



# The Military Survey (Geo) Branch

Winter Newsletter 2014 – issue 54

## CONTENTS

Chairman's Piece – page 1

Military Survey in the First World War  
– page 2

A/CSM George William Matheson R.E.  
D.C.M. M.S.M.  
(St Stanislas 2nd Class)  
– page 3

AAC Chepstow 64C 'A' Coy Reunion  
– page 15

42 Engr Regt (Geo) – Move to Wyton  
– page 17

Sport – BAOR Rugby Cup 1965  
– page 19

Reginald Lawson – A Soldier of 14 Field  
Svy Coy  
– page 20

Notices  
– page 21

Obituary – Trevor Richards  
– page 22

Accounts  
– page 22

DSA Seminar, Winchester  
– page 23



## Chairman's Piece

As we march rapidly towards the festive season, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year with good health and happiness. Mind you, I am writing this in early November and assuming that our new editor is going to have an easy ride for his first newsletter and get it out sometime in December! All of which brings me on to my thanks to Alan Gordon for all his hard work over many issues of the newsletter which under his editorship has become what I believe to be the most important contribution to our branch. I am of course equally grateful to Noel for taking on this role and as you will see from the different style he has grabbed the bull by the horns.

The last RSM, Will Robinson, has moved on commissioning and we are now supported in the committee by WO1 Mark Kieras, the SMI at the RSMS. We will be hearing more from him over the next couple of years as he keeps us in touch with what the serving chaps are up to. Continuing on the theme of those who actively support the branch I have to report that Mick Nottage has resigned from being a Standard Bearer and Mike Payne is reducing his commitment to that of supporting families at funerals. Both have been fantastic contributors and thoroughly appreciated by those they have supported. On behalf of the membership I would like to thank you both very much for your efforts. Which brings me to the call for volunteers, is there anyone out there who would be willing to put themselves forward to carry our standard on occasions? If so please contact Rod Siggs or Mike Payne who can let you know better what it involves. Our joint project to create a photographic archive in partnership

with the DSA has slowed up somewhat as the DSA have asked for a more rigorous approach to the project and in particular identifying a long term custodian for the finished product. To that end a couple of us are visiting the RE Museum later this month to hold discussions with them to find out what if anything they are doing in the field and to gauge their interest in our ideas. Once we can see how the future looks for the archive both the DSA and ourselves will be better able to judge the overall costs and commitments. We'll keep you posted. That's it for now, all the best and I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

*Gus Cross*

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## ***“What did you do in the Great War Granddad?”*** **Military Survey in the First World War**

The long hot summer of 1914 has gone down in history in almost idyllic terms, nationally Britain was the most powerful and wealthy nation on earth ruling an empire on which the sun never set and at a personal level many in the country were living better than any of their ancestors had ever done. For the military surveyors of 13, 14 and 19 Companies life carried on at a predictable pace as they meticulously worked on the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain as they had done throughout their careers. However, after only a few weeks of diplomatic manoeuvrings across Europe this peaceful existence came to an abrupt end as war was declared and Britain put together an Expeditionary Force from its small regular army to send to France. Military Survey's contribution to the BEF was relatively insignificant; only three officers and six soldiers with the GHQ and a small printing section. The mapping taken to France was mainly medium scale French and Belgian sheets many of which turned out to be out of date and inaccurate and the three survey companies were reassigned to other duties.

The swift German advance on the Western Front was finally halted by the 'miracle on the Marne' at which point both sides started to dig trenches and the stalemate commenced as did the need for large scale accurate mapping and therefore for military surveyors to deploy to France and the Ordnance Survey to take on the major map production role.

The 1st Ranging Section RE comprising an officer and four men, whose duties were to fix the position of targets from aircraft signals, was formed in November 1914 and moved to France and in January 1915 the first topographical sections crossed the channel to work on the Western Front.

In this static war artillery became of prime importance with ever increasing numbers of ever larger guns. Two different methods were developed to locate the positions of enemy guns; flash spotting resected a gun's position by observing its flash from several known observation posts whilst sound ranging relied on microphones placed at known positions capturing the sound of the gun firing and then complicated equipment using the known speed of sound fixed the gun's location. Both methods required accurate survey control and up to date large scale mapping. Another innovation was the use of aerial photography for both the identification of enemy positions and also for use in the compilation of this new mapping.

In March 1916 the topographical, flash spotting and sound ranging sections were incorporated along with a map section and headquarters to form field survey companies, one for each Army, and later a print section was added.

A field survey depot was also established in France and the Ordnance Survey created an Overseas Branch near St Omer. The need for survey support continued to grow and in May 1918 the field survey companies on the Western Front were reorganised into five Survey Battalions.

The increased importance of military survey was also reflected in the other theatres with field survey companies based in Italy, Egypt and Salonika. By the end of the war Military Survey had almost 6,000 in uniform.

Military Survey's contribution to the war effort cannot be underestimated. The accurate identification of enemy batteries allowed the introduction of 'predicted fire' which did away with the need for preliminary ranging fire thus providing the element of surprise for an attack which was used so effectively from 1917 onwards. Thus flash spotting, sound ranging and the provision of an accurate survey network and mapping were war winning factors.

*Alan Gordon*

## 19573 Sergeant (A/CSM) George William Mathieson RE D.C.M. M.S.M. (St Stanislas 2<sup>nd</sup> Class)

### Introduction

I few years ago while chatting to a neighbour I discovered that her father had enlisted in the Royal Engineers prior to the onset of WW1 and had later joined an Ordnance Survey Battalion. George Mathieson was born in Helmsdale Sutherland Scotland in 1891 and went on to join his father in the family plumbing business.

He later enlisted in the Royal Engineers at Helmsdale on 6 November 1909. His headmaster records in his letter of recommendation that he had some military experience having previously joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Sutherland Volunteer Artillery, a territorial unit. On completion of his training he joined 3 Field Squadron RE and remained within the UK until October 1914.

### World War 1

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Squadron RE was part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division formed at Windmill Hill Camp Ludgershall in early September 1914. It left there on 12 October and began to embark next day at Southampton on S.S. City of Benares (war diary). After some sailing delay due to suspected submarine activity in the English Channel, it arrived at Boulogne on 14 October and proceeded to Bruges as part of IV Corp. The service record of George records that he was with the B.E.F. in France from 12 October 1914 to 12 February 1916.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division was involved in a number heavy engagement during the remainder of 1914 and 1915. At the beginning of 1916 they found themselves located in the area of Embry in the Nord-Pas-De-Calais Region close to the Belgium border. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Squadron RE was supporting the divisional regiments and on the night of January 12<sup>th</sup> George was in charge of working party found by the Essex Yeomanry when they came under heavy machine fire at close range. He then went to assist a wounded man and brought him safely back to the trench and then volunteered to retrieve the wire which had not been put up. Again on January 21<sup>st</sup> he assisted an R.E officer to rescue a man under similar circumstances. For these actions he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Acting Sergeant Matheson had also been Mentioned in Despatches by Field Marshall Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief of the BEF on 15 October 1915; Published in the London Gazette on 1 January 1916.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1916 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Squadron's war diary (WO 95/1146/3) records that 19573 a/Sgt G W Matheson was wounded and repatriated to the UK and spent a long time in hospital, and at his home town recovering.

When on leave in Helmsdale he was presented with an inscribed gold watch by the people in his village. He was delighted when the school children were given a holiday to celebrate the occasion.



*Sgt Matheson is in the foreground with I believe his mother standing behind.*



18007-4 ES 100,000 11/15 HW V(P) Zc orms/W. 3121/2 Army Form W. 3121.

3<sup>rd</sup> Field Sqdn. Brigade. 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry. Division. Cavalry. Corps. Feb 19 16 Date of Recommendation.

Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name	Action for which commended	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Field Sqdn. R.E.	19573	act Sergeant Mathieson G.W.	For coolness & gallantry under heavy machine-gun fire on the night of Jan 12 <sup>th</sup> . He was in charge of a working party found by The Essex Yeomanry in the front of STICKY FRENCH. Heavy machine gun fire was opened on the party at close range forcing the party to retire. Sgt Mathieson helped all the party over the parapet, standing in an absolutely exposed position. He then went out to help in a wounded man over the parapet which he succeeded in doing. He then volunteered to go and fetch in that portion of the wire which had not been put up on the night of Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> he assisted Lieut R.D. Pemb R.E. to rescue a man under similar conditions.	O.C. Essex Yeos O.C 8 <sup>th</sup> Diamtd. Battalion G.O.C 81 Cavalry D.C 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ft G. RE.	D.C.M.	Went forward unhurt & reward

The London Gazette records the following: -

19573 Second Corporal G. W. Math(i)eson,  
Training Depot (formerly 3<sup>rd</sup> Fld. Squadron) R.E. (LG 30 Mar. 1916).

#### **For conspicuous gallantry.**

*When in charge of a wiring party the enemy opened heavy machinegun fire at close range. He helped all his party over the parapet, standing in a very exposed position, and then went out again first to help a wounded man and then recover the wire which had been left. On another occasion he assisted to rescue a man under similar conditions.*

At some point during 1917/18 Sgt Matheson transferred to the Survey Battalion and became a member of 19 Survey Company based in Southampton.

#### **British Intervention in North Russia 1918-1919**

The intervention brought about the involvement of foreign troops in The Russian Civil War on the side of the White Movement. This intervention was also known as the Northern Russian Expedition, the Archangel Campaign and the Murmansk Deployment.

The formation of the expeditionary force included three NCOs which were selected from 19th Survey Company, and were Sergeant-Major Wilde in command, Sgt Matheson and Sgt Bristow.



*Sgt Matheson seated centre*

## Background

In 1917 Russia was in a state of political strife. Following the February Revolution the Tsar abdicated and the Russian Provisional Government pledged to continue fighting the Germans on the Eastern Front. The Allies had been shipping supplies to Russia since the beginning of the war in 1914 through the ports of Archangel, Murmansk and Vladivostok.

The war became unpopular and political and social unrest increased with the Bolsheviks gaining widespread popularity. The Russian army was in disarray with mutiny and desertions, and was defeated by the German and Austro-Hungarian forces during the June 18 offensive. An attempt to set up a military dictatorship by staging a coup in late August 1917 failed and following the October Revolution the Bolsheviks assumed power.

On 23 December 1917 the Allied Supreme War Council agreed to support anti-Bolsheviks troops in Russia.

The newly formed Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk on 3 March 1918 with Germany, formally ending the war on the Eastern Front. This of course permitted redeployment of German soldiers to the Western front, where the British and French Armies were waiting American reinforcements.

At this point the Allies had a number of concerns. There were large amounts of supplies and equipment at the Russian ports, which they did not want to fall into the hands of either German or the Bolsheviks. Also in April 1918 a division of German troops landed in Finland increasing speculation that they might attempt to capture the Murmansk-Petrograd (St Petersburg) railway and subsequently the strategic port of Murmansk and possibly Archangel.

Faced with these concerns and the threat of Bolshevism, the nature of which worried many Allied governments the British and French decided upon a military intervention in Russia. They had three objectives:

1. Prevent the German or Bolshevik capture of Allied material stockpiles in Archangel.
2. Mount an attack helping the Czechoslovak legions on the Trans-Siberian railway. (50,000 Czech neutral troops attempting to leave Russia)
3. Resurrect the Eastern front by defeating the Bolshevik army with the help of the Czechoslovak Legions and an expanded anti-Bolshevik force of local citizens and stop the spread of communism and the Bolshevik cause in Russia.

Severely short of troops to spare, the British and French requested that President Wilson provide American soldiers for the campaign. Against the advice of the US Department of War, Wilson agreed to the limited participation of 5000 US Army troops known as the "American North Russia Expeditionary Force". A further 8000 American troops were shipped to Vladivostok.

Numbers of allied soldiers who were present in the indicated regions of Russia:

- 40,000 British (in the Archangel and Vladivostok regions)
- 23,351 Greeks who withdrew after three months (in Crimea, Odessa and Kherson)
- 13,000 Americans (in Archangel and Vladivostok regions)
- 12,000 French and French colonial (mostly in Archangel and Odessa regions)
- 11,500 Estonians (in north-western Russia)
- 5,333 Canadians (4,192 in the Vladivostok region, 1,100 in the Murmansk and Archangel regions and 41 in Baku region)
- 4,000 Serbs (in the Archangel region and Siberia)
- 4,000 Romanians (in the Archangel region)
- 2,500 Italians (in the Archangel region and Siberia)
- 2,300 Chinese (in the Vladivostok region)
- 150 Australians (mostly in the Archangel region)



There were also a number of Russian companies which were mainly conscripted and attached to allied units for training and control.



*This map gives an idea of how and where the various forces were positioned during the period of the intervention.*

<http://www.vox.com/a/world-war-i-maps>.

## British Contingent

On 19 September 1918 Brig-General Ironside was in France commanding the 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. At the time he was a Major in the Gunners a lieutenant-colonel in the Army by brevet and a temporary brigadier-general. He was summoned urgently to speak to his Corps Commander, Sir Aylmer Haldane and instructed to return home at once. He was told to report to the CIGS on the following Sunday morning. The CIGS Sir Henry Wilson advised him that he had been specially selected to go as the Chief of the General Staff to the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in North Russia whose headquarters were in Archangel; 'Your business in North Russia is to hold the fort until the local Russians can take the field' and 'You are to prepare for a winter campaign'.

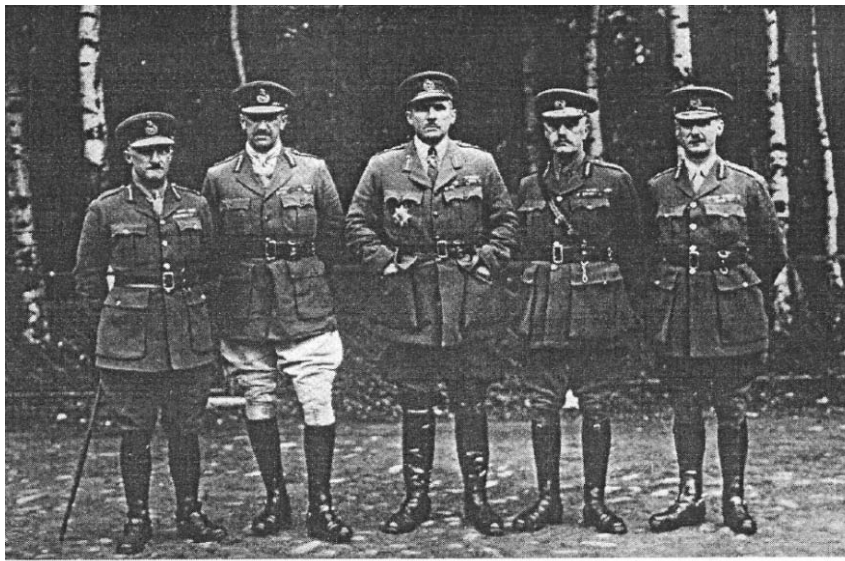
The journey north began from Kings Cross on Wednesday 25 September 1918 heading for Dundee to board the ship *Stephen*. The ship was also carrying French troops and Canadian batteries plus a number of unattached officers, some of which were Russian. They arrived on the 30 September and the following morning Brig Ironside and Brig Needham (DA&QMG) were escorted ashore to meet the Commander-in-Chief General Poole. General Poole had been the Chief of the British Artillery Mission in Russia and was chosen because of his special knowledge of the port of Archangel. General Poole announced that he was returning to England on the 14 October 1918 for a month's leave, so General Ironside was acting C-in-C. On the 19 November 1918 General Ironside received a telegram from the War office confirming that General Poole would not be returning to Archangel and that he had been appointed as C-in-C of the Allied Forces. General Ironside had already been gazetted a temporary major-general.

It is worth noting that the various nations involved had ambassadors in Archangel all of whom were visited by General Ironside. He found however that most were preoccupied with what might happen should an Armistice be signed with the Germans. He did find the British ambassador Sir Francis Lindley very helpful, although did note that passing on sensitive information to the Council of Ambassadors would not have led to proper secrecy.

General Ironside had been visiting the various units of his command, which were spread out over a large area. (The British Order of Battle, which I will not include here, can be viewed on the following website *The Long Long Trail* at <http://WWW.1914-1918.net/northrussia.htm>)

General Ironside in his book describes how he found the best way to travel in winter conditions (page 61) and I think it worth including as it best describes the conditions in which the troops had to operate:

*'Flying was altogether too uncertain. We had very few machines in action and they were too precious to be used for the regular transport of senior officers. All the landing-grounds were small and rough and might be put out of action in a matter of minutes by a snowfall or high wind. A crash or forced landing in the forest might bring disaster from exposure before a post could be reached. Riding horses did not exist. I had to reject Ford vans after lengthy trial. No motor could tackle the snowdrifts and even on the beaten tracks they were never off bottom gear. If they came across a pony-sleigh convoy they created terror amongst the animals. There remained only the sleigh with either ponies or reindeer to pull them. Reindeer could move faster than ponies but their sleighs had no cover from the weather, and special fodder was required which could not be found in the forest.*



GENERAL OFFICERS AT ARCHANGEL

*So I finally decided upon the ordinary transport-sleigh made of light pinewood with its sides laced with hide thongs. It could be filled with hay which kept one warm and could be used as a reserve for the pony. With a system of relays in the directions I wanted to go, I could travel far and fast'.*

The matter of an escort troubled General Ironside a good deal:

*'Mounted men could not keep up with a trotting sleigh, and relays could not be arranged for them. To use foot-soldiers meant a large increase in the number of*

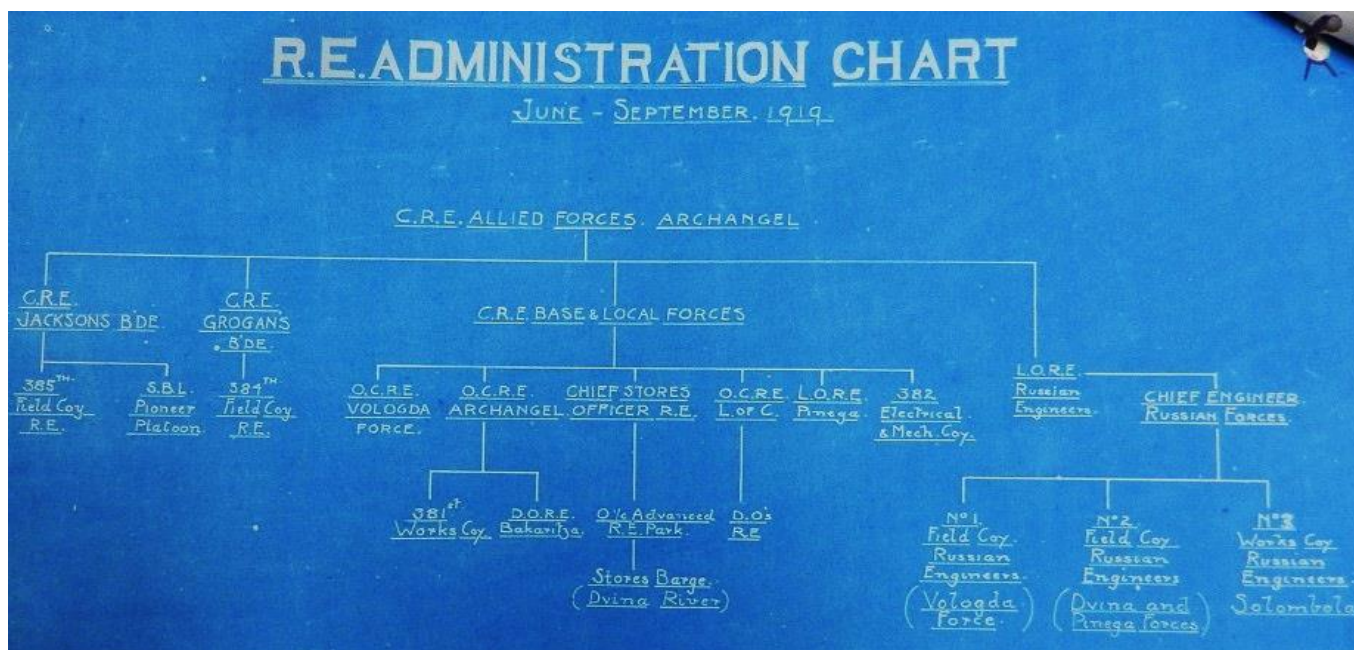
*sleighs I should have to use and I was not sure that sleepy soldiers would be much use in an ambush. I had no ADC, either British or Russian so I decided to go alone taking only my Russian groom Piskoff. He had done three years in a Russian dragoon regiment before going to Canada and was a very handy traveller'.*

I turn now to the structure of the Royal Engineer element of the Allied Forces, which included a number of Russian Engineer Companies.

The Chief Engineer was Colonel R S G Stokes DSO MC RE and supported by an Adjutant (Capt Morgan-Grenville OBE RE) and a Field Engineer (Major Gornall RE).

The Mapping Section does not appear on the chart as such, because it was part of the GHQ staff and probably attached to the Intelligence Branch under the GSO1 Colonel C J M Thornhill DSO Indian Army.

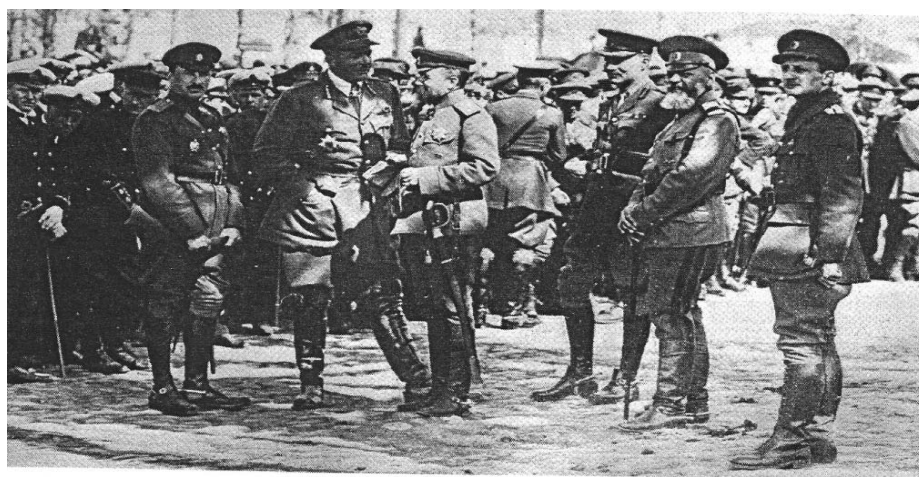




WO 95/5421 and another copy in MFQ 1/208

The Allied Troops were inactive in the winter of 1918, building block houses, with only winter patrols sent out.

General Ironside was concerned as to the future policy of the Archangel force when the thaw came. However he had become aware that the War Office was pressing for a relief force to be sent out in the spring. On the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1919 General Ironside received a telegram from the War Office with the instruction to communicate as much of it as he deemed expedite to the troops. The gist of it was: - *"Although you are cut off from your country by the ice, you are not forgotten.....we intend to relieve you at the earliest possible moment.....you will be back home to see this year's harvest in.....we send you this personal message with the most heartfelt wishes for your speedy safe and honorable return"*.



Gen. Ironside   Gen. Miller   Col. Thornhill   Gen. Savitch   Count Hamilton  
AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF GENERAL GROGAN'S BRIGADE

Colonel Thornhill was the Assistant Military Attaché in Russia and was fluent in Russian, and is pictured below with General Ironside.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 1919 Grogan's Brigade (Temp Brig-General Grogan VC CB CMG DSO The Worcester Regt) arrived in Archangel as the first unit of the relief force.



On the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1919 General Ironside received a personal message from King George V.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

General Ironside.

I had many anxieties about your isolated forces at the commencement of the long Arctic Winter, but as time wore on these anxieties were allayed by the splendid way in which you have faced and mastered all difficulties.

On the arrival of the special relief contingent I desire to congratulate you and your Troops, together with their Allied and Russian comrades, on their achievements in the face of so many hardships, difficulties and perils.

I wish also to assure you of the interest with which I shall continue to watch your operations, and may all good luck attend you.

GEORGE R.I.

29th. May, 1919.

In reply to His Majesty's message he wired to the War Office as follows:-

*"Will you please convey to His Majesty the deep appreciation and gratitude of all ranks for his Gracious Message. All are inspired further to maintain the prestige of the Empire in the duties assigned to them, and the fact that our Sovereign and the Empire are watching us will certainly strengthen our will to succeed"*

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1919 Sadleir-Jackson's (Temp Brig-General Sadleir-Jackson CB CMG DSO 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers) brigade, another element of the relief force had arrived in Archangel and began to disembark.

From the citation below we know the A/CSM George Matheson was in charge of the mapping section that was attached to Sadleir-Jackson's brigade.

The brigade's task was to relieve the existing troops and prepare for an attack on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. The



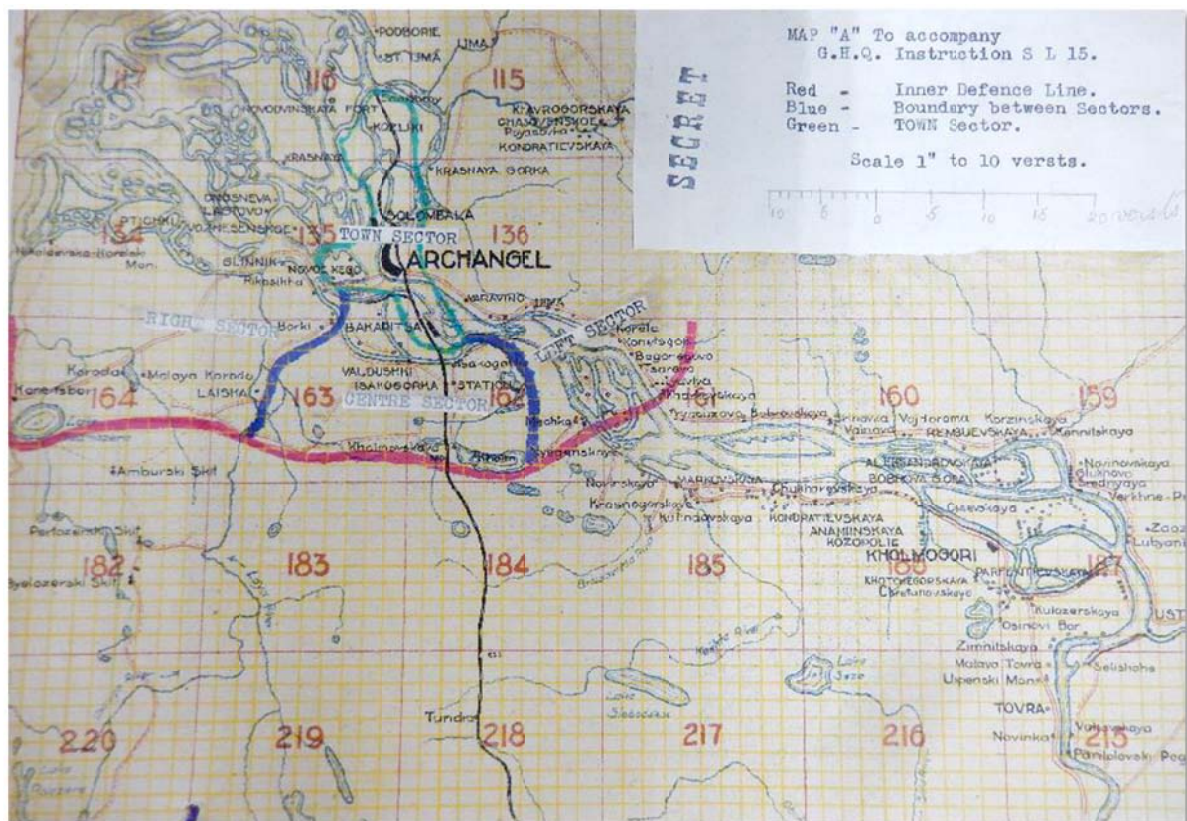
attack went well with the capture of 3000 Bolsheviks. The brigade's casualties amounted to 145 killed and wounded.

General Ironside commented *"It was exactly what we needed for our peaceful evacuation"*

General Ironside's reflections on Russia (page 130):

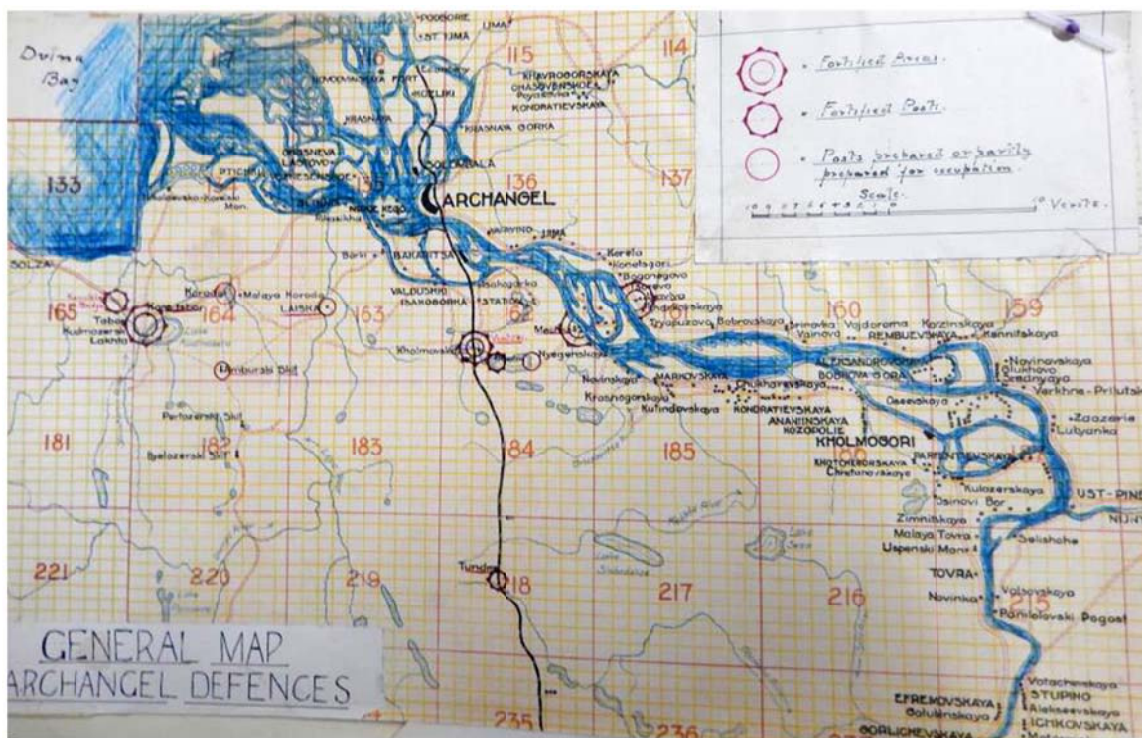
*"I had always had a much too wholesome fear of the vastness of Russia to allow myself to become so involved that I could not get out of the country. To me it was like a great sticky pudding. A hand could be thrust easily into it. Everywhere it gave way so long as the thrust continued. Immediately the thrust ceased the mass began to close steadily in on the hand, wrist and arm. There then came the horrible fear that the hand could never be withdrawn."*

With the arrival of the relief force General Ironside spent a couple of weeks saying goodbye to his old troops of the winter.



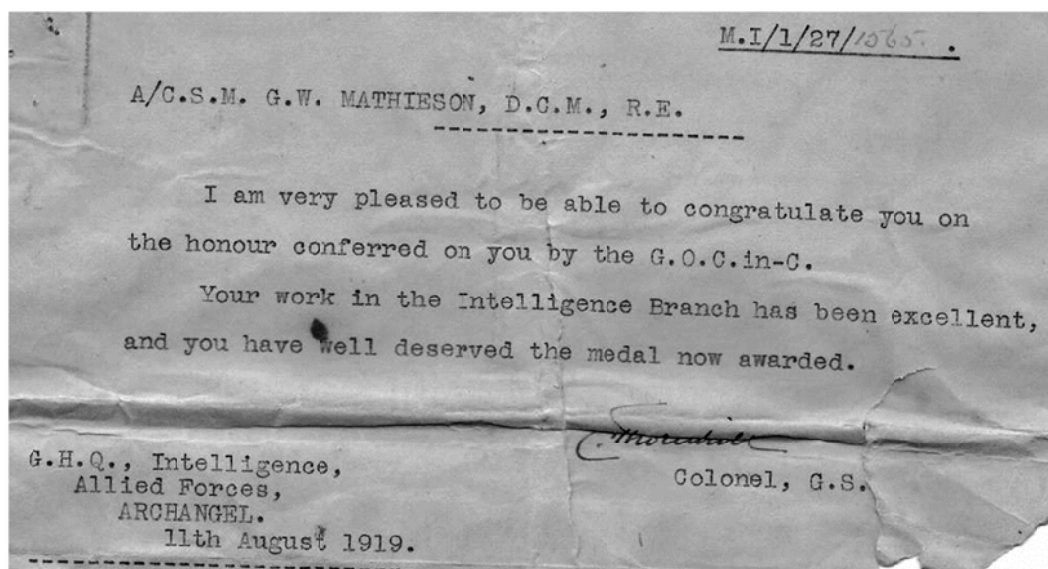
Although not indicated this is probably the type of product produced by the mapping section for GHQ instructions. This shows the defence lines behind which the British would withdraw prior to evacuation. WO32/5673



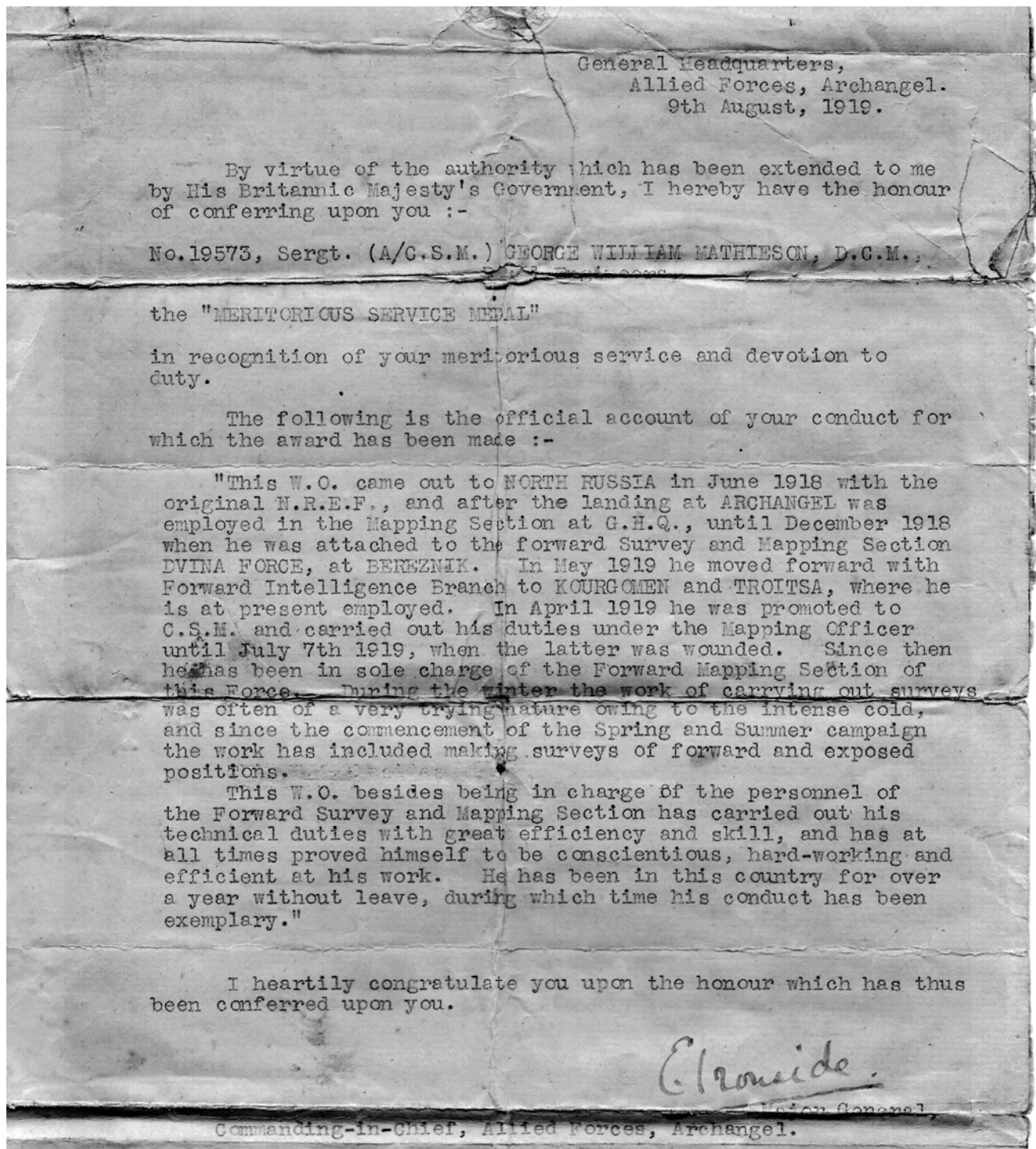


*This map shows the defensive positions covered by the British and White Russian Forces around Archangel. WO32/5673 (Although not ideal the National Archive does permit the use of digital photography to record documents for research purposes.)*

On the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1919 Col C J M Thornhill sent his congratulations on the award of the M.S.M.



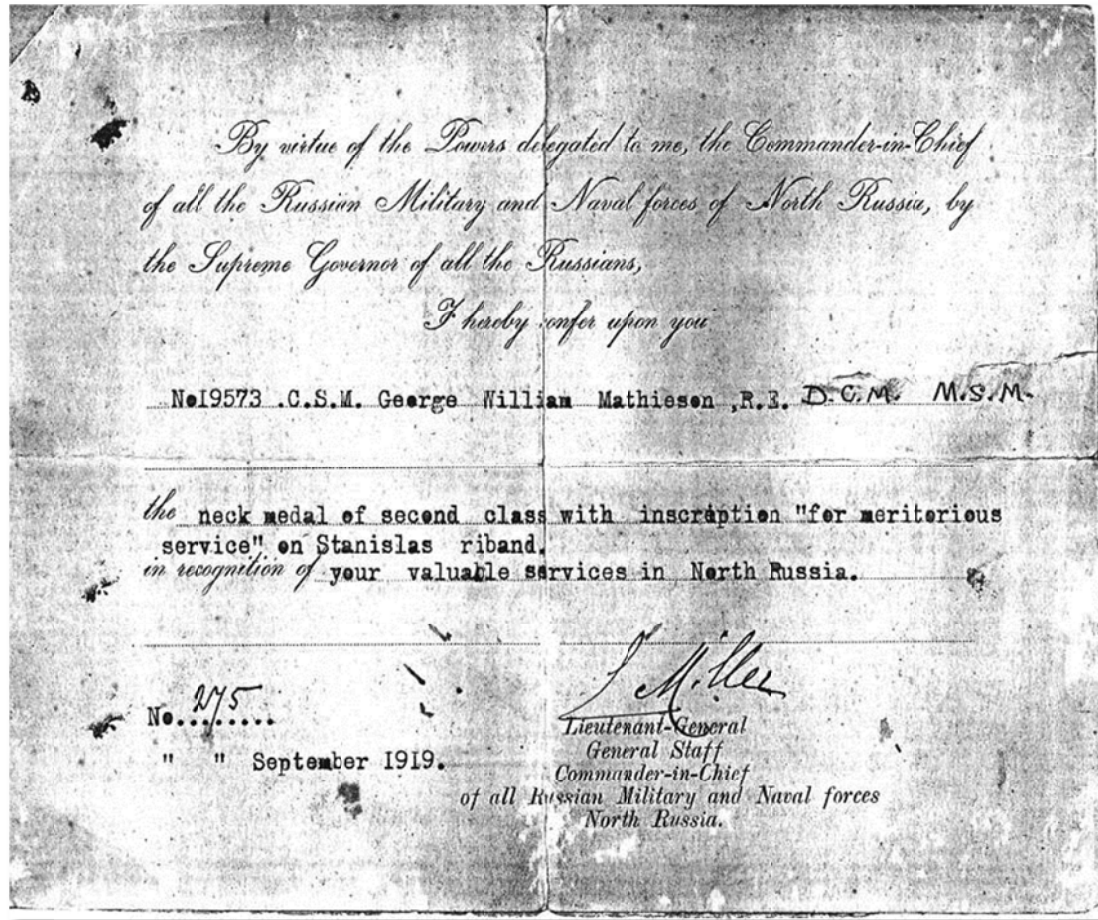
Previously on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1919 A/CSM Mathieson D.C.M was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by General Ironside in recognition of his service and devotion to duty.



Editors Note: I have not as yet identified the Mapping Officer referred to above, although I did come across a Survey Officer with the Canadian Engineers.



In September 1919 George Math(i)eson was awarded - *the neck medal of second class with inscription "for meritorious service" on Stanislas riband, in recognition of your valuable service in North Russia.*



Editor's notes:

1. Unfortunately the whereabouts of this medal is unknown to the family, and I have been unable to obtain a picture.
2. On the right is a cross on the St Stanislas Ribbon.
3. During the First World War a little over 350 Orders of St Stanislas were awarded to British Officers
4. Spink's - Have described it as a medal for *Zeal*. Silver neck medal on a ST. STANISLAS RIBBON to privates first and second class who have served in an exemplary manner for three years and re-enlisted.
5. The Order of St Stanislas (or Stanislaus) - Was originally a Polish award established in 1765, but after the unsuccessful Polish revolution of 1830 Poland was formally absorbed into Russia and it became a general Imperial Russian award. In three classes it had variant designs for Christian and non-Christian recipients, and had Medals of different classes associated as lower-tier awards for non-officer recipients. *European Orders and Decorations to 1945 - Peter Druckers - Shire 2008*



## The Evacuation

As part of the evacuation process a bureau for the registration of persons asking for shipment to Europe and other parts of the world was established. It was calculated that there might be some 18,000 civilian applications, but in the end only 6,000 applied for passages. The ships which were to take the refugees were the same as those used for the troops.

General Ironside has stated that 'the great task before us was the drafting of the Orders for our withdrawal and embarkation'. There were many eventualities for which they had to cater. At the best they hoped to be able to

slip away under cover of the Russians and embark in peace. At the worst they might have to disarm the Russians. They might be able to hand over much of the military stores or might be compelled to destroy them, a task which would be a lengthy one under any circumstances.

The first difficulty was the separation of the British and Russian Forces, which had so far formed one combined army. Each had to be given their own transport and communications, so that they could be independent of one another from the moment the separation was ordered. The stages for the British withdrawal were to take one day if all went well. General Ironside pays great tribute to the dominating brain of General Harry Needham, to him more than anyone they owed the final success of the operation.

By the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October the whole of the Force was in its appointed positions in the Inner Defence Line at Archangel and ready to embark. On the 26<sup>th</sup> General Ironside joined Admiral Sir John Green on his yacht where he planned to spend his last night. On the 27<sup>th</sup> he left harbour to the hearty cheers of the naval ratings and the troops on the transports, on his way to join the ship *Czarista*, which was to take him to England.

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General Ironside on his return from Archangel assumed his substantive rank of Colonel and found himself without a job, and on half pay. The news was not good as he found himself well down the list with few openings, no house and no private means. By chance Col Ironside bumped into General Lord Rawlinson in Whitehall, he having just returned from evacuating Murmansk. Having told Lord Rawlinson of his situation he was told “Go back home and sit down quietly. Meanwhile do nothing rash.”

Col Ironside had taken a cottage at High Wycombe and life went on much the same until 11<sup>th</sup> November, when he opened the *Daily Telegraph* to find that Lord Rawlinson’s dispatches for North Russia had been published and he had been promoted to Major-General for services in the field. It was as he has said “a surprising stroke of good fortune” in just over 5 years of active service he had risen from Captain to Major-General.

General Ironside went on to hold many senior appointments between the wars including Governor of Gibraltar and Commandant of the Staff College Camberley in 1926, and was promoted Lieutenant-General in 1931. In 1933 he returned to India as quartermaster-general and in 1935 was promoted General. In September 1939 he was appointed C.I.G.S. After the Dunkirk evacuation he proposed and the Government agreed that he should become commander-in-chief home forces to prepare against invasion. In July 1940 he was replaced by Sir Alan Brooke, promoted field-marshal and in 1941 raised to the peerage. He retired to his home in Hingham in Norfolk and died there in 1959. (Oxford Dictionary of National Biography)

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George Matheson arrived back in the UK on 8 October 1919 (service record). His movements after disembarkation are unknown but it would seem most likely that he would have re-joined the Survey Battalion based in Southampton, after taking some leave.

On 22 September 1920 he embarked for a detachment to the Gold Coast. It is not clear what work was undertaken but he returned to the UK on 24 June 1921. Whilst undertaking survey work in Northumberland with 16 Survey Company he met and married Jessie Hunter on 22 November 1923 (OS 3/341). They subsequently had two daughters Anna and Jessie

George Matheson remained with the Royal Engineers and was finally discharged on 5 November 1930, after 21 years service. He then took up a position with the Ordnance Survey in Southampton where he remained until retirement. In the last war he was a member of the Home Guard. George Matheson died at Fair Oak Eastleigh Hampshire on 8 February 1965.

## Editors Comments

- I wish to thank Nigel Spencer grandson of George William Matheson for the loan of the service records, citations, photographs and additional ephemera. You will also have noticed that the spelling of George’s surname varies.



- I have spent time setting the scene of the significant events in which George Matheson pursued his career in the Royal Engineers, and particularly within Survey.
- The intervention in Russia in 1918 was unknown to me as I am sure it is too many, but is a fascinating part of the world, although as described by General Ironside, not an ideal place to fight a war.

### Further Reading

- Baron, Nick. *The King of Karelia – Col P J Woods and the British Intervention in North Russia 1918-1919*. Francis Bootle Publishers, 2007 London.
- Ironside, General Sir W E (afterwards Field Marshall Lord Ironside). *Archangel 1918-1919*. The Naval & Military Press Limited 2007 Uckfield East Sussex.
- Maynard, Major General Sir C. *The Murmansk Venture*. The Naval & Military Press Limited 2010 Uckfield East Sussex.
- Wikipedia. *The North Russia Campaign. North Russia Intervention*.

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## AAC Chepstow 64C 'A' Coy Reunion

The Beachley Old Boys Association (BOBA) weekend provided the perfect forum for the reunion for us 'old boys', with a Friday evening social and buffet at Beachley Camp and a Saturday Reunion Dinner at the Chepstow Race course, all with transport arranged and all at very modest prices so keeping admin and costs to a minimum.

Many of us had not met up for at least 47 years: The time after leaving Chepstow having completed our apprentice trade training and then our short stint at Training Regiments RE, Cove, to make us into Sappers. Of course over the years those of the Surveyor trades had had a far better chance of crossing paths again, as many did, but the artisan tradesmen seemed to disappear to the four winds, many never having had the chance to practise their trades again. Even so, John Rowan, who undertook all the hard work getting us together for the weekend, managed to track down four 'chippies' for our event and some hard to find ex surveyors that had not stayed the full career course.



*Most of 64C 'A' Coy – Jimmy Howcroft and yours truly are missing, believed to have been 'Gammy's Orderlies' when this was taken.*

Fifteen of the above Army Apprentices of intake 64C 'A' Coy, Chepstow, got together over the weekend 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September 2014, to mark the golden anniversary of having passed through the gates of Beachley Camp.

All of us stayed at the same boarding house in Chepstow, so met up on the Friday afternoon and although Dave Bernasconi, sporting a full beard was recognisable only once he spoke, all the others were instantly recognisable. We were all a bit thicker round the middle and a bit thinner on top, but still the same guys as 50 years ago. One had travelled from Bahrain, another from Cyprus, and yet another had given up part of his holiday in Tenerife and others travelled many miles from all over the UK to get there. Instant chat where, what, how pursued until we had to get ready for the evening social and buffet at Beachley Camp.

Saturday's breakfast was an opportunity for more catching up with those that had been missed the night before as was the rest of the Saturday before the BOBA reunion dinner. The organisers had even managed to sit us all at a big open squared table with a surprise addition of four other lads from our group from different companies. Ian (Gramps) Parr, 'A' coy 64B, also shared our table but the biggest surprise was the inclusion of another member of our group, Dave Smith, who had originally thought moving house was sufficient excuse for not attending the weekend but was able to make the Dinner at short notice. What a party! We possibly generated sufficient power from our non- stop jawing to have lit up Chepstow and surrounding area.

Although it takes a great deal of work trying to locate your old pals, it is infinitely rewarding, and for those of us, who went through Chepstow, BOBA provides a perfect platform for your reunion – it is strongly recommended. And don't leave it too late. We are going to get together again in 3 years to celebrate passing out from what had become the **Army Apprentice College** at that time, and hopefully we'll find even more for that event. "Happy Days."

I am also very happy to report that the BOBA weekend itself, was a great success, and very many thanks to the BOBA Committee that organised all the events and provided the facilities for their annual reunion that we were able to share.

## Beachley Camp

For those, like me, who have not been back since 'Passing Out', Beachley Camp is now home to the 1<sup>st</sup> Rifles who have made a few changes to those made previously by other occupants since it was home to the Apprentices, but it is still very recognisable. A few buildings are missing - 'J' Coy, the old band huts, old cookhouse, RSM's house and a few others. In their place are new buildings for their junior ranks club, a Londis mini supermarket, "Turkish" barbers(?) (cheapest haircut £6.00) and even beards trimmed (?) - goodness knows who has a beard on camp.



*Lofty Gwyn, Ron Forder, Dave Fyffe, Dave Ward, John McGuinness, Chris Yates, Dave Bernasconi, Cyril Wright, Alfie Ryan, Stu Roy, John Rowan, David Critchlow, Paddy Gilmour, Joe Brown, Ian O'Neil, Ian Lawford, Rod Siggs, Gramps Parr, Dave Smith, Jimmy Howcroft*



There's a new cookhouse/canteen/restaurant but all the old senior company's accommodation buildings are still there and used for the same purpose, albeit with fire escapes now ('elf 'N' safety of course). Our 'A' Coy HQ block with the SQMS store is still used for the same purpose and going down the hill toward the School/College HQ and trade blocks it all looks remarkably the same.

The larger general store is still there - although with an anti-tank storeroom, and I am happy to report that the Survey block and even the HQ building, built by apprentices before our time, are still there. The HQ Bldg still in use as the current Regt's HQ, but the education block and most of the trade blocks have all gone but with a new, greatly enhanced MT in situ.

*Rod Siggs*

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## **42 Engr Regt (GEO) move to RAF Wyton**

So here we are, November has arrived and the 'November' moustaches on Wyton Station are unnervingly ever-present. What is also ubiquitous on Wyton Station is 42 Engr Regt (Geo). In July of 2014, 13 Geo Sqn and 16 Geo Sp Sqn made the journey up from Hermitage to be united with 14 Geo Sqn, establishing all regular squadrons of the Regiment at the same location.



On pre-move visits to the site, the practicality and functionality of Roy Lines was apparent. An individual, modern, state of the art building would be the work space provided for each of the Squadrons, giving a sense of identity and unity not only for that Squadron but the Regiment. Squadrons have settled in well to their new homes and not dithered at all. In September, not long after moving in, each Squadron was put through their paces by executing a Regimental exercise at STANTA. Roy Lines provides a spacious multipurpose platform to help the squadrons prepare for not only this exercise, but other exercises, helping the management to successfully deploy. Additionally, Roy Lines offers practical areas to conduct post exercise administration, especially MT where there is a modern vehicle wash down point, speeding up post exercise administration requirements.



It's not just Roy Lines that are practical and useful. The SLAM blocks (living accommodation) are absolutely fantastic. Previously at Hermitage, soldiers had a single room, in a flat of 4 rooms. A kitchenette and a bathroom were shared with no common room. Here at Wyton Station, the accommodation has provided soldiers with a pleasant space in which they can relax and enjoy a level of independence that they haven't been afforded in the past, allowing each individual the flexibility to adapt their own personal space according to their own circumstances.



The facilities at Wyton Station are second to none, providing personnel with a comprehensive service. There is a large, friendly graphics centre, a wood and metal workshop, a post office, a shop, various cafes, conference centres, lecture rooms, a Hive, a hairdressers and places of worship. There is even a bus stop right out the front of the camp gates with transport available to Cambridge. All these facilities and those that manage them, provide an excellent, reliable service.

The sports and fitness facilities are arguably the best that any member of 42 Engr Regt (Geo) has ever had the opportunity to use. There is a hanger that houses various gyms; a cross fit area, a CV area, an indoor 5-a-side football pitch, squash courts, an indoor cricket net and even an indoor tennis court. As well as these facilities, there is a cycle room, enabling users to upload a route of the Tour de France on a big screen, so it seems like the cyclist are riding the route. There are also rooms for Insanity style workouts and a spinning room. There are various classes that run everyday that anybody can go along to and test themselves. All these facilities come hand in hand with a very friendly staff to help and advise you.



The facilities at Wyton Station have helped embed the Regiment and have also helped members of the Regiment socialise and interact with one another. Additionally, these facilities have encouraged the thriving interaction between members of the Regiment with members of other Army Units, the RAF and Royal Navy and not forgetting the civilian population on site, which has been evident throughout the five months that 42 Engr Regt (Geo) has been here. These past five months have been a whirlwind of embedding in working in barracks and on exercises and play. It has been an exciting time for the Regiment with many more to come in the future.

*LCpl C Davies - SST*

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## Sport

Military Survey has always had in its midst a number of elite sportsmen and had great success over the years in many team competitions. Colin Evans has kindly let us have sight of an original copy of a BFBS report of a BAOR Rugby Cup Semi-Final game in 1965 between 14 Field Survey Squadron and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Despite the outcome those that took part have very strong memories of the encounter and were even heard discussing it at the 42 Engr Regiment (Geo) farewell gathering in June this year, nearly 50 years on.

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment were amalgamated in June 2006 and are now known as 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's). The 'Dukes' have a strong Rugby tradition and whilst stationed at Osnabruck from 1965 to 1968 had four consecutive victories in the Army Cup. The late Col Mike Campbell-Lamerton of the 'Dukes' played for the Army, London Scottish, Scotland (23 caps) British Lions in South Africa 1962 and was Captain of the British Lions in Australia and New Zealand in 1966. It is also worth mentioning that our Ricky Braybrooke was an Army team mate of Mike Campbell-Lamerton. I have been in touch with the 'Dukes' Regimental Association ([www.dwr.org.uk](http://www.dwr.org.uk)) to enquire if they had in their archive a photograph of their 1965 team, but unfortunately none could be found. I have transcribed the report as it has faded over the last 50 years and therefore difficult to read.

## Semi Final of The Army Cup BAOR 1965 - report by BFBS Correspondent

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1965 at Dusseldorf in the semi-final of the BAOR Rugby Cup, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment defeated 14 Field Survey Squadron Royal Engineers.

The score? ach never mind that, we'll come to it in a minute. This was a David of a Squadron facing up to a Goliath of a Regiment, the Cup Holders, and what a splendid contest it was! No push over at all!

Right from the first kick of the match, the Survey Squadron rocked the Duke's by playing open attacking rugby. The Sappers won the first five set scrums and dominated the lineout play, getting possession regularly and giving their backs a chance to show their paces. Indeed it was quite against the run of play when the Duke's getting "good ball" from a set scrum in the Sappers 25 out on the right, saw their left winger Robinson go over for a try in the corner which Pettigrew converted with a magnificent screw kick from the touch line. Far from being discouraged the Sappers set to and within five minutes had levelled the scores with a historic try.

From a set-piece scrum 30 yards out in mid field, scrum half Taffy Russell whipped the ball out to his skipper Jordan and on it went, out along the  $\frac{3}{4}$  line to left winger Sgt Briscoe who scampered for the corner pursued by a couple of Duke's backs and faced by full back Mike Hardy. Just as he was about to be clobbered by this trio, Briscoe neatly side stepped, changed direction and darted inside to notch the first try that has been scored against the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Army Cup Rugby for 3 whole years. Jordon converted this classic try and so with the scores level after 15 minutes play, this was indeed all against the Duke's expectations. However they were gradually getting the measure of the Sappers 'modus operandi'. But even after the Duke's took the lead again with another fine try by Edwards, the Sappers nearly levelled the scores again when a penalty by Jordan only sailed narrowly past the upright. Just before half time the Duke's notched another goal to make the interval score 13-5, a try by Ponijazy which Pettigrew converted.

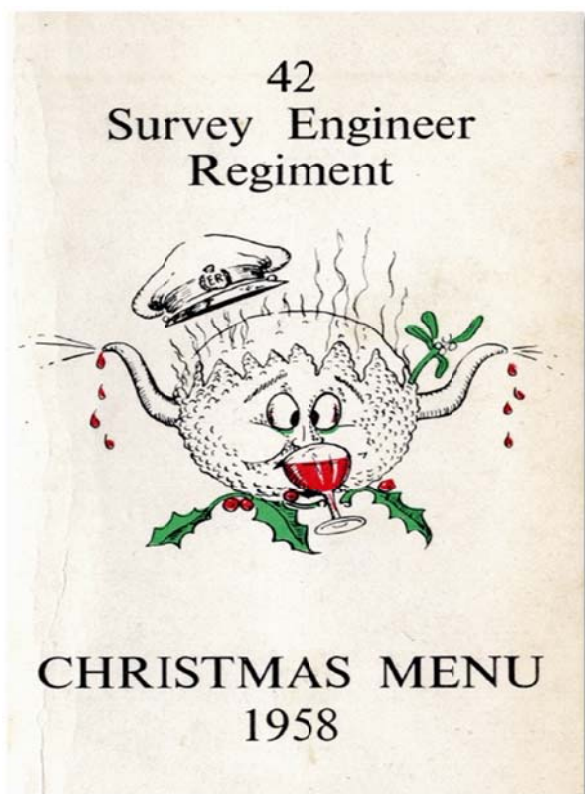
This had been a great first half, full of open attacking rugby on splendidly firm turf – both sides scoring any defensive tactics, no question of tightening up the game forward, feed the 3s and let them do the running and scoring was the tactic of both sides. But in the second half, all the fitness and enthusiasm of the Sappers could avail nothing against the greater experience, especially in the  $\frac{3}{4}$  s, of the Duke's. Combines Services and Barbarians players like fly half Jim Read and centre  $\frac{3}{4}$  Chris Edwards tore the Sappers gallant defence to shreds.

Plugging gaps here there and everywhere, 14 Squadron ran themselves right into the ground, to the point of utter exhaustion. But what a wonderful display that last 20 minutes was of superb open Rugby.

I've never seen anything like it since the All Blacks overwhelmed London Counties at Twickenham 3 years ago. The final score of 47 points to 8 proved the measure of eventual superiority of the Duke's, but does less than justice to the courage tenacity and brave sporting spirit of every one of 14 Field Survey Squadron's team in their glorious exit from the Army Cup in a game to be remembered by all who saw it and too part in it.

### Team

Full Back:	Lcpl SHEPPERD	Lock:	Lcpl SAMUELS
L Wing $\frac{3}{4}$ :	Sgt BRISCOE	Lock:	Cpl MORAN
L Centre $\frac{3}{4}$ :	Lcpl REDFERN	-----	
R Centre $\frac{3}{4}$ :	Lcpl REES	Blind side wing fwd:	Lcpl EVANS
R Wing $\frac{3}{4}$ :	Spr CARTWRIGHT	No 8	Lcpl FOOTE
-----		Open side wing fwd:	Cpl LEA
Stand-off $\frac{1}{2}$ :	Lt JORDAN (Capt)	-----	
Scrum $\frac{1}{2}$ :	Cpl RUSSELL	Reserve:	Spr SPENCER
-----			
Lprop:	Ssgt WALLIS		
Hooker:	Cpl ABERNETHY		
Rprop:	Spr CLARKE		



Alan Gordon found this Christmas Lunch menu cover whilst editing the pages of Terry Evans' photo album, previously scanned by Dave Johnson.

It relates to the time when the Regiment was based at Zyyi, at the height of the EOKA campaign.

As the festive season is nearly upon us we thought it appropriate to include in the newsletter, as hopefully it will jog a few memories?

The editor will be delighted to hear from any member who knows the name of the ARTIST and furthermore what was on the MENU????

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## 14 Field Survey Company – British Second Army – 1944/45

### Reginald Lawson: A Soldier of 14 Field Survey Company

Our webmaster, Dave Johnson, was emailed by a lady called Janet Rouse whose father, Reginald Lawson, had served in 14 Field Survey Company during the Second World War. She had discovered the website and asked Dave if we would be interested in putting a copy of a booklet that was among her father's wartime memorabilia onto the website. She also asked if we could tell her more about 14 Company and so she was sent an extract from the squadron history produced for its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The booklet is entitled "With the Second Army" and details the work and play of 14 Company from the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1944 until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1945.

Janet passed on a few snippets about her father that make fascinating reading. The well-known soldiers' humour was evident in the booklet as Reginald was only 5' 4" but stood between two men in the company photograph who were both 6' 4"! During the several years leading up to D-Day the company was involved in the production up to date detailed mapping for the planned invasion and Reginald told of how he knew when D-Day would take place, give or take a few days due to weather, as far back as April 1942 and hence, along with others in the know, every Monday he had to swear on the bible to keep the secret.





He spoke no German at all and when Hitler's will was found he was asked to photograph it and make 12 copies. He had two armed guards while he did this and it was made quite clear to him that they were not for his protection but rather to shoot him if he tried to make and keep a copy for himself.

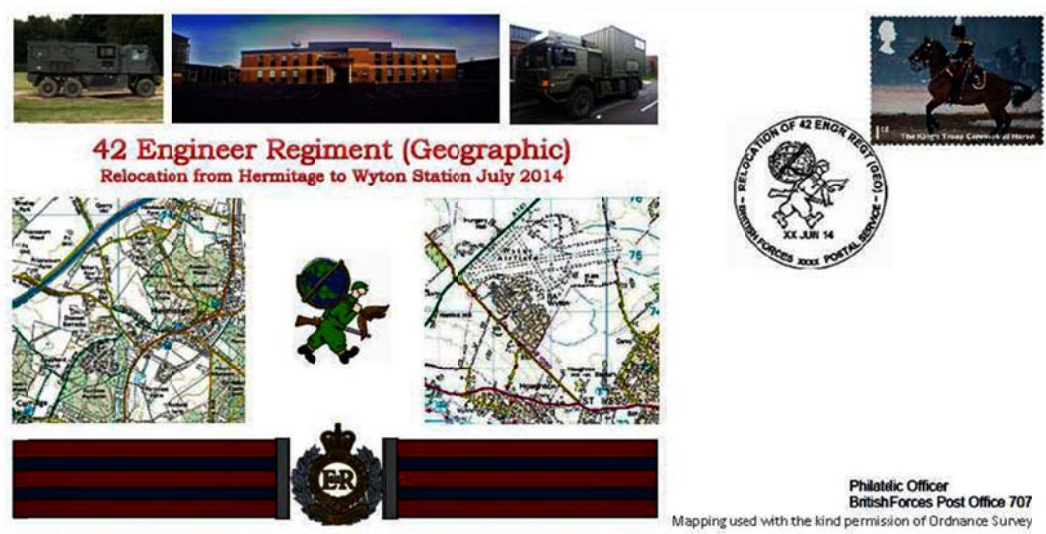
Among the men Reginald worked with were two artists, one was Terence Cuneo later to become one of the best known British artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the other artist always put the initials BP on his drawings, but Janet doesn't know who he was. Janet has lovely drawings of her father done by both these men.

Dave will be putting the 14 Company booklet on line in serial form shortly after publication of the newsletter so visit the site and catch a fascinating glimpse of 14 Field Survey Company's wartime experiences.

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## Notices

### Regimental Farewell to Newbury: Commemorative Stamp Cover



The Regiment commissioned the production of a commemorative stamp cover to mark the relocation of the Regiment from Hermitage to Wyton. This cover is a unique souvenir of a significant event in the history of the Regiment. The cover contains an insert which gives a potted history of the Regiment and further images of its time at Hermitage. All profits will be donated to the GEO Support Fund.

This bespoke souvenir is still available in both standard cover version and the limited edition covers. The limited edition covers were signed by the CO (Lt Col Richard Blunt) and the RSM (WO1 (RSM) Will Robinson) and are strictly and uniquely numbered from 1 to 50. The covers cost £4.00 for the standard item and £8.00 for the limited edition version. There will be a further charge of £1.50 for post and packing. The covers can be obtained by sending a letter and cheque (made payable to 'The Central Bank' 42 Engr Regt (Geo)) to:

Major Dave Humphreys RE QM(T)  
42 Engr Regt (Geo), Roy Lines, Wyton Station, HUNTINGDON, Cambridgeshire, PE28 2EA  
or Tel: 01480 52451 Ext 7028 Mobile 07884 394736

## Obituary

**Trevor Glyndwr Richards** 22<sup>ND</sup> May 1929 – 28<sup>TH</sup> August 2014



19040249 Corporal Richards served in the Royal Engineers from 1947 to 1952. Originally intending to train as a surveyor, he became a printer, an occupation he continued for the rest of his working life. After trade training at Longleat and Hermitage, 'Taff' remained for much of his service at Hermitage, being an essential player in the rugby team. He did serve one tour in Fayid before leaving the army and returning to South Wales, where he married Anne by whom he had two sons Andrew and Geoffrey.

He became a stalwart of the Neath community both in the rugby fraternity and the Masonic society where he reached high rank. He was a keen member of, and contributor to, the Military Survey Branch of the REA and his absence will be sorely missed by those of his old comrades who will remember him with much affection.

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### Financial Report

### Contact Details

Current Financial Status		Secretary
Bank accounts from statements as at 6 October 2014		Rod Siggs
Current account	£4,634.33	11, Merlin Way, Southwood,
Reserve account	£4,350.16	Farnborough, GU14 0PF
		email: <a href="mailto:rod.siggs@ntlworld.com">rod.siggs@ntlworld.com</a>
		Telephone: 01252 660144
Total	<b>£8,974.38</b>	Treasurer
Cheques to clear	£742.59	Alf Isherwood
Combined bank accounts	<b>£8,231.79</b>	8 Riley Road, Tilehurst Reading, RG30 4UX
Geo Soldiers' Funds	£572.63	email: <a href="mailto:alfish@ukfsn.org">alfish@ukfsn.org</a>
		Telephone: 0118 941 4355
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£8,804.42</b>	Webmaster
Commitments		Dave Johnson
Geo Soldiers' Fund	£572.63	Auchen, Hermitage Road, Cold Ash,
Other*	£1,460.00	Thatcham,
		RG18 9JH
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,032.63</b>	email: <a href="mailto:webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk">webmaster@militarysurvey.org.uk</a>
		Telephone: 01635 200402
<b>Working Capital</b>	<b>£6,771.79</b>	Newsletter
*contingencies, standard bearers, awards, John Stevens Award, AGM and functions.		Noel Grimmatt
Alf Isherwood Hon Treasurer		5 Canford Close, Shedfield, SO32 2HZ
		email: <a href="mailto:noel@burwells1.demon.co.uk">noel@burwells1.demon.co.uk</a>
		Telephone: 01329 830153 or 07817 683299





**THE DEFENCE SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION**  
**"MAPS & SURVEYS" SEMINAR AT WINCHESTER**  
**SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2015**



Since 2007, the Defence Surveyors' Association (DSA) has held eight annual seminars at the Royal of Military Survey, Hermitage, on both current and historical hydrographic and military surveying, mapping and charting. The ninth annual seminar will take place at Hermitage in June 2015 but a mini-seminar has also been organised in a new venue with a wider scope which will be open to a wider audience.

**The Gurkha Museum, Winchester, (<http://www.thegurkhamuseum.co.uk/>) has kindly agreed to the use of the Museum's facilities by the DSA on Saturday 21 March 2015 for an event that will also include military history subjects. The seminar will also be advertised to the Gurkha Brigade Association and to those who attend the Winchester Military Museums' Lectures. Additionally, the Gurkha Museum and the King's Royal Hussars Museum will be open for attendees during the day at no extra charge.**

The cost of attendance is £30, to include tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival and a Gurkha curry lunch in the McDonald Gallery. At lunch, drinks will be available at the Museum's mini-bar in the McDonald Gallery at the museum's usual prices.

The programme for the day, which may be subject to minor change, is : -

**1015-1055 - Registration and Tea/Coffee.**

The Gurkha and King's Royal Hussars Museums will be open for attendees.

**1055-1100 – Chairman DSA's Welcome in the Library.**

**1100-1145 – 'From Agincourt to Waterloo: Four Centuries of Graphic Warfare from King George III's Collection of Military Maps'.**

Dr Yolande Hodson FSA FBCartS. - The collection of military and naval maps and prints which was acquired by King George III (1738-1820) is preserved in the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle. The catalogue of the collection, prepared by Dr Hodson, together with digitised images of each item, is due to go online in 2015.

In this presentation, Dr Hodson runs through some of the highlights of the collection which feature examples from most of the major European Wars, from the Hundred Years War to the Napoleonic Wars, and including the global theatre of operations of the Seven Years War and the War of American Independence.

**1145-1230 – 'At the Junction of a Map: The Role of Kohima in the Strategic Considerations of the British and Japanese in the Struggle for India, 1944'.**

Dr. Robert Lyman. - This talk will examine British and Japanese attitudes respectively to the importance (or otherwise) of the Naga hill station of Kohima in 1944; with direct reference to command decision-making on both sides, both good and bad; and its impact on the outcome of the battles that followed, together with the fate of India.

**1230-1400 – Gurkha Curry Lunch in the McDonald Gallery.**

Drinks on payment will be available at the mini-bar in the Gallery.

The Gurkha and King's Royal Hussars Museums will be open for attendees.

**1400-1415 – Kohima – The Battle & The Kohima Educational Trust.**

Major Gordon Graham MC & Mrs Sylvia May. - After some personal reminiscences of the Battle by Major Gordon Graham MC, he, and his daughter, Mrs Sylvia May, will briefly introduce the Kohima Educational Trust and the film which follows.

**1415-1505 – Film – "Kohima, An Exploration of War, Memory and Gratitude".**

**1505-1515 – Final Discussion/Questions etc.**

**1515-1630 – The Gurkha and King's Royal Hussars Museums remain open for attendees.**

Bids to attend this seminar should be made initially by Email to [maptnolan@gmail.com](mailto:maptnolan@gmail.com), or by Telephone to (01635) 253167, to be confirmed later by post to Col (Retd.) M.A. Nolan, Tall Trees, Broad Layings, Woolton Hill, Newbury, RG20 9TS, with a cheque for £30 simply made out to "DSA". **Attendance is limited so early bids are recommended.** Receipt of cheques will be acknowledged. Refunds will be made for any necessary cancellations of bids to attend, but only if notified more than a week before the seminar.



# MILITARY SURVEY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**1800hrs FOR 1900hrs FRIDAY THE 27th OF MARCH 2015**

**You are to note that the bar will be open from 1800hrs and the committee will be present to welcome you at that time.** Food will be served after the AGM is complete (at about 2000hrs) it is hoped that members will be briefed on current and future operations.

**Accommodation:** We are again hopeful **(but do not promise)** that a small number of rooms will be available; given the barracks are no longer under the command of Mil Svy units this may prove to be too difficult but they will be allocated (if available) on a first come first served basis. **You need to contact me directly should you wish to take up this offer - assuming it becomes 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 this form **ASAP**:

## **RETURNS BEFORE 06 MARCH 2015 PLEASE 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: -	Tel No: - .....
	E-mail: - .....
Type & Make of transport:.....	Registration No .....

**I \*shall/\*shall not be attending the AGM on Friday 27 March 2015; 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.

.....  
Because 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.**