

The Military Survey (Geo) Branch

Winter Newsletter 2021/22— issue 82



Left to right: Award compere, Capt Damon Mitchell (OST Commander), Ms Rachel Munslow (GST Manager), Capt Paul Duffin (FST Comd), Lt Col Alex Harris (CO 42), Maj George McCrea (COS HQ RE Geo), Sgt Billy Parker (OST)

The UK IT Industry Awards are affectionately known as the 'Oscars of IT'. They are the largest and most well-known event in the technology industry calendar and this year were held in Battersea Evolution, London on 10 November 2021.

Making the shortlist as finalist for two categories, members of 42 Engr Regt were invited to attend these prestigious awards which celebrate the achievements across the IT industry. This is owned, operated, and hosted by BCS – the Chartered Institute for IT.

On arrival to the black-tie event, it did indeed feel like the team were attending the Oscars, lots of glitz and glamour and a sea of black ties and cocktail dresses. Thankfully the 5 members of 42 Engr Regt were wearing the red and midnight blue Royal Engineers Mess dress so would be easy to spot in a crowd. Once Covid protocol had been achieved, we were free to enter the venue and enjoy the complimentary drinks in a reception that provided a great networking opportunity against a backdrop of vendors stands and auctions.

After an hour of exploiting the arrivals drinks, we took our seat at table 56 where we would celebrate the accomplishments of industry's finest corporations and small businesses alike. This was accompanied by a 3-course meal, fine wine, and good company. Following the very warm welcome and opening ceremony, the 35 categories were announced, and winners celebrated. This was hosted by well know comedians, Lucy Porter and Justin Moorhouse who did a superb job of rattling through the awards. Mid-way through the seemingly never-ending list, 42 Engr Regt were announced as runners up to the 'Organisational response to the pandemic' award – this saw us remaining seated and crossing fingers for our remaining category which was to be announced towards the tail end of the night.

And the winner is...

Rapidly approaching the end of the formal ceremony and with Captain Duffin breaching his bedtime, we were announced as the winners of the 'Best Security, Defence or Law Enforcement IT Project of the Year'. Led by the CO and COS we coolly walked the red-carpet runway to collect our prize, along with the unofficial award of best dressed men!

Following the formal presentation there was further opportunity to network, this was much easier as winners and against the less formal setting of dodgems and a dance floor!

In all, it was a fantastic night and an experience we will never forget.

[Capt Damon Mitchell RE OIC Operational Support Team 16 Geo Support Sqn](#)

The award citation was written by Major George McCrea RE who was OC 16 Geo Support Sqn RE until April 2021, and is currently COS HQ RE Geo.

It is worth mentioning the organisations shortlisted in the same categories as 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic).

UK IT Industry Awards

The IT Industry Awards set the performance benchmark in IT, recognising exceptional people, projects, and technology innovation.

Award for 'Organisational response to the pandemic'

Shortlist: - Anglo American
Cognizant
Hermes UK - Winner
Lloyds Banking Group
Ministry of Defence – **Highly Commended: 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)**
NatWest Group
Ricoh Europe
Sovereign Housing Association
St. James's Place
Worcestershire County Council

Award for 'Best Security, Defence or Law Enforcement IT Project of the Year'

Shortlist: - MYSERIES, Army Digital Services
IBM
Metropolitan Police Service and Shared Services Connected Limited – Highly Commended
Ministry of Defence - Career Management Portal Team, Army Digital Services
Ministry of Defence - **Winner: 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)**
Ministry of Defence - Navy
(MOD) Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
Nominet & NCSC
Southeast Cyber Resilience Centre
Viable Data



Top: Sgt Billy Parker

Bottom Left: Sgt Steven Feeney

The award recognised the work of a small team of Geospatial Analysts who rapidly developed and launched a situational awareness platform. The platform made a significant contribution across multiple government departments throughout the national response to COVID-19. This delivered outputs such as Nightingale Hospital and test centre site locations.

Maj Patrick Snow RE OC 16 Geo Sp Sqn

Major Bernard Ralph Sparks Dalton RA late RE

Background - A while ago I signed up to 'Auction Alert - Military Material' a website which searches for particular subject items coming 'under the hammer'. The aim was to identify any military papers, ephemera etc which might be of interest and worthy of further research and if of a reasonable bid price, to purchase. The lot for Bernard Dalton caught my eye and although I did not make a bid (Hammer price - £600) there was sufficient details published by the auctioneer to make it worth further investigation. Dalton's C.V. supported by a series of files at The National Archives (TNA) makes for an interesting story. The Air and Field Surveyors amongst us, who have served at the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre (JARIC) at RAF Brampton, Cambridgeshire should find this article of interest as I have included the background history behind the formation of JARIC.



1939-45 Star; Africa Star; Italy Star; France and Germany Star; War Medal 1939-45; Efficiency Decoration, G.V.I.R., 2nd issue, Territorial (2021630 Sgt B. R. S. Dalton. R.E.); United States of America, Bronze Star, M.I.D. oak leaves; riband bar for Africa Star and Efficiency Medal.

Bernard Ralph Sparks Dalton was born in February 1909 in Streatham London. He served initially in the Royal Engineers advancing to Sergeant and qualifying for the award of the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) per Army Order No. 29 dated February 1940. He married Kathleen Grace Robinson in March 1940 in the New Forest, Hampshire.

He was granted a Regular Army Emergency Commission as Second Lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Artillery on 16 November 1940 and was posted to Heliopolis, Egypt in March 1941. The following month he became the fourth officer to join the newly formed Army Air Photographic Interpretation Unit (AAPIU). Posted to the Advanced Western Desert Force Section on 21 May 1941 under Lieutenant Peter Oldfield (later of the SAS), he took command of this Section the following month.

Oldfield was commissioned into the Warwickshire Yeomanry, then still a cavalry regiment, and posted to Palestine. Frustrated at being so far removed from where he believed the real action was, he moved to Cairo in 1941. With his training as a surveyor, he was able to bring a much greater degree of professionalism to the work of the Air Reconnaissance Unit at Middle East HQ.

The intelligence gathered from the analysis of air photographs played a crucial role in the SAS operations and, after Oldfield was put in charge of the ARU, the close association that he formed with David Stirling paved the way for his recruitment to the regiment in September 1942.

In July, the Western Desert Section joined 285 Wing of the Desert Air Force, whose photographic elements included 2 Squadron RAF, 60 Survey Squadron SAAF and 1437 Flight Baltimore's flying long-range strategic missions. Later the same month, while preparing for Operation Crusader, Dalton was required to present his work to General Auchinleck:

I think one of my most treasured memories is of flying down to GHQ Cairo on 25 July 1941 on a Lizzie (Lysander) to show General Auchinleck a selection of annotated air photos and mosaics defining the defences in front of our Army.

I shall never forget seeing the General take a magnifying glass in his hand and get down on his hands and knees on the floor of the 'War Room' I suppose it was, and gaze earnestly, in the best Sherlock Holmes tradition, at the mosaics spread in front of him and ask searching questions as to how we knew that this was an 88mm and that was a minefield and so on. After spending some time with the General I think he was convinced that air photos had their uses even if they had their limitations.'

Aside from briefing the C-in-C and supplying Divisions and Corps with information on enemy defences, Dalton also gave sundry details of defences and terrain to the SAS and LRDG. - on several occasions briefing Randolph Churchill during his period as Liaison Officer with these units.

The AAPIU joined 451 Squadron RAF for the attack on Bardia on 27-28 December 1941 and continued up and down the Western Desert in 1942, receiving and interpreting photos from the RAF and passing information to intelligence at speed. Dalton was promoted War Substantive Lieutenant on 16 May 1942 and Temporary Captain on Special Employment on 17 December 1942.

In January 1943, the unit interpreted the Mareth defences, and the following month were at Castel Benito near Tripoli. Dalton was put on the 'XO' list in May 1943 for the planning of the invasion of Sicily and Italy and embarked for Malta in July, suffering heavy bombardment - the bombers attracted by an impressive fleet of Royal Navy ships in the harbour and the thousands of troops on the island.

Landing at Syracuse, Sicily on 3 August 1943, Dalton's unit continued to interpret photos under nightly air attack. Six weeks later, having been promoted War Substantive Captain and Temporary Major, Dalton arrived on mainland Italy and was constantly on the move for the rest of the year. His earlier work during the Desert Campaign was recognised by two mentions in despatches.

On 3 February 1944, Dalton was posted to the School of Military Intelligence at Matlock Hydro as an Instructor. Two months later he joined the American Photo Interpretation School at Kensington and in July he was posted to the Central Interpretation Unit at R.A.F Medmenham.



The County Hall, Matlock Hydro, which in 1939 was requisitioned by the War Office for use as the Military School of Intelligence



RAF Medmenham was a Royal Air Force station based at Danesfield House near Medmenham, in Buckinghamshire

Photographic Interpretation Unit, Name Changes 1939 – 1945

<u>UNIT Name Changes</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>
Aircraft Operating Company	Wembley	Pre-war	Maj Harold Hemming
Aircraft Operating Company	Wembley	April 1940	Maj Harold Hemming
Photographic Development Unit	Wembley	June 1940	Maj Harold Hemming
Interpretation and Intelligence (PDUI)			
Photographic Interpretation Unit (PIU)	Wembley	July 1940	Wg Com Harold Hemming
Central Interpretation Unit (CIU)	Wembley Medmenham	April 1941	Wg Com Ronald Carter
		May 1941	Wg Com Ronald Carter
		July 1941	Wg Com Alexander Laing
		December 1941	Gp Capt John Woodin
		June 1942	Gp Capt Peter Stewart
		November 1942	Gp Capt Peter Stewart
		August 1943	Gp Capt Francis Cator
Allied Central Interpretation Unit (ACIU) Medmenham		May 1944	Gp Capt Francis Cator

The table and attached details were taken from Paul David Theo Stewart - Medmenham: Anglo-American Photographic Intelligence in the Second World War submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Northampton 2019.

The CIU started at Medmenham as an independent unit, with self-accounting powers, independent of any reconnaissance units. It had an initial establishment of 231, which was made up of 114 officers, of which 104 were to be photographic interpreters, and 117 other ranks. This was expected to grow to 469 as the sections grew to fill a new establishment and as additional sections were added, including the plotting section from the PRU and the army section.

However, due to a shortage of trained photographic interpreters, the Unit had a large number of Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) officers who were trained as photographic interpreters as well as civilian staff from the old AOC at Wembley.

This meant that the unit started with about 50% of its actual establishment in spring 1941 under the command of a regular RAF officer, Wing Commander Ronald Carter, a highly decorated pilot who had won his Distinguished Flying Cross during operations in 1937 in Waziristan. The CIU when it started at Medmenham had fifteen sections, which included the Photographic Interpretation school. Medmenham was already a very well recognised intelligence asset by Autumn 1941, with the Director of Military Intelligence (DMI) considering it as having 'almost identically the same objects as MI9 and the 'Y' Service' and it was to 'provide the Intelligence Staffs with the best information about the enemy which can be obtained through the medium of air photographs. Of interest in his letter, he reports he has set in motion the compulsory acquisition of Nuneham Park near Oxford from Barclays Bank so that it can be set up as the main PI training school and a backup location for the CIU should Medmenham be destroyed. This intervention by the DMI, indicates how important the photographic intelligence



During World War II, Nuneham House and its surrounding parkland was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence and became RAF Nuneham Park, a P.R.I.U. or photographic reconnaissance interpretation unit. Photographs taken by aircraft from RAF Benson and other airfields over enemy territory were examined here by RAF officers as well as small contingents from the Army, Royal Navy and the USAAF. Nissen huts and other, larger buildings were erected adjacent to the mansion, including a camp cinema which villagers were welcome to attend. The RAF station continued after the war in the same role until the mid-1950s, when the added buildings and roadways were demolished and the estate handed back to the Harcourt family, who sold it to Oxford University. (Wikipedia).

Following a series of successful covert air reconnaissance operations run by the United Kingdom's Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) prior to World War II, the Photographic Development Unit (PDU) was established on 19 January 1940 (codenamed MI4) and later renamed Photographic Interpretation Unit (PIU) on 11 July 1940. Through a series of War Ministry reorganisations, the PIU was renamed the Central Interpretation Unit (CIU) on 7 January 1941 and changed again to the Joint Air Photographic Intelligence centre (UK) JAPIC [UK] in August 1947.

On 17 December 1953 the unit was given the name of Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre [UK] - JARIC [UK]. The JARIC Photographic Wing moved to RAF Brampton near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire from locations at Medmenham, Nuneham Park, Wyton and Wembley in 1956 where they were joined by the Joint School of Photographic Interpretation (JSPI) in December. JARIC stayed at Brampton for 57 years with various name changes before departing RAF Brampton for RAF Wyton in 2013. In 1955, RAF Wyton was granted the Freedom of the Borough of Huntingdon and 40 years later, this privilege was extended to the staff at RAF Brampton.

However, in 2009, an MoD review decided that RAF Brampton was surplus to requirements because a new Defence Intelligence Fusion Centre (DIFC) would be built at nearby RAF Wyton. On 2 April 2012 RAF Brampton was renamed Brampton Camp, losing its status as a RAF station, and coming under the control of Joint Forces Command and RAF Wyton. On 13 July 2012, after the formal retiring of the title JARIC, the unit was renamed the Defence Geospatial Intelligence Fusion Centre (DGIFC).



TECHNICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON RE, JARIC, RAF BRAMPTON – 1972

Inset: John Siddell

Ted Robbins

Rear row: ???, Brian Tidy, Pete Horton, Dave Griffin, Alex Chalmers, Lofty Branson, Phil Stubbing, Pete Fassam, Mick Chandler.

Centre row: Nick Price, ???, Ted Brannen, Bruce Oxley, Dave Whyborn, Gerry Baker, Ozzy Osbourne, Alan Briggs, Tim Walker, Tich Edmeades.

Front row: Jo Osborne, Queenie Banks, Noel Grimmett, David Lambert, Mick Browning, Hugh Woodrow, Bernard Plummer, Mick Callow, Brian Wigglesworth, Mac Parr, ???

In 2013, DGIFC relocated from RAF Brampton to the Pathfinder Building at RAF Wyton creating a multi-intelligence, open plan environment aimed at improving collaboration and innovation and changing its name to DIFC on 17 Sept 2014. DGIFC moved to RAF Wyton as part of the Programme to Rationalise and Integrate the Defence Intelligence Estate (PRIDE), which enabled Defence Intelligence, and the Joint Forces Intelligence Group in particular, to further improve and enhance support to operations and strategic threat assessments. The programme relocated the Joint Forces Intelligence Collection Group (JFIG -HQ) from Feltham, DGIFC - from RAF Brampton, as well as 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) from Denison Barracks in Hermitage and Ayrshire Barracks in Germany to RAF Wyton in Cambridgeshire.

Brampton Camp closed at the end of 2013 with large scale demolition of the buildings taking place in 2016 and into 2017. The site has been cleared to make way for housing but some of the buildings and trees on the site are protected. There are plans for between 400 and 500 homes on the site. The Military housing was kept on the site for a further three years with a gradual rundown until all staff were transferred to RAF Wyton. (*Wikipedia*)

Ref:

Major Bernard Ralph Sparks Dalton RA

The London Gazette – Lt on 16 Nov 1940.

The London Gazette – Lt (temp Capt) – 24 June 1943 – MinD

The London Gazette – Lt (temp Capt) – 13 Jan 1944 – MinD.

Awarded USA Bronze Star Medal – 14 Nov 1947.

The London Gazette – Lt (Hon Major) – Awarded TD Efficiency Medal – 26 May 1950.

The London Gazette – Relinquished his commission on 19 Feb 1964 – retaining hon, rank of Maj.

Brigadier Philip Maud CMG CBE late RE (8 August 1870 – 28 February 1947)

Background - Whilst researching the history of 89 Field Survey Squadron RE in Kenya the Maud Line was mentioned so on investigation I learnt a little about Phillip Maud the RE officer who decided the final position of the border between Sudan and Kenya, which was nationally accepted in 1914..

Phillip Maud was an English officer in the British Army, who is most notable for setting the Maud Line, an imaginary border in Kenya, which set the original position of the disputed Ilemi Triangle. Maud is also celebrated in the field of rugby union playing international rugby for England, and in the 1890/91 season became one of the original members of the Barbarians Football Club.

While a member of the Corps of Royal Engineers, Maud was stationed in British East Africa in the early part of the 20th century. During this period Menelik II of Ethiopia declared the border of Ethiopia to the southern tip of Lake Turkana, which the British Empire saw as an encroachment on the territory of Northern British East Africa. Maud was dispatched as part of an expedition, organised by Archibald Butter, to survey the region and return information to allow Sir John Harrington to enter discussions with the Ethiopian Empire. In 1902–03, Maud delimited an imaginary line from Lake Chew Bahir to the northern point of Lake Turkana, which became known as the Maud Line. The Maud Line became a recognised border in 1907 and the nationally accepted border between Sudan and Kenya in 1914.

In 1904, Maud addressed the National Geographic Society with his notes on his time in British East Africa spent in the area. His paper, Exploration of the Southern Borderland of Abyssinia, was a notable paper of the anthropology of the region, and was referenced by books, such as Sir James Frazer's The Golden Bough. A portrait of Maud by Elliott Fry is held at the National Portrait Gallery.



Maud with the Barbarians, back row, second from left

Maud also came to note as a rugby player when he turned out for the Royal Engineers team. By 1890 Maud was representing first class English team Blackheath, the club team with whom he would later be recognised as an English international. In the 1890/91, he was approached by William Percy Carmichael to join his newly formed invitational touring team, the Barbarians. In accepting, Maud became one of the club's original members, and was also a committee member for the team.

Maud won two international caps for England, both during the 1893 Home Nations Championship. His first appearance was in the opening game of the competition against Wales, a hotly contested game which saw the Welsh win with a last-minute penalty. Despite the loss, the English selectors kept faith with the team, and Maud was reselected for the second game of the tournament against Ireland. The forwards showed a better level of fitness than was seen against Wales, and England won by two tries to nil. This win was Maud's final international game, never representing England again. (Wikipedia)

CHRISTMAS CARD SPECIAL

Over the years Survey Units have produced Christmas Cards to circulate to families and friends, and often for the Command or GHQ. So I thought it would be something different to make a selection of some of those held in the Survey Archive, to include in this Newsletter. I have also added some detail about the time and location of the particular unit responsible for the publication and if it was on active service. The Cards also highlight the design and draughting skills of both Regular and National Servicemen.

World War I



Posted on FB by Jay Vee - Photos of British Life Gp - 22/12/2021

The Christmas Truce has become one of the most famous and mythologised events of the First World War. But what was the real story behind the truce? Why did it happen and did British and German soldiers really play football in no-man's land?

Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.

The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in no man's land dwindled out.

The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued, and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit.

After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas. In what was known as the 'Live and Let Live' system, in quiet sectors of the front line, brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead. (*IWM records*)

(There is no evidence that RE Surveyors took part in the 1914 Christmas Truce but the fact that it did occur is worth noting).



**8 Field Survey Company RE Macedonia 1918 – Angle of Victory card
Signed 'Best of good wishes from H Wood'**

Major H Wood RE arrived in Salonika Greece on 29th December 1917 having been sent out from France (Commanding 1st Field Survey Company) by the War Office with a view to organising a Field Survey Company RE with the British Salonika Force (BSF). He was instructed by the General Staff BSF to submit proposals. This was done and on receipt of further instructions from MGGS the Topographic Section, Printing Sections and Survey & Mapping Sections were amalgamated into one unit called the Salonika Survey Company RE. The sections were based at GHQ, which had occupied houses in the Avenue Reine Olga, Kalamaria for nearly two years and the unit was transferred to the buildings of a large orphanage on 15th November 1917. In November 1918 the unit printed 160,00 Christmas Cards in 4 colours, plus 40,000 New Year's Cards.

World War 2



515 (Corps Field Survey) Company RE – December 1940
OC Major L F de Vic CAREY RE - from 5 February 1940 to 26 January 1942
Location – Groomsport House Groomsport Nr Bangor County Down, NI
Strength of the Unit: - 7 officers; 1 WO; 129 R & F.

2 Dec 40 – Topo Sections took part in a bearing traverse exercise.

9 Dec 40 – Topo Sections carried out a ground revision of the 1/25,000 Map in GROOMSPORT area.

For the remainder of the month the Topo Sections were employed on technical training including sun and star observations for Azimuth, use of inaccessible bases, subtense and tachymetry. Throughout the month of December, the company carried out weekly route marches and periods of tactical training.



13 (Corps Field Survey) Company RE – December 1941
Location – Horsforth Leeds West Yorkshire
OC Major H C O'Hara Moore RE

December 1941 – Topo Sections employed partly in the field doing Anti-Aircraft (AA) Survey and partly at HQ on training. Drawing section still revising maps. Reproduction Sections beginning to get into their stride. The unit is once more complete in all respect except for 3-ton lorries, of which there are none on charge.

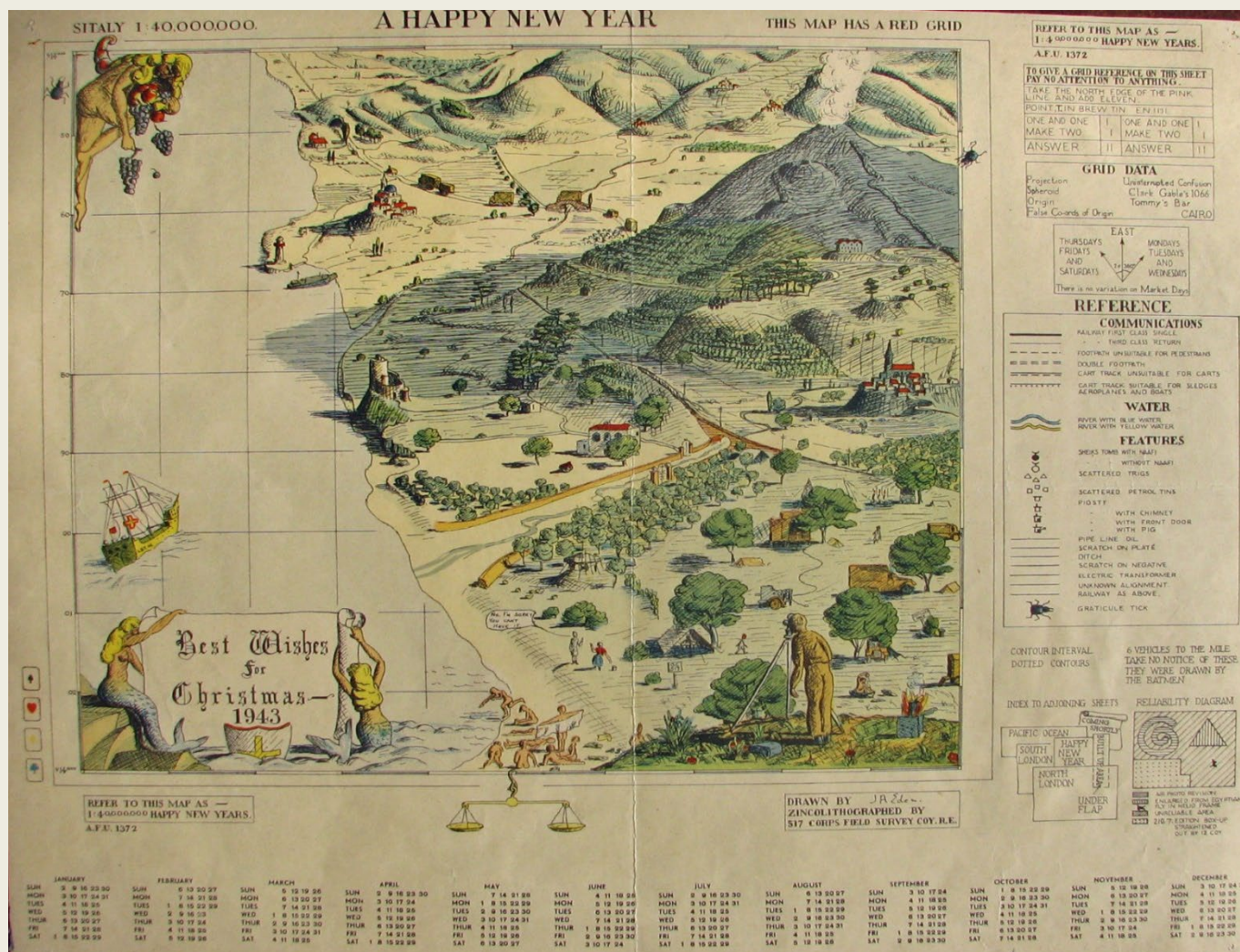
<i>December 2</i>	<i>Party of 1 NCO and 3 ORs sent to Hartlepool to carry out Coast Defence Survey.</i>
<i>December 8</i>	<i>Party of 1 NCO and 3 ORs sent to Derby area to carry out survey for AA Gun Sites.</i>
<i>December 10</i>	<i>Director of Survey visits the unit, inspecting on parade and also at work.</i>
<i>December 16</i>	<i>Party returns from Derby, job completed. Hartlepool party held up by bad visibility. Beacon lamps issued appear to be quite useless.</i>
<i>December 23</i>	<i>Party returns from Hartlepool.</i>
<i>December 24/25</i>	<i>Christmas break - No work.</i>
<i>December 26</i>	<i>2/Lt Rees (Drawing & Topo Officer) sent to Survey Training Centre Ruabon for a short course on Air Survey.</i>
<i>December 30</i>	<i>Letter from WO ordering re-mobilisation of Unit.</i>
	<i>Sailed for Middle East on 20 June 1942. Arrived Suez Egypt on 6 August 1942.</i>



512 Field Survey Company RE – December 1942

**OC Major H O'Hara Moore RE assumed command as A/Lt-Col on 19th November 1942
Location – Tura Caves Egypt**

- 1 Dec 42 – Lieut (T/Capt) BOYCOTT posted to 525 Fd Survey GHQ Coy RE – already attached since 27 Nov 4
- 2 Dec 42 – Lieut FALLON and 1 OR of 4 Topo Section arrived from Survey duty in Delta under orders HQ BTE over period 29 Nov – 2 Dec 42. 1 OR of 4 Topo Section arrived from Map Depot HQ 91 Sub-Area
- 6 Dec 42 – Progress report for w/e 5 Dec 42
- 8 Dec 42 – 2/Lt LUNT (posted to this unit on Commissioning 13 Nov 42) attached to MAADI Photo-Process Office
- 13 Dec 42 – Lieut FALLON and 2 ORs of 4 Topo Section proceeded on Survey duty in Delta under orders HQ BTE
Progress report for w/e 12 Dec 42
- 14 Dec 42 – 4 OR's (Comparator Team) proceeded to Western Desert on attachment to 46 Survey Coy SAEC
- 19 Dec 42 – Lieut FALLON and 2 ORs of 4 Topo Section arrived from Survey duty in Delta under orders HQ BTE
Lieut LUMBY attached to 524 PAL Corps Fd Survey Coy RE and proceeded on detachment to Canal Zone.
Progress report for w/e 19 Dec 42
- 23 Dec 42 – 15 Pal ORs arrived from RE Base Depot on posting to this unit Priority List on 22 Dec 42
- 27 Dec 42 – Progress report for w/e 26 Dec 42. AFW 3008 & AFW 3009B
- 28 Dec 42 – Lieut CARMODY, Lieut MURRAY and 19 ORs of Mobile Echelon (Survey personnel of 2 and 3 Topo Sections) re-joined unit from temporary attachment to 525 Fd Survey GHQ Coy RE.



517 Corps Field Survey Company RE – December 1943
OC Major B St G Irwin RE - 13 Mar 43 to 19 March 1944
Location: Ruvo Di Puglia, Bari, Italy

- 15 Dec 43 – 1400 hrs – Unit arrived Ruvo Di Puglia and began occupation of School (shared with 514 Coy RE)
- 16 Dec 43 – 1030 hrs – Major IRWIN reported to DD Survey 15th Army Gp. No orders received
1800 hrs – Lieut SPAVEN arrived from BRINDISI and reported on the work 1 Topo Section had been carrying out for DD Survey 15th Army Gp since 4th December. Survey of gun sites at Bari and of RAF installations near Foggia and been completed. Section was working on AA sites in BRINDISI area
- 17 Dec 43 – 1600 hrs – Hand over of material between 514 Coy and 517 Coy complete
- 18 Dec 43 – 0800 hrs – 514 Coy leave billet and move to area Vasto. One Printing Lorry of 517 Coy moved with 514 Coy to replace one of theirs which was immobile owing to mechanical trouble
1100 hrs – Major IRWIN visited DD Survey 15th Army Group
- 19 Dec 43 – 0830 hrs – Lieut SPAVEB left Coy HQ to return to 1 Topo Section still working in area BRINDISI. Called in on 8 Special Wireless Cot R C of S enroute to obtain details of survey required for installation near BRINDISI
- 20 Dec 43 – 1130 hrs – D R from Lieut SPAVEN requesting reinforcement of six men and two 15-cwt trucks
- 21 Dec 43 – 0800 hrs – A/M reinforcement from 2 Topo Section sent to 1 Topo Section
- 22 Dec 43 – 1500 hrs – Received letter from Survey 8th Army re. 7 General Survey Section
- 24 Dec 43 – 1530 hrs – 1 Topo Section and increment from 2 Topo Section returned to Coy HQ
1600 hrs – Visit from Col K M PAPWORTH OBE MC with verbal orders for a convoy of six 3-ton lorries to proceed to Naples on 28 December for the purpose of lifting maps
- 27 Dec 43 – 1300 hrs – Movement Order issued to Lieut W W ANSON RE concerning Naples Convoy
- 28 Dec 43 – 0800 hrs – 514 Coy Printing Lorry now repaired. Leaves Ruvo to re-join its unit
0830 hrs – Naples convoy leaves Coy HQ
- 30 Dec 43 – 1830 hrs – Naples convoy returns to Coy HQ. One vehicle on tow but otherwise no mishaps
- 31 Dec 43 – 0830 hrs – Lieut STRANGE with 2 Topo Section and an increment from 1 Topo Section commence road revision in neighbourhood of Cerignola.



13 Field Survey Company RE – December 1944
OC Major G S Burrows RE - from 29 November 1942 to 23 May 1945
Location – Flour Mills, Maddaloni nr Caserta Southern Italy
from 1 September 1944 to 8 January 1946

25 December 1100 hrs

Xmas Day. Officers from AFHQ Caserta – Lt Col Huntley SAEC, Lt Col Newman RE, Capt Riley RE & Lt Woods RE paid a social visit. Returned 1400 hrs with urgent proofs for approval. Only essential works carried out. Machines stopped until 0600 hrs 26 December.

26 December 0600 hrs

Normal works. Programme of three 8 hours shifts re-started.

517 FIELD SURVEY COY. R.E.



FAREWELL CONCERT

Programme

CASA DEL POPOLO DI POZZOLATICO. APRIL 14TH 1945

517 (Corps Field Survey) Company Royal Engineers – April 1945
OC Major A J D Halliday MC RE - from 19 February 1945 to 12 June 1945
Location – Pozzolatigo, Florence (Q 773 635) from 7 January 1945 to 3 June 1945

A series of Lectures given to Company Personnel

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 3 April | By Capt Baiss on – “The British Empire – how it grew and how it works” |
| 6 April | By CSM Hartley – “War Commentary” |
| 7-8 April | Unit moved under canvas. |
| 10 April | By CSM Hartley and Sgt McGilbert on “India” |
| 12 April | By Major Cook on “South Africa” |
| 14 April | Dinner and Concert in Unit to celebrate “Python!”
(During the war the Army had operated a scheme whereby any man who had served overseas for four years was repatriated. This was known as PYTHON, a reference to the Army eating its own tail.) |
| 1 December | Rome (Titanus Film Studios) Unit Disbanded. |

Post War



*No 3 Field Survey Depot Royal Engineers – December 1946
OC Capt A E Blowers RE - from 28 February 1946 to 30 December 1947
Location - Bielefeld Germany from 24 July 1945 to 1961*

Work during December 1946 – Completion of Current orders and installation of racks.



***89 Field Survey Squadron RE – Christmas 1956
OC Major I C C Mackenzie RE
Location - High Ridge Camp Nairobi Kenya***

Nominal Roll of Officers and Sergeants
December 1956 – March 1957

OC Sqn (December 1956 – February 1957)
OC Sqn (February 1957 – March 1957)
OIC 1 Troop
OIC 2 Troop
Tp Sgt 1 Troop (December 1956 – February 1957)
Tp Sgt 1 Troop (February – March 1957)
Tp Sgt 2 Troop

Major I C C Mackenzie RE
Major J A Simson MC RE
2Lt F K Smith RE
2Lt M R Welch RE
Cpl Rice G F J RE
Sgt Croucher M P RE
Sgt Reeder B H RE

FIELD SURVEY
89 Fd Svy Sqn RE

The Northern Frontier Province (NFP) detachment of 2 Officers, 1 WO, 1 Sgt and 30 ORs left Nairobi for Mandera on 10 December arriving, not without mishaps, on 14 December.

Despite the vehicle breakdowns a start was made on the field work on 18 December.

NFP – Kenya Two Canberra's of 13 (PR) Sqn RAF arrived at Eastleigh on 29 December to photograph the NFP. Unfortunately, the rains are only just ceasing and there is still 6-8/10 cloud in most of the area.

Survey of Kenya (By DCS)

Tanganyika Boundary Primary
Central Province Primary

Obs started some 16 stations remain to be completed.

Recce completed of the 37½ meridian chain as north as 1° N including Isiolo Base extension and site for base.

Coastal Secondary Primary

Work progressing

Survey of Uganda

West Nile Primary

Recce proceeding. Weather closing down.



Op Burberry – Fireman Strike Christmas 1977
42 Survey Engineer Regiment
CO Lt Col Peter Andrews MBE RE
Location - 'A' Camp Barton Stacey Hampshire

Industrial action in the form of a national strike by the Fire Brigades Union, required the mobilisation of the Armed Forces to man a large fleet of already obsolescent Civil Defence Force 'Green Goddess' fire engines. On 7 November 1977 the Regiment was tasked by HQ 12 Engineer Brigade to provide twenty 6-man crews for firefighting duties in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight together with command and administrative support.

18 Green Goddess fire engines were collected and tested. Most soldiers received a four-hour concentrated course in firefighting from the Navy at Portsmouth. The deployment order came on Sunday 13 November and all crews had reported from their fire bases at Aldershot, Basingstoke, Winchester, Eastleigh, Southampton Gosport and Portsmouth.

Later the Regiment's fire bases were reduced to Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Southampton with the manpower released forming a 'Mobile Column' of six Green Goddesses with ten crews at 15 minutes notice to move anywhere within the South East District.


Christmas was cancelled and the Regiment left Hampshire to take up responsibility for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The strike ended on 17 January 1978 and all crews returned to Barton Stacey and after a clear up all went on a week's leave.

During the strike 13 Map Production produced United Kingdom Town Plans for the firefighting crews. In all some 120 map sheets in quantities ranging from 6 to 200 copies were produced, with a final total of 5,500 plans. This small technical team managed to print 500,000 impressions, a commendable effort from a team which seldom exceeded ten soldiers in strength.

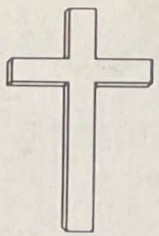
(Synopsis from TRTMTW pages 156-159 published by the late Alan Gordon)




*Printed by Geo Section HQ BRITFOR – Taciprint UK 11/93/354
(Posted on FB Gp - 42 Engr Regt (Geo) Past and Present by David Hill on 18/12/2021)*




*Today in the town of David a Saviour
has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11*




*Danas u Davidovom gradu Spasitelj je
rođen; on je Krist naš Gospodin.*





Printed by Geo Section, HQ BRITFOR.

11/93/354 Taciprint UK.



Notification of Deaths

Alan Barnes



No 11 Adv Fd Svy Tech Course

24 June – 20 December 1974

Cpl Witherington, Cpl Byrne, Cpl Thurgate, Cpl Chandler, Cpl Mates
Cpl Moorhouse, Sgt Pointon, WO2 Johnstone, Cpl Barnes

Sadly, we have to report the death of Alan Barnes on 5 November 2021.

Geoffrey R Tolley MBE



No 3 Survey Staff Specialist Course - 14 April – 14 November 1975

SSgt Heath, SSgt L Branson, SSgt J Allen

SSgt T Crane, SSgt M Crane, SSgt C Cleeton, SSgt G Tolley

Geoff died of Covid complications on 12 December 2021 in Thailand. As an Army Apprentice he trained as a Lithographic Artist (Maps) between 1958 and 1961. In 1962 he joined 42 Survey Engineer Regt. in Cyprus, then moved to Barton Stacey. Next to SMS Hermitage, partly to re-muster as a Cartographic Technician. Later with 19 Sqn. he was involved in the annual exercise: 'Carto Norge - 1974-75'. Then back to SMS as an instructor. Geoff also served with the Sultan's Armed Forces in the Muscat and in the Far East. His final posting was as WOI - STCO with the Regt. at Barton Stacey. Geoff was awarded the MBE in 1983 for services rendered on Op Corporate. He met and married a Thai lady by the name of Sam-Lee whilst in the Middle East. Geoff retired to live in Thailand with Sam-Lee where he remained. A keen rugby player and cricketer in the days of his youth and was well known for his cheerful disposition. *John Burnett & Peter Wood*

NOTICES

Volunteers

The Editor is looking for help in transcribing the War Dairies of RE Survey Units of WW2. There were about 100 Survey units operating in Europe, the Middle & Far East and doing an immense amount of very valuable work. The aim of this project is to create a permanent record in digital form of all the various unit's activities, which will be held on the Branch Website.

The requirement's along with 'abundant patience' are ideally a desktop PC and Microsoft Word. If you would like further information, please call me on 01329 830153 or email noel@burwells1.co.uk

Members' details

Over the next few months, the Hon Sec will be carrying out a complete review of Branch Membership Records and Details as it has been found that many are out of date. If you believe we may not be holding up-to-date contact details by all means get in touch with him on REA-MILSVY-Sec@outlook.com or on 01635 292407. Should you be contacted, the Sec will identify himself and provide evidence of the call being bona fide.

Many thanks

Ian Thurgate
Hon Sec

Positions Vacant - Standard Bearer

Most of our Members will know that the Branch has its own Standard. What the Branch doesn't have at the moment is a Standard Bearer! The position doesn't require someone who has done the Guards Drill Course, far from it. If you could do weapon drill to a reasonable standard, you should be able to act as a Standard Bearer. Of greater importance is to be willing to parade the standard at the funeral of a Branch Member or someone who served in Military Survey or RE Geo.

Being a National Branch our Members are spread all over the country (and, indeed the world) If you are interested, living near to Hermitage is not a prerequisite. There are times when the Standard is requested for funerals across the country, and so a number of potential standard bearers, from across UK, would be of great benefit. Travel costs are re-imbursed.

If you are interested, please contact, with no commitment, the Hon Sec, Ian Thurgate at REA-MilSvy-Sec@outlook.com

The Regiment That Mapped The World (Alan Gordon's book about 42 Survey Engineer Regiment)

From what we have heard, those that have read the 42 Regiment book have found it not only a good trip down memory lane but also very informative of those periods when they weren't part of "Four Two".

Since its publication we have been approached by several people wanting copies. We are now pleased to report that HQ REA have a number of copies available from the print run excess which they are happy to sell.

If you would like a copy/copies, or know someone that does, please contact HQ REA on 01634 847005 or chiefexecREA@rhqre.co.uk under the title "42 Regt Book" giving the name and address for delivery, number of copies required etc. They will advise on making the payment and costs including postage.

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**The Committee wishes all Members a
Happy, Prosperous and Healthy
New Year**

Visit - www.militarysurvey.org