he mentored those junior to him. He left the service after a successful full career and then worked for Excel Litho where he rose to become the technical director. Tom died in mid September and was buried in Brackley.

Neil 'Scouse' McQueen

Scouse McQueen was an ACC cook who served with 84 Squadron in Borneo and then with 14 Squadron in Germany. However, in Borneo he was far more than a cook, taking a lead role running the troop base and frequently joining the surveyors in the jungle. After leaving the service he returned to Liverpool and worked at the Ford factory until retirement. Scouse died suddenly on the 24th of September after a short fight with cancer. A fuller obituary is on the website.

Ruth Mott

Ruth was born in Yattendon and from the age of 14 was employed in the kitchens of several grand houses. From 1957 until 1971 she worked in the admin offices at Hermitage before becoming a 'celebrity' television cook and an adviser on 'below stairs' life in large country homes to a number of films including Gosford Park. She died, aged 95, on the 28th of July.

The secretary emails details of the deaths of not only Association members but also of any former military surveyors to all on the email distribution list as soon as he receives information. He relies very much on people informing him of a death and it would be appreciated if anyone knowing of such an event would contact Rod immediately so that others may have time to attend the funeral.

Current Financial Status

Bank accounts from statements as at 5th of October 2012:

Current Account	£ 969.18
Reserve Account	£7,718.89
Geo Soldiers' Fund	£2,498.61. Ring fenced
Total	£11,186.68

Commitments

Geo Soldiers' Fund	£2,498.61
Other*	£3,450.00
Total	£5,948.61

Working Capital **£5,238.07**

* contingencies ,standard bearers, awards, John Stevens Award, AGM and functions.

Alf Isherwood: Hon Treasurer

Contact Details

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Asset or Liability?

A point of issue was raised following the Treasurer's résumé of the audited accounts of the Association and Auditor's Comments which was how a sum of money could be both an **Asset** and a **Liability** (this concerned the Soldiers' Fund).

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the accounts had been audited and found to be satisfactory but a definitive answer would be given to the membership which is as follows:-

*Two professional accountants have agreed that there is no problem in book-keeping terms with money being recorded both as an **Asset** and a **Liability**. All cash held (whether in a bank account or wherever) is an asset and if it is owed or earmarked for an event or similar (eg. the Soldiers' Fund) it is a liability.*

Visit www.militarysurvey.org

MILITARY SURVEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

1900hrs FRIDAY THE 15th OF MARCH 2013

SEND RETURN BEFORE 28 FEBRUARY 2013 TO:

M. Perry, 101 Craven Road, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5NL

Problems? [Then contact me on] mandpdperry@sky.com or Tel; **01635 37510**

From: Forename:..... Surname:.....	
Address: -	TelNo: -
	E-mail:-
Type & Make of transport:.....Registration No	

I *shall/*shall not be attending the AGM on Friday 15 March 2013; I will be bringing the following guests:

1 2..... 3.....

PLEASE - PLEASE REMEMBER THE GEO SUPPORT FUND

I enclose a cheque to support this for £..... payable to "Military Survey Branch REA"

If you have any special dietary needs or require **disabled access** please detail these below and every attempt will be made to accommodate them.

.....

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.

*Delete as appropriate.