

# The Military Survey (Geographic) Association



## Spring 2014 Newsletter

Issue Number

**52**



## The Regimental Farewell to Hermitage 20 to 22 June 2014

Albeit a sad day for many, this is a weekend not to be missed by any former member of Military Survey. As the programme begins to firm up it is still mostly along the lines previously advertised for the departure from Hermitage of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic). Many of you have already indicated a keenness to attend - some from faraway places - we look forward to seeing you all.

Your Committee will have a stall on the Open Day and would ask all members to stop by and register with us. Non-members will be welcome to join with us on the day!

There have been notices in various publications regarding this event but some of these are inaccurate; there are also a number of rumours regarding timings and attendance **but please note** - the information published here and on our website reflects accurately the timings and attendance criteria for all veteran members of Military Survey units and has been approved by the Regiment.

**A registration form for members is the last page of this newsletter.**

**VETERANS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS MUST CONTACT US OR THE UNIT DIRECTLY WITH NAMES AND VEHICLE DETAILS TO OBTAIN ACCESS PRIOR TO ATTENDING ANY OF THE EVENTS AT HERMITAGE.**

### Friday 20 June

**Daytime:** DSA 'Maps and Surveys' Seminar on historic Military Survey matters. Timings for this event together with registration details are included in this newsletter.

**Evening:** Cocktail Party (by invitation from the Officers' Mess only) It will precede Beating Retreat. Retired officers not attending cocktails are welcome to attend the Mess after the event.

The RSM cordially invites **our members** to attend the Sgts Mess prior to Beating Retreat for a curry supper and after Beating Retreat for drinks. Timings are:

**1830hrs for 1900hrs – Curry supper;** The Mess bar will be open. (Members must pay £5 each to attend the curry supper). Dress: jacket and tie.

**Members wishing to attend only Beating Retreat MUST still complete a return.**  
**Non members (veterans) – may attend the messes only following Beating Retreat.**

2000hrs - Beating Retreat

## Saturday 21 June

**Afternoon**      **Open Day and Reunion.** Commencing at 1200hrs all Members and veterans of Military Survey and their families are invited to this event at which there will be stalls and demonstrations of the current capability of the Regiment. Refreshments and bar facilities will be available by repayment on the day.

**Evening**          **Charity Band Concert by the Corps Band in the Corn Exchange, Newbury. This event is in aid of Royal Engineers Benevolence.** The concert starts at 1900hrs and is an all ticket event (£20 per ticket) which can only be purchased directly from the Corn Exchange. You need to watch the Corn Exchange website and contact them directly yourselves.  
**NB: At this date, these tickets are becoming scarce – you need to book now.**

## Sunday 22 June

**Morning**          **1000Hrs - Freedom of Newbury Parade (timings TBC) Drum Head Service(TBC).** This is the first day of “Armed Forces Week and there may be more to see and do and a bigger parade turn out might happen!

Members may wish to parade and be part of the REA contingent alongside the Reading and West Berkshire Branch of the REA, Dress as appropriate for the occasion.

**It is possible that The Royal British Legion Club in Newbury will welcome members to join them after the ceremony has ended (TBC)**

**It's going to be a great weekend and certainly not one to miss. The Registration Form is at the last page of the Newsletter. To assist in security and financial planning members must complete the form if they wish to attend any of the above events.**

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## The Move to Wyton: Another Regimental Milestone

The ‘Regiment’ was formed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1947 as a result of a major reorganisation of the Corps. Initially named 19 Field Survey Regiment the following year on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1948 it was re-titled 42 Survey Engineer Regiment. Its first eight years were spent in the Suez Canal Zone and then in October 1955 it moved to Zyyi on Cyprus before finally coming to the UK at Barton Stacey in July 1963.

Over the years there were a number of internal reorganisations of the Regiment but by 1985 it had come down to 13 Map Production Squadron, 19 Topographic Squadron and an RHQ Troop.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1985, at a parade at Barton Stacey, 42 Survey Engineer Regiment was disbanded, a contingent from the School of Military Survey then marched onto the square and formed up with the two squadrons and 42 Survey Engineer Group was officially formed.

The rest of that year was spent in moving the two squadrons to Denison Barracks with A Camp Barton Stacey finally handed over at the end of January 1986. In early February 13 and 19 Squadrons formed up in Faircross and, led by the Army Apprentice College Chepstow Pipe Band, formally marched into Denison Barracks and on to the parade square for the Co-location parade. 42 Survey Engineer Group was now firmly based in Hermitage.

The Group was reorganised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 1993 when 19 Squadron was disbanded and 135 Independent Topographic Squadron RE(V) joined the unit and two years later on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 1995 16 Survey Support Squadron was formed.

The 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2000 saw the formation of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) – the last Regimental milestone until the forthcoming move to Wyton.

## **“Maps and Surveys 2014”**

### **The Defence Surveyors’ Association Annual Seminar - Friday 20 June 2014**

The Defence Surveyors’ Association’s eighth “Maps and Surveys” Seminar on historical military and hydrographic surveying, mapping and charting will take place at Denison Barracks on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of June. The cost of attendance is £15 for members of the DSA and £20 for others, to include tea and coffee breaks and a finger-buffet lunch with drinks.

The programme for the day, which may be subject to minor changes, is as below.

**1000-1045 - Registration and Tea/Coffee in the Conference Room of the RSMS HQ building.**

**1045-1050 - Chairman DSA’s welcome in the first-floor lecture theatre.**

**1050-1130 – “Under Every Leaf” – The Intelligence Division of the War Office.**

Dr William Beaver, Wolfson College, Oxford.

For years histories of the Ordnance Survey alluded to its brief organisational flirtation with the Army in the 1850-60s and returned quickly to their main theme, leaving Army mapmaking, if it existed, spinning off into outer darkness. But wait. Is that so? What happened to the military side of map making? Was Stanfords really the Foreign Office’s map repository? What role did maps really play in the winning of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, one which was gained without the cost of either a great Asian or European war? As *Private Eye* used to say, ‘I think we should be told’.

**1130-1210 – Gunners on the Grid: Photogrammetry, Engineer and Artillery Survey in World War 1.**

Dr. Peter Chasseaud.

The British survey organisation created a refined battlefield geometry for the artillery, part of an integrated weapons system which restored surprise to the battlefield and turned the British Army into a formidably efficient war-winning force. This presentation demonstrates the development and effectiveness of the increasingly close relationship between the Field Survey Companies (later Battalions) RE, the Royal Artillery and the RFC/RAF in the crucial areas of mapping, photogrammetry, battery survey, predicted fire, flash-spotting and sound-ranging in the context of similar developments by the French and Germans.

**1210-1220 – Introduction to Field Deployable Geoint (FDG).**

The deployable Geographic Squadron: Scaleable Geographic Support.

By Major Alex Harris R.E.

**1220-1230 - Presentation of Annual DSA Prizes by President DSA, Major General R Wood.**

**1230-1350 - Lunch and display of historical military maps etc. Visits to FDG, Tactical Map Dissemination Point (TDMP) or TC Ops and Tactical Information and Geospatial Analysis System (TIGAS).**

**1350-1430 – Geo-referencing World War 1 Western Front Maps with GPS/WGS.**

Jerry Whitehead.

The Great War of 1914-1918 as fought on the Western Front was a fairly static affair for much of its four year duration. Thousands of miles of trenches and fortifications were constructed and mapped in great detail by all the combatants and in particular the British Army. This presentation will seek to explain the motivation behind a project to collect a comprehensive digital archive of British trench maps of the Western Front and development of methods to present them on a modern computer platform to be accessible to both casual observers and serious students of the First World War both on the battlefields and in the comfort of home or office.

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## **1430-1510 - With 63 Map Reproduction Group, Indian Engineers, in Burma 1943-1945.**

Ray Bennett.

63 Map Reproduction Group formed up at Comilla in Bangladesh in 1943, moved to Imphal, took its 10-ton Foden Press and Photo-Mechanical vehicles and other equipment over the mountains past Kohima to Tamu and thence by river and road to Rangoon. In the process it provided 14<sup>th</sup> Army with 1:25,000 scale maps of the advance from materials provided by the Indian Air Svy Group.

## **1510-1550 - Tea/Coffee and display of historical military maps, survey memorabilia, etc., in the ground-floor Conference Room and Annex. Visits to FDG equipments, TDMP or TC Ops & TIGAS.**

## **1550-1630 – The Sene-Gambian Connection.**

Robin Waters and Alan Milne.

The '12<sup>th</sup> Parallel' was an American funded traverse measured between 1966 and 1970 across the Sahel from Senegal to Sudan. In 1976/77 the Directorate of Overseas Surveys was asked to connect the existing Gambian survey network to the 12<sup>th</sup> Parallel to help define the Gambia/Senegal boundary and assist with mapping. The Sene-Gambian Connection took nine months with two British surveyors managing three surveyors each from the Gambia and Senegal. Robin Waters, the Project Leader from DOS and Capt. Alan Milne RE on secondment to DOS recall one of the last major Bilby Tower traverses with interesting comments on the political, religious, instrumental and language issues around this multinational project.

## **1630-1710 – Soviet Maps and Town Plans.**

Dr. Alex Kent and John Davies.

There has been comparatively little research on the Soviet military mapping of hundreds of towns and cities around the globe since these formerly highly secret plans were first made available to the West in 1993. This talk will examine the plans of British towns and cities produced by the Soviet Union from the 1940s to the 1990s and explore how the information was gathered. In particular, we will examine some of the more interesting 'quirks' which have been identified and explain what these might reveal about how these fascinating plans were made.

## **1710-1720 - Final Questions/Discussion and Closing Comments by President, DSA.**

### **Bids to Attend.**

Bids to attend this seminar should be made as follows:

Initially by Email to [maptnolan@googlemail.com](mailto:maptnolan@googlemail.com) or by telephone to (01635) 253167, to be confirmed later by post to:

M.A. Nolan, Tall Trees, Broad Layings, Woolton Hill, Newbury, RG20 9TS

with a cheque made out to "DSA".

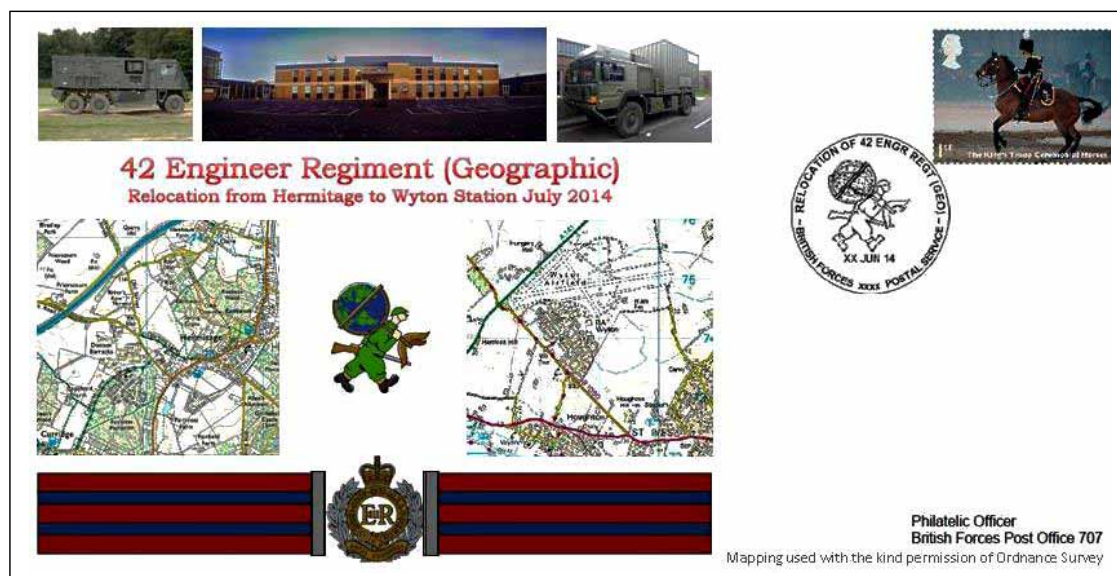
For those arriving by car, bids should include details of car make, model and registration number. Receipt of cheques will be acknowledged and a location diagram and car pass for Denison Barracks will be sent out a week before the event.

Refunds will be made only for cancellations notified more than a week before the seminar.

Anyone wishing to display any historical military mapping, charting or "Survey" memorabilia in the Conference Room on the day should contact Mike Nolan.

**Mike Nolan**

## Regimental Farewell: Commemorative Stamp Cover



The Regiment has commissioned the production of a commemorative stamp cover to mark the relocation from Hermitage to Wyton. This cover will be a unique souvenir of a significant event in the history of the Regiment. The cover will contain an insert which will give a potted history of the Regiment and further images of its time at Hermitage.

This bespoke souvenir will be available as 450 standard covers and 50 limited edition covers. The limited edition covers will be 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.

**All the covers will be available on a first come first served basis.** They will be available on the Open Day (Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2014) but orders can be taken before the day by sending a letter and cheque to the Service Fund Accountant, 42 Engr Regt (Geo), Denison Barracks, Hermitage, Thatcham, RG18 9TP.

The covers will cost £4.00 for the standard item and £8.00 for the limited edition. There will be a further charge of £1.50 for post and packing charges if you want the cover sent to you rather than collecting it on the day. We are not allowed to distribute the covers until the day of the event so please be patient. Cheques should be made out to 'The Central Bank' 42 Engr Regt (Geo).

The advice is to order before the day because we expect the entire 500 to sell very quickly. Orders will close on Friday the 6 June 2014. All profits made from the sale of the covers will be donated to the Military Survey Branch REA, Geographic Support Fund which provides welfare funding to the serving Geographic community.

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to contact Nick Collins on 07584353226.

**Nick Collins**

### 395 Members – Let's Crack the Magic 400

Our membership has been hovering around the high 300s for several years now but we have never reached the nice round figure of 400. Most members keep in touch a few old friends if only with a Christmas card and a hurried note to say that they must get together the following year! Why not contact them and suggest that you meet up at this year's Regimental Farewell event and whilst you think of it...why not join the Military Survey Branch....we might then break the 400 mark!



## Chairman's Piece

Spring has arrived and after what was a pretty dank winter I hope we can look forward to a better year ahead. For those of you who got caught up in the winter flooding then you have my sympathy for what it is worth and I hope you are getting the assistance you need to put things straight.

It promises to be an interesting year with the move of the Regiment to Wyton in July and the events planned for the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June to mark that move. You have had some details already but there are more in this newsletter and do keep your eyes on the web site for any last minute updates.

We held our Annual General Meeting in March at which the accounts, having been previously audited, were presented and accepted. My thanks to our treasurer, Alf Isherwood, and the two auditors, Tony Keeley and Mike Gowlett for their efforts.

The major decision to come out of the AGM was to revert back to our original name, Military Survey (Geo) Branch of the REA. You will recall that two years ago we changed our name to the Military Survey Association believing that to better reflect our nature as an organisation open to all members of Military Survey (now RE Geo) which includes the civilians based both at Hermitage and Feltham who have worked, and still do work, extremely closely with the serving element. However, REA HQ were frightfully upset about this and would not accept it to the extent that they advised us that we could not remain as an association within the REA if we failed to rename ourselves. It never having been our intention to leave the REA, we do get some advantage from it, we bowed to their pressure.

One other significant outcome from the AGM was the agreement that we could push ahead with a project to preserve some more of our history by digitising old photographs before they get lost or deteriorate. This is a follow on to our smaller project of digitising the course photographs and putting those out on a CD. This latest project is far more ambitious and we are hoping to do it as a joint project with the Defence Surveyors' Association. We are currently at the project definition stage but would hope to have it all firmed up and underway by the end of this year. Funding will be an issue and if anyone out there can help with sponsorship do please contact me.

Finally my thanks to the committee for all their work during the last year, especially Mick Perry who organises our events and is fully engaged with the Regiment's depart weekend. Alan Gordon, another stalwart of the organisation has now edited this newsletter for longer than I would like to remember and is going to end his tenure in the very near future. If nobody steps up to the plate and volunteers to continue his efforts we are in danger of having to discontinue what is probably our most valuable and popular asset, so please contact one of us if you can take the role on.

**Angus Cross**



### Co-Location Parade February 1986

Colonel, later Major General, Roy Wood, the first Commander of 42 Survey Engineer Group inspecting 13 Map Production Squadron which, together with 19 Topographic Squadron, has just marched down Faircross and into Denison Barracks to formally join the School of Military Survey and commence 28 years of residence at Hermitage.

## Highlights from the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Firstly, it was good to see Nick Cheesman had travelled all the way from Kent to attend the meeting – Nick was the organiser of the very first Military Survey reunion and hence the man who started it all.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the WOS' & Sgts' Mess, Denison Barracks at 1900hrs on Friday 14th March 2014 and was attended by 27 members. As the Chairman remarked, this was a really good turnout considering the Regiments' Farewell to Newbury weekend later in the year.

The presentation to Spr Ryan Kennedy of the **Association's Annual Award** was made by the President, Bob Avenell, prior to the commencement of the meeting and is described following this article.

Following the customary opening of the meeting and the wish to keep all formalities to a minimum, the Chairman reported on the following:

- a. Following the success of the RSMS Course Photographs CD the committee were now looking at preserving the historical artefacts associated with Military Survey (RE Geographic) to produce an online archive accessible to anyone in the world through a browser. Dave Johnson had been asked to scope the project which had already identified that Alan Gordon had 4,500 images, Dave himself had approximately 3,000 and 14 Sqn had identified "piles". It is also known that many others have collections of photos and memorabilia. The object was to look, reference and retrieve but costs could be as high as £40k to provide such a service although Dave has found an organisation which might provide a service for £4k with an annual maintenance fee of £400.00.

Angus said there were still many questions to be resolved, like - where would the originals be stored? Chris Nash interjected that the project was a very good idea but he thought we would not be in a position to maintain the service indefinitely, so perhaps the Corps and Army Museums should be approached as they have the wherewithal and experience required for such. Roy Wood mentioned that the DSA had been looking at this and care should be taken to avoid duplication of effort and costs, but he warned that the Corps Museum was notoriously slow on these sorts of projects and impetus, once started, must be maintained.

There followed various comments from the floor advising, for example, that the Travel Society might be a good source of advice as they had been involved since 1929 in a variety of projects, and a warning was given about duplication of photos etc. which often meant that the originals could conceivably be reduced by as much as 50%. Dave Johnson explained that a small group should decide what should be included before going through the originals which should eliminate this problem. Mike Nolan said a digital library was investigated in a small way by the DSA and they had spoken with Manchester University. He also said that Ordnance Survey had a system that can be searched by just a single word.

Chris Nash asked if we had done more than just think about this project – he felt we needed a plan. The Chairman explained that the committee had an outline plan which, hopefully, would be taken forward.

- b. 13 new members had joined the Association this year but we had not asked them if this was as a result of the name change.
- c. We had been informed of the sad deaths of three members and a number of friends and colleagues since the last AGM, he said that their names appear on the notice board.
- d. There had been a number of spends for our serving geographic military family this year, all of which came from the memberships contributions who he thanked for their generosity.

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- e. Mike Payne then presented the Standard Bearers' report (previously forwarded to the Secretary,) but in essence the standard had only been paraded once during the last year, by Mick Nottage, for John Eady's funeral. The Chairman said that he knew the Standard Bearers were all very much appreciated and on behalf of the members thanked them all for undertaking these duties.

The RSM, WO1 Will Robinson, then gave a comprehensive update on Geo matters which is included in his column in this newsletter.

The Treasurer, Alf Isherwood, then gave a résumé of the audited accounts of the Association that had been examined by two people and not one, as previously, and their comments were favourable especially upon the presentation that made it easy to audit. Alf explained that our accounts show an excess of income over expenditure of £1,050.29 for the year. Donations had been made from the Soldiers Fund of £341 to purchase various items for soldiers in Afghanistan and a contribution was made this year towards the wives Christmas Dinner. As there were no questions from the floor a vote was carried to accept the accounts and Tony Keeley and Mike Gowlett were re-elected to undertake the duties of independent examiners of the accounts for FY 2014/15.

The President, Bob Avenell, then informed the members that he knew of no other volunteers to take on the duties of our Association's Officers (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) and accordingly the current incumbents were subsequently re-elected en bloc.

The Chairman then spoke of the need to replace Alan Gordon as Newsletter Editor, a post he has held for many years, and requested that any volunteers or names that might be approached be passed to him.

A number of items raised under AOB there were:

- a. The Chairman explained that he had received a second letter from the Chairman of the REA who, failing to appreciate why our organisation had changed its name from Branch to Association, pointed out in no uncertain terms that we must change our name from Military Survey (Geographic) Association back to that of a "Branch" or:
- Have no entitlement to REA funds and **must handover our funds to REA trustees.**
  - **Have no access to military property.**
  - Not be supported by the Corps.

His letter also advised that we must abide with the REA rules in regard to our membership.

Angus said that he was extremely disappointed but thought we had no choice. We were reliant upon military accommodation and he did not want to compromise our relationship with the serving Geo family. Accordingly, he proposed we accept the name change back to Mil Svy (Geo) *Branch* with immediate effect and said that the Committee will undertake a root and branch review of our membership and TOR.

Discussions followed and Mick Perry advised that in his opinion our membership was not that dissimilar to that of the REA anyway. Mick Nottage asked if we knew why our new members had joined, but unfortunately we do not. Roy Wood said that as a previous Chairman of the REA he knew of other "associations" but if we wished to remain in the REA then name change was probably inevitable. A vote was taken and carried by a majority to change our name back to a Branch. Chris Nash then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Committee for their indulgence and undertaking to continually try and improve the membership of our organisation.

Mike Payne questioned the need for separate TOR, but thought a "standing minute" might be necessary for the existence of the "Soldiers Fund". The Chairman said that these considerations would be looked at by the Committee.

- b. Phil Maye had written to the Secretary and asked that the membership might consider the placing of a (garden style) bench in the Hermitage Church cemetery, near the memorial and have a plaque to commemorate Military Surveyors/RE Geos that have passed through the gates of Denison Barracks with dates.



There followed discussions reference maintenance and the timing of such a consideration as the RSMS will still remain in situ for a while longer so the Committee agreed to consider this further.

- c. Mick Perry then outlined the Regiment's events commemorating the **Farewell to Newbury Weekend** and said he understood that all will be advertised not only in our newsletters and on our website but in the Sapper magazine. He emphasized that **only** our Branch and Reading & West Berks Branch had been invited by the RSM and members of the WOs' & Sgts' Mess to a curry buffet prior to Beating Retreat by the Corps Band. The Officers' Mess had a Cocktail Party prior to the same event but it was by Officers' Mess invitation only. On the Sunday, the exercising of The Freedom of Newbury Parade will be attended by those elements of the Regiment still remaining at Hermitage at that time with the Corps Band and members of the Reading & West Berks Branch, and possibly the RBL. There will possibly be a curry lunch for all at the Newbury RBL following the parade.

Tickets for the Saturday night Band concert at the Corn Exchange were going very well and will benefit the Army Benevolence Fund.

Mike Payne requested an Officer volunteer to head the REA contingent and asked that he should contact himself or Mick Perry and Mike explained that those who did not think they were capable of marching the full distance through Newbury could join at various places along the route.

Mick Perry had a dedicated £1,000 from our Branch funds and requested a further £1,000 as an emergency contingency safety net which was duly agreed by a unanimous vote.

- d. Roy Wood asked if the DSA programme on the Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June had been advertised but was assured it had been.

In his closing remarks the President commented upon the RSM's brief and in particular about the "scattering" of our Geographic soldiers, many in individual posts rather than as many of us remember our Service. He thanked the RSM for the continuing use of the Mess; Alan Gordon for his outstanding contribution as our Editor and asked him to "hang on in there" and we will find him a well-earned replacement; the Standard Bearers, Mike Payne and Mick Nottage, for their continued support and said that Dave Johnson should get a real vote of thanks and clap for taking on the very important work of capturing Military Survey's heritage. He then spoke of the move of the Regiment and said we should consider how it would affect where we place our centre of gravity and possibly how we, as a Branch, might survive. Reference our name change, he said that the Branch, and especially the Committee, must retain a sense of humour but he felt common sense had prevailed.

He also mentioned that he now wished to stand down and hoped a replacement could be found as soon as possible. This elicited a vote of thanks for his work with the committee and his wise words. Finally he thanked all for attending and hoped they would all enjoy the remainder of the evening.

The meeting closed at approximately 2014 hrs.

**Rod Siggs**

### **Court Case Following the Death of Jim Ironside**

Members may recall that Jim died along with a female paramedic in a tragic accident in the New Forest as he was being rushed to Southampton Hospital. Richard Husband, a 26 year-old from Brockenhurst, was charged with two counts of causing death by careless driving at Bournemouth Crown Court on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. The date for his full trial by jury has been set for June the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a number of teenagers who were passengers in his car at the time of the crash have been warned that they will be called as witnesses.

## Association Annual Award 2014

*"Spirit of Good Fellowship Beyond Normal Expectations"*

### Sapper RF Kennedy Royal Engineers

**Sapper Ryan Kennedy** arrived in 2 Troop, 13 Geographic Squadron on 7th January 2013 and was deployed as a member of the support staff for the 2013 Regimental Potential Non Commissioned Officers course. After completing this, he was tasked to be one of two members on the Lead Commando Task Group (LCTG) and in April deployed on Exercise JOINT WARRIOR in support of 3 Commando Brigade where he provided invaluable Geographic support to a fast paced HQ, often working long hours and unsupervised.

On his return in May Spr Kennedy then conducted Tactical Information Geospatial Analysis System (TIGAS) and Field Deployable Geographic (FDG) systems training. Later, in June, on Exercise DHOWES WARRIOR - a Staff Ride to Germany that 13 Geo Sqn mounted - he was tasked to produce a battle brief which he diligently researched and knowledgeably delivered about the historical battle between German tribes and the Romans in the Teutoburg Forest.

At the end of June, he put his recent FDG and TIGAS training to good use, positively contributing to Exercise FOUGASSE STARTS, adding valued technical input. As part of the LCTG, he conducted Pre-Exercise training including the Basic Sea Survival Course in Plymouth in July 13, in preparation for Exercise COUGAR – a three month deployment at sea. Whilst on this exercise Spr Kennedy developed his driving experience and skills by completing both the Pinzgauer and BV206 new vehicle operator courses as well as participating in an Adventure Training package.

He quickly matured as an individual and was tested fully by being away at sea for a few months, working to tight schedules, often working alone or with just a L/Cpl. By the end of the deployment, he was capable of running the Geo desk within the Commando HQ; conducting analysis on slopes, routes and imagery while concurrently issuing orders products.

He is an extremely fit member of 2 Troop and has supported and contributed to the Regimental Orienteering Team over the year, helping them win the team award at the RE games in June 2013. On a personal level, he is also the current Royal Engineers U25 Orienteering Champion. **Spr Kennedy** is a truly valued member of the Regimental Cross Country Team; member of 13 Geographic Squadron and 42 Engineer Regiment and sets the model example of a Geo soldier at the ripe age of only 19 years.



*Ryan Kennedy receiving his  
award from Branch President  
Bob Avenell.*

### Life After Military Survey: Arnold Smith

After leaving the service in 1976 I entered the world of leather. It was a hobby that I had picked up at SHAPE, my last posting. Today, 36 years later, I am still working at it in a craft centre that I entered back in 1977. I've taught the basic skills to over thousand people and send commissions all over the world.

I come into contact with people from all walks of life and the variety of work is a constant challenge. I am as busy now as I've ever been and have no plans concerning retirement. It's not often that one can find work that you love doing – I'm lucky I found mine.

Visit my website to see samples of what fills my day: [www.acasmithleathercraft.co.uk](http://www.acasmithleathercraft.co.uk)

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## News from the Military Front

### RSM's Column

I find myself writing this contribution to the Newsletter after what barely seems like a week since my last contribution – a sobering reminder that the pace of life in the Regiment remains high with a great deal going on at all levels.

I invited Steve Halpin, the RSM (Designate), to visit Denison Barracks last month to see what we are all about. Incredible for me to think that my time is almost over! I also took the opportunity to take him to Wyton and Roy Lines in order that he understands what will be the new home of 42 Engr Regt (Geo) from late Jun onwards. Steve is not RE Geo and is a volunteer from the Mainstream to join us at this momentous time. His tenure as the RSM will see the next stage of Regimental integration with Joint Force Intelligence Group and Sappers once more demonstrating their flexible and pragmatic approach to military life. He will face many challenges, but through it all we will continue to deliver the support that Defence requires from us as we adapt to our new environment.

Since my last update we have deployed into the field as a Regiment with a Geographic Support Group provided by both 13 Geo Sqn and 14 Geo Sqn. This was primarily geared at deploying with our new Field Deployable equipment (Field Deployable Geoint (FDG)) and getting to grips with that. It was very successful and articles from the Squadrons form the bulk of this update to you. The soldiers responded well to the exercise and enjoyed the opportunity to get back to solid technical tasking. Issues have been identified and lessons learned – all of which will be put into practice on the next exercise in September.

Finally and tragically, this week we have been reminded of the dangers of operational deployments with the sad news of the death of Warrant Officer Second Class Spencer (Spen) Faulkner in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. He was not the only fatality but his death is felt most keenly by the RE Geo community as Spen was RE Geo prior to training as a helicopter pilot and transferring to the Army Air Corps. Many old friends, myself included, mourn his loss and our thoughts are with Cally, his wife, and Natasha and Jack his children. This is a dangerous business and one which this week has claimed one of our brightest and best.

Once a Sapper always a Sapper - RIP Spen, you were quite unique.

### Operational Commitments

As discussed in the last update to you, 2014 is also the year where we will see enormous reductions in the numbers of British servicemen and women deployed to OP HERRICK (Afghanistan) and the drive to reduce numbers continues. The currently there are one officer and 11 soldiers in various locations and the two remaining DATAMAN servers in Helmand have been turned off and sent back to the UK. There is no further news yet on Kabul JNCO from PJHQ or SF enduring requirement from A Block. Both are awaiting respective J5 direction, in turn relying on results from the Afghan elections (which are unclear and have been impacted by an attack in Kabul).

The Sapper deployed to British Forces South Atlantic Islands is about to be replaced by Class 1 Corporal.

### External Exercises (current and near future)

Exercises coming up include deployments to Australia, Kenya, Canada, Indonesia and aboard ship.

### Future deployments

European Union Satellite Centre (EUSATCEN): 1 SNCO deploying to Madrid in May for six months  
Falklands: 14 Sqn Falklands Recce in May with Sqn deployment in November. Enduring name for the exercise will be Ex TRIG SOUTH 14/15/16 and so on. A captain along with DGC representation will be deploying in early June to Uzbekistan for a short visit to engage with their Geo organisation and a captain and a JNCO likely to deploy to Libya in June or early July.

## Exercise FOUGASSE RETURNS – 13 Geo Sqn

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March I deployed with 13 Geo Sqn on the first Regimental exercise of the year, Exercise FOUGASSE RETURNS. Also deploying was 14 Geo Sqn to work parallel to us, 16 Geo Support Sqn and RHQ elements to support the exercise. It was the first time the Regiment had deployed with the, much anticipated, new Field Deployable Geographic (FDG) systems. We had been busy the week prior preparing the equipment and vehicles, all that was left to do after our early breakfast was load personal kit and visit the armoury to sign out rifles. The exercise scenario stated that we were the Geographic Support Group (GSG) located in Cyprus (which required some imagination due to the weather) in support of the unrest in Lebanon and Syria at the time when the UN weapons inspectors were there.

After navigating the scenic route we arrived at Bramley Training Area a little early. So we bypassed it and carried on through the village of Bramley before the packet brought the village to a standstill with a bizarre shunted U-turn! A recce of our selected harbour area was carried out; the vehicles were sent for, moved into position and camouflaged with window screens, custom made hessian side skirts and cab covers. We set up numerous tents including kitchen, dining, washing, SHQ and sleeping. Next began the fairly complex task of attaching the working systems to the network and data manager (involving a lot of running around by the IT geeks as their names were called back and forth from one end of the set-up to other). Concurrent with this, a section worked on force protection setting up Danert wire coil fences and the guard position.

After rapidly achieving Initial Operating Capability (IOC) on day one we hit Full Operating Capability (FOC) early on day two (notably faster than our sister Sqn!). Unfortunately, at this time there was a Sapper RTUd due to self inflicted concussion with a SUSAT sight. Shortly after there was another incident, this involved one of our IT geeks almost being burnt alive when turning on a computer! But there was an important lesson learnt from this, when powering up systems in confined spaces, make sure your exit route is clear! A four-man team of cartographers from the French Army had also joined us for a few days; this provided a valuable and unique opportunity to share ideas and working practices which improved the quality of work from both parties.

At the half way point we lost a major asset... the field kitchen! It was packed up and sent to 14 Sqn for the remainder of the exercise, they had previously been on container meals which we would now have to endure. That night we all downed tools for a couple of hours and got together at EXCON for a hog roast, a quiz and a couple of cans of 'morale'.

The next day was spent preparing for a VIPs' visit on the Monday. We all had some of the more technical work we had been doing ready to put on screen and had an inspection of sort from the CO and RSM. On Monday morning we were visited by military and civilian staff including members of the Danish and Pakistani armies. This allowed them to see what our capabilities are and how the new systems and vehicles are being used. Again, we were able to swap ideas and gain an understanding of how similar jobs are done by different nations. Towards the end of the exercise, morale was maintained with rap battles and a peculiar challenge involving chocolate éclairs.

After completing all tasks given by EXCON our Senior Technical Control Officer (STCO) decided to give us a "thinking challenge" tasking us to make a product a bit different to anything we had done before. After delivering this final product it was time to strip out (which as always was approached with a little more vigour than set up) and we spent our last night in the buildings of Exercise Control in order to meet drivers' hours requirements. We set off early on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and this time took the more direct route. After working late on Thursday back at camp sorting out the equipment, including drying 6 ton wagons and Land Rovers with blue roll, we finally called 'Endex' on Friday. A lot had been gained from this exercise, with more people proficient with setting up the network, a refresh on the technical work, a few bugs in the systems rectified (and a few more identified) and the sharing of knowledge with our visitors. There was something for everyone to take away and we all feel better prepared for the next time we deploy on a technical exercise.

***Spr Loughran, 13 Geo Sqn.***

## Exercise FOUGASSE RETURNS – 14 Geo Sqn

Exercise FOUGASSE RETURNS is usually the annual Regimental exercise. However, this year it has been split into two parts, with the first phase taking place between 17 and 27 March. The exercise aim was to test both 13 and 14 Geographic Squadrons working as separate Geographic Support Groups (GSG) while 16 Support Squadron acted as EXCON, in effect waving the large beating stick. All three squadrons were deployed as separate entities across Bramley Training Area.

The main aim of the exercise was to test the new Field Deployable Geographic (FDG) systems, check the robustness of the SOPs and teach squadron personnel about the system administration required to operate the new equipment and software. Alongside, there was technical tasking focussed on supporting an HQ ARRC-scale deployment to Cyprus in support of a potential non-combatant evacuation operation in the Levant region. This meant there was lots of technical tasking to undertake which was a bonus for some of the newer guys in the Squadron who need to complete 100 hours of technical work before commencing their Class 1 course.

On Monday 17 March smelling fresh from their morning shower (the last one for the next ten days!) and after a Crews' Front (and a final porcelain bowel movement), 14 Geo Sqn set off on the obligatory road move from Wyton at just after 0930hrs. The road move was fairly uneventful with clear roads all the way and the notorious Cambridgeshire traffic not showing itself. The Squadron made it to Bramley in good time and the troops immediately went about setting up the kit.

In the exercise scenario the Squadron had to be prepared to accept small amounts of tasking by 1000hrs on Tuesday 18 March, this state is known as Initial Operating Capability (IOC). Full Operating Capability (FOC) was achieved by 1000hrs on Saturday 22 March. By this stage, all systems are operational and networked allowing technicians to produce products and external users to view Geoviewer. Whilst a technical team were setting up the equipment, the remainder were split into works groups to set up the force protection (a razor wire fence around the perimeter of our compound), Squadron CV, Ops Room and sleeping and other life support areas. Soon all equipment was up and running and ready for tasking by early Tuesday morning.

By late Wednesday the tempo of the exercise had changed slightly, most now realising how little sleep they would be getting. Though quite warm in the daytime it was much colder at night than anticipated for March. The teeth clattering coupled with the Ops Officer's snoring meant little rest was gained. Even after his bed space was moved to the deepest, darkest corner of the hangar the rumbling echoes could still be heard! Wednesday also saw a piece of FDG equipment catch fire, caused by 13 Geo Sqn, which meant that piece of equipment was out of use for the rest of the exercise. The four boxes were hastily packed up by some junior soldiers who were in fear of internally combusting every time they stepped foot inside the box body. 14 Sqn instigated a 12 hour shift pattern so that each soldier had equipment to work on.

In addition to the stationary element of the GSG, each squadron also supplied a survey team which deployed out into the Bramley wilderness, under the command of SSgt 'Flash' Fassam for the remainder of the exercise to 'collect data' or laze around whilst the GPS did the job for them. Data was collected on control points which enable a network of referencing points to be collated. All in all, after a few briefs and waiting for scoff, the survey team enjoyed a relaxed exercise.

On Saturday tools were downed for a few hours whilst the Regiment had a mid exercise 'Smoker'. This involved all three squadrons meeting up over a few free beers courtesy of the QM's, a hog roast and a quiz. This was a nice opportunity to catch up with friends from the other squadrons that we hadn't seen in a while; although the quiz run by the REME sections was suspiciously won by a REME team! Whilst the quiz was going ahead two members of 14 Geo Sqn, who shall remain nameless, took the opportunity to slip out and recce the lightly guarded 13 Sqn flag, with a view to 'borrowing' it.

With the successful recce the previous night, a small elite team of junior soldiers and one bald, short SNCO were chosen to capture the flag. As darkness fell, orders were given and the team deployed. By Monday morning the prize was proudly displayed, photo evidence taken and the flag promptly returned

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in a drive-by fashion (thrown from a Landrover) to the grateful 13 Sqn guard. In fear of retribution the 14 Sqn flag was replaced in the hours of darkness with a flag sized piece of hessian as a decoy.

Monday saw a visitors' day, with 120 military and civilian staff broken down into 12 syndicates. They were given an insight into the workflow and makeup of a squadron-level deployment, on the complexities of the new kit and in particular how the junior soldiers that operate the equipment are given a greater deal of responsibility for system management than ever before. All the visitors went home with a better understanding of what is expected of a Geo soldier.

On Wednesday, 'ENDEX' was finally called and it was at this point that the Chief Clerk, Sgt 'Chief' Wells finally made it to his version of FOC. This involved successfully making two cups of tea and being able to print a word document by connecting a printer to his laptop.

All in all, the exercise was a very steep learning curve with most using the new kit for the first time. While not all the challenges with using the equipment were successfully overcome, it highlighted the training that is now required to get the squadron ready for Exercise FOUASSE RETURNS 14-2 in September this year. The exercise also gave RE Geo an opportunity to showcase what we do and allowed the younger soldiers to experience a Regimental-level technical exercise.

### RSM - Summary

The next update that I submit to the Newsletter will be penned from Roy Lines at Wyton Station. The Regiment will move after Newbury Weekend with RHQ moving on 24 June. 14 Geo Sqn will be 'on point' so to speak as both 13 Geo Sqn and 16 Geo Sqn become non-effective due to executing the move itself.

On the 22 July the Regiment will come together in No 2 Dress (the RSM is already twitching with excitement) for a Regimental picture on the Main Square within Roy Lines. All the Squadrons, including 135 Sqn will be on the picture and it will mark the occasion of the Regiment forming up fully in Wyton as a single RE Geo entity. Ground rush is upon us and we are now well and truly in the detail of this momentous occasion.

A huge amount occupies us as you will have seen from my operational update. We already see a greater diversity of travel for our soldiers as drawdown in Afghanistan continues, combined with move preparation everybody from the Commanding Officer to the newest Sapper from RSMS is very busy indeed. However – going back to my quote of last time from Sir Winston Churchill:

*"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty"*

We remain focused and optimistic and are beginning to see the vision of the Regiment at Wyton as part of a Defence Intelligence Hub realised. RE Geo has never been better placed to provide crucial situational and spatial awareness to our Commanders and Defence as we enter an era of contingency, high readiness and unpredictability.

The words of the RSM in this momentous time are once more....."Follow the Sapper"!



*13 Geo Sqn Geographic Support Group  
on Exercise Fougasse Returns.*





## Not One But Two Aussies Back At Barton Stacey

Some weeks ago my phone showed that I had a voicemail and when I listened to it I was amazed to be greeted by a strong Australian accent...it was Peter Bates-Brownsword, Aussie exchange officer to 19 Squadron 1980 to 1982, ringing from Queensland. He was going to visit UK and would like to meet up with those he served with at Barton Stacey.



*Bruce Sinclair Bill Shay Jock Campbell (MT) Dave Morris Titch Barwood  
(Sigs) Mick Hodge John Dowsett  
Pete Redfern Pete Cooley John Siddell Dutch Holland Alan Whittle (REME)  
Chris Martin Dave Griffin Ian Thurgate  
Geoff Eddy Alan Gordon Steve Sykes Mike Stanbridge Peter Bates-  
Brownsword Duncan Jacobs Tony Gee*

I discovered a photograph of 19 Squadron officers and SNCOs of that time and after many emails and phone calls I found that some of them seemed to have disappeared, some were still in gainful employment, one was putting up with the weather in Thailand, one was having his second hip replacement, Duncan Jacobs was living in France near the exquisitely named town of Condom and those that could were very happy to meet up for lunch.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April Peter Wood and I met Peter and Barbara off the train at Winchester and took them to the Swan at Barton Stacey, pausing en route to wander onto the vast and now deserted parade square at A Camp. On entering the

pub there was an amazing surprise; a broad Australian accent welcomed us and there was Tony Gee, the Australian exchange SNCO to 19 Squadron from 1981 to 1983! It transpired that he and Loretta were staying with KC Augustus at his home in France when a couple of days earlier they had found out about Peter B-B's visit and decided to drive over and surprise us – and a surprise it was.

Geoff Eddy, Gramps Parr, Fergus Brazier and Colin Gray made up the party and soon conversations stretched way beyond 19 Squadron as Peter, Geoff and KC all had fond memories of their exotic holidays 'down under' or, 'Long Look', as it was officially known! Peter had perfect recall of his two years with 19 Squadron including long forgotten moments such as underdogs Air Survey Troop unexpectedly winning the Nesscliffe Camp Regimental competition and the legendary inter Squadron heavy weight boxing match between John 'Piggy' Knight and Alan Ogden.



*Barbara B-B, Peter Wood, KC Augustus, Tony Gee, Fergus Brazier, Colin Gray, Gramps Parr, Alan Gordon, Peter B-B.*

The reminiscing continued apace until the landlord called time but even then the chat carried on in the car park. Late afternoon saw the Bates-Brownswords off on the train back to their son in Oxford and memories of 19 Squadron were put to rest once more.

**Alan Gordon**

## Preserving Military Survey History

### The Proposed Digital Image Archive Project

Those who have waded through the 'highlights from the AGM' will be aware that we are actively considering a project to preserve in digital form as many photographs relating to the history of Military Survey as possible and to make them available on a searchable website. The Defence Surveyors' Association (DSA) has also been considering this idea for some time and so after discussions between Angus Cross and Nick Rigby, the two chairmen, the possibility of carrying out the project as a joint venture is now actively being pursued. At a Branch committee meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March it was agreed to provide £2,000 towards the initial costs of the project with a further £2,000 available once ratified by the membership at a future extraordinary general meeting. The DSA are considering providing £5,000 towards the project and once a joint project team with a project manager is in place further funding, if necessary, would be sought from sources such as the Corps.

There are currently possibly 10,000 digital images held in several private collections and scans that Dave Johnson has done of albums held at Hermitage as well as an unknown number still to be scanned. All will need to be edited into the format, yet to be defined, of the proposed archive.

However, this huge collection by no means records the complete history of Military Survey particularly the period since the end of the Second World War. Many former military surveyors took photographs of their time in uniform and even if they do not show a technical function may well record the mundane detail of service life and where we served. All help to tell the story of Military Survey. Members have put many of these photographs on the Branch website and these have already been included in the initial library but we are sure that many collections are still kept within the owner's family.

Unfortunately it is likely that some will only come to light after the death of the owner when a widow asks a former colleague what should be done with her husband's old album. Such was the situation with Terry Evans' remarkable album detailing his career from boy soldier to RSM which she gave to Mike Gowlett and we have scanned for posterity. Similarly, Pete Usher's widow has just passed photographs of his time in the service to Alf Isherwood who in turn has passed them on to Dave for scanning.

Sadly, neither old friend is now available to describe what the photographs record hence our plea to readers to let us have any digital images you may have, high resolution jpegs is the preferred option, or let us borrow your old photographs/albums for us to scan and add to the archive whilst you are available to let us know the date, location, activity, names, etc.

Please send your photographs along with descriptions of what or who they show to the editor at the email or postal address given later in this newsletter. All albums and photographs will be treated with the greatest care and promptly returned.

### Terry Evans' Album

Terry's album does far more than illustrate his very successful career; it is a visual record of a period that has now long gone. It contains far more than just photographs, although there are many of those. It has programmes from long forgotten but once important events, tickets to shows that would have been a highlight in life at the time and even army forms that document occasions and situations.

The first photographs show young boys fresh from school now wearing the coarse, high necked, khaki service dress of World War One vintage living under the harsh military discipline of the time in a sparse barrack room, learning their trade and enjoying a sport, in Terry's case, hockey. Three years later the now young men entered man's service and were immediately posted 42 Regiment in Cyprus for three years during which time a vicious terrorist campaign was conducted by EOKA and the only contact with home and family was a letter. But despite all that, life seems to have been good even though the accommodation was a tent!

The album continues to document what could have been the daily life of anyone serving in Military Survey through the 'swinging' Sixties and Seventies with its 'winter of discontent and firemen's strike.

What makes this album an important historical source is that it includes many very mundane photographs of things that the vast majority of us would, and indeed never did, photograph and have since long since disappeared; for example, the following :-



*A Harrogate barrack room, home to 15 to 17 year old boys for three years. A similar photograph could have been taken in any training camp in the 1950s or 1960s.*



*The ablutions in Zygi Camp – 5 star accommodation for three years!*



*Mealtime for 14 Squadron on exercise or the ranges in the early Seventies.*



*The corridor leading up from the SMS QM's blocks to the soldiers' accommodation. Most readers will have wheeled a trolley up here with their bedding and wheeled it back down again at the end of their course.*



*Some of the huts of Barton Stacey – built to last for the duration of the Second World War but home to 19 Squadron forty years later.*



*The Corps Band (Aldershot) beat retreat at SMS on 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1974. A much reduced Corps Band will beat retreat at Hermitage again on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June.*



## A Tour with 19 Topographic Squadron: 1957 - 1959

I've been giving a bit of thought to my time in Kurdistan and I'm afraid my recollections and the Iraq 1953-1958 report in the 1827-1977 19 Squadron 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history booklet don't fit together very well. I think this is reasonable given that it was written from a Habbaniya HQ point of view.

When I arrived in September 1957 one troop was in Kurdistan and the other in the desert. The troop in Kurdistan did ground checking of the 1:25,000 GSGS 4870 field sheets. These sheets were produced by air survey but required field work for place names, power lines and telephone lines. Most villages were incomplete because the Kurdish houses were mostly built into the hillside and unless the building was placed to throw shadows from the front wall they would be omitted.

The collection of place names could only be called a bit sloppy because, although we all had a rudimentary command of Kurdish, the names were recorded in colloquial English then converted by an Arabic interpreter back in camp. We did the field work in pairs as to work alone over the distances we covered on foot would have been extremely dangerous without a backup. We did use mules and muleteers.



Kurdish hospitality and Moslem custom meant that we stayed in the villages as guests of the village headman (Mukta) but there was no question of payment and even gifts had to be given with great care not to cause offence and were usually limited to tinned milk for babies in the odd villages where they were approaching starvation levels. I spent nearly three weeks in one area where food was limited to very small quantities of rice, chapati and yogurt yet the people insisted on giving hospitality.

During my time we spent between two and three weeks in the field not the three to fourteen days mentioned in the booklet. In 1957-58 there were very few National Servicemen in the Squadron, numbers being made up by ex-boys and short service regulars. As the history booklet states, the field troops were led by National Service subalterns but I don't think HQ had any idea of the stress placed on these young officers. Basically, if they lacked the confidence and leadership skills necessary but rarely shown by such young men they could be condemned to the equivalent of six months or more of solitary confinement with little or no social contact. During my time I saw one young officer carry out the task brilliantly and one come perilously close to a nervous breakdown.

The Anniversary booklet describes the issue of demob clothing as we were not allowed to wear full military uniform in the field. When I joined the unit in Sept 1957 we were still being issued demob clothing. In my case grey flannel trousers, sports jacket and white shirts plus shoes. The only concession to what we were doing was the issue of WW2 parachutists' smocks - fantastically useful kit for working in Kurdistan. We actually used KD slacks or the grey flannels, BD shirts and sweaters and army boots.

By the time of my arrival all the equipment available was well used and very close to unserviceable. We normally had seven or eight ridge tents and two 180lb tents one of which was the mess tent and the other the drawing office. Many tents tended to leak and guy ropes were knotted - I don't think anyone realised how much the sun had weakened the canvas and ropes. Transport was Series 1 Land Rovers plus a Bedford OY water tanker. The weekly supply run between Habbaniya and Base Camp was done with 3 ton Bedford QL lorries. The other ranks joke was that everything was second hand WWII and, with the exceptions of the Land Rovers, this could well have been true. Survey field kit was nothing more than pencils, scales and binoculars. I think a plane table was available but can't remember anyone using it.



*A Saddam Hussein moustache was essential wear in Iraq.*

Medical kit was by current standards frighteningly inadequate if not dangerous. One standard field dressing, salt tablets, aspirin tablets, anti-malaria tablets, tablets for dysentery and finally a Victorian snake bite kit. The snake bite kit was a small metal cylinder about three inches long, each end having a small threaded cap. Under one cap was a small sharp blade fixed to the tube whilst the other end contained potassium permanganate powder. Instructions! Cut the bite area with blade and insert powder. I don't think anyone ever used a snake bite kit.

I must point out that although I think it is quite reasonable to be critical today about equipment, troop morale was always extremely high. I think all the surveyors were very aware of the risks but we were all young and immortal and nothing would ever happen to us.

September-December 1957 passed very pleasantly and quickly. The survey task was interesting and challenging and Kurdistan was equally interesting and challenging.

We then went back in RAF Habbaniya for Christmas, took a short leave in Baghdad and then on to military training. This proved an interesting experience as some bright spark decided to put us through the RAF Levies' assault course. This became a bit of a joke because the field troops were actually extremely fit due to their normal working lifestyle and the HQ NCO's were hard pushed to keep up with us. Then it became much more interesting when someone realised none of us were Field Engineer trained. Fortunately there were no Bailey Bridge parts in Habbaniya but there was a large quantity of explosives approaching its use by date. This resulted in a short demolition course which we all enjoyed, it culminated in a large explosion of nearly a ton of explosives out in the desert.

We went back to the field in the spring of 1958 but probably too early because the camp was devastated by a storm not long after we started work and just before the GOC's inspection. If I remember correctly only two ridge tents survived and one badly damaged 180lb tent, certainly not enough accommodation for about thirty men hence the storm did the trick with regards to us being re-equipped with a sudden bonanza of new tents, transport and clothing. The real benefit was the issue of old Korean War combat jackets and trousers which were really good. Suddenly we found ourselves with brand new tents, new Land Rovers, a new 1 ton water truck and the supply run was now by Bedford RL 3 ton lorries.

The issue of the new water truck had a tragic result. We set up a new camp close to a new tarmac road which connected the Royal Summer Palace with the airstrip. This was a convenient route for the truck to obtain water from a village supply but nobody realised that the tanks on these trucks were inadequately baffled. The result was that the truck crashed at high speed killing the driver and injuring the two passengers who were taken to Mosul Hospital by taxi. It seems strange but I can't remember any of the names. The driver's body and the two injured were flown back to Habbaniya by the RAF.



*The water truck after the accident.*

Subsequently we set up a new camp near Well 8 of the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC). In this region the work was much harder because the terrain was very broken with few easily identifiable points. However our social life was much better because the IPC staff were all ex-servicemen and took pity on us and invited us to their social club regularly. This was eventually somewhat curtailed when IPC Kurkuk heard

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about them giving us hospitality. We were able to return their kindness in a small way by giving a party for the IPC staff, wives and families plus the two English nursing sisters who had looked after the injured at Mosul hospital.

This was the end of my work experience in Iraq because I went sick. However, my luck was still holding good as I was taken back to Habbaniya on a truck that passed through Baghdad early in the morning of the revolution without being stopped. The RAF Station was taken over by the Iraqi Air Force and to all intents and purposes we were interned. We had to submit our letters home to Iraqi officers who censored them but it was very civilised because then they then handed them back for posting! We then had to wait about three months for the diplomats to organise our repatriation which was done by a civilian flight from Baghdad to Nicosia.

19 Topo Squadron then marked time in Zygi Camp on Cyprus until the end of 1958 when we heard that the next posting was Aden. Because I had been ill I found myself in HQ troop which definitely wasn't to my taste. Fortunately someone decided that a road use survey of Cyprus was needed and I found myself with an Austin 1 ton truck and driver working with two other similar teams from HQ MELF, one including Alan Roberts using a Champ and the other a Land Rover. Those were interesting times because EOKA were still active and we had to carry arms. The whole affair proved totally uneventful except for the rest of the army who could never seem to understand that a sapper could possibly work unsupervised. It was great fun to roll up to a camp and walk into the guard room and then run through all the ranks from officer down with a negative response when they asked who was in charge of the truck.

Once this task was finished I had my work cut out to get myself posted back to the Squadron but a bit of persistence and regular weekly requests to the CO had the desired result and I was back in HQ Troop and on my way by LST to Aden. I never managed to extract myself from HQ Troop and back to field work but it could have been worse. I finished my regular service in November 1959 and the reserve commitment four years later.

**Jeff Lanham**

### Life after Military Survey: Jeff Lanham

I passed the civil service entrance examination in October 1955 and joined the Ordnance Survey on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1956. After about a month at the training school in Southampton I was transferred to a Minor Control course at Chessington.

At that time the Ordnance Survey was run by the Army and employees were given the option of taking a three year short service regular engagement in RE Military Survey in lieu of national service to ensure continuous employment in surveying. Accordingly I signed on for the three year engagement and reported to 1 Training Regiment at Malvern in November 1956 and then attended 94 OR Surveyor Trig Course at Hermitage. I was posted to 19 Topographic Squadron then in Iraq and moved with them to Cyprus and then Aden.

I enjoyed my time in the service and much appreciated the training and skills I obtained but quickly realized that military life wasn't an option for me so when my engagement came to an end in November 1959 I left and rejoined the OS staying with them until 1967. Unfortunately I felt that the OS was a dead-end job so I was delighted to take employment with RST in Zambia as an underground surveyor and stayed with them for four years until the mine was temporarily closed by a disaster which cost 83 lives. I was then employed by the Malawi Government Survey Department as a senior technical officer for three years.

I then realised that I needed higher qualifications to be competitive against the new graduates who had started arriving overseas. One semester at NELP, which was all I could afford, was just enough to pass the RICS direct entry exam at the beginning of a two year tour with the Botswana Government. I then changed tracks and commenced the first of nine consecutive two year contracts with what became the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics finishing in 1996 as Principle Lecturer. During my time in Hong Kong I met Mike Nolan who was then the AD Survey and he gave me a copy of the 19 Squadron 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet and I was able to pass some official Chinese maps to him in return.



## Memories from a Long Forgotten Photo



I came across this photograph on my computer but I can't remember all the names and wonder if some of the readers might be able to fill in a few. It was taken at the Britannia Club in Singapore sometime in 1961 but not at Christmas. All are members of 84 Survey Squadron and are a mixture of regulars and National Servicemen.

The ones whose names I can remember, appearing randomly from left to right are: Joe Wham (who could forget that name), myself, Don Walker, Sandy Saunders, Jim Heyes. Taff Russell the printer is in the centre at the back with Brian Pocock sitting in front of him. I think the photo was taken after the Malaya detachment to Mentakab had disbanded and returned to Singapore since myself, Jim Heyes, Sandy Saunders and the cook are all there.

Also sitting in front of Taff, but on his right, is a chap with his head back and laughing. I've forgotten his name but he was our cook on the Malaya survey detachment. He was a National Serviceman and his civilian trade was welder/pipefitter! He took over from the previous cook, a bloke called Arthur (Jock) Black, who became a good friend of mine, and was also a National Serviceman - and his civilian trade was carpenter and joiner! Just shows the accuracy of their suitability for army employment at that level although they made great use of printers and surveyors, which left them struggling when National Service finished in 1962. I know a few printers were offered extra cash to stay on out there for a bit to help with the sudden skills loss.

Don Walker was quite a character. He was religious and went down to the bars in town on Saturday evenings, taking his Bible so he could pop into church on Sunday morning to confess his sins on the way back. He was really serious about it but he was a very amusing and likeable character - I can still hear his soft Hebridean accent.

Finally, I remember that Tubbs Talbot (who may be in the photo but I cannot recognise him), Brian Pocock, Taff Russell and myself all played for the Garrison rugby team, as did Roger Jordan and Dougie Arman who later transferred to the Australian Army. A big proportion of the team from such a small unit.

I'm about to embark on a further couple of years working on offshore oil and gas platforms in the Northern, Southern and Irish Seas having just staggered through my medical and offshore survival course in Aberdeen, they made me do the underwater capsized helicopter escape 8 times before they were satisfied I could do it!

**Mick Guise**

***Any ideas on further names please let the editor know and he will pass on the information to Mick. We are always happy to publish photographs of this nature so please forward them in either original form or as high resolution jpegs. We will always take great care of originals and return them promptly.***

## Survey Directorate Middle East Land Forces Cyprus 1956 – 1957

At the end of my Surveyor Topo course Staff Sergeant Taff Jones asked me “where would you like to be posted?” I said “Hong Kong, Singapore or better still, Bermuda (the best of the postings in 1956)”. A few days later and indeed most of the course and virtually the entire Trig course that ran at the same time were told that they were to be posted to Cyprus (the worst possible posting at the time due to the EOKA terrorism.)

Sappers Yates, Swindlehurst, Barson, Hoyland, Hodgkins, Bullen, Knight and Wass duly sailed from Southampton in the troopship *Dunera* in late July 1956. During the voyage Colonel Nasser seized the Suez Canal and *Dunera*, which after delivering us to Cyprus was due to sail to the Far East via the Canal, put into Grand Harbour, Valetta, Malta where our Cyprus contingent was switched to the troopship *Nevasa* which was on its maiden voyage to Cyprus. The *Dunera* returned to UK whilst we duly arrived and disembarked at Famagusta in early August.

I spent two days at 42 Survey Engineer Regiment in Zygi camp and was then posted to 47 GHQ Survey Squadron which was then located in one of the permanent buildings at Episkopi. After a few days in the Map Museum I spent about seven days in BMH. At 47 Squadron the one thing that has stuck in my mind was the archaic methods of producing dyeline prints – either by sunlight or by means of a carbon arc light which was suspended on a rod and slowly wound along in front of the tracing and the sensitized paper. Boer War issue?

At the end of August I was posted to Survey Directorate at Main GHQ, MELF in Nicosia. The Directorate was located at Kykko Camp which was about four miles to the west of Nicosia on the road between the city and its airport. I was told that my job was to understudy Sergeant Bob Carr and to be the permanent escort to Colonel RA Gardiner MA FRICS, the D Survey MELF. Sapper Danny Lynch was the colonel’s clerk and Sapper Brian ‘Scotty’ Scotford was the colonel’s driver. Danny was not a very quick typist and soon a lady shorthand typist was brought in whose husband happened to be the WO1 Chief Clerk to the GOC Cyprus District. She was able to bring us ‘hot news’ of operations against Grivas and EOKA.

Survey Directorate was housed in two offices in a single Nissen hut, the other half being occupied by the CRE. Next to our offices were two blocks occupied by JIBME, the Joint Intelligence Branch Middle East. Colonel Gardiner and his wife lived in an apartment just outside the walled city and our job was to convey him safely from home to work and at the end of the day back to his apartment.

Life in Kykko was hectic because of both the EOKA emergency and the preparations for the invasion of the Canal Zone. Guard duties came along every other night and besides these guards at Kykko we also did guard duty with local infantry units at the C-in-C’s HQ on Wolesley Barracks near to the walled city and also within the city itself.

Early in September I was part of a guard detailed to protect the beach parties on the beach at Kyrenia. Unfortunately EOKA had laid explosives overnight in some of the beach huts and detonated them when they were full of people including children. Sadly there were many casualties.

In October 1956, as plans to retake the Suez Canal were intensified, Lieutenant Colonel ‘Mac’ Pritchard was posted to the Directorate and he rented a bungalow for his wife and daughter in Ayios Demetrios, about a mile from Kykko Camp.

As the Suez crisis deepened Scotford and I were fully occupied with escorting the Colonel to the various Survey units on the island; 42 Regiment where Lt Col B StG Irwin was CO, to the Map Depot at Polimethia and about twice a week to 47 GHQ Survey Squadron at Episkopi. Towards the end of October it became apparent that the invasion was imminent, the department was put on seven day alert and regularly British and French officers would arrive at Kykko requiring maps of the Suez Canal Zone area.

Early in November 1956 I was given orders to deliver maps to paratroops that were encamped alongside the runway of Nicosia Airport, this I did when I handed them over to their CO. During that night there were the deafening roars of many aircraft over the Nicosia suburbs; the invasion of Suez had begun.

After the Suez Crisis life in Kykko carried on relatively quietly although there was still the EOKA problem and so constant vigilance was paramount. Correspondence was collected from Wolseley Barracks in Nicosia and I noted that letters to the Colonel from Survey Directorate in London were addressed in a beautiful hand-written script. Some of the more important letters from the Colonel to London were carried in the 'diplomatic bag, again it was my job to deliver these letters and documents to the department concerned.

Christmas 1956 was memorable. Sergeant Bob Carr and his wife invited Scotty, Danny and myself to his bungalow in the western suburbs of Nicosia to spend Christmas Day with them. I can well remember returning back to Kykko after walking through Nicosia late that night armed with a Sten gun.

One day early in the New Year we were returning back to the camp after taking the Colonel to his home. We were passing through Ayios Demetrios when we heard something metallic bouncing along the road underneath our staff car and a few seconds later there was a massive explosion behind us. Fortunately neither Scotty, the staff car nor myself were damaged.

Later in the year the EOKA emergency became less critical when Archbishop Makarios was released from his exile. We were on our way to collect the Colonel on the day the Archbishop was released and we encountered huge crowds on the road leading to the city. Our staff car was forced to a halt for a while which seemed like a lifetime. Young girls in the crowd sprayed perfume into the car and we could do nothing to stop them as my window was open because my Sten gun was poking through the window. We had a lot of explaining to do to the Colonel and Sergeant Carr as the vehicle reeked of perfume for days after. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of February Lt Col Pritchard returned to the UK.



*The then newly built HQ NEARELF buildings at RAF Episkopi  
home to Survey Branch and later 1 ASLS RE.  
Photograph by the late Nick 'Lofty' Carter*

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 1957 Survey Directorate moved to Episkopi where 47 GHQ Survey Squadron were now housed in a Nissen hut compound within but to the east of Episkopi Garrison. It was here that we came under the watchful eye of Staff Sergeant Nick 'Lofty' Carter (later RSM). I was provided with a desk and spent the next three months up until my demob in an office with Major Hugh Thomas, Captain XA Halliday and Lieutenant Harvey. Captain Coulson was the OC, WO2 Green the Chief Clerk and I remember Sappers Danny Read (an acquaintance of Tommy Steele the rock star), Wickes, Ron Leatherbarrow and Blyth Rossiter.

After Nicosia I found Episkopi very quiet except for the preparations for the Queen's Birthday Parade which was held on the nearby runway. One thing I was asked to do was to prepare a wall map of the whole of Europe and the Middle East for General Keithley, the GOC MELF, from about fifteen smaller maps. None of the maps fitted together however, I was neither charged nor court marshalled so it must have been OK.

I left for home on the troopship *Empire Fowey* and thence to the RE Depot at Barton Stacey and demob.

**Peter Yates**

### 13 Field Survey Squadron's Withdrawal from Aden: 1967

13 Squadron spent three years in Aden during which time the internal security situation continually worsened until by 1967 there was virtual anarchy as two major terrorist groups fought each other and both fought the British. The situation deteriorated to such an extent that the Government brought forward the date for the withdrawal of all forces by a year from 1968 to 1967 and the Squadron's main party left by air at 24 hours' notice on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1967 to take up residence in B Camp, Barton Stacey.

Whilst there are very good written descriptions of the Regiment's withdrawal from both the Suez Canal Zone and Zyyi and also of 84 Squadron's last days in Singapore, we have no eye witness account of 13 Squadron's withdrawal from Aden. The editor would very much like to hear from anyone who might be able to describe the Squadron's last days in Aden.

### 63 Map Reproduction Group Indian Engineers



It is not a well-known fact that Royal Engineers military surveyors were posted to the Indian Engineers units during the Second World War. One such unit was 63 Map Reproduction Group IE which, equipped with mobile repro vehicles, provided a field map production capability travelling from India across mountains and through jungles to Rangoon in Burma.

Ray Bennett was one of those Royal Engineers and he will be telling the story of this little known unit at the Maps and Surveys Seminar at Hermitage on the Friday of the Regimental Farewell Weekend.

The illustration on the left is a cartoon from the unit's magazine 'Inaction' – a wonderful title – and is typical of the style and pin ups of the time (now very much politically incorrect!)

### Possibly the Last Plane Table Task

In 1971 I was sent to Malta from 22 Sqn to field check the map revision we were undertaking of the 1:25,000 sheets. I was a corporal at the time and went with Spr Jim White (later to transfer to the Pay Corps). As I was checking the St. Paul's Bay area I noticed that the statue of St. Paul out in the Bay was not on the map. As I had taken a plane table with me I used it to fix the position of the statue. Could this possibly be the last real use of plane tabling in Military Survey for mapping as opposed to a training exercise? What do you think?

#### **Mick Clowes**

By 1971 the plane table had been in military use for over two hundred years – it was listed in the Engineers' inventory for the ill-fated Braddock expedition to seize the French Fort Duquesne in North America in 1755 and also in Robert Dawson's 1803 course of instruction in military surveying as used at the Royal Military College at High Wycombe and to train Royal Engineer cadets at the Ordnance Survey. By the 1870s it was in general use for military surveying and was the topographical surveyors main tool for plotting map detail until the widespread use of aerial photography replaced it after the Second World War.

So, Mick Clowes may well have been the last military surveyor to use a plane table 'for real' – unless of course, you know different!



## Deaths of Old Comrades

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

### John Eady

John Eady died suddenly on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January and his funeral was held at Basingstoke Crematorium on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. Personal recollections of John by Bill Codd are on the next page of this newsletter and the following are extracts from some of the emailed responses to his death.

*He was our course senior on our Army Survey Course in 1965. He was a good man and we kept in touch an occasional way, as one does in Mil Svy. He usually attended Mike Nolan's DSA seminar each year which was when I last saw him.* John Croft

*Anne and I were very saddened to hear of the passing of John Eady. He was my OC in ASLS in Cyprus and he went to extraordinary lengths to keep me in the Army when I lost an eye in Cyprus.* John Church

*Very sad. He and I got on very well and I travelled round Germany with him (I drove the Land Rover while he "educated" me!). He certainly was kind to me and would, in these days, be called my mentor.* David J Powell

*Very many thanks for letting us know of this sad news. I, like many of my era, remember John Eady well. He was not only a very good officer who cared for the soldiers under his command but was also an extremely nice man.* Jim Hoyland

*John was my predecessor ( I took over from George Preiss) as the Geodesist at OS and I often saw him at DSA events. He was a real gentlemen and an inspiration. I shall miss him.* Carl Calvert

### Michael 'Duke' Earl

Duke, as he was always known, passed away at his home in Hull on the 29<sup>th</sup> Of August last year. The following are some of the emailed memories of Duke.

*Duke was the first Field Surveyor that I met on my arrival in Singapore in October 1962 and I always remember him because he was dressed in a sarong and I immediately began to wonder what sort of an organisation I was joining. Duke had returned from North Borneo and was waiting to return to the School to undertake his A1 Trig course. He returned to 84 Sqn after 6 months and joined the Field Troop in Sarawak where he acted as Troop Corporal for the last 6 months of his Far East tour. He then returned to the School as an instructor and then back again to Singapore where he worked at Survey Directorate.* Brian Houldershaw

*It was due to the Duke's tuition in trig that enabled me to pass my ACE 1st class maths exam. He was also a good pianist and helped me on quite a few occasions with music queries.* Ray (Paddy) Dunn

*I knew him well, both in Malaya and elsewhere. On a long boring field trip he was quite the best raconteur I can remember, witty, clever, and articulate and with a sardonic bite to his stories.* Dick Elliott

*I got to know him during my posting to Survey Branch in 1966. He was very well read and I remember us being involved in a general knowledge quiz in which he was the star performer.* Chris (Brading)

### Bill Fazakerley

Bill, a former cartographer SNCO, passed away on the 31st December 2013 in Spain where he had lived happily for the last eight years of his life. He was cremated there but his ashes were scattered in Liverpool on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

**Major John Eady BSc (Eng), MSc, MInstRE -  
1 Aug 35 - 28 Jan 14**

**A personal recollection of his life by Colonel Bill Codd**

John Eady was educated at Worthing Grammar School and commissioned into the Corps of Royal Engineers from the RMA Sandhurst on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 1955. While at Sandhurst he won the Prize for Physical Training. He attended 15 Young Officers' Course (Beckett's Batch) at the SME Chatham prior to spending the following three years studying for a B.Sc. (Eng) degree at the RMCS Shrivenham. He and I were on the same degree course and we became firm friends. We played rugby in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and he introduced me to the etiquette of rough shooting. John married Hilary immediately after Shrivenham and we were posted back to the SME for a Junior Officers' Course. As there were no married quarters for junior officers, John and Hilary rented a flat above a butcher's shop in Chatham.

We were both subsequently posted to 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron RE in the Infanterie Kaserne, Paderborn, where John and Hilary set up home in married quarters and where their son Richard was born. We spent the next two years on exercises training to repel an invasion of Western Europe by Soviet Bloc Forces. On one exercise, John's cook set fire to a German farmer's large wooden barn with a hydraburner, a dangerous petrol burning cooker. The barn was full of pigs which, like the Gaderene swine, tried to dash back into the flames as soon as the soldiers had rescued them. Later John recommended two of his sappers for gallantry awards for risking their lives saving pigs but HQ BAOR dismissed his recommendation as frivolous. It did cost a tidy sum to recompense the German farmer for his loss.

Later that year the Squadron moved to Nienburg midway between Hannover and Bremen, from where we became involved in the Hamburg floods of February 1962. After a week of severe storms in the North Sea the River Elbe burst its banks and a large area of the city was inundated on the night of 16 February. Despite the deployment of German and British soldiers with assault boats, 310 citizens lost their lives. After 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron RE he served with the Army Apprentices College Chepstow, and with 25 Corps Engineer Regiment in Osnabruck.

In 1965 he attended 36 Army Survey Course at the School of Military Survey. His career with Military Survey included a tour as Exchange Officer with the Royal Australian Survey Corps, Bendigo, Victoria, as Officer Commanding 1 Air Survey Liaison Section RE in Episkopi, Cyprus, and as Officer Commanding 14 Field Survey Squadron RE, in Ratingen near Dusseldorf. He then returned to UK in 1973 where he studied for a M.Sc. degree in Geodesy at Oxford University. For the next three years he served with Ordnance Survey in Southampton and then became Senior Instructor Field Survey at the School of Military Survey. His final tour of duty was in MOD Directorate of Military Survey, Feltham before he took early retirement in 1981.



He then spent an academic year as a student in King Alfred Teachers Training College, Winchester qualifying as a mathematics teacher. In his new career he taught in Queen Mary's College for sixth form students in Basingstoke until August 2000. He was then employed as Clerk to the Governors of the College until finally retiring in August 2013.

John was a family man, who is survived by his sons Richard, Clive and Carl and his daughter Jane. Hilary died in 2005 and he continued to live in the family home in Winchester until his sudden death. He loved music and his hobby was tuning and restoring pianos. He was always physically fit, enjoying athletics, rugby football, orienteering and rough shooting.



### Current Financial Status

Bank accounts from statements as at 7 April 2014

Current Account	£3,469.87	
Reserve Account	£6623.18	
Total		<b>£10,093.05</b>
Cheques to clear	£150.00	
Combined bank accounts		<b>£9,943.05</b>
Geo Soldiers' Fund	£2,383.19	(Ring fenced)
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>£12,326.24</b>

Commitments

Geo Soldiers' Fund	£2,383.19	
Other*	£2,610.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£4,993.19</b>

**Working Capital** **£7,333.05**

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

**Alf Isherwood: Hon Treasurer**

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### Army Apprentice School - Harrogate 1959

A grand reunion will take place in Harrogate on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 for all those who joined the Army Apprentice School in Harrogate in 1959. It is time to meet to celebrate their 55th anniversary of joining the Army. Wives and partners welcome.

Contact Ian Buckley on 07760 445212 or at  
[ianbuckley800@fgmail.com](mailto:ianbuckley800@fgmail.com)

### Editor's Bit

We are always interested in your anecdotes and memories or indeed what you did after leaving Military Survey. Please send either Word documents and high res jpegs or handwritten pieces with original photographs which we will scan and return to the editor – contact details above.

**Visit [www.militarysurvey.org](http://www.militarysurvey.org)**

**Regimental Farewell to Hermitage - 20 to 22 June 2014**

**RETURNS BEFORE 09 JUNE 2014 PLEASE**

M. Perry, 101 Craven Road, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5NL or [mandpdperry@sky.com](mailto:mandpdperry@sky.com) Tel; 01635 37510

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

**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

**DSA SEMINAR:** - I [do not\*] wish\* to attend the DSA Seminar and will contact them directly to book this. Timings for this event will be published by the DSA along with a booking form. See their (our) website.

**BEAT RETREAT @ 2000hrs:** - The RSM cordially invites members to attend the Sgts Mess prior to Beating Retreat and afterwards for drinks. **Timings are 1830hrs for 1900hrs** for a curry followed by the **Corps Band Beating Retreat at 2000hrs.**

I do [do not\*] wish\* to attend curry and beating retreat and wish to bring the following guests  
.....

**NB A charge of £5 per person will be made to cover the cost of the supper - see below.**  
Dress Jacket & Tie.

I wish\* to attend Beating retreat only; with the following guests.....

**SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2014**

**OPEN DAY/REUNION @1200 – 1700hrs.**

I will\* [will not\*] be attending the open day with the following guests.....

**REA SPONSORED BAND CONCERT IN THE CORN EXCHANGE, NEWBURY @ 7:30pm**

Please note that tickets are on sale and going fast – you must contact the corn exchange direct to purchase these tickets at £20 each; Tel 0845 5218 218 & Email [boxoffice@cornexchangenew.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@cornexchangenew.co.uk)

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2014**

**FREEDOM OF NEWBURY PARADE – Time TBC (expected 10:00am)**

I do\* [do not\*] intend watching the parade on the day.

Yes I do\*/No I do not\* wish to be on the parade as part of the REA contingent.

Yes\*/No\* if it is offered - I would like to join with the Royal British Legion at their club after the parade.

**I enclose a cheque to pay for the curry supper in the Sgts Mess prior to Beating retreat: –  
The cost is £5 per person attending**

**CAN YOU PLEASE REMEMBER THE GEO SUPPORT FUND –  
MAKE THE CHEQUE FOR A BIGGER SUM TO SUPPORT THOSE SERVING**

**I enclose a cheque for the curry supper and also to support the above fund - for sum of £.....  
Please make it payable to "Military Survey Branch REA"**

\*Delete as appropriate.