



The Waggoner

The newsletter of the RASC & RCT



Issue 24 - September 2023



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President of the RASC & RCT Council

We will also provide support to The RLC as it develops and matures the RLC Association

This edition of the Waggoner follows what was considered by all to have been a very successful Corps Weekend. I would like to thank all who were able to attend the various events and all who contributed to make our weekend so memorable and enjoyable. I know that we all gain so much pleasure from meeting old friends and to, once again, experience the special bond that exists between us all, not forgetting our families and partners who have always given us such outstanding support and encouragement.

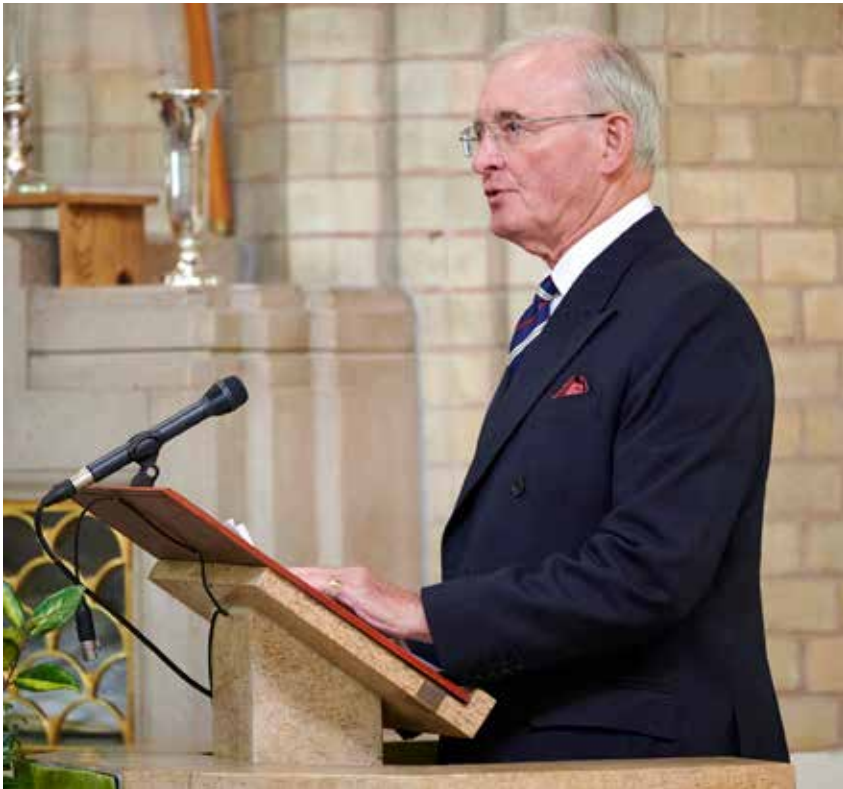
On your behalf, I would like to record our thanks to our two hardworking Secretaries for organising Corps Weekend and working tirelessly to ensure that all ran smoothly and, inevitably, coping with the difficulties as they arose. We are, indeed, fortunate to enjoy such dedicated support.

We will of course continue in the future to organise Corps events and support Regional and Branch activities and, indeed, any member, veteran and their

families requiring help. As often as possible, I emphasise that The RLC remains committed totally to our support and the RLC Association Trustees are very willing to provide the appropriate financial support we require, in order to organise and deliver our planned programme of functions.

As you would expect and encourage, we continue to contribute to the future RLC migration, with a clear focus on making sure that our future needs will be met and delivered in the way we would like, for as long as our members wish. We will also provide support to The RLC as it develops and matures the RLC Association. The structure of the RASC and RCT is a great strength and we should continue, where possible, to welcome RLC ex service personnel to our Branches and functions and by so doing, help to ensure our continued success well into the future.

Brigadier Paul Evans OBE DL



Chairman RASC & RCT Association

I am delighted to say that our newly appointed Corps Association Secretary, Lt Col Richard Hick, is now firmly in the chair having been in post for eight months. He has formed good relationships with the other Forming Corps Secretaries and most importantly gained the confidence and trust of The RLC Secretariat which will be so important as we move ever closer to the time when we all migrate to a single Regimental Association. This will not happen overnight; however, our vision is to ensure that any future structure is properly resourced and financed so that it is capable of supporting our Branches and our fraternity activities across our Regions throughout the United Kingdom, including of course our Corps Weekend in July each year.

The RLC Association is now actively looking at how it intends to structure itself to meet the needs of RLC veterans and we have made it quite clear that we will do all that we can to help. Indeed, at the last meeting of The RLC and Forming Corps Association held in April, approval was given to the Terms of Reference for a Working Group to be established, which would be responsible for creating milestones leading to the migration of the Forming Corps into the RLC Association of the future. It would also ensure that there was a realistic financial plan to underpin migration and most importantly look at the staffing requirements needed to ensure a smooth transition. The Working Group will be chaired by The RLC Regimental Secretary, with each of the Forming Corps represented. We will be represented by both the RASC/RCT Association Secretary, and the Secretary of the RASC/RCT Officers' Club.



Basil Clarke being presented with his Certificate of Merit at the Association Dinner on 15th July

In the last edition of The Waggoner, Brig Paul Evans highlighted his hope that we would do all that we can to encourage former and serving RLC personnel to join our Branches, whether trade, geographical or national and in my various visits to events during the year, I have been pleased to see RLC veterans, although small in number, attending and being made welcome. Many served in the RCT at the beginning of their service.

This review of Association activities covers five months from March to July 2023. The early period saw the majority of the Regions hold their Annual General Meetings, and along with Richard we were pleased to attend the South East and London Region

AGM in March at Worthy Down. We also attended the Eastern Region AGM in Northampton in April. I attended the Wales and Western Region AGM in Shrewsbury in May. This Region covers a large geographical area and it was pleasing to see 24 representatives from Birkenhead/ North Wirral, Liverpool Maritime, North Staffs, Stoke on Trent, Shrewsbury, Tamworth and 17 Squadron 'Old Pals' attend. The number of Branches within each Region varies enormously, and it may be of interest to note that Wales/Western Region have 13 Branches; London and South East Region have 8; Scotland have 6; North East have 5 and Eastern and South West Regions have 4 Branches each. Northern

Chairman RASC & RCT Association

Ireland only have one Branch in Londonderry. My particular concern is to ensure that we do all that we can to help those Branches that are struggling with attendance numbers and there are 13 Branches which are very much on our radar. Sadly, Bideford Branch will be folding and their Standard will be laid up in their local church at a special service on the 11th of November.

Our last Committee of Management Meeting was held at Worthy Down on the 5th of April, an auspicious date in our Corps history, thirty years on from our amalgamation into The RLC. It was agreed that future meetings needed more time to focus on our thoughts on the way ahead, and to ensure that both the Association Secretary and I take into account the views of the membership in our discussions with The RLC. Our next meeting is in early October.

The RLC celebrated its 30th Anniversary on the 1st June with a parade and march past followed by a Service of Thanksgiving in Winchester Cathedral in the presence of HRH The Princess

Royal. The parade included a contingent of veterans under the command of Colonel Kelvin Tutt, the Chairman of the Salisbury Plain Branch. On 8th June, I was pleased that Fr. Nick Gosnell accepted our invitation to attend Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. It was an appropriate way to say thank you to him for his continued support to our Corps, particularly over Corps Weekend.

It is always a pleasure to attend Association gatherings, and Maureen and I travelled to Coventry on 17th June for the RASCALS Annual Dinner. It was a most enjoyable evening and is recorded elsewhere. I would also like to thank Jim Nelson from Reading Branch for treating us both to a memorable day at Phyllis Court during the Henley Regatta on 29th June. Corps Weekend was held over 15th/16th July, exactly 58 years since the formation of the RCT. Sadly, inclement weather cancelled the Band Branch Concert in the Princes Gardens on the Saturday morning, however they provided music prior to the Association Dinner Dance in the evening and during the Church Service on Sunday. The venue for

both the Saturday evening and for the curry lunch on Sunday was the Village Hotel, and both events were judged to be a success. Fr Nick Gosnell joined us for lunch, and his customary humour was much in evidence when saying Grace.

During the church service, the opportunity was taken to process and lay up the Oxford Branch Standard. The Standard Bearer was Basil Clarke who joined the RASC Association in the early 1960s, and has been the Standard Bearer for over 50 years, and Chairman of Oxford Branch for many years. It was clearly an emotional occasion for him, but a proud day both for him and his son Stephen. It was a privilege for me to present him with a well-deserved Certificate of Merit for his years of service.

On 29th July, South West Region held its AGM and Dinner Dance at the Golf Club in Taunton. It was a great evening, and amongst the guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Taunton and the Chairman of Somerset RBL and his wife.

In conclusion and on a very sad note, Maureen and I attended the funeral service for Eunice Byrne on 18th July at Gorleston on Sea. Eunice was so well known amongst the veteran community in Norfolk, which was evident by the overwhelming numbers of attendees. Eunice supported Terry throughout his military service, both when he was serving and since his retirement. She was Secretary of Eastern Region and of the Norfolk Branch of the RASC/ RCT Association and her contribution was an example to all. She will be much missed by all who were fortunate to know her, and our thoughts and prayers are with Terry and Karen at this emotional time. May she rest in peace.

Colonel Nigel Gilbert



Father Nick Gosnell leading our Corps Sun-day Service

Secretary RASC & RCT Officers' Club



The Over 90s Lunch at Regent's Park Barracks. The over 90s who attended were: Mr. Walford Taylor, Brig Ron Jenkins, Lt Col John Lyon-Maris, Capt Peter Bloomfield, Maj John Tatham, Maj Nic Carter

Members of the RASC & RCT Officers' Club receive a Calendar of Events each year, which details opportunities to meet up with each other and share the fraternity we all hold so dear. Looking to update it recently, I was struck by the fact that there is at least one function each month that members can attend, whether it being a 'main' event run by the Secretary, or one of the many events run by our now incorporated Associated Organisations, such as the RASC & RCT Luncheon Club or The Waggon Club.

The Luncheon Club runs three hugely popular functions during the year, while The Waggon Club have an immensely attractive eclectic calendar throughout. This is not to forget those more 'niche' clubs, such as the Airborne

Officers' Club and the Maritime Officers' Reunion, and the RASC & RCT Council is hugely appreciative of the organisational work in the background that ensures these annual events are still so well attended.

Corps Weekend 2023 was an even bigger event than last year, where we gathered in the Cathedral Church of St Michael and St George on 16th July. This year was different however, in that the hospitality was arranged with The Village Hotel, Farnborough for the first time. They were undaunted by size of the occasion, with the evening Association function followed by a curry lunch the next day for 154 and 221 covers respectively, where the food was much appreciated and the wine flowed! This new destination has proved to be extremely popular with our members and

planning is well advanced to the Officers' Club Black Tie Dinner on 27th October this year, as well as a repeat Corps Weekend there in 2024.

We recently hosted the third Over 90s Lunch in the Regent's Park Barracks Officers' Mess. More than forty officers who were eligible were contacted and I can confirm that they appreciated being invited and all assured me that they avidly read all our Corps publications. This year six guests and their families attended a most successful function where the mess staff provided silver service to accompany a delicious meal and proudly showcased their unique surroundings to us all. It was a most enjoyable event which proved that whatever the age, a chance to get together socially is always welcome!

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Duncan

Secretary RASC & RCT Association

Is it really 8 months since I took over from Robin Moore? Time seems to have gone so quickly in this very varied but most rewarding role. I feel I am settling into the job, getting to know how things work and importantly getting to meet members. I have managed to venture away from the computer and office to some meetings and events. I am very grateful to everyone for their help and support and for inviting me to so many functions. Unfortunately, there have been numerous invites I have been unable to accept as there is so much going on and I can only be in one place at a time.

I always welcome articles for the Waggoner and suggestions regarding content. It's some of your suggestions that have prompted a few articles in this edition. Firstly, there is a feature on welfare and some of the many organisations which offer support to the veteran community. There are so many, and some initiatives are new, notably in the NHS. These charities and organisations are filled with very knowledgeable staff who are keen to help the veteran community, so please do make use of them and tell others. I should point out one charity in particular, Charlie Charlie One, as it is founded and run by Stuart Roberts who many will know of as he served in both the RCT and RLC. Please also be aware of the great work that the RLC Benevolence office does. The team, led by Mary Gallagher has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is keen to help. The welfare feature includes a most useful article written by Mary, which outlines how she and her team can help those who are in need of support.

In addition to the welfare article, the Director of the RLC Museum and the Curator of the RCT medal collection provide news and updates. The bulk of the content of the magazine does come from branches and

individual members and without these contributions we would have little to include. So do please keep providing news and articles. As much as possible these should be complete articles, preferably with some clear photos as separate JPGs and with appropriate captions to explain.

Both Brig Evans and Col Gilbert have written about the work that is going on to secure the long-term future of the RASC & RCT Association, as well as other Forming Corps Associations and how they will, in time, migrate with The RLC to form one Association. There is indeed much work to be done. I do believe that, in the interim, it's so important that we keep our branches running and to do this we need to continue to encourage new members. I am delighted that so many branches are working hard to recruit and to see that they are welcoming RLC veterans. I do feel that branches need some guidance on matters such as branch titles, headed paper, membership forms etc. For the time being please do continue to use RASC & RCT nomenclature and we will provide further guidance following the next Committee of Management. Can I remind you of the need for any new members to complete a RASC & RCT Association membership form (including data consent) and for the form to be sent to me so that we can add new members to the database.

Corps Weekend in July went

well, and I was pleased to be able to meet so many people and see you enjoying the events and meeting up with friends. I will cover more detail in the article about Corps Weekend. I have now started the planning for next year and am currently working with the Village Hotel in Farnborough to confirm details of the weekend, along with the accommodation. I am aware that there were problems with the hotel's room booking and access to the concessionary rate. I am working with the hotel to address this so that we can offer a good room rate and relatively easy booking process next year. Once I have done so I will be sending branches a detailed instruction for Corps Weekend 2024 on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July... Save the date. If you are not a member of a branch and wish to come along, send me an email and I will forward you the details. One final plea from me... If you are coming, please remember to inform me, along with any dietary requirements, by filling in the return that will come with the instruction and returning it to me!

My next major focus is the Cenotaph Parade in November. We have filled our 85 allocated spaces and I have a reserve list which I am hoping I can allocate spaces to in due course.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hick

THE WAGGONER NEEDS YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please help with content for the next edition of the Waggoner. Complete articles are always welcome, along with good quality photos sent as separate JPG files. As a guide a one page article should be a maximum of 550 words which will allow for three decent sized images to be included.

Please email them to rascrtsec@rhqtherlc.org.uk



“FOR ANYONE EVEN THINKING OF JOINING, DON’T HESITATE – IT’S ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I’VE MADE.”

As a serving soldier you often come across the Chelsea Pensioners. They get invited to the mess. Although they were in the Army 20 or 30 years before you, they've done the same things. It doesn't change. You're singing off the same hymn sheet. When you've been soldiers, you have this bond.

When my wife died, I thought, "What am I doing knocking around in a three-bedroomed house? I don't like this. I'll apply to be a Chelsea Pensioner". I came down on a small recce first, because I knew someone who was living there. That first night I went with him to the Pensioners' club for a beer and as soon as I walked in the door I thought, "This is the place for me". It took me back 30 years to the sergeants' mess. In my berth at night, I sometimes think of how many generations of Chelsea Pensioners have been here in these buildings before me.

My four-day trial stay was brilliant. Everyone stops and talks to you. During my interview they said, "Aren't you a bit young to come in here?". I said, "I can live independently, I'm not married and I'm in receipt of a state pension, so I meet your criteria. And you need people like me to cheer up those old ones!"

For me, the best part is going out and representing the Royal Hospital. There's nothing else to worry about. The hardest thing is choosing what to have for lunch!

For anyone even thinking of joining, don't hesitate – it's one of the best decisions I've made.

WE ARE WELCOMING APPLICATIONS TO BECOME A CHELSEA PENSIONER.

To find out more, contact our admissions team:

- 020 7881 5204
- admissions@chelsea-pensioners.org.uk
- www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/become-chelsea-pensioner



Doncaster Branch Visit To Sledmere House



Pictured Left to Right Mick Gill (Secretary) – Chris Bouttell (Chairman) and members Adrian Goddard and Dave Knight



I wonder what Pte Dillon Spence (right) is thinking



Left to Right – Mick Gill, Michael Moore, Chris Bouttell and Janet Moore

Members of the Doncaster Branch of the RASC & RCT Association were recently kindly invited by Lt Col Hugo McCullough the Commanding Officer 150 Transport Regiment, to visit the 2023 Wagon Challenge. This is an event to remember our military descendants whose history contributed to the forming of the Corps including the RASC, then the RCT and latterly The RLC.

This event was coordinated from Sledmere House which was the home of Lt Col Sir Mark Sykes. Sir Mark had served in the Boer war and recognised the importance of logistics on the battlefield. He formed and financed the Wolds Waggoners, a team of over 1,000 recruits who had skills in managing horses, carts and the support skills needed to maintain horse drawn supplies to the front line. A total of 1,127 Waggoners went to the front in WW1 and 80 never returned.

The Wagon Challenge is an annual event where



Competitors at full sprint

soldiers from a logistical background compete against each other in some of the skills that their predecessors would practice. The superb weather contributed to a most enjoyable day. Thanks again are expressed to 150 Regt RLC for inviting us to such a memorable occasion.

Chris Bouttell

RASC & RCT Airborne Officers' Association Lunch 2023



The Winged Waggoners at Lunch

On Friday 19 May 23, by kind permission of the PMC and OC 20 Sqn RLC, Major Charlie Frost, the 'Winged Waggoners' held their annual lunch at Regent's Park Barracks Officers' Mess. Happy memories of favourite postings started flowing as soon as each 'Winged Waggoner' arrived in the ante-room for pre-lunch drinks.

Singapore was the favourite for Col Brian Kay and Col Geoffrey Hardaker. Brian said "In 1968 I was able to meet up with some old best friends from 22 SAS and we had some great times together which made it very special." Geoffrey enjoyed his three-years from 1966 to 1969 when it still seemed to be how life was in the older 'colonial days'.

The happiest memories of 'living legend' Lt Col (QM) Jack Matthews are also of the Far East. Firstly, in January 1961 when based at Nee Soon Barracks for jungle familiarisation as a 20-year-old Driver with 1 Para Gp, Jack recalled: "We jumped from a Hastings onto a beautiful elephant grass DZ adjacent to RAF Kuantan in Pahang State. We then thrashed about in the jungle for a fortnight and back to Singapore for R&R and RTU without one injury, which was remarkable being a Hastings!"

Hong Kong was favourite for Lt Cols Peter Derry and Alastair Adams and Maj Colin Hird. Peter found that when he was there in 1977 to 1979 everybody got on so well with each other. Alastair said "Hong Kong from 1960 to 1963 was definitely my favourite posting!" Colin, the Association Secretary, said "Directly after my Para tour in the mid 70's, I went to Hong Kong to serve with the GTR from 1977 to 1980."

Namibia was the favourite posting of Col Max Maxwell, which came as a result of Independence in 1990. "For seven amazingly enjoyable and professionally satisfying months I was there as DCOS BMAAT", Max explained, "Being involved in the training of a new army was a very rewarding experience."

"The best postings are in command of soldiers"

said Col David Green: "So 60 Sqn and 153 Regt, but I also enjoyed my flying for the UN Flight in Nicosia and 653 Sqn at Netheravon, as well as 200 Hovercraft Sqn. I don't think I had a posting that I didn't enjoy."

Lt Col Derek Cleeton received a hearty welcome on his first Airborne Officers' Association Lunch. 'Ex SAIF SAREEA' (meaning 'swift sword') in 2001 in Oman was his favourite. Derek said: "I was with 7 Tpt Regt and it was so challenging being part of one of the longest logistical loops for many years."

Col Martyn Cubitt had four great postings: Scout pilot and then Atk Flt Commander 651 Sqn AAC in Verden 1968/71, OC 18/26 Sqn RCT NI 1977/79, Training Major 150 Tpt Regt RCT (TA) 1981/83 and S3 Operations Officer 7th Transportation Group USA (exchange post) 1983/85.

Martyn pointed out: "Each one of these was so different from the others that it is impossible to rank them." He added "Winged Waggoners have certain aspects in common. They all put a certain premium on enjoying their army life as well as doing a good job in return for the Queen's shilling and they thrived on doing things that were personally challenging, after all, who in their right mind jumps out of a serviceable airplane?"

The success of the event was due to the hard work of Colin Hird who conveyed apologies from those unable to attend. Those who had all made their final landings since May 2022 were remembered: Dick Chisholm, John Hope, Allan Leeson, Peter Manning and Ken Rawlings. Lt Col David Gibley gave news from Maj Gen John MacDonald who will hopefully be at next year's Lunch.

Association Membership is free to all officers who are qualified parachutists and pilots and who have served in the RASC or RCT on Regular service or in the Reserve.

For further information contact: Tony Hales, Communications Officer, RASC & RCT Airborne Officers' Association: arh333@hotmail.co.uk

Tyneside Branch



Joe Cartwright (Secretary), George Johnson (Chairman), Chris Stevens (Blood Bikes representative), William Hannant (Standard Bearer), Col Varn Jassal (President), Peter Mclackland (Treasurer)

The Beating Heart of a Branch
Every year at their February AGM, the members of the Tyneside Branch nominate a worthwhile charity to support for that particular year. Funds are raised during the year by way of raffles, donations and events etc in order to support their chosen charity.

In 2022, members agreed to support Northumbria Blood Bikes, and during the year managed to raise a fantastic £587, in support of Blood Bike volunteers, giving up their time in helping save lives across the North East. Northumbria Blood Bikes is a registered charity established by local volunteers to deliver essential blood and urgent medical supplies, out of hours, between hospitals and other healthcare sites in North East England.

Blood Bike groups across the country, offer to carry out this service free of charge, ensuring the limited resources of the NHS can be used where it makes a difference. Northumbria Blood Bikes' funding comes entirely from charitable donations, and the service is provided solely by volunteers, giving their own free time to help others.

Saving lives
In critical situations, blood or other medical items need to be delivered urgently in order to save a patient's life. Blood bikes, with their distinctive livery and narrow profile, can quickly get through busy traffic to reach their destination. For bulky items, or in extreme weather conditions, they use cars too, to ensure a service is available every day of the year.

Continued Growth
Work to establish the group started in September 2012, and the team of dedicated volunteers, with support from the National Association of Blood Bikes and other groups, began live operations in February 2014. By the end of that year, they were supporting hospitals across the whole of the region and since 2015 have also supported the Great North Air

Ambulance Service with daily deliveries to its aircraft bases. They perform around 15,000 deliveries per year with demand for the service growing all the time. In June 2017 Northumbria Blood Bikes was the proud recipient of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the MBE for voluntary groups - which is clear recognition of the value of the work that they do and the professionalism and dedication of their volunteers.

So, the Tyneside Branch continues its hard work, to try and support worthy charitable causes. As for 2023, the Branch has agreed to raise funds in support of the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade, who provide a Life Saving Coastal Rescue Service 24 hours a day.

Fife Armed Forces Day



Peter Shields, Will Miller and Tommy Boyle with Lord Provost of Fife Mr Lieshman

Members of Fife Branch attended the Fife Armed Forces Day on Monday 19th June, outside the Glen Pavilion in Dunfermline. This event marked the beginning of Armed Forces week.

Peter Shields

RCT Riders' Branch

Scottish Bike Show
The Riders' Branch once again brought their stand to the Scottish Bike Show at the Royal Highland Centre over the weekend of 11th & 12th March 2023. On-site preparation on the Friday included the joy of folding 5,000 raffle tickets for the Tombola, and raffle for the more significant prizes.
From the show opening at 0900 on Saturday, the stand was inundated with attendees asking about the Branch, admiring the bikes, and purchasing raffle tickets for items generously donated by individuals, businesses and sponsors.

Andrew Wright

Lee Rigby Memorial Ride
The Lee Rigby 10th Anniversary Memorial Ride (Rochdale to Middleton) was held on the 21st of May 2023. This year's ride was also dedicated to Scott Hetherington of 2nd Bn Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (died on operations, Iraq, 2 Jan 17), in addition to the 22 victims of the Manchester arena bombing (22 May 17).

Michelle and I set off around 0800 on our triumph Rocket from Sheffield, up the M1 and the M62 arriving in Rochdale around 0945 (with a fuel and breakfast stop en-route). Upon arrival at the meeting point at Asda Rochdale, we were greeted by the marshals who directed us to our parking space. Once parked up, we said hello to some fellow bikers including RCT colleagues Stephen Vaughan and Phil Holden.

Having availed ourselves to sustenance from the booty van, we donated to The Lee Rigby Foundation, before purchasing some merchandise and took the opportunity for a quick chat with Lee Rigby's Mum and Dad.

The Ride was marshalled in its entirety through the town and urban roads (the ride was 'learner friendly'), with lots of members of the public applauding the bikes and scooters. As we crossed from Rochdale into Middleton we experienced the



same reception, everyone happy to see the 400 or so bikes, scooters (and trikes Phill!).

Arriving at Middleton Masonic Hall, we parked up and took the short walk down to Middleton Memorial Gardens where Lee's memorial is located. There was a small service for Lee, Scott and the Manchester 22, after which it was back up to the Masonic Hall for light refreshments before Michelle and I finished our day with a ride into Derbyshire for some lunch in Bakewell before heading back to Sheffield.

Henry Walsh

Old Comrades



Brian Quist RASC, Bill Markwick RASC & RCT, Allan Barley RMP

Lyn and I had an old comrades' reunion whilst we were on holiday on the Cunard cruise ship the Queen Victoria, sailing up the Norwegian coast and fjords.

On one of the days in the programme there was an organised reunion of veterans who happened to be on board, to meet up and swing the lamp over coffee and biscuits. A good number turned up from both the Navy and Army, sadly no RAF. I met up with two ex-army veterans, one of them served in the RASC & RCT TA. He was a major in charge of a field ambulance division in the northeast of England, he is also a member of the Hull branch. His name is Bill Markwick. The other veteran is Major Allan Barley who served 23 years in the Royal Military Police and is a Falkland War veteran.

12 Squadron RCT Brotherhood



12 Squadron veterans gathered together

12 Squadron RCT veterans gathered in Derbyshire on 3 Jun 23 to hold a Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in St James Church, Shardlow. A dignified service was led by Reverend Paul Hygate, including a moving reading of the roll of honour, last post ceremony with bugler and wreath laying.

The service is part of a social weekend centred at the Shardlow Marina complex, an annual event organised by the 12 Squadron Brotherhood committee, chaired by Geoff Knightley and supported by Keith Sacre, Tom Parry, Chris Gadsden, John Patterson, Frank



Remembering comrades

Kennedy and many others. The brotherhood celebrates and promotes the camaraderie of those who served in the RASC and RCT; many serving together in Liebenau and Munsterlager, Germany. The gathering is an annual event, organised via social media. Despite the passing of years, the "esprit de corps" is as strong as ever. The group is grateful to the continued support of the RASC and RCT Association, especially the support from Lt Col Robin Moore in past years, and welcomes Lt Col Richard Hick to the role of Secretary.

Jim Ferrier

11 Sqn RCT Reunion - Torro 22

Over the years ex members of 11 Sqn RCT have enjoyed reunions in the UK, Duisburg and in Minden, in Germany. In 2021 it was suggested that following the Covid months we engage in a little autumn sun in Torremolinos on the Costa Del Sol in Spain.

And with a date set in stone a suitable hotel identified along with a proposed day out in Gibraltar mid-week, work commenced to get individuals to sign up to what would be a fantastic event for all who participated, which included partners. Initially many signed up to the reunion but sadly some pulled out at the last minute and the attendance was low. One high was the attendance of Karen Hill wife of Mick Hill who sadly passed away in 2021.

However those that did turn up soon started to have what was to become a most enjoyable week with old comrades. During the days with some fabulous sunshine, some decided to visit places on the Costa including Benalmadena, Mijas and Malaga, although some decided to relax and top up their summer tans by the poolside with one of many exotic cocktails available in the hotel.

On the Tuesday a suitable vehicle arrived promptly outside the hotel at 0900 hrs to take all to Gibraltar on the southern tip of Spain. Still heavily contested by the Spanish Government and with post Brexit, getting through the border can be a tad challenging. However with all armed with our passports we all got through this very busy border with ease.

Nearly all opted to go to the top of the Rock of



From left to right: Steve McCully, Joseph Nordstrom, David Whitley, Richard Sutherland, Mark Mills, Paul Leggoe and Martin "Willy" Rushton

Gibraltar by cablecar to take in some fantastic views including Morocco in Africa and to see the world famous Rock Apes.

Once the sight seeing was complete many opted to take advantage of some tax free shopping followed by some local cuisine and of course some English and Spanish beverages. The exit through the border was busy with very long queues but all got through safely for the return journey back to Torremolinos.

Already plans are in place for our next reunion on the Wirral in 2023, followed by another incursion to Torremolinos in 2024.

Martin "Willy" Rushton

Buller Branch

Sadly, we lost two of our dedicated and loyal Branch members and we paid them a fond farewell: Chris Bridle (8/10/2022) and Geoff Edwards (15/01/2023). Geoff paid his respects at Chris's funeral at the Wren Chapel, Royal Hospital Chelsea. Quite a large number of Corps members, as well as family and friends, were in attendance. We carried the branch standard at the funerals of both members. Chris, being an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital was buried at the CWGC Brookwood Cemetery near Deepcut. Geoff's funeral was held at the South London Crematorium.

We have had several members parading at Armed Forces Day events around the country and we thank them for their service and commitment to all veteran and military events.

Last year Jim Titheridge our Branch Treasurer, stood down after 9 year's service. He was the backbone of the Branch; getting us up and running and on the internet. Without his help and support our branch would still be back in the dark ages and we would be using flags and smoke signals to keep in contact. He has been instrumental in the forming of the Branch from the very beginning of the Buller parade, right up until his leaving. He has also been helping the new Branch Treasurer in a handover since his departure. However, I would like to remind members that his commitment to the Corps has been total, as he also runs several on-line groups for veterans and Corps members. At the 2023 AGM, we presented him with a small token of our appreciation and we hope he finds a nice place to put it ... with his wife's permission of course. Jim will still be a member of the Branch, just moving from country to country.

This now brings us to his replacement; Dave Treloar. He has had a very eventful few months already, with keeping up with new members, paying subs and the Corps dinner dance and other events - Dave your hard work does not go unnoticed, thank you.

Mike Owsley has also made it known that he also wants to take a back seat within the Branch and that a new Secretary is needed. Mike has had a few medical issues over the years and has steadfastly carried out his commitment to this Branch continuously and I would like to thank him personally for all his help, both with the Buller parade and then forming and running the Buller Branch. We would not be here today without his help and guidance over the past 10 years. Thank you, Mike.

I shall be staying as Chair until we have a replacement for Mike Owsley. Once that takes place and a good handover has taken place then I too will hand over my position as Chair and take a backseat within the Branch.

We have a new standard bearer (Steve Armitage) with Andy Rae having had to step back for the foreseeable future. Steve will be doing the course later this year with a date to be decided soon.

I had a visit recently from our Branch member and



Geoff Edwards' funeral with 210 Sqn RCT (V) in attendance

famous author, Michael McHenry and we spent the day chatting about the Corps history, its badges and insignia. We also did a few swaps in between and he was given my complete collection of the MSOs, from their formation to disbandment. He took it back to the USA to make a number of copies and then send onwards to the museum and his co-author David Kellock. Last year Mike and David were commissioned to publish a book for RLC30. He came over from the USA for the RLC30 events this year and presented the museum with a number of copies of his latest publication; *Badges of the Commonwealth's Loggies*. He also presented me with a signed copy. My thanks to both Mike and David.

Ken Blake



Andy Rae & Dave (Wally) Whiting, standard bearers at RHC



Buller branch members saying farewell at CWGC Brookwood to Chris Bridle

Norton Manor Group (Junior Leaders Battalion RASC 1961-65) Annual Reunion 2023



Once again it was a great pleasure to hold our annual reunion in its usual mid-June time-slot on 16 to 18 Jun 23. This year the event was held at the Holiday Inn, Coventry and we were very well looked after. It was also our pleasure to welcome and include several members and ladies of 26 Transport Regiment RCT (Bridging) (formerly 26 Transport Column RASC (Bridging)). It was a great privilege and honour to welcome also the Chairman of the RASC & RCT Association, Col Nigel Gilbert, together with his wife Maureen, as our VIP guests for the gala dinner evening.

The weekend began with members and ladies arriving on Friday and, after a long journey, an initial meeting over complimentary teas and coffees provided by the hotel. In the evening a casual get together with old friends of more than 60 years. A very tasty and ample buffet satisfied everyone's taste buds, before our annual raffle in Aid of BLESMA, which raised a total of £331. It was a most convivial evening in which new members to our reunions were made welcome and many memories of 60 years ago at Norton Manor were revisited.

On Saturday after breakfast, many of our members and guests headed off to enjoy the delights of Coventry in which there are many hidden gems. The gala dinner evening began with a wine reception before taking our places for dinner. We always look forward to welcoming Col Nigel and Maureen whenever they are able to join us. In doing so we like Col Nigel to take away a memento of his evening with the RASCALs (RASC Apprentice Leaders). So many plaques, mugs and drinks mats have been given in the past we decided upon something a little more practical, a bathrobe embroidered with the Junior Leaders Battalion RASC logo and the legend "Nigel – Honorary RASCAL". With a huge sigh of relief, it was well received and a good fit too.

As a group of ageing former RASC servicemen, we are so very grateful to the RASC & RCT Association for its encouragement and support, as well as a

generous grant of funds to help towards our costs in organising the reunion. The evening was rounded off magnificently with vocal entertainment by Ray Lewis, former lead singer with the iconic group The Drifters during 1970s to 1990s. We were quite understandably wowed by his performance of all The Drifters hits, especially the ladies. During his performance Ray appeared to mistake our VIP guest, Col Nigel, for his look-a-like, King Charles, and during his performance knelt before him hoping to be knighted – nice try Ray but at least you left with your head still intact.

Farewells on Sunday morning after breakfast were made in the certain knowledge, the good Lord and our health willing, we will get to do it all over again next year. Anyone reading this report of our reunion event who has previously served as a Junior Leader, or as a member of permanent staff, at Norton Manor Camp, Taunton during the RASC period 1961 to 1965 and would like to join the Norton Manor Group please contact the secretary at: mikemason47.mm@gmail.com. Additionally, if you served at Bordon in Hants before the move to Taunton, we would also like to hear from you.

Mike Mason



Colonel Nigel Gilbert models his honorary RASCAL bathrobe



Vocalist entertainer Ray Lewis

Rededication of The Movement Control Commemorative Plaque

On an overcast afternoon on Saturday 11 Mar 23 at the Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, members of the Movement Control Association (MCA), supported by a contingent from 29 Regiment RLC and 287 Movement Control Squadron RLC (V), gathered together in the memorial garden. The occasion was to rededicate the movement control memorial plaque, which was initially erected outside the Corps Museum in Deepcut. However, on closure of the site it had been moved to the home of the movers at 29 Regiment in South Cerney.

Those present formed up in the traditional three sides of a square. This was followed by the march on of three standard bearers and the VIP party. The party consisted of AVM Richard Hill CBE RAF (MCA President), his wife Lyn, The Rev. John Travell (MCA Chaplain), Lt Col Tony Ireland (MCA Secretary), Maj C Campbell-Hughes (OC 69 MC Squadron). Music was provided by a piper and drummer from The Royal Tank Regiment.

AVM Hill read out a history of the plaque after which The Rev. Travell led a rededication service. A lament was then played by the piper and a minute silence observed, after which wreaths were laid by the Air Vice Marshal on behalf of the MCA, OC 69 MC Sqn and WO2 (Retired) Jim Harkins, on behalf of 287 Sqn RCT (V).

This was followed by a blessing after which OC 69 MC Sqn and a young soldier from the squadron



AVM Richard Hill CBE RAF (MCA President) lays a wreath

dedicated present and serving movement controllers to preserve our heritage.

Thanks go to our hosts 29 Regiment RLC, The RTR Regimental band, the standard bearers provided by the Chairman of London and South East Branch of the RASC and RCT Association, who also provided the fine looking Order of Service. Thanks also to 287 Sqn RCT (V) for printing the evening event programme and to James Long Stone Masons.

We were delighted to be hosted by 287 Sqn RCT (V) at their annual reunion dinner, followed by a lovely social event.

Ron Cockings MBE



Association standard bearers Mr Kevin Terry, Mr Nik Carter and Mr Denis West, flanked by the piper and drummer from The Royal Tank Regiment



Benevolence is available, if needed, for all RASC & RCT veterans and their families, as well as veterans of The RLC and other Forming Corps.

Whilst we were serving most of us made contributions to our Corps through the "One Day's Pay Scheme". Many readers will remember this money being used to support a wide array of Corps sports, the Corps Open Day and so many other activities at Regimental and Corps level. What is less well known is that the majority of this money was paid into a benevolent fund, building a legacy that would provide for our veterans and families, Regular and Reserve, old and young and give a 'hand up' when they are in need. This fund, with a significant contribution from the RCT on convergence, is now looked after by The Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) and sits alongside their own Benevolent Fund.

RLC Benevolence gives grants to those who are in need, working closely with a number of other service charities, most notably the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA), The Army Benevolent Fund - The Soldiers' Charity, Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion (RBL), to mention only a few. Grants are based on need, and most are dealt with after a SSAFA or RBL case worker has made an assessment and formally notified the RLC Benevolence Office. The RLC Benevolence staff may not make an award for every case they hear about, but can alert others to assist and, together with these charities, make a huge difference for veterans and their families when life takes an unexpected twist. Please be aware that as part of assessing need, all applicants are means tested.

The RLC Benevolence Office looks after veterans and the families of the Forming Corps by giving assistance in a wide range of circumstances. Some examples from real cases are as follows:

- **Home adaptations for illness.** A former RCT SNCO was diagnosed with a debilitating, terminal illness. RLC Benevolence assisted the family with its compulsory financial contribution to the local council making home disability adaptations by paying over £8,000 almost immediately when notified of the need. That was one less worry for the family at a very difficult time.
- **Brown goods.** The widow of a RASC veteran needed a specially adapted bed and mattress due to the onset of arthritis. Assistance totalling £1,400 was speedily given.
- **Electrically Powered Vehicle (EPV).** These mobility scooters are a godsend to those with physical difficulties, enabling them to cope with routine shopping, visiting and leisure activities that able

bodied take for granted. An average award from RLC Benevolence is £1,000 towards these vehicles, with the Royal British Legion and ABF also assisting with any additional costs.

- **Home repairs.** Working with the local council, SSAFA arranged for a Disabled Facilities Grant for repairs to the house of a former RCT Driver who had served in Northern Ireland. This enabled the repair of a leaking outside wall. The cost was over £15,000. RLC Benevolence granted £2,500 and arranged this with funds from other charities to cover the total bill.
- **Funeral Costs.** All service charities assist with funeral costs for veterans (also subject to means testing). It should be noted that assistance cannot be provided retrospectively, however Funeral Directors are usually less insistent on rapid or upfront payment if they are told at the beginning that Service Charities are involved.

It is important to emphasise that benevolence support is not provided retrospectively; therefore it is important that those in need seek assistance as soon as they can. As the RLC's Benevolence staff do not have the capacity or geographic reach to carry out case work, usually the best place to start is by approaching the local SSAFA or RBL branch. Visit their websites for more information:



www.ssafa.org.uk



www.britishlegion.org.uk

Finally, you may or may not be aware that in recognition of the veterans of The RLC and Forming Corps who are experiencing hardships with the cost of living, the Corps went into partnership with The Veterans Charity 12 months ago. The Veterans Charity will provide essential items including food shopping, clothing, household items including kitchenware and single appliances, utilities support and even smartphones and tablets to aid vital communication. They can be contacted via - www.veteranscharity.org.uk

Within the last 12 months this fabulous partnership with The Veterans Charity has delivered support to 130 cases. RLC Benevolence can be contacted at: benevolence@rhqtherlc.org.uk



ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAMME

On his appointment as Governor of The Royal Hospital, Gen Sir Adrian Bradshaw, following up on the manifesto he declared in his application, set about establishing a Veterans' Outreach programme aimed at leveraging the influence and reputation of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, to provide more direct support to veterans, particularly the elderly, living beyond the perimeter of the Royal Hospital estate.

The COVID pandemic thwarted progress in delivering the programme as swiftly as we had wished but in September 2022 'RHC Veterans' Outreach' was launched. Initially, we are piloting 'Chelsea Outreach', which focuses on veterans in the Greater London area for whom travel to the Royal Hospital is relatively easy. We have run a series of themed events at the Royal Hospital, where veterans from all three Armed Services and the Merchant Navy are invited to enjoy comradeship, shared memories, hospitality and some fun alongside the 'In Pensioner' residents of the Royal Hospital. The aim of these 'Gateway Events' is to meet veterans and establish our own network of those who may benefit from sharing the activities enjoyed by Chelsea Pensioners on a more regular basis and become in essence 'Out Pensioners'. This offer will expand once other planned facilities within the Royal Hospital come online.

The programme relies heavily on the active involvement of In Pensioner volunteers connecting and engaging with veterans from outside. As evidenced by their enduring popularity, most Chelsea Pensioners are already experienced and skilled communicators with the members of public as part of their role, both formally and informally, as representatives of the wider veteran community during the many visits and events that they attend. At its most simple, this programme is about a veteran who maybe lonely and isolated sharing a cup of tea, maybe a sticky bun and some banter with a Chelsea Pensioner.

As part of the programme, we are collaborating closely with NHS partners, in particular with local GP practices who are keen to make use of our programme as a social prescription alternative to medication or treatment.

We are also dependant on the veterans' networks already established by other service charities such as SSAFA, ABF, RN/RM/RAF Associations, and especially Regimental Associations, to spread word of our events. The RHC website is also now promoting the programme and publicising events.

We are supported in our programme by delivery



In Pensioners and Outreach participants share stories

partners including, among many others, Department of Work and Pensions, Op COURAGE, SSAFA, Samaritans, and BLESMA. Most of these partners attend our events and provide advice and assistance to veterans as required.

As General Adrian put it as we launched, we are currently conducting 'reconnaissance by fire' and once we have established the numbers and requirements of veterans beyond our immediate perimeter, we will have a better idea how we should proceed. We plan for Chelsea Outreach to continue for the foreseeable future with monthly events, as well as continued attendance by Chelsea Pensioners at countless other activities, including various veterans drop-ins, breakfast and lunch clubs and other more formal events. In due course and having developed our modus operandi we intend to extend this offer beyond London and, offer a 'Nationwide Outreach' element in partnership with local service charities and organisations in regions where there are large concentrations of military veterans.

Finally, may I ask you to spread the word among Corps or Regimental Association veteran fraternity, particularly any who are London based and let them know they are very welcome to attend any of our events. Flyers for our events will be featured on:

<https://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/outreach>

Lt Col (Retd) Jonny Lowe - Head of Veterans Outreach, The Royal Hospital Chelsea
VeteransOutreach@chelsea-pensioners.org.uk



THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

Armed Forces Advocates

Armed Forces Advocates are a key part of a pilot programme to provide support to veterans receiving inpatient care when in acute hospital settings across the UK.

They aim to do so in three ways. Firstly, by identifying and directly supporting veterans to create significant change in how members of the Armed Forces community are documented, supported, and have their care co-ordinated within acute hospital settings. Secondly, under the statutory duty, to pay regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, the Armed Forces Advocates provide increased awareness training packages to NHS staff of the complexities of service life and to address inequalities faced by some of the Armed Forces community when accessing NHS services. Thirdly, the role will include community engagement to forge links and create pathways of support, by collaborating with organisations, charities and local authorities.

So, who are these Advocates and what experience do they have? Many Armed Forces Advocates have military experience whilst others have healthcare backgrounds, gained either whilst serving or once they have transitioned from the forces into a healthcare career in civvy street. Although most of the advocates do come with a wealth of military experience from all parts of the tri-service, there are also advocates with NHS background only. Importantly, the advocates have created a support network between each other and use past experiences to enhance knowledge and advise one another with the collective aim of supporting veterans.

There are 16 funded NHS Trust and health boards across the UK and an advice line for statutory services in Northern Ireland. The 17 projects are:

- Queen Elizabeth university hospital – Glasgow, Scotland
- NHS Lothian – Lothian, Scotland
- The Somme Nursing Home, Belfast
- South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS foundation

- Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
- Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Milton Keynes University hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- East Lancashire NHS Trust
- Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation
- James Paget University hospitals NHS foundation Trust
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health board – North Wales
- East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust
- Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Cardiff and Vale University Health board
- Gloucestershire NHS Foundation Trust
- University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust
- Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

The pilot programme enables trusts to deliver services in slightly different ways. The evaluation mechanism of the programme will enable the identification of best practice in veteran support and evidence the most optimal approach of delivery to help promote a sustainable future for the programme.

The pilot is due to complete in 2024. Evaluators at the University of Chester will use the data to measure the impact this programme has made to the Armed Forces community within an acute hospital setting. The advocates are being encouraged and supported to investigate the sustainability of the programme including a cost benefit analysis to the NHS and visualising what the future of the project will look like. Early feedback indicates that working within the community health services, expanding support for all veterans and their families as they transition out of the Armed Forces and localised events such as veteran coffee mornings, are just some of areas that the advocates would like to expand into for the future.

Further information can be found at: **Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust**



Op COURAGE - The veterans mental health and wellbeing service

Op COURAGE is an NHS mental health specialist service designed to help serving personnel due to leave the military, reservists, Armed Forces veterans and their families.

Op COURAGE can help with a range of support and treatment, including:

- Helping transition from military to civilian life by providing mental health care with Defence Medical Services (DMS)
- Helping to recognise and treat early signs of mental health problems, as well as more advanced mental health conditions and psychological trauma

- Providing support and treatment for substance misuse and addictions
- Helping to access other NHS mental health services, such as finding an NHS talking therapies service and eating disorder services
- Liaising with charities and local organisations to support wider health and wellbeing needs, such as help with housing, relationships, finances and employment
- Supporting armed forces families affected by mental health problems, including helping them to access local services.

Op COURAGE is an NHS service supported by trained professionals who are from, or have experience of working with, the Armed Forces community.

This service can help those finding life difficult after leaving the military. Working together with Armed Forces charities, Op COURAGE will help get the right type of specialist care, support and treatment for specific needs.

Who Op COURAGE can help

To receive help and support from Op COURAGE, an applicant must:

- Be a resident in England and have served in the UK armed forces for a full day
- Be registered with a GP surgery in England, or be willing and eligible to register with a GP
- Provide a military service number.

It does not matter how long ago you left the Armed Forces or how long you served for.

You can contact Op COURAGE even if you left many years ago. You can also contact Op COURAGE if you're still serving but have a discharge date.

Contacting Op COURAGE

The service can be contacted in many ways, including:

- Directly getting in touch, or through a family member or friend
- Asking a GP or other healthcare representative for a referral
- Asking for a referral through a charity.

The service will arrange for an assessment, to make sure an applicant gets the right care and support. It's important to contact the Op COURAGE service for an applicant's local area.

Further details can be found at: www.nhs.uk/opcourage



Supporting Service Personnel and Veterans, and their Families, Affected by Cancer

About Us

Charlie Charlie One was founded by Stuart Roberts (late RCT/RLC) after his own diagnosis with prostate cancer in 2019 for which he underwent surgery. He received radiotherapy in 2020 and again in 2023 to address further spread. While established as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in August 2021, we seek to support individuals throughout the United Kingdom.

Cancer is indiscriminate and does not differentiate; age, gender, ethnicity, background, and status are irrelevant. But those seeking our support, regardless of their rank, are united by military service, common values, and, of course, their cancer diagnosis. In all other respects, everyone is unique, with different circumstances, fears, concerns, and needs. We will honour the unique nature of those who seek our support and treat them with: Care, Compassion, Confidentiality, Dignity, and Respect.

Our Offering

A cancer diagnosis can be frightening and can often derail the individual – and their loved ones – physically, emotionally, and socially. While the support of family, friends, and colleagues is vital, individuals may be unwilling or feel unable to share their fears and emotions leading to a feeling of isolation. Charlie Charlie One exists for serving and ex-serving members of the UK Armed Forces and Reserves, their dependents, and carers affected by cancer. It is run by volunteers with direct experience of the Armed Forces and of cancer and seeks to provide confidential support, information, and advice on a non-profit basis by offering:

■ **Peer Support.** Peer support can be provided through a network of volunteers. Between them they cover a wide range of cancers, stages, and treatment pathways. Peer support does not seek to replace formal medical or clinical advice but enables those recently diagnosed or undergoing treatment to speak to someone who can personally relate to their military experience (often an 'ice breaker'), the diagnosis they have received, and the treatment and journey they are facing

■ **Partnering/Referral.** In addition to providing direct access to peer support, we can signpost individuals to other organisations – national, regional, and local – that are able to provide specialist advice and support. Partnering will also be key to extending our own network and, in so doing, our reach and effectiveness

■ **Provision of Information, Education and Non-Clinical Advice.** The charity will seek to engage with public healthcare and other appropriate agencies to facilitate access to information relevant to managing their condition.

Consideration will also be given to families for whom the diagnosis and treatment of their loved one is equally daunting and unsettling. They also need support, advice, and encouragement.

How to Contact Us

If you would like to speak to us about support or would like to volunteer, you can find us at: <https://www.charliecharlie.one>





Corps Weekend 2023





We were delighted to see so many members at some or all the key events over Corps Weekend. It was due to start on Saturday morning with the traditional Band Concert and Drumhead Service at Princes Gardens in Aldershot. It was unfortunate that we had to make the decision to cancel due to the weather. That said, I do believe it was the right decision, especially given the distance that some band members were having to travel.

We had 154 people dining in the Inspiration Suite at the Village Hotel on the Saturday night. What was lovely to see was how everyone arrived in plenty of time to listen to the Band Branch playing before dinner. The hotel staff looked after us well and the food was delicious. I would like to thank the Chelmsford Branch for their hard work running the raffle with a mix of very interesting memorabilia, alongside the usual bottles and chocolates and especially the complimentary nights away provided by the Village Hotel.

The Cathedral Church of St Michael and St George Church was equally well attended on Corps Sunday. We were fortunate to have 17 Branch Standards on parade and special thanks must go to all the Standard Bearers and the Parade Marshall Mr Denis West. Many attendees will agree that the star

of the day, and indeed the weekend, was Mr Basil Clarke, who was determined to parade the Oxford Standard as it was to be laid up in the Corps Church. I spotted a few tears of pride at the back of the church as Basil walked up the aisle, assisted by his son Stephen. The Very Reverend Nicholas Gosnell, Vicar General and Dean, The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces, led the service with his usual good humour and once again we were fortunate the RCT band played throughout the service.

Following the service, 221 people returned to the Village Hotel for a most impressive curry lunch. It was especially nice to be able to host some of the widows and their families, who had attended the church service and seen their husbands' names engraved in the tablets of stone in the Corps Chapel. Finally, a special thanks to all those from the Band Branch who played over the weekend, we do appreciate your efforts.

Planning for next year's event on 13th and 14th July has started and, as soon as we have confirmed details, an instruction will go out to branches. It's worth noting that we were almost at capacity for both the dinner and curry lunch. So once the instruction is distributed the best advice from me is to book early!

Lt Col (Retd) Richard Hick



Basil Clarke, accompanied by his son Stephen, parading the Oxford Standard for the last time



The lowering of the Standards



Some of the new additions to the stone tablet in the Corps Chapel



Chelsea Pensioners Robert Lonsdale, Peter Bateup and Tankie Allen



As ever, some wise and eloquently conveyed words from Father Nick Gosnell

CORPS WEEKEND 2024

The 2024 Corps Weekend will take place on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July 2024. Details will follow and can be obtained by emailing the Association Secretary.

rascrctsec@rhqtherlc.org.uk

PERFECT STORM

(How One became Three)



The original team of the Late Mike Young, Mike McHenry, David Kellock and Jeremy Lucas with insets of Edward Waite-Roberts (left) and Simon Walmsley (right)

RLC 30 at Worthy Down on 1 Jun 23, marked the publication of the third and final volume of the three-volume set which traced the history of the British Empire and Commonwealth Army Service Corps through the badges and insignia worn from 1760 to the present day.

The first two, "Badges of the Empire's Waggoners" published in 2004 and its Supplement in 2020, were followed by "Badges of the Commonwealth's Loggies" in 2023. This final volume, "Loggies", focused primarily on the 30-year history of The Royal Logistic Corps, and similar Commonwealth Logistic Corps, from 1993 to date and identified badges and insignia worn by those Corps. It included conflicts in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Our goal with this final volume was to picture and correctly identify for posterity the many badges associated with these Corps over this 30-year period.

So, how did one become three? I had first met my co-author David Kellock, a fellow ASC collector, a painstaking researcher and skilled in digital photography and editing, during my second exchange posting to the Royal Corps of Transport from 1989-1992. We were both avid collectors of Army Service Corps badges and insignia and lamented that, with an Empire and Commonwealth containing over thirty-seven separate national mission-similar service corps, there was no one reference which

chronicled accurately the badges worn by these corps. Individually in 2014 each of us had begun the preparation of a book that would seek to correctly identify the badges and insignia worn by the British Royal Army Service Corps, the Royal Corps of Transport, and their predecessors. Jointly in 2007, we decided to combine our efforts into one book. "Badges & Insignia of the Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Corps of Transport & their Predecessors". This first



The three volumes together

soft-cover publication was published on The Royal Logistic Corps Day of 27 Jun 07 and immediately sold out. The desire of readers worldwide to purchase a "Service Corps" oriented badge book was validated by its rapid sale and many positive comments received from around the globe.

This was the "Perfect Storm" that would encourage us to write the three volume hardcover set, which would picture and identify British and Commonwealth logistical formations from 1760 to date. Critical to enabling David and I to publish our first hardcover publication, "Badges of the Empire's Waggoners", was a grant from The Royal Army Service Corps & Royal Corps of Transport Association which funded in-depth research into both Corps and their predecessors. This research was used as a foundation for writing all three volumes.

The next pair of significant contributors to this "Perfect Storm" were Col Jeremy Lucas OBE and the late Lt Col Mike Young, RCT. I had met both of these excellent officers during my exchange postings to the RCT and later when serving as Military Attache at the US Embassy in London. Jeremy and Mike continually, to my enjoyment, mentored me in my knowledge of Corps and British Army history. After David and I presented them with copies of our first soft cover book, each came forward independently with helpful "Red Pen" recommendations. Jeremy and Mike tactfully pointed out that Camberley writing and spelling differed from that of Leavenworth (the US Army Staff College)! Had it not been for these insightful and accurate recommendations, which David and I welcomed, there would never have been a three volume set. Both then willingly accepted our invitation to assist us with producing our first hardback book, "Badges of the Empire's Waggoners".

Our process in writing the three books was for David and I to research and draft various chapters for which we had individual expertise. My chapters were sent to David who would add them, with pictures, to his draft. Once we both felt comfortable with the content of each draft, it was sent to Jeremy and Mike for their individual review. Joint round-the-table reviews with Jeremy, Mike, David and I were orchestrated through Lt Col Jonathan Knowles, at that time the Secretary of the RASC & RCT Association, and took place in the RLC Officers' Mess at Deepcut. Jonathan's unstinting help with these reviews measurably contributed to their success. After the multiple Deepcut reviews and integration into a master document, the chapter drafts were sent to well-respected Corps insignia experts in each of the countries being discussed. These in-country experts not only made knowledgeable recommendations, but they also alerted David and I to changes with-in their respective corps.

After the publication of "Badges of the Empire's Waggoners", several people pointed out some omissions of badges and insignia we had not been aware of, and it was decided to write a "Supplement to Badges of the Empire's Waggoners" subsequently published in 2022. The original intention was to

include a section bringing the badges and insignia of The Royal Logistic Corps up to date. Unfortunately the Covid pandemic delayed progress and together with the large scale of the task becoming evident, it was decided that we should split it into two books – a "Supplement to Badges of the Empire's Waggoners" and a separate book, "Badges of the Commonwealth's Loggies", planned for publication in time for RLC 30.

For this last part of this "Perfect Storm", our team was joined by the ever-proactive retired corps officers, Lt Col Edward Waite-Roberts, Coll Richard Cawthorne and Maj Simon Walmsley, who authored portions of the "Badges of the Commonwealth's Loggies" on short notice. Their contributions were greatly appreciated. Added to this list on the civilian side, were Steve Taylor, our publisher, and Jon Mills as our indexer - we could not have asked for better.

Thus our 25-year task to trace and document the Army Service Corps history across the Empire and Commonwealth, from 1760-2023, through their badges and insignia worn by the individual soldiers and units, is now complete. To the next generation of Army Service Corps collectors and researchers, we leave you with a foundation for the future Volume Four.

Michael C. McHenry

Note: Currently all three volumes of the books discussed in this article are available from the RLC Museum, Worthy Down. All proceeds for their sale are donated to the museum.

Doncaster Branch



Presentation of picture of HM King Charles to the Comrades Club

The Doncaster Branch met on 26 Jul 23 and several members attended. During the evening the Branch presented the Comrades Club with a picture of HM King Charles III.

This was a collaboration with the Coldstream Guards and Royal Engineers Associations, but was suggested by our Branch member Paul Mundy. The picture was presented to Malcolm the Steward by our Chairman and Michael Moore.

Mick Gill

RCT Riders' Branch

Bastogne and Ypres Battlefield Tour 2023

That'll be us just back from another European battlefield tour and what a fantastic tour it was! This year, we decided to visit Bastogne in the Belgian Ardennes, famed in WWII for holding out against Hitler's last push and throw of the dice through the Ardennes forest, depicted in the movie 'The Battle of the Bulge' plus a short stop in Ypres on our return journey back to 'Blighty'.

Ted Walker, Ian Anderson and I have been riding together since 2019, but have known each other since 1988 when we all served together at 1 Squadron RCT in Colchester, Essex. Our tour started on Friday 27 May when we met up for a hearty breakfast, before riding to Dover to hop on a DFDS ferry to Calais.

As we departed Calais in glorious sunshine, we all looked ahead to the 5hr journey to our little rented chalet in the small village of Lac de Cherapont, a short ride from the town of Bastogne, in a small valley surrounded by conifer trees. As we arrived with the sun setting, we all looked up to see a sky full of circling Kestrels (initially I feared for Ian's safety, what with him being so 'ikkle' and all, that they may mistake him for a tasty treat!), but we soon found refuge in the chalet and settled in quickly and cracked the beers open to reward ourselves for a long day's ride.

Saturday morning saw us venturing into the picturesque town of Bastogne and yet again the weather was outstanding. We spent the day wandering the town, sightseeing and taking photos. We visited St Peter's Church and were thankful for how cool it was within.

Upon returning to the bikes, we decided to frequent a local café/bar for liquid refreshment and a big slice of cake, and although I didn't admit it at the



Three bikes pose for one of many photos

time, I really wished that I had chosen the strawberry tart instead of the peach one! This was all whilst admiring the Sherman tank sat in the town square.

We returned to our chalet and decided to dine in a local restaurant that evening.

Sunday saw us riding into Bastogne again, which gave me the opportunity to capture some video footage on my Insta 360 camera which I'd bought for the tour.

Our destination was the main war museum which I highly recommend. We spent the best part of 4hrs there, but over coffee and cake at lunchtime we all agreed you'd need an entire day to see everything.

The museum is vast and upon entry, takes you on the journeys of several peoples' stories, via the use of an interactive audio headset, which as you progress through the museum is prompted by sensors. The monument outside is extremely grand and befitting for all those who lost their lives defending the town.

As we awoke on Monday morning to our routine breakfast operation, we discussed our destination and route for the day. This was to be Malmedy and the small village of La Gleize, where the December 44 Museum is located, directly outside of which is the only intact Tiger tank.

The ride there was once again bathed in sunlight and just awesome. Riding through small villages, valleys and alongside fast-flowing rivers, we arrived in Malmedy at lunchtime to find this small village inundated with bikers... We were in our element! The December 44 Museum was well worth a visit and the view from the church was stunning!



Which side of the road should we be driving on?

Tuesday morning saw us on block jobs for the handover of our little chalet which we had called home for 4 days. Over breakfast we recalled the banter and laughs of the past few days which reminded us of how much we enjoy riding together. We rode to Ypres, arriving mid-afternoon and decided to relax for the rest of the day before our visit to the Menin Gate the following evening.

We RV'd in the hotel restaurant the following morning and were chuffed that someone had cooked us a decent breakfast, then made our way into the medieval town of Ypres. The architecture really does make an impact on the visitor. We parked our trusty steeds in the main square and strolled whilst eating ice cream and doing the David Bailey bit.

I had been really looking forward to the evening's ceremony at the gate, where a bugler plays the Last Post but in addition to this, there was a Welsh male voice choir there too, and as the goose bumps raised on my arms, I realised why the Menin Gate is such a special place.

The next morning, with sombre faces we loaded



The only intact Tiger tank

up the bikes in quiet contemplation that our tour was coming to an end and that the last 6 days had flown by, but then you know what they say... If you're having fun!

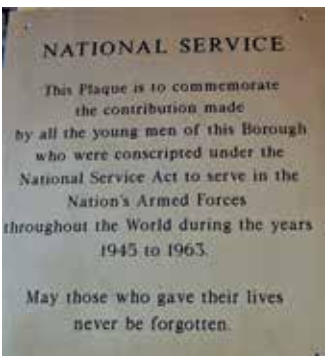
Al Ross

The National Service Veterans' Alliance Plaque-A-Thon

I am Michael Homer, Chairman of the National Service Veterans' Alliance. I completed National Service from 18th September 1958 to 9th October 1960. I was stationed in Germany at Catterick Barracks, Bielefeld (1BR Corps), serving with 130 Coy RASC, where I was an ambulance driver.

2.2 million men completed National Service, over 2,500 of which never came home. At the moment there are only 7 plaques in the UK to commemorate those men. The Alliance thought that was not good enough, so I thought up a challenge to raise funds for more plaques, in order to raise the profile of all those who served in the Navy, Army and Air Force as National Servicemen.

What is Plaque-A-Thon, you may well ask? It is to visit 50 County towns and towns of military importance in less than 150 hours by train. I, at the age of 84 and in a powered wheelchair, along with Roy Hunt age 83 (also RASC), started the challenge



An example of the commemorative plaques

on 27 Jun 23 and finished on 10 Jul 23; a total of 14 days on trains. Roy was with me on day 1, on day 2 I had a Navy officer with me, on day 3 an officer of the RAF and day 4 a Warrant Officer from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC representing the Army. In this way we recognised the contribution of those



Michael and Roy at Andover Station

who were in all three Services. Roy was with me on the remaining days.

We had carefully planned out 14 different routes, one for each day and we were often travelling for 14 hours on each of those days. I do not have the space to list all the routes, but we travelled as far north as Lancaster, to Truro in the southwest, Lincoln in the east and as far as Carmarthen in Wales. We did have a few problems; the day we were going to Liverpool I had a phone call very early from Winchester to say the link train to Birmingham was cancelled, so I had to pick up timetables and sort out another route. We were generally well looked after on the trains and sometimes we traveled 1st Class along with its very nice free tea and coffee.

In total we have raised £7,000 to enable us to put more plaques around the country to commemorate all our National Servicemen.

Michael Homer

REDEDICATION OF THE PRIVATE MASTERS VC MEMORIAL STONE



On 17 Apr 23 a ceremony took place at St Cuthbert's Church in Southport. The occasion was the rededication of the memorial stone for the grave of Private Richard George Masters VC. He was awarded the VC after saving the lives of more than 200 soldiers during World War 1. His citation reads: "On 9 April 1918 near Bethune, France, owing to an enemy attack, communications were cut off and the wounded could not be evacuated. The road was reported impassable but Private Masters volunteered to try to get through and after great difficulty succeeded, although he had to clear the road of all sorts of debris. He made the journey throughout the afternoon over a road that was being shelled and swept with machine gun fire and once he was bombed by an aeroplane. The greater number of wounded (approximately 200 men) were evacuated, and he was the only car (motorised ambulance) to get through." Private Masters died in 1963 and was buried at St Cuthbert's Church. Association members have done much over the years to commemorate him. Each year the local RASC & RCT Association branch members have attended services for his birthday in St Cuthbert's Church. Also in attendance were the local schools and the church choir. The original barracks of 238 (Sefton) Sqn RCT(V) in Strand Road, Bootle was named George Masters VC TA Centre in March 1982 and the road leading to the barracks was renamed

George Masters Way. Before Covid, 156 Regt RLC organised a commemoration service every year with refreshments in a local pub or at what is now the George Masters Army Reserve Centre. Some 18 months ago a former member of 156 Regt RLC, Maj Roland Sutton was volunteering in the Southport Botanical Gardens, when he remembered that George Masters VC grave was next door, he decided to pay a visit. After a long search it was discovered to be in a poor state, and he along with some veterans managed to contact the remaining members of the Masters family, namely his two great nieces. Between them they raised the funds to replace the gravestone. There was a large turnout to witness the Rector of St Cuthbert's Church bless the new memorial stone. Those attending included the Mayor of Sefton-Claire Carragher, The Lord Lieutenant, the CO of 156 Regt RLC - Lt Col T Steed RLC and the Chief Executive of NW RFCA - Col MCH Underhill OBE DL. The RASC and RCT Association Standards from both Sefton and Birkenhead branches were paraded as well as the Union Flag and Standard of Southport British Legion. Many former members of 238 Sqn RCT(V) also attended including Arthur Naughton, Bob Carter, Tom Kelly and Bill Rothwell (Standard Bearer). There was considerable television coverage with bulletins at both lunch time and teatime on both BBC and ITV, as well as significant press coverage. Arthur Naughton, Bob Carter and Ron Hutchinson

Eastern Region AGM



Attendees at the Regional meeting with Chairman Col Nigel Gilbert and Secretary Lt Col Richard Hick. The Eastern Region of the RASC & RCT Association held its AGM on Saturday 1st April at the Conservative Club in Northampton. The meeting was chaired by Lt Col Terry Byrne MBE. Nineteen members attended and were treated to a very tasty and generous lunch following the meeting.

The RASC & RCT Medal Collection

For some time now it been suggested that I write up some notes for the Waggoner with regards the RASC & RCT Medal Collection. Hopefully this will be the first of many reports that will help keep you informed of the continuing development of the collection and reassure you that the medals remain in good hands. Having taken over as the Curator of the collection in November 2015 from Lt Col David Owen, there was on the horizon the move from Deepcut, and the fate of the collection was still debated. The idea of locating the medals in the Museum was simply to enable them to be viewed by the public for the first time, and although there was some talk of rationalising all the RLC medal collections into one, this was stoutly rejected. The move has not been an easy one. An unexpected and enforced early move from Deepcut, and Covid travel restrictions, all led to a condensed timeline to meet the Royal opening of the museum. Add in a family death for good measure and the challenge to have something in place for The Princess Royal made for a challenging period. That said, the main display had all twenty cases filled with the bulk of the collection ready for the Royal opening in the Spring of 2021. There is still more to do and Steve Lewis and I, have filled the first seven cases of drawers, which takes us to the Second World War period. In classic military parlance, they should be complete by Christmas. We also have some flat space in the display cases which we intend to use to display medals of particular interest, perhaps with items associated with the recipient. There has been much interest in the collection, from appreciative visitors to enquiries from families wishing to view their loved one's medals. This has led to more service details and photos of recipients being added to the data base, and even some new donations. We continue to develop the collection as per the intentions of the first curator, Lt Col Geoffrey Pearce, and there have been some purchases to fill gaps or expand on the events of the Corps' history. One recent donation was received from the family of the late Capt Guy Gowlett who served in the RASC in South Arabia in the 1960's, before moving on loan service to work in Oman. Whilst in Oman he served as a desert intelligence officer in the Oman Research Department (ORD), later renamed as the Internal Intelligence Service (IIS). Most of his service was in northwest Dhofar from 1974 - 1985, and he was remembered by his peers as one of the last old-fashioned English eccentrics who served as desert intelligence officers. He was known to some as 'Abu Moqaas'. In retirement he settled in Bishop's Stortford, where he died on Monday 5th September 2022 in hospital after a long illness. I will bring you details next time of some of the other recent additions to the collection, updates on the progress of the display, and results from the ongoing research. Lt Col N A Smith RLC Curator of the RASC & RCT Medal Collection



The Medal Room - still more to do but open!



Capt Guy Gowlett



Case 1, drawer A-one of many

THE ARNHEM BATTLEFIELD AND PILGRIMAGE

15 - 19 September 2022



The Salisbury Branch left Middle Wallop in the early hours of 15 Sep 22. It was rather like Ex ACTIVE EDGE but with our ladies; a wonderful addition to the group! Our driver navigated his way successfully through the customs and Covid procedures on both sides of the channel, then drove through France in good order. We finally descended onto Arnhem soil in early evening, bedraggled and tired, but enthusiastic for the forthcoming adventure. It's surprising what difference a G&T can make... Just like 'Active Edge'!

My late evening, 'Arnhem presentation' gave them food for thought and hopefully a different perception regarding the 1st British AB phase of Operation MARKET GARDEN.

Armed with maps and 'wet weather gear' we set forth for the DZs/LZs at Wolfheze and Ginkel Heath, all used by the AB forces, some 79 years ago. The area has not changed, except for the magnificent memorial to the Glider Pilot Regiment that was inaugurated whilst we were there. A rare moment. Our coach moved off to the nearby railway station, the intended route of the Reconnaissance Corp. We walked the track and located the SS ambush area and discussed in hindsight the reasons how and why the first attempt to reach the Arnhem Bridge had failed. Col Frost and his 2 Para Group would pay the price later that day.

The group was now truly up and running, well not quite! A few had obviously not been to the gym recently. But otherwise, all were in good spirits and questions abounded. So on into Arnhem, passing the house of Gen Urquhart's hide away and finally the road bridge, the main objective. The first day's programme was completed with only a few blisters between us and the hotel was a welcome sight after a long but successful day.

As the local population descended onto the

original 18th September 1944 DZ of 4th Bde at Ginkel Heath, in anticipation, the weather was beginning to turn. We were all fortunate to observe a multitude of Hercules from various nations dropping paratroopers, a magnificent occasion that included a meet up with 47 AD Sqn RLC.

On Sunday we attended two memorial services, one at the AB cemetery in Oosterbeek. With the heavens opening up with torrential rain not one of the group drowned fortunately, but a more sorry bunch of veterans would be hard to find. Having dried out and recovered, we attended the Air Despatch Service in the afternoon, with our chairman laying a wreath for the members of 250 Coy RASC and to the Air Despatch Group who gave their lives during those desperate days.

All our objectives had been achieved, a humbling experience for many, but the efforts of 1st Airborne must never be forgotten.

Derek Armitage



Col Kelvin Tutt OBE lays a wreath whilst Air Despatch Standards are paraded

The Retired Warrant Officers and Senior NCO's Club

The Club held its 39th AGM, golf tournament and dinner on the weekend of 21 to 22 April 2023. It was a fantastic event held at the new location of The Lakeside International Hotel in Frimley Green, Surrey. It was gratifying to see so many people enjoying themselves, and in some cases meeting old friends for the first time in decades! Our Patron, Maj Gen Sir Martin White and Lady White were also in attendance and had a great time. The AGM on Friday evening, was followed by a curry supper and was the beginning of festivities, which all seemed to enjoy. The Saturday golf competition run by Mr Bob Lawrence over 9 holes was won by Mr Russ Gowans who was presented with the Dave O'Bee memorial trophy. He also won the Nearest the Pin trophy.

The hotel provided an excellent dinner and the partying went on with the help of our entertainer Mr Steve Whale, who was brought back to the club by popular demand.

The Club was founded in 1984 by WOII (SSM) Dave O'Bee. The first dinner was held at the Blue Bell Inn at Liss, Hampshire with a total of 27 people attending. The Club met twice a year after that, and in 1985 the venue was changed due to the large number of people attending. We moved to the Undershaw Hotel (former home of the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) at Hindhead, where we enjoyed a number of excellent functions, but once again numbers dictated and another venue was required. The remainder of our dinners took place at the Devil's Punch Bowl Hotel, Hindhead.

The Club was officially recognised by the Corps in 1986.

In 1987 Lt Col Bob Lambdon kindly accepted the office as President of the Club and later Brig Tony Dixon became our Patron. Dave O'Bee continued to run the club until 1989 when he moved to Swansea and found it difficult to continue organising from afar. John Fox kindly took over for 2 years and then Dave took the reins again and took the club to Wales. Following the passing of two "stalwarts" of the Club Management, Bob Lambdon and then Tony Dixon, Dave arranged the appointment of a new President, Terry Byrne who took post in 2009.

It was a great honour for our Club when Maj Gen Sir Martin White KCVO CB, CBE agreed to be our Patron. We decided on a change of venue in 2014 to the Wiltshire in Royal Wootton Bassett. In 2023 the club moved to The Lakeside International Hotel, Frimley Green in Surrey, which proved to be a great success.

Today, with a strong management committee and healthy club membership, the aim of our club



Russ Gowans with trophies. Inset: Sir Martin and Lady White engrossed in conversation with our new golf champion

is to build friendship and promote and foster Esprit de Corps in the "WO and SNCO Style" that many of us remember with great affection.

The next function weekend will be in April 2024 and this will be the 40th anniversary of this long standing club. Ex WO's and SNCO's are more than welcome to attend this milestone for our club. There are many ex Corps members still out there for the club to reach out to.

Anyone wishing to attend, just send the Secretary, Bob Wade, an email request to bobwade.rsm@outlook.com Your email will be retained and used to forward the invites to the dinner weekend, which are distributed in October. Those attending have the choice of participating in all three events or simply attending the evening dinner.

Bob Wade



Will Duncan MBE meeting old friend Sparky Corthine BEM, with Dave Sherwood looking on

Riders Branch

South Atlantic Medal Association 1982
Falklands Ride of Respect Scotland East Coast
10 & 11 June 2023



RCT Riders Branch member Kev Kilgour, who is resident in Aberdeenshire, assumed the role of lead rider and organiser for the Airborne Forces Riders, Falklands Ride of Respect 2023, Scotland East Coast. The event, which took place throughout the UK over the weekend, was to honour and pay respects to the servicemen who lost their lives during the 1982 conflict.

Joined by fellow RCT Riders Branch members Stuart and Jackie Lunt and Gus Macleod, a small group of five motorcycles departed Dreghorn Bks in Edinburgh, home to 3rd Battalion the Rifles, at 0900hrs on Saturday. We were visiting cemeteries in Edinburgh, Leven, Arbroath, Laurencekirk and on Sunday, Macduff; where resting in peace, are members of the Royal Marines, Scots Guards, Royal Engineers and Parachute Regiment.

As the ride headed north, they were joined by other riders, amounting to about 40 bikes in total and they were met at each cemetery by families of those killed in action, friends and Regimental Associations.

Accompanying the riders, was the Wreath of Respect, which is normally in the custody of RCT Riders Branch member, Berni Wilkins, at the

Staffordshire Regimental Museum. After a brief history and explanation of the purpose of the Wreath, it was placed upon each grave while acts of remembrance were observed, along with a one minute silence at each graveside.

Of special importance to Kev, was the visit to the graveside LSgt Clark Mitchell in Laurencekirk, just 20 minutes from where Kev lives. Clark was a member of 2nd Battalion Scots Guards who fell during the Battle of Mount Tumbledown on the 14th of June 1982. Kev carries Clark's name on his leather cut, honours him personally during Ride to The Wall and maintains his graveside with permission from Clark's wife, Theresa who now lives in Glenrothes.

After the final Act of Remembrance in Macduff on Sunday 11 June, the Wreath of Respect travelled back to the Granite City, where it was welcomed by members of the RASC & RCT Association Aberdeen Branch, at the City War Memorial.

It was a very humbling weekend, standing alongside Falklands veterans and meeting families of those being remembered. Further details can be found on the SAMA82 web site for anyone wishing to find out more information. **Kev Kilgour**



At Eastern Cemetery Edinburgh



Laurencekirk Cemetery, Kev with Theresa, LSgt Clark Mitchell's wife

Edinburgh Branch Warrior Reunion

The Edinburgh Branch held its annual Warrior Reunion in honour of the recently departed chairman Mr John Brown.

This event was held at the RBLs Dalkeith on Saturday 17th June, with 65 members and special guests in attendance. After a memorial service our members were entertained by a top female vocalist, our branch piper, a buffet from the legion catering staff and our raffle, to complete a fantastic day.

Ronnie Thewlis



D Davidson, I Duff and A McLean



Chairman Maj T Iggoe presenting Mr M Binks, RBLs Treasurer, with a portrait of His Majesty King Charles III



Mrs C Brown, accompanied by her sons



D Forbes, R Thewlis, B McHale, J Purves and A Page



The Branch Piper, Ronnie Thewlis

LIVERPOOL SEFTON ANNUAL DINNER

The Liverpool Sefton Branch's 8th annual dinner was held in the Oaks Hotel in Burnley on Saturday 15th April. Fifty-eight members and guests attended, and we were delighted to welcome Lt Col Robin Moore as our guest of honour.

The hotel looked after us really well, the food was delightful and throughout the evening we were kept entertained with karaoke, a quiz, raffle and a disco with plenty of dancing. Lt Col Moore gave a most compelling speech on how important associations are to veterans.

Bobby Carter



All smiles at the dinner table



Mr Brian Kendrick and his wife Margaret on the stairs in the Oaks

1 SQUADRON RASC/RCT REUNION 2023

This year we were invited to conduct the Saturday reunion event at the North Countrymens' Club in Colchester, courtesy of the President and members; to enhance the quality level of the evening and encourage attendance from further away. There has been a long association between the Club and the Squadron, particularly during and around the time of the 1st Gulf War when members were very supportive, sending packages and organising sports and social events.

About sixty 1 Squadron Veterans, with some partners, attended the event, representing a good cross-section of the years of the Squadron. Ex LCpl John Whittington made it over from Australia to meet up with old friends again. Many Veterans come for the whole weekend and various other venues around Colchester are tested for their welcome and ambience!! The event was organised by the efficient Delyth and supported generously by the Association. Presentations were made this year to the President of the North Countrymens' Club, former OC Col Tony Barton, and former Sqn Sgt Maj Bud Slaney. The presentations were produced, to a very



Col Tony Barton presenting to the President of the Club on behalf of 1 Squadron veterans

high standard, by 'Doc' Savage, drawing favourable comments all round.

Tony Barton

News from the Director of The RLC Museum

Contemporary collecting is the challenge of capturing military stories today, to tell an audience of tomorrow.

Letters, photographs, documents, maps and booklets telling the life of a soldier in the RASC or RCT are offered regularly to the museum. Grandad's suitcase found in the loft holds a treasure-trove of interesting archive material waiting to be discovered. However, all this is changing. The increased use of digitisation means that photographs and documents are rarely printed onto paper and placed into albums or into folders, which surface years later. So, no suitcase for this modern 'digital generation', just a hard drive or memory stick if we are lucky.

The RLC Museum holds history boxes on most RASC and RCT squadrons and companies, often back to the late 1800s. The recent reformation of 17 Squadron RLC was a case in point. 17 Squadron can trace its history back to 17 Horse Transport Squadron formed in Aldershot in 1878 and the museum could provide a comprehensive history of the squadron, with a Sphinx as its emblem, right up to the formation of The RLC, when information began to dry up.

Even the writing of an Annual Unit Historical Record seems to have stopped in recent years and now the only reliable historical record of RLC activity over the last 20 years is the Sustainer Magazine. It's easier for the museum to study RASC involvement in the D-Day landings nearly 80 years ago, than RLC involvement in Op PITTING, the recent evacuation from Afghanistan. Perhaps this is understandable, because recent operations are still sensitive. But will the digital documents, maps, Op Orders and images of Corps involvement in Op PITTING be available to the museum archive in 10 or 20-years' time? Will they be found in Grandad's suitcase?

On this note, the RLC Museum has recently been donated a substantive archive of photographs and documents from the family of the late Lt Col John Davies RCT. Col Davies was both Adjutant and Commanding Officer of 20 Maritime Regiment RCT, at St George's Barracks Gosport and spent many years at sea. The family has handed the museum a treasure trove of maritime related documents, including a history of St George's Barracks written



DUKW crossing the Rhine in 1945

in the 1970s and a Commanding Officer's 'handover file', giving a unique snapshot of life in the barracks just before it closed. This includes lists of names, maps, regimental activities and exercises and a detailed description of the Regiment's tasks and responsibilities.

An additional collection of photographs and message logs from HMAV Antwerp capture day to day life on ship in the Gulf. One wonders if today's modern digital photographs and communication channels will leave a similar legacy for future generations to follow.

The final and most intriguing donation was a plaque and car pennant denoting a set of keys, on a velvet cushion. Neither the family nor the museum knew what these were, but an RCT Facebook group quickly solved the mystery. These were heraldic symbols representing the keys to the Fortress of Portsmouth.

Waggoner June 1990 stated the following: "On 31 January 1990 the historic keys to the city of Portsmouth were relinquished by their old custodians, 20 Maritime Regiment RCT and passed to the CO of the Engineer Diving School in HMS Nelson. The Army had held the keys to Portsmouth for over 300 years and they are traditionally presented to the Royal Family whenever they visit the city. Due to the amalgamation of 20 Maritime Regiment with 17 Port Regiment in Marchwood another Army custodian had to be found in Portsmouth."

If any reader has any further information, or indeed any other historical archives, please do get in touch by email: director@rlcmuseum.com

Finally, the museum shop intends to start selling RASC and RCT Association items online either late summer or early autumn. We will start with ties and then slowly increase the range we sell online, until it is all available over the internet. Of interest our Forming Corps wine, gin, port and whisky is selling well and popular, as are our engraved crystal wine and whisky tumblers.

Major Simon Walmsley



The keys to the Fortress of Portsmouth

Obituary

Ernest Stanley Burrell (1921-2023)



Ernest (Ernie) Burrell was a Normandy veteran who died in May in his 102nd year. His funeral took place on 6th June, the anniversary of D-Day. John Phillips, Chairman of the Association London and Southeast Region attended the funeral, accompanied by his wife Margaret, and by Denis West who carried the Harrow standard and David Harding who carried the Eastbourne standard. The service was conducted by Matthew Hughes, Rector of St Giles Church Farnborough. It was Matthew who interviewed Ernie in 2015 and wrote an article about him for the parish magazine, from which extracts are below.

Ernie's life's journey started on the 12th December 1921 in Greenwich. Like many of his generation he left school at 14 and secured his first job in the signal box at Cannon Street Station, recording the arrival and departures of the time-tabled trains. Ernie spoke fondly of those wonderful days of steam locomotives. His days in the railways did not last as he became a plumber's mate, this too was cut short when in April 1941, at the age of 19, he was called up and, accepting the King's shilling, became a member of the Royal Army Service Corps as a driver. Two of his brothers were also called up, one into the Navy and one into the Royal Air Force. After basic training in various camps in Kent, Ernie emerged as a qualified driver for the army's 3-ton trucks. In 1944 Ernie's unit came under the control of General Montgomery and Ernie remembers how under Montgomery all ranks had to do PT every day. During this time there

was a sense that things were building up for a big offensive and yet, such was the secrecy, Ernie and his comrades were ignorant of what lay ahead. At the beginning of June 1944 Ernie recalls how they all drove their lorries to a clearing surrounded by bell tents, they were confined there for the next four days, they were not allowed to change or to shave, and it rained constantly for four days, leaving them all soaking wet. Ernie felt this was the most miserable experience of his life. Eventually they boarded an American landing craft at Tilbury Docks and they were pleased to be reunited with their lorries which had already been loaded. Because it was an American landing craft, they were delighted to be given American rations, including peaches and cream, steak, ice cream and plenty of Glen Miller. It wasn't long before their destination was revealed. Ernie landed in Normandy on 7th June to sporadic shell fire and firm instructions from a Military Policeman to make sure he drove his 3-ton lorry between two lines of white tapes as on the other side of the tapes were undetonated mines.

From then onwards Ernie and his comrades barely had a night steep as they were constantly called upon to deliver supplies of food and munitions to the front-line infantry fighting around Caen. At times they found themselves driving through German artillery barrages and Ernie was clearly moved as he described on one occasion how he had to watch in his rear-view mirror as a truck behind him received a direct hit, killing his best friend, Oliver, who he had joined up with. It was the loss of Oliver that has affected Ernie very deeply. During the Ardennes offensive Ernie and his comrades remained static and had to endure many days of confusion and uncertainty as the German offensive first broke through and then was contained and pushed back. As the Allied infantry pushed forward into Germany so Ernie and his comrades continued their vital work of support and supply. This led them into Germany itself and to the gates of the notorious Belsen Concentration Camp, Ernie said 'nothing could have prepared us for the horrors that we saw'. Thousands of emaciated inmates and piles of bodies being bulldozed into mass graves, Ernie said 'we were all sick and we all cried.' After Belsen Ernie was given some well-earned leave and returned to Weybridge to marry his fiancée, Joyce, who had been working very long and hard hours in the Vickers factory making airplane parts. After a short leave Ernie had to report again to his unit and returned as part of the occupying force in West Berlin. Here he was confronted with the absolute devastation of the city and although fraternisation was strictly prohibited, they still shared whatever rations they could with the starving German people. Ernie was finally demobbed in 1946 and returned to civvie street as a metalworker.

Obituary

Lt Col Peter Shield MBE 1936-2023



Peter Shield MBE (25 Aug 36 – 6 Jul 23) RASC/REME/RCT/AAC. This obituary was written by the Army Flying Museum Archivist, with assistance from the Archivist at the RLC Museum.

Peter will be known by many as a key figure in the Army Air Corps Corps' Blue Eagles Display team. He also had an interesting and varied career from commissioning into the REME in 1955 with postings to 10 Armd Wksp REME in Minden and the Light Aid Detachment for 4 Div Sig Regt in Herford in 1956 and 57. He transferred to the RASC in 1957/58 and was subsequently appointed as OC 107 Coy RASC before successfully attending No 159 Light Aircraft Course at Middle Wallop and joining 30 Flt RASC operating in the Far East. The Flt was redesignated as 130 Flt RCT but continued to support FARELF with CASEVAC, AOP, supply dropping and liaison flying. He returned to Middle Wallop in 1964 to convert to Beaver and by 1969 was OC 130 Flt RCT.

When the Flight was ordered to disband, he and his Squadron flew their six Beavers back to Middle Wallop. The journey took 22 days, covering 7,500 miles from Singapore to Malaysia, Burma, India, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Turkey, Italy, France, the Channel Islands and, finally, Middle Wallop. On a previous long-distance flight, a Beaver flown by Maj Shield developed a significant problem and was forced to land on a road in Thailand, narrowly missing a truck and a motorcycle. Through a series of follow up actions, the crew, which included a Flight Engineer were able to diagnose the problem as a faulty carburettor and have a

replacement delivered via the 130 Flight detachment at Vientiane. The carburettor was tested and cleared. The crew were given clearance to use the road as a runway. That task required cutting down six trees, removing traffic signs and, of course, closing it to traffic. The Beaver was then able to take off and to continue the journey (the incident is reported in full in the 1970 AAC Journal).

In 1972 Maj Shield was appointed as GSO2 (AMA) in Vientiane, he also took on the role as the Embassy's Beaver pilot. The tour came to an end in 1975. The Embassy Beaver is on display in the Army Flying Museum. For his services in Laos, Maj Peter Shield RCT was awarded the MBE, he was subsequently promoted to Lt Col as CO of 157 Tpt Regt RCT(V) in Cardiff. In 1957 he was appointed as the Defence Attaché for the British High Commission in Ghana. Following a brief period in the RCT Depot, Peter transferred to the AAC and was prominent as a member of the Blue Eagles Display Team flying both Beaver and Auster. In 1992 he was awarded a Commendation by the Director Army Air Corps for his work with the team.

Our thoughts are with his family and the many friends he made across an interesting career.

Mr James Clarke 1943-2023



James Clark was born in Aberdeen in 1943. He joined the Army in September 1971, initially 212 Ambulance Squadron Royal Corps of Transport (V) in Aberdeen.

He left in April 2004, after 33 years' service. He was Secretary of the Association Aberdeen Branch for 10 years and Chairman of the RBL Aberdeen Branch for 12 years.

Obituary

Harold Francis Riley (RASC) 1934-2023



Harold and Bonzo

I first met Harold (aka Harry during his time in the Army) in 1961 when we were both serving in Buller Barracks, Aldershot. He was concerned with the selection of potential officers, while I was a recruit platoon commander. At that time Harold was nearing the completion of his 2-years National Service and was undecided whether to study art at the Slade School of Fine Art or return to Manchester United as a professional footballer. In the end he wisely decided to pursue a career in art which ultimately led to him becoming a world-renowned artist.

A larger-than-life personality, Harold was a leading light in regimental life. He was a key member of the regimental football team which reached the latter stages of the Army Cup, while his attendance at a regimental function was guaranteed to be fun. His Boxer dog, Bonzo, was almost as well-known as Harold. There was the occasion when Bonzo mistook Brigadier Mike White's cricket bat for a tree and relieved itself on the bat! The Brigadier's reaction is unrepeatable! Being permanently hard-up, Harold used to display a few pencil drawings in the Officers' Mess billiard room on a Sunday, which he sold for a pittance. Those who were wise enough to buy these would now be enjoying a handsome profit!

At the end of his compulsory service, Harold returned to Salford where he continued to consolidate his reputation as an emerging artist. It was during this time that he cemented his friendship with LS Lowry. I rather lost touch with Harold until, in 1979, I took over 156 Regiment, which had sub

units in both Liverpool and Manchester, that I re-established contact with him. By this time, he was at the height of his career having painted three Popes, Nelson Mandela, the Duke of Edinburgh, John F Kennedy and numerous Manchester United footballers. He was a personal friend of both Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Matt Busby. He painted both of the former highly successful managers of Manchester United.

When I was notified that the regiment was to receive a visit from HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel in Chief RCT, during a regimental camp, I asked Harold whether he would consider accepting a modest commission to capture the occasion. He agreed 'Providing I am allowed to capture the occasion as I see fit'. 'Waiting for the Parade' is the result. This proved to be controversial in the eyes of some senior officers until it became known that Princess Alice had selected the painting for her 1982 personalised Christmas Card!

Harold often told me how much he had enjoyed his time in the Army, a fact borne out by his support of army charities and his enduring friendship with those with whom he had served. The Corps are fortunate indeed to be able to count Harold as a former colleague, while I feel honoured to be able to count him as a personal friend.

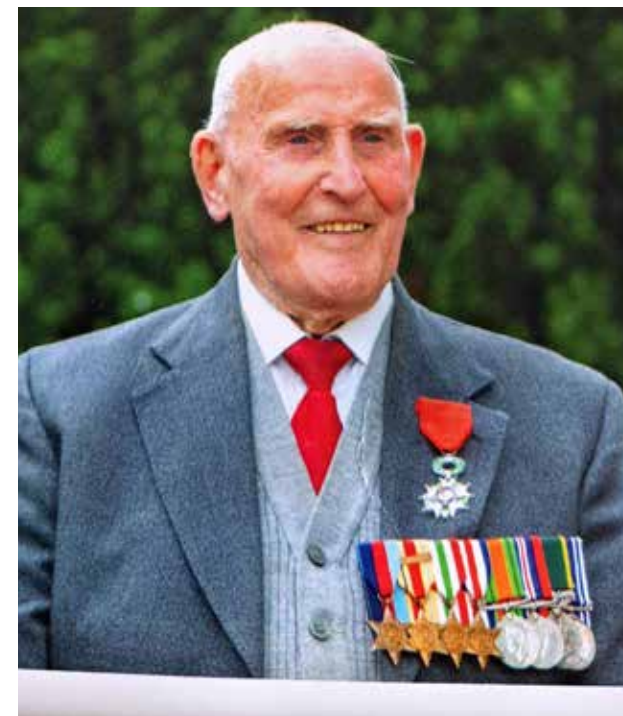
Ian Vaughan-Arbuckle
Lieutenant-Colonel RASC/RCT
1954-1985.



Waiting for the parade

Obituary

William Tavendale
5th September 1920 – 17th July 2023



Mr William Tavendale (Bill) honorary member of the Perthshire Branch of the RASC/RCT Association passed away on the 17th July 2023.

Bill was born in Perth and grew up with his siblings Violet, Isa, Joe, Johnny and Dick. He was educated at Craigie Primary School before beginning work delivering for a butcher's shop on a bike with a

basket, he later had a spell in deliveries for a vintner in the city before being called up for war service.

After he was demobilised, he joined the British Transport Police in Edinburgh before transferring to the Perth office when it opened.

In 1951 he married his wife Margaret and although they had no children, they were close to their 12 nieces and nephews. Bill retired from the Transport Police in 1977 and his wife Margaret died in 1993. In retirement he played bowls, grew flowers for Motor Neurone Disease research, was a member of the North Church and was a member of Lodge 134 of Perth.

Bill was a second world veteran who narrowly escaped capture at St Valery, he was part of the 51st Highland Division battling to hold back advancing German troops to let the British Expeditionary Force leave France through Dunkirk.

Serving with the Royal Army Service Corps, he had to drive troops to the port of St Valery where ships were to have been waiting. When he got there the town was surrounded by German tanks and later a great many men of the 51st were taken into German captivity. However, Bill and members of the Argyll and Sutherland managed to escape.

After serving with reformed 51st at El Alamein and through Italy, he returned to France on D-Day plus seven to help liberate Europe.

In 2018 Bill was awarded France's highest military award the Legion d'honneur for the part he played in defending and liberating France.

Neil Porter
Secretary
RASC/RCT Association Perthshire Branch

Alan Edward Grant Hemmens

Alan Edward Grant Hemmens died on 23 February 2023 aged 93 years.

During his National Service that began in 1947, Alan Hemmens served in the Royal Army Service Corps and was involved in the Berlin Airlift (June 1948 to May 1949). In June 1948, the Soviet Union attempted to force the Western allies to abandon West Berlin, by isolating the three Allied sectors from West Germany, 100 miles to the west and trapping two million people in a city that had been bombed

during the war and then faced the prospect of Soviet occupation, hunger, cold and fear. However, the Western Allies resisted and developed a lifeline by flying in a wide range of supplies, which was then distributed by military transport to both military and civil depots for distribution. Aircraft also flew out those who needed evacuation.

After discharge, Alan joined the Mark British Legion and was also deeply involved in the annual British Legion Flower Show in the village. He was also a Special Constable for 31 years.

Last Post

Arnold - On 16 April 2023, Lt Col FW Arnold
RASC/RCT
Bateson - On 15 July 2023, Lt Col BB Bateson
RASC/RCT
Brady - On 19 July 2023, Mr CP Brady RCT
Braithwaite - In December 2022, Mr WKM
Braithwaite RASC/RCT
Brown - On 11 July 2023, Mr S Brown RCT
Burrell - On 3 May 2023, Mr ES Burrell RASC
Byrne - On 22 June 2023, Mrs E Byrne
Clark - On 19 February 2023 Mr J Clark RCT
Corbett - On 8 March 2023, IP G Corbett RASC/
RAOC
Crook - On 10 March 2022, Mr AJ Crook RCT
Hambleton - On 7 March 2023, Mrs D
Hambleton
Harker - On 28 May 2023, Mr A Harker RASC/
RCT
Hawley - On 4 July 2023, Mr P Hawley RCT
Helmers - On 18 May 2023, Mr W Helmers
RASC
Hughes - On 17 April 2023, Lt Col MC Hughes
RASC/RCT
Humphreys - On 10 June 2023, Mr SJ
Humphreys RCT
Hutton-Dunton - On 19 May 2023, Maj DP
Hutton-Dunton RCT
Jones - On 16 January 2023, Mr KB Jones RAF
Kirby - On 16 January 2023, Mr D Kirby RASC
Kirkwood - On 29 March 2023, Mr JR Kirkwood
RCT/RLC
Lawrence - On 15 March 2023, Mr JH Lawrence
RASC
Lawrence - On 28 May 2023, Mrs T Lawrence
Macro - On 9 March 2023, Maj JA Macro
RASC/RCT
McCartney - On 11 April 2023, Lt Col MRU
McCartney RASC/RCT/RLC

Parkinson - On 12 January 2023, Capt EA
Parkinson RASC
Pike - On 11 April 2023, Mr SR Pike
RASC/RCT
Ponting - On 27 May 2023, Maj KT Ponting
REME/RCT/RLC
Price - On 18 June 2023, Mr RJ Price RCT
Prowse - On 28 May 2023, Mr CT Prowse
RASC/RCT
Rawlings - On 14 March 2023, Lt Col KJ
Rawlings MBE TD RAOC/RCT
Riley - On 19 April 2023, 2Lt H Riley RASC
Robinson - On 9 July 2023, Mrs LV Robinson
Rolfe - On 31 March 2023, Mr D Rolfe
RASC
Saunders - On 5 July 2023, Mr M Saunders
RASC/RCT
Shaw - On 24 March 2023, Mr D Shaw
RASC/RCT
Shield - On 7 July 2023, Lt Col P Shield MBE
RASC/REME/RCT/AAC
Simister - On 19 May 2023, Mr K Simister
RASC/RCT
Skingley - On 21 August 2023, Capt (QM) R
Skingley RASC/RCT/AAC
Soames - On 29 July 2023, Capt MA Soames
RASC/RCT
Tavendale - On 17 July 2023, Mr W Tavendale
RASC
Taylor - On 21 July 2023, Maj R Taylor RCT
Templeman - On 31 July 2023, Mrs B
Templeman
Turner - On 19 March 2023, Mr J Turner
RASC/RCT
Varnavas - On 16 July 2023, Mr S Varnavas
RCT
Welsh - On 3 January 2023, Maj IM Welsh
ACC/RCT