

# The Royal Signals Association



## Newsletter 2013

## FOREWORD BY BRIGADIER N F WOOD DL – CHAIRMAN RSA

What a year we have just had! Amongst all the gloom of recession, the Queens Diamond Jubilee really seemed to give everyone an excuse to celebrate. Then the Olympics and Para-Olympics were an outstanding success, not only for Team GB, but also for the Armed Forces – we didn't really doubt that we'd prove to the world that we are the best at staging huge events, did we?

In the Corps we have had a busy year too. We've seen the arrival of the first Corps Colonel, who has been "cutting about" with great gusto. I'm very grateful to **Colonel Graham Norton** and his wife **Amanda** for all the interest that they have shown in their first few months. We've seen the disbandment of some familiar formations and regiments – it was of much personal sorrow that 7 Signal Regiment disappeared from the ORBAT, and more recently 2 Signal Brigade has gone, following its resounding success in providing the communications support for the Olympic Games. Now that much of the discussion over the new shape of the Army is complete, things may settle down for a while albeit with a rather smaller Corps than existed before. I am sure that RHQ hopes that life settles down a bit for them too, after a very busy year with the arrival of a new Assistant Regimental Secretary and a new Admin Officer.



The major Association events over the last year have been the reunion; a sponsored cycle ride and service at the National Memorial Arboretum in July, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> North West Area carol service in Liverpool Cathedral. Attendance at the reunion was good, but the problem of the availability of transit accommodation at Blandford remains. Once again we seemed very short of officers who were prepared to join the march past after the Drumhead Service on the Sunday morning – come on, dust off the brollies and bowlers this year! The event at the NMA was very popular and will be repeated again this year. For the future, we are looking to hold a more formal memorial service event there, slightly later in the year if possible. The Liverpool carol service is proving to be a real "highlight in the North", and it will be repeated again this year at the end of November – do get there if you can! Finally, it is with sadness that I report that **Major General Tony Deane-Drummond** passed away in December. He was a wartime hero of the Corps whose exploits of capture and escape are legendary. I extend the sympathy of the Association to his family; he was an inspiration to us all.

I am coming to the end of my term as Chairman of the Association, having been in the "hot seat" since 2006. As you will know, I will be handing over to **Brigadier David Hargreaves** at the AGM at the end of March. He is champing at the bit to get going and I know that you will give him a very warm welcome. I am enormously grateful for the support I have received from the Regimental Secretary and "the team" at RHQ – they really do work their socks off for the benefit of all members of the Association. I am also deeply indebted and touched by the hospitality and support that all of you have given me over the past 7 years, it has been a real privilege and pleasure to have met so many of you and to have enjoyed your company. I wish you all the very best for 2013 and the future.

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## INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY BRIGADIER DAVID HARGREAVES

As many of you will already know, I am due to take over as Chairman of the RSA from **Brigadier Nigel Wood** at the AGM in March. **Brigadier Nigel's** leadership of the Association over the last 7 years has been inspired and his will be a hard act to follow. But I was nevertheless greatly honoured to be asked by the Master of Signals to take on this prestigious appointment. After 36 years service in both the Regulars and the TA, I am delighted to be offered the opportunity to give something back to the Corps Family.

This is a time of great change for both the Regular and Reserve Corps, serving and retired. The loss of the Signal Officer in Chief post in particular is likely to increase the significance of the RSA in maintaining Corps spirit and ethos. We are fortunate, however, in having in **Colonel Graham Norton**, the first Corps Colonel, such a committed and vociferous supporter of the Association.

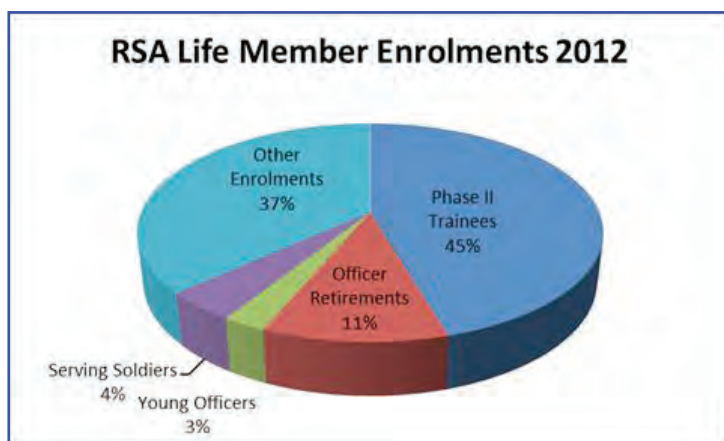
Those who know me will be expecting me to attack my new post with bags of enthusiasm and energy – and I promise not to disappoint you. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months at either Branch, regional or national events.

## ADMIN OFFICER'S REPORT

This is the first Newsletter I have been involved in producing for you and I hope that you will find something of interest in the following pages. As most of you may know, I took over the job of Admin Officer from **Peter Cuckow** at the AGM last March. 2012 started on a steep learning curve and I have now begun to reach the plateau of knowledge! My brief but glorious days as a WRAC soldier/officer attached to the Corps have provided the basis of this knowledge and I have, so far, enjoyed learning more about the role of Admin Officer. I look forward to speaking to many of you during the coming year and to seeing some of you at the Reunion in June.



**Membership** – During 2012 there have been 1124 new Life Members enrolled into the Association. The pie chart shows the different categories of enrolments over the year.



During the same time, RHQ was notified by the Army Personnel Centre (APC) of an average of 89 soldiers/officers who were leaving the service every month. The Chairman wrote to them all reminding them of the Association and asked them to consider joining and sending in their posting details. There are increasing numbers of members who are sending in the details of the units in which they served during their time with the Corps and everyone who has contacted me in response to receipt of the compiled list being received has found it has brought back many happy memories. In some cases, contact has been re-established with old friends. The total

number of Life Members on the database is currently 22,350, although not all have provided us with their current contact details.

**Branches** – The following news items have been sent in from the Branches of the Association and give an insight into the various events which have taken place. Sadly Torbay Branch has closed, but a new Branch has been formed for members who live in Cyprus, contact details are on the website. There is also the proposal to form a new Branch in Blackpool. Once this is formally recognized at the Central Committee Meeting in March, we look forward to hearing about how they progress. All branch contact details are available on the website, <http://royalsignalsassociation.co.uk/WebSite/>

The Dorset Museum Association is a grouping of thirty-three museums in Dorset. They award certificates to museum volunteers who are recommended for their work during the year. The awards this year were given to seven volunteers, three of whom were from the Corps museum. The awards were presented at the AGM of the Association at the Priest's House Museum in Wimborne on 22 November. The photograph shows the volunteers with their certificates.



*The Torbay Standard in-situ in St Mary the Virgin*



## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

**Aberdeen Branch.** The year began on 21 January 2012, with a Burns Night Supper which was very well supported by members and guests. The Annual General Meeting was held in March with 11 members present and apologies received from 15 others (these were due to work commitments, health and traveling distances). Our Quiz Nights in March and August were well supported and great fun. The Branch participated in the Armed Forces Day Parade in Aberdeen and the Branch Standard was paraded with some eight members on parade together with two members of the Aberdeen Branch of the WRAC Association. Several members of the Branch attended the Banchory Show in July where the White Helmets were due to appear. Sadly, because of the weather, the display was cancelled. The Branch held a dinner evening on 20 October which was attended by members and guests and a presentation was made to our President, **Maj AK Sutherland TD**, for his long service to the Branch. There was also a presentation made to the minister of Ferryhill Parish Church, Fonthill Road, Aberdeen on his retirement. The church is the setting for Remembrance Day Services as the War Memorials are located there. This year the Branch was joined by a detachment from 851(Highland) Signal Troop (V) at the Remembrance Service. Refreshments followed locally. The final event of the year for the Branch was on 30 November when the Annual Festive Seasonal meal was held at a local restaurant. Twenty six members and guests attended to end the year in a fitting way.



**Aldershot.** The annual Quiz Night was held this year for the first time in the newly-completed Saint Omer Barracks - excellent facilities. In staging this event we had enormous help from 251 Signal Squadron for which we are most grateful, also to the military chefs of 661 Signal Troop who provided a superb curry supper. We were pleased to welcome teams from those units as well as West London, Reading and Winchester Branches to pit their wits against our own mega-brains. The Quiz is now one of our few evening meetings, the others are mostly over the lunch period and this is working very well, especially for talks. The pattern has been to meet in the church hall in Fleet for morning coffee, sit down for the talk and then adjourn to the nearby de Havilland Arms for a good lunch. The other favourite watering hole is the Bat & Ball, a well-kept secret hidden away down impossible roads in Farnham. Events have included two away-days master-minded by **Chris Endean** to Cliveden House and to Portsmouth to visit the D-Day Museum with its impressive tapestry which complements the one in Bayeux, and to ascend the Spinnaker Tower with its breath-taking view over the city and dockyard as illustrated. We are short of new members and would like to see some more. Our Programme of Events for the whole of 2013 is on our website page and starts with Sunday Lunch followed by light hearted matinee at the Sonning Mill Theatre on 17 February. After that on 14 March we are very much looking forward to a talk in Fleet by one of our members, **Lorna Almonds-Windmill**, on the Story of the SAS. Some will no doubt be familiar with her book "Gentleman Jim" in which she recounts the exploits of her father Sgt Jim Almonds in WW2. We are always delighted to see visitors at any of our meetings. If anyone would like to attend, especially the SAS talk, please contact **Neville Lyons** at [neville.lyons@btinternet.com](mailto:neville.lyons@btinternet.com)



**Bath.** The Branch has a large area mostly in the 'BA' and 'SN' postcodes although a few members live outside. There are about 120 members and we are fortunate to have Royal Signals units and serving members of the Corps in the local area. Links with them and their support for many of the Branch functions is very much appreciated. There are a variety of events throughout the year. **Dick Hemming** photographed the 21 Signal Regiment Freedom and Homecoming Parade in Bath in November 2011. He had the pictures made into a framed compilation which he, **Richard Davis**, **Harry Hemming** and **Arthur Threlfall Searson** presented to the Regiment in May. They were made very welcome and spent a pleasant hour strengthening ties between the Regiment and the Branch. On Remembrance Sunday **Harry Hemming** laid the wreath in Bath at the cenotaph and **Alun Stewart**, our Standard Bearer, attended this and the afternoon parade in Bath. Later in November **Arthur Threlfall-Searson** and **Maj Carl Budding** organised a lunch for sixteen members in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess, 21 Signal Regiment followed by a presentation on the Satellite Ground Station by Glenn Lloyd (ex Corps) of Astrium Services, and a visit to the site itself. **Maj Budding** hosted the group and ensured a hospitable and enjoyable afternoon meeting members of the Regiment. At this event **Harry Hemming** and **Patricia Edridge** were presented with Honorary



Membership awards and **Lt Col (Retd) Ernie Short** and **Maj (Retd) Jim Peck** were presented with their 50 year badges. Members of the association were invited to attend the final 2 Signal Brigade Horseshoe dinner held on 24 November at Corsham prior to the closure of the headquarters. Details on the web site.

**Bedford Branch** - a report by *Trevor Hoylake*. There are various events proposed for Branch members over the coming year. The AGM will be held on 26 February at North End Working Mens' Club. The Annual Dinner will take place on 16 March at Bedford County Golf Club. We are anticipating a very good evening. Over the last year forty eight members travelled to London and arrived at Tower Bridge during the afternoon just in time to see the bridge opening. At 7 pm we gathered outside the Tower and met some members from East London Branch. Our host for the evening, Yeoman Warden Mark Anderson, escorted us through the West Gate and gave us the 'grand tour' complete with full descriptions of some of the brutal events which are known to have taken place at this historic place. More than ready for some relief from the drizzle, we retired to the Yeoman Club for refreshment and gathered outside again (in the rain) to visit the Ravens House for more Grizzly tales! We then watched the 'Ceremony of The Keys' before returning to the club to finish the evening with a very good raffle. This was a great day out and we can recommend it to others.

Scottish Service of Remembrance, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012. This has taken place every year since 2000, with the Scots Society for St Andrew's around the graves of Highlanders in the old Bedford Cemetery. A very rainy day, the service was held in the Old Chapel, with the Standards lining the aisle, the wreath laying party followed the pipe band to the graves.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month and Remembrance Day Parade 2012. Being on the same date, the main parade formed up along Bedford Embankment at 1000hrs. Only three Military Standards with the Polish Standard behind the Bedford RBL, then four Standards from the combined Rhodesian Force Association. Not many 'Old Comrades' marching it was good that the Rhodesians had about seventy on parade and marching, but there was a good turn out by the Logistics TA, Army, Air, and Sea Cadets and all the other public services, so it was a good long parade. There must have been 20-30 wreaths laid, the most I have seen for a long time. Our Wreath was laid by **Alan Welch** and on both the above occasions I carried our Branch Standard.

Beds & Herts Reunion Parade - 18 November 2012. Having carried the Korean Branch Standard for the past two years, now carried by **Roger (Bob) Barker's** son **Peter**, I turned up for the parade with our Bedford Branch Royal Signals Standard. No one objected, so I joined the parade and took part in their reunion service. A great day for me as I remembered the WWII memorial being opened by the then Queen to the King, as I lived just three streets away from the Barracks entrance and it was the first time our Standard had been accepted on parade.

**Beverley Ex Boys.** We still have a membership of 176 people but they are spread far and wide over the UK and also abroad in countries such as Australia, Cyprus and Germany. We have, unfortunately, had a few deaths during the year but our members would like us to keep going for as long as we can. Our Annual Reunion was held over the weekend of 21/22 September at the Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry with eighty members attending. Our Guest of Honour was **Lt Col Neil Coatsworth** and his wife, **Debbie**. Neil is QM at Blandford and is also the son of our member, **Geoff Coatsworth**, who was attending with his wife, **Brenda**. Neil made a speech in which he gave us details of the Corps' current activities. Our new Chairman, **John Hill**, kept us regaled with jokes, which everyone very much appreciated.



**Birgelen Veterans Association.** The Birgelen Veterans Association (BVA) has over 520 members who have settled into civilian life in a broad community around the world. Regular contact is maintained through a central web site, group email and, annual reunions. The Association is dedicated to bringing together and sustaining contact with the professional men and women of all Corps and Agencies who served with: 1 Wireless Regiment, Munster, 13 Signal Regiment, Birgelen, or any of their sub-units, and is working to uphold the family spirit of those units.



Its other priority is to maintain and to sustain its nominated charity in the former Regimental areas. This is currently the 'Hilfe fur Krebskranke Kinder' (Help for children suffering from cancer) in Ophoven. Germany. This particular charity was selected to enable the Association:

- To maintain an important link to the local community.
- Foster the Anglo/German friendships formed over the 40 year life of the Regiment in Germany.
- Support a very worthy cause.



We offer a warm welcome to Regimental veterans , including spouses and children, who have had the privilege of working and living at these memorable locations.

The world's financial situation has placed considerable burdens upon the wider community during 2012, but the generosity and compassion found amongst the BVA membership has not diminished. The munificent donations of our members, both at the reunion raffles and auctions, and through direct personal contributions, have enabled the association to support the aforementioned cancer charity in Germany, the Royal British Legion and maintenance of the Y Services memorial at the National Arboretum.

There are already fund raising plans afoot for 2013. **Cheri Hopkins** (wife of **Dave Hopkins**) is scheduling a second bike ride on behalf of the BVA charity. Starting around 3 January, she will attempt to ride 1,800 miles, from Chapala in Mexico out to the Pacific coast. It will be very challenging and take between 6-8 weeks to complete. **Tom McMahon** is also planning a walking challenge for later in the year. He and **Kevin O'Leary** had previously raised funds by walking the length of the Leeds-Liverpool canal. It is hoped to attract around twenty volunteers to complete all or part of this next walk. Further details how to support these events will be available on the charity page of the BVA website.

The reunion at the Cavendish Hotel in Torquay was attended by eighty two of our Regimental family this year.

The weekend was memorable, as well as being friendly, welcoming, and held at an agreeable seaside resort. The event was enjoyed by people who represented the full spectrum of years, rank, and Corps association. We will return to the same venue, between 4-7 October, in 2013. If you haven't already done so, why not join the BVA and come along to share some of those memories you have been treasuring. We really do look forward to welcoming long lost friends.

Contact the Secretary, **Cyril Harding**: [secretary@birgelenvets.org](mailto:secretary@birgelenvets.org) or join via our website <http://www.birgelenvets.org> where you will be made most welcome.



*After the AGM in 2012*



**Birmingham and District Branch.** We are very appreciative of the help and support given to us by 48 (City of Birmingham) Signal Squadron (V) throughout the year, particularly the use of their TAC for our regular monthly meetings. **Vi Cannadine** again organised our Annual Away Weekend, this year to Chester in April and a great time was had exploring the walled city and local area. Even a drenching on the open top tour bus did not dampen spirits.

**Paul Sowsbery** has taken on the role of organising our charity fund raising. He started the ball rolling with draws based around the European Football Championships before moving on to a Quiz Night. In November he devised an evening of "Snail Racing". No real animals were used but the beautifully crafted models. The race track and betting office provided the backbone to a great evening of fun. We are grateful to **Maj Lyn Mayell**, OC 48 (City of Birmingham) Signal Squadron (V) for hosting the night on the eve of Remembrance. Also thanks to all who helped us raise £45.00. Over the year we accrued £568.60 and donated it to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. In November we helped **Tony Edwards MBE**, one of our 50 Years Badge holders, celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Tony** is still actively involved with Branch activities and is currently helping **Paul Sowsbery's** Charity Committee. The Branch Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by 57 members at the Tally Ho Club (W Midland Police Social and Sports Club). Our Treasurer, **Catherine Harris**, organised some eagerly awaited fun party games and **Susanne Hedge**, wife of our Chairman, again organised gifts for everybody.

**Chester Branch.** On 27 January the Annual Dinner was held at The Royal British Legion, Upton, Chester. On 13 May a Sunday Lunch was held at The Cheshire View, Christleton. At our June meeting **Robert Sartorius-Jones** (the father of **Ian Sartorius-Jones**) along with other members of the Runcorn Lodge presented a cheque for £1,000 to be given to the RSA Benevolent Fund. Finally, a Sunday Lunch was held on 18 November at the Cheshire View.

**Cornwall Branch.** We meet bi-monthly at the RBL Truro Branch and have alternate monthly meetings for a pub lunch at different venues throughout Cornwall. August saw us collecting outside a local store, Trago Mills, for the RSA Benevolent Fund. We raised £720 which we sent off to RHQ. In return we received a very warm letter from **Col (Retd) TW Canham** in which he congratulated us on our achievement and said it was very much appreciated. Each year our final event is a Christmas lunch, this year at the "Venetian" Room at The Penvention Hotel Redruth.

**Darlington Branch.** The Branch supports various charities and during 2013 will be collecting for The Royal Star and Garter Homes. Two members have celebrated the award of the 50 Year Badge – **Ben McSherry** and **Ray Jeffery**. Branch President **Cyril Cooke** had great pleasure in presenting the 50 Year Badges and certificates, thanking both **Ben** and **Ray** for their support over the years. As an aside, **Cyril** served as Branch Secretary for **30** years from 1975 to 2005.



*L-R: Ray Jeffery, Cyril Cooke and Ben McSherry*

During the year we have had two notable events as well as our usual meetings and social gatherings. Firstly, we had a Formal Ladies Dinner Night on 20 October and invited **Brig Nigel Wood** as our Guest of Honour. The function was supported by the Corps (Northern) Band who played during dinner with an excellent Post Horn solo to round their session off. We were then treated to our Branch Display Team with their beach chairs and a flavour of "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" in the shape **Pete Stemmer** and **Ken Coates**. The evening ended with opportunities to reminisce and dance to background music. The other event that took place was in July. We were proud to parade the Branch Standard at a Beating Retreat ceremony held at the TA Centre in Darlington. This was jointly organised by the International Military Music Society and 50 (Northern) Signal Squadron. The Corps Northern Band took centre stage, supported by the Pipes & Drums of 102 Battalion REME (V) and the Corps of Drums of 405 Squadron Air Training Corps. Various other ex-Service Organisations paraded their Standards for the finale. We are looking forward to another busy and enjoyable year.

**Eastbourne Branch.** With the support of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and the Eastbourne Combined Ex-Services the Branch are now the proud owners of a brand new Standard, ready to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Sadly the first time the Standard was paraded was at **Gwen Field's** funeral. **Gwen** was a long and loyal member and servant of the Branch. At



our November meeting we raised a glass to her and thought of her family. Our Christmas event of the year was the Buffet, a very seasonal celebration which is always very enjoyable. We have a full programme of events planned for the year ahead and would welcome anyone in the local area who may like to join us. All details are available from our secretary (details on the RSA website).

**Hull Branch.** This year we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the formation of the Branch. There will be various events to mark this occasion. Details will be available from our Secretary (details on the RSA website).

**Hartlepool Branch.** We have had another busy year in the Hartlepool & District Branch. We now have 30 Life Members and 10 Honorary Members. In April we went to the Royal Armouries in Leeds (for any Branch in the Leeds area there is no entry fee). It was a fabulous day out and everyone enjoyed themselves. In June eight of our members attended the Reunion Weekend. For a few of our newer members this was their first Royal Signals Association weekend and they cannot wait for the 2013 meeting. August saw a gathering of Area 1 Branches, with 150 members and guests attending. We were honoured by the attendance of **Brig Nigel Wood DL**, Chairman RSA. In September we headed to Eden Camp in Malton, Yorkshire to attend the annual Veterans Day Reunion this was yet another great day out. This year's Remembrance Day was very busy, with the Branch splitting into two groups. One group headed to the town centre of Hartlepool for the service there while the other attended the service at Peterlee. We were all invited to 890 Signal Troop (V) at the TA Centre in Hartlepool for a superb curry lunch and refreshments. Many thanks to all members of 890 Signal Troop for making us "old codgers" welcome. On 4 December the Branch was invited by 50 Signal Squadron (V), Darlington to attend a carol service. The Royal Signals (Northern) Band provided the music and a superb evening followed with our Branch Members winning most of the raffle prizes! Many thanks to **Capt Dave Carr** and the members of his Squadron who made us very welcome. We are looking forward to another full programme of events for 2013.

**Liverpool Branch.** The Branch has had two members, **Tony Mullin** and **Alan Heritage**, presented with their 50 Year Badges during the last year. Eleven members attended the Reunion in Blandford in June. The Branch Standard Bearer, **Graham Christian**, came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Standard Bearers Competition. There were two very good social events which were well attended and we are looking forward to 2013.



**Loughborough & District Branch.** The Branch now meets at The Beacon Public House, Beacon Road, Loughborough on the first Tuesday of the month at 1945hrs. The landlady, **Sharon Johnson**, is the ex-wife of a Royal Signals Sgt, and has provided us with a regular venue for our meetings. Our membership hovers around 40-50, which also includes a few wives who have joined as Associate Members. Some Branch Members recently visited the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. Apart from seeing the various sites, including the Royal Corps of Signals plot; we were there to attempt to tidy up the "Y" Service Memorial, which was looking a little sad. The weather was good, and the day was enjoyed by all, including a short service at the Corps memorial. The

picture shows the following members of the branch: **Chuck Speed, Peter Ellis, Dave Geere, Bob Wells, Sheila Geere, Bob White, Joy White, Andy Riddell, Shirley Motion, Janice Coglan** and **Jim Coglan**.

The Branch is still very active. The Annual Dinner and Dance at the Carillion Rooms in Loughborough was on Saturday 1 December 2012. This event is always well attended. We are now hoping to arrange a visit to Bletchley Park in the not too distant future.

**Middlesbrough Branch.** It has been quite a busy year for us; on the evening of Saturday 7 April we held our Annual Dinner Night at the TAC Coulby Newham. This was well attended by the members and their guests. On Sunday 15 April the Chairman and Hon Sec were invited to attend a lunch put on by the TA Signal Troop at the TAC Hartlepool along with members of the Darlington, Spennymoor and Hartlepool Branches of the RSA. Then on Sunday 26 August we were invited by Hartlepool Branch along with other Branches of Area 1 (North) to an area get together at the Pavilion Cricket Club in Peterlee and a great time was had by all attending.



*Members of the branch at the Annual Dinner*





**Middlesex Yeomanry.** The Middlesex Yeomanry Association goes from strength to strength – we now have 200 members, mainly thanks to our tenacious Membership Secretary, **David Lambert**. Work on developing a complete and accurate historical record of the Regiment’s activities during World War 2 has continued, and the discovery that a signal section from the Regiment had been attached to 5 Regiment RHA in 1940 was the stimulus for a visit in June by members of the Association to the town of Cassel in French Flanders and the nearby battlefield of Hondeghem. A little later in the year, the Pearson Shoot, the annual shooting competition between the Association and 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron took place at Longmoor. For the first time, the competition took the form of a clay pigeon shoot, with guest teams from Surrey ACF and the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers. The Association team narrowly prevailed against the Squadron, but the team from the ACF were the best, by some distance. The Middlesex Yeomanry’s annual memorial parade and service, Lafone Day, took place at the Guild Church of St Martin within Ludgate and in the crypt of St Paul’s on 27 October, precisely 95 years to the day after Major Alexander Lafone and seventeen other Middlesex Yeomen made the ultimate sacrifice at the battle of El Buggar Ridge near Beersheba, Lafone earning a posthumous VC. Afterwards the Association was addressed at its Annual Reunion Dinner by **Maj Gen Sir Sebastian Roberts KCVO OBE**, who spoke eloquently about Major Lafone and how he exemplified the contribution made by the Territorial Army in war. The current Chairman: **Lt Col M Lansdown TD** and Secretary: **Capt D Gibson**.

**Newark Branch.** The first photo shows “The Branch at Lunch”. We like to think of these functions as “working lunches” and with a few exceptions for holidays meet regularly and have lunch at the Fox at Kelham. During the year the Branch was visited by the Regimental Secretary, Col Terry Canham, and were very appreciative of the trouble he took to come and visit us.



The second photo shows Fred Dixon, the Chairman, presenting the President, Ray Vasper, with his well-deserved Honour Membership.



The third photo shows the Newark Cadet Force parading the Branch Standard with the Town Mayor on Armistice Day 2012. We owe the cadets a great deal for carrying out this task for us and we marked our thanks with the presentation of a wall plaque earlier in the year.



We have also been joined by Ted Pemberton and his wife Joan, most welcome additions to the Branch, and Derrick Webster, who is gaining a reputation as a Mr Fixit/Getit. We are glad to have them all on board.

**Nottingham Branch.** The Secretary of the Branch, **Eric Harris**, owns a few ex-military vehicles and an assortment of HMG, LMG, ESMG plus a Bofors and Mobat Anti-tank guns, as well as a number of Radios and Lineman phones etc. This enables him to go to Military shows in the Nottingham area, notably at Belvoir Castle, GT Central Railway at Quorn, Armed Forces Day at Woollaton Park, Peak Rail near Matlock and Chatsworth and Papplewick Pumping Station. Members from the Branch come and are able to have a good day out and in a couple of instances free rides on trains.

Over the last year, for the second time in two years, we hired a Landing Craft. Twenty members from the Branch went on a four hour cruise on the River Trent at Beeston Marina. Travelling through Trent Lock and on the way back landing on the river bank and simulating a landing on the beaches of Normandy, although in our case we walked onto dry land rather than ran! Ten members were able to attend the Reunion at Blandford. The Nottingham Branch Annual Dinner took place on 16 February 2013 at the Bestwood Lodge Hotel. In the past



we have had guest speakers including **Maj General Boyle**, (past Chairman RSA) and **Sir Sam Cowan**. This year the speaker was **Cdr Paul Sykes RN**. Make a note for next year, so you will be able to join us.

**Poole Branch.** The Poole Branch has had another successful year with several new members joining and but sadly one of our founding members, **Rose Beddingfield**, passing away. Also another regular attendee, **Bob Bruce**, left us to live in Cyprus. Our monthly meetings are well attended with 25-35 members attending. We have held several skittles nights at the RBL Corfe Mullen. The annual Sunday Lunch at the Elstead Hotel in Bournemouth was held in September and we also arranged a coach trip to London to see the Founders Day Parade practice at Royal Hospital Chelsea. The highlight of the year was our Christmas Dinner which was held in a new venue, the Queens Hotel in Bournemouth. Fifty three members and guests attended a very good function which saw everyone enjoy themselves!



**Reading Branch.** The Branch has a fairly busy programme of events each year and 2012 was no exception. The year really got under way in January with a Curry Lunch at a local Indian restaurant followed in March by our AGM when the existing Committee was re-elected unopposed. This must indicate that we are getting things right, but it would be encouraging to see a few new faces. Our membership recruiting, amongst other things, regularly gets discussed, but like many similar organisations we do not have the answer to falling numbers.

The main event of 2012 was our Annual Reunion Dinner in October, when we were delighted to welcome **Caroline Addison** and her husband as our Chief Guests. Representatives from Aldershot and Brighton Branches also joined us. Soon after came Remembrance Day when we joined 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron at their parade in Windsor, followed by lunch at the TAC afterwards. Remembrance Day will remain a fixed feast, of course, but in future our Annual Dinner will be moved to a date in July when we hope the lighter evenings will tempt even more diners to join us.



*RSA Admin Officer Caroline Addison*

Still to come as we write this report is our Christmas Lunch. This always proves to be a happy event with an excellent meal, the odd shandy, lots of chat and the opportunity to exchange Christmas cards and greetings.

In between the Curry lunch and the Christmas lunch we managed to squeeze in a Spring lunch, a Jubilee Barbecue, four quarterly Branch meetings plus a few informal pub lunches. We should also mention that a Reading Branch team was entered in the Aldershot Branch Quiz, but failed to make the winner's podium. We also failed to win the Standard Bearers' Cup at the Blandford Reunion in 2012. However we are not disappointed as our Standard Bearer, **John Mumford**, already has a sizeable collection of winners salvers. In recognition of his achievements over the years **John** has been invited to become the Parade Marshall for future competitions.

Ongoing is our support for local charities by way of a modest donation, and we are also continuing our support for an old Gurkha Signaller. We do this by way of an annual appeal to members, and a collecting box at our meetings.

**Shetland Branch.** The Branch has had another quiet year, with little to report. Our President, **Ebie Moncrieff**, celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June, with family and friends. Our Chairman, **David Edwards** helped to crew a yacht sailing to Norway, but en route they were de-masted in a gale and had to be rescued by a helicopter from the Norwegian Coastguard. The third member of our "gang", **John Copland**, is presently away, visiting his girlfriend in Norway.

The Branch has been represented by the Secretary, **Richard Hamilton**, at the 216 (Para) Sig Sqn OCA Reunion in Barnsley.



**Winchester Branch.** Every summer we have a skittles meeting with a pub lunch at the Milburys pub in Cheriton with some fifteen plus members and family attending. A cream tea at our President's house hosted by **Lt Col Gerry Corden** and his wife **Anne**, with ten plus members and family attending. The Christmas dinner at the Coach and Horses in Winchester with fifteen plus members and family in attendance. Then there was the Aldershot Branch quiz night, returning home triumphant and holding our prize! The Branch meet on the second Tuesday of each month Jan-Nov. The December meeting comprises our Christmas Dinner. The Branch members laid our wreath in Winchester as well as attending parades in Andover and Cheriton. The Branch has been represented at: the Southampton, Reading and Salisbury Annual Reunion Dinners, the Annual Reunion at Blandford and have visited Normandy this year and on previous years. We only have 6-8 active members in the Branch but overall we are well supported for the functions we hold. Any members who live locally are welcome to join us. Next year we believe the Branch is 30 years old, and will be hoping to confirm this and celebrate this landmark year.

**3 Div Reunion Club.** There has been a change of point of contact and **Graham Leach** has now assumed the role. He is looking for a Secretary and or Treasurer. If you think you could help, please send an email to: [3divsignalsreunionclub@gmail.com](mailto:3divsignalsreunionclub@gmail.com)

**Visit to Krakow.** Soldiers of 200 Signal Squadron went on exercise to Krakow. While there, they visited Rakowicki Cemetery where there are four Royal Signals soldiers buried. As a fitting end to the exercise, two wreaths were laid, one by the OC, **Maj Hannah Stoy**, who laid a Corps wreath, and the other by The City Guard who laid a wreath on behalf of the City Mayor who was unable to attend. The Honorary Consul to Krakow was also in attendance.



The RSA Admin Officer with members of the Guernsey Branch during a recent visit



## VISIT TO THE NETHERLANDS, MAY 2012

**Len Brace**, who served with 11 Air Formation Signals from January 1943 until June 1947 and lives in Ilford, has been on a 5-day trip Arnheim, courtesy of the London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled (LTBAWD).

On 2 May 2012 80 taxis, carrying 160 veterans, boarded the Stenna Line ferry and travelled from Harwich. They arrived at the Papendal Hotel, Arnheim, at 11.00am the following day. In a very busy programme, the following places were visited: the Bronbeek Veterans Home, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Oosterbeek (where wreaths were laid), the Nationaal Bevrijdings Museum at Groesbeek (for a Service of Remembrance), the National Liberation Day Service at Rehen, the Oosterbeek Airborne Museum where a Dutch pipe band was in attendance and in a very moving ceremony local schoolchildren exchanged gifts with the veterans and the Dutch National Liberation Parade held at Wageningen.



On the final evening a formal dinner with Dutch guests and hosts plus entertainment was held. The veterans returned by ferry and ended the trip with a Remembrance Service at the stern of the ship, returning to Harwich after a round trip of 560 miles. The LTBAWD takes war veterans, by taxi, from the London area to Worthing each year for a day by the sea and to the War and Peace Show at Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, Kent and more details can be found at [www.taxicharity.org](http://www.taxicharity.org)

## SOUDA BAY CEMETARY - CRETE

*by Major David Kells MBE  
Armistice Memorial Coordinator Crete*

On 28 October 1940 Italy invaded mainland Greece from Albania. The Italians were initially repulsed, but subsequent German intervention forced the Greek Army and a Commonwealth expeditionary force, sent from Egypt the previous month, to be evacuated by the Royal Navy and to fall back to Crete.

Crete's excellent harbours were a potentially important base of operations for the Royal Navy, from which it could threaten German and Italian shipping in the Mediterranean.

Anxious to crush Greek resistance and to secure her southern flank before commencing offensive operations against Russia, German forces planned the assault of Crete. The continued dominance of the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean prevented a seaborne invasion but on 20 May 1941 the Germans launched a massive airborne attack using paratroopers against the British, Australian, New Zealand and Greek troops defending the island.



Souda Bay Cemetery, which overlooks Souda Bay, has 1500 Commonwealth war graves located there and is maintained in immaculate condition by the The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. On Sunday 11 November at 1100hrs over 500 people attended a Remembrance Service to honour all those fallen soldiers. Wreath layers from all the UK Major Units. New Zealand, South Africa, Australia and Canada. There were representatives from the American Navy, Greek Navy, Greek Air Force and other VIPs. A Corps wreath was placed.

## M62 BOMBING MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday 3 February at 1030hrs, a short Service was held at the Memorial Stone in the Hartshead Moor Services area on the Westbound side of the M62. This was to remember the twelve people (nine soldiers, three civilians) who were killed by a bomb, which consisted of 25 pounds of high explosive, hidden in a luggage locker on a coach.

There was a good congregation and four RSA Standards were on Parade; Preston & Blackburn, Oldham, Manchester and Southport. **David Vickers** laid the Wreath on behalf of the Corps.



## WELFARE

My prediction last year that 2012 would be a big year was absolutely correct. However, I don't think any of us really imagined that the Olympics would hold our attention as much as they did or that we would get so involved in the pomp and ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

I was lucky enough to be invited to the Royal Garden Party and saw The Duchess of Cambridge on her first outing to a Garden Party. The whole day was blessed with good weather (good going for 2012!) and I was absolutely thrilled to be there. My good fortune didn't end there as I was then invited, along with my family, to the Queens Diamond Jubilee Concert. The event was an amazing experience and earned me copious amounts of bonus points with my two teenage daughters. 2013 will have to work hard to beat its predecessor!

Unfortunately the continuing squeeze on our finances this year will be difficult for many, causing distress and concern. If you are aware of a former or present Signaller and their dependants who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress please remind them of our existence. All information on eligibility, types of assistance available and contact details can be found on the excellent RSA web-site: [www.royalsignalsassociation.co.uk](http://www.royalsignalsassociation.co.uk) Basically initial contact should be made with SSAFA or the Royal British Legion (RBL) who then in turn will forward an application to RSA Welfare for financial assistance.

We rely heavily on the casework carried out by SSAFA Forces Help and the RBL to provide all the relevant information upon which decisions can be made. If necessary we liaise with the Army Benevolent Fund – The Soldiers Charity, The Officers' Association, the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Combat Stress, Veterans Agency and many more.

2012 saw an increase of £24k in grants compared to 2011. Our total spend for the year was £396,501.60. All applications are judged on their merits but in all cases the question of *need* is the most significant factor. Timing is a very important factor when dealing with cases of need as we endeavour to deal with applications as quickly as possible. It is amazing how one grant at the right time can really make a difference to the quality of someone's life and their future. Grants are not made to individuals direct but through the sponsoring welfare organisation.

All cases for £600 and below are considered on a daily basis by our Assistant Regimental Secretary; **Maj (Retd) Mark Tivey**. Over the past twelve months the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund (regular and major grants) provided £396,501 of assistance to 745 applicants. These grants have been instrumental in providing 47 electric scooters, 10 stair lifts and 8 level access showers. There are numerous other types of assistance requested such as help with priority bills (rent or utilities), clothing, emergency house repairs etc.

Assistance over £601 up to the maximum of £1,200 are considered at the Major Grants Meetings (MG). The MG meetings take place once a month. Each meeting is attended by me (**Linda**) the Welfare Secretary, a Retired Officer, a serving Field Officer and an NCO. The Retired Officer is selected from a list of nine volunteer Chairmen who kindly give up their time once or twice a year to lead a meeting. The Field Officer is selected from within Headquarters Royal Signals so as there is a limited number to pick-*on* nominate we are often lucky to see the same officer attend more than once during their posting at Blandford Camp. Each attendee has the task of considering the applications and deciding the level of assistance they feel appropriate.

We usually have an average of 12 cases per meeting although it has been known to reach over 20 in busier periods. Our average spend (using the figures from Jan 2012 – Dec 2012) is £11,293 per meeting.



*Assistant Regimental Secretary  
Major Mark Tivey*



A few examples of how we have made a difference in 2012:

Back in July we received a heart rending application for assistance with the provision of a family holiday for Sig Gavin Plant, his wife **Lindsay** and their three beautiful children. **Riley**, the youngest had been diagnosed with brain cancer and the prognosis was dire. He had to endure chemotherapy and the family were fraught with worry. However, they were determined to make his last days as happy as possible, creating joyous memories. A holiday at Primrose Valley in Filey gave the family precious time together. Sadly, **Riley** passed away shortly afterwards. We received a lovely letter from **Lindsay** which read: *"The holiday has given us lasting memories of some of the happiest times we spent with Riley. I would also like to thank you for the support you gave us with the funeral costs. Your generosity has relieved pressures and has given us great comfort in the knowledge that the Corps looks after its families."*



*Sig Gavin Plant and his family*

In December we received an application to help a severely disabled little chap called **Lewis Preuss**. His mum **Leanne** had previously served with the Signals but gave up her career to become **Lewis's** full-time carer. His Dad **Darren** is still serving. When we received the application poor **Leanne** had just broken her arm badly so the physical problems of caring for a disabled child must have been enormous. We were very pleased to be



*SSgt Preuss, Leanne and Lewis.*

able to help with the provision of a special cot, wheelchair and speech therapy for little **Lewis**. From **Leanne**: *"Firstly let me thank you for the funding you have generously given us. The speech and language therapy will make a massive difference not only to **Lewis** but to us as a family. **Lewis** has so much wrong with him that it can be hard for him to express pain and hurt and this way hopefully he will start communicating. We do not know if he will speak but he will, in time, be able to communicate in some way and to us that is priceless. I dream of the day that I will be able to hold a conversation, in any method, with my son and he will be able to understand me when I tell him I love him and that he is my world."*



# REGIMENTAL SECRETARY'S UPDATE ON THE ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

by Col (Retd) Terry Canham  
Regimental Secretary Royal Signals

2012 has been a year of significant change for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund (RSBF) in that, in close consultation with our solicitors, the Corps has made a number of important changes to our charitable structure, the first since 1997 when the RSBF was rebranded under a new Charity Commission scheme. This short article described the main changes to bring you up to date.

Most will be aware that, for most of the Corps' history, the Corps Committee, under the chairmanship of the Master of Signals, has been the main trustee board for the Benevolent Fund. This is no longer the case but the "Royal Signals Corps Council" which has replaced it, still under the chairmanship of the Master, retains the legal right to appoint and remove the directors of a new board of trustees which I shall describe below. The Corps Council is still composed of our Colonels Commandant and former Colonels Commandant in specific roles (such as Chairman RSA) and remains a mixture of serving and retired senior officers in key Regular and TA appointments.



The trustees are now a separate board of directors in a re-structured Royal Signals Trustee Ltd (RSTL), which acts as the corporate trustee for the Benevolent Fund. It is a company limited by shares and 3 of the directors are also shareholders. The directors/trustees are all volunteers and, once again, a mix of serving and retired officers - both regular and TA. The RSTL has taken over the role of the old Finance Committee and the members have full trustee responsibilities. To provide even further "due diligence" the RSTL Board has been joined by professional investment advisors who provide guidance on where and how the Corps invests its funds. There has been no change to the annual Corps calendar of meetings, which remains on exactly the same cycle as before, and there has been no structural change to the RSBF Funds.

In financial terms, the RSBF pretty much broke-even in 2012 but faces deficits in the future given the reduction in the size of the Army and the resulting loss of income through the one day's pay scheme. We don't, though, anticipate a reduction in our expenditure as the serving Corps will have more time for sport and adventurous training etc following the withdrawal from Afghanistan whilst, sadly, the numbers of Signallers in need increases every year. In order to help compensate, donations and legacies will be even more important than ever before and, along with other measures, we are recruiting a Marketing Officer with the specific task of increasing RSBF income with the help of units and the Association. I urge you to help the Marketing Officer, **Major (Retired) Fiona Nelson**, in any way you can.

In summary, RHQ has restructured the RSBF to ensure that the Corps Charity remains compliant with current Charity Commission guidance and to match the changing needs of the Corps in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have continued throughout to provide essential support to our soldiers, dependants and veterans but do face financial challenges in the future. Any help you or your branch can give in fundraising will, therefore, be hugely appreciated. *Certa Cito!*

## RSA AWARDS

Congratulations to the recipients of the following RSA Awards presented during 2012:

**Honour Membership** (For outstanding service to the RSA over many years)

**Mrs Patricia Edridge** – Bath Branch  
**Mr Harry Hemming** – Bath Branch  
**Mrs Thelma Wakefield** – Reading Branch

**Mr John L E Goodman** – Exmouth Branch  
**Maj (Bob) R W McLaren** – Dorset Branch

**50 Year Badge** (In recognition of 50 years combined service: Regular, TA, NS and active support to a RSA Branch)

**Mr Bruce Bassett** – Middlesbrough Branch  
**Mrs Carole Cameron BEM** – Northern Ireland Branch  
**Maj Michael Fogg MBE** – York Branch  
**Maj Alan J Heritage** – Liverpool Branch  
**Mr Ray Jeffrey** – Darlington Branch  
**Mr Ben McSherry** – Darlington Branch  
**Lt Col Alastair S Petrie TD** – Glasgow Branch

**Maj Dennis Bees** – Eastbourne Branch  
**Col John Eversfield** – 31 Sig Regt (V)  
**Mr David J Hambridge** – Lincoln Branch  
**Mr John H Hyde** – Poole Branch  
**Lt Col (Terry) C N Lightfoot** – Northern Ireland Branch  
**Capt (Tony) M A Mullin** – Liverpool Branch  
**Maj John Robson** – 56 Div Sigs OCA



## AN UPDATE ON THE SERVING CORPS

by WO1 (CRSM) Mark McMullen Corps RSM

There has been a significant amount of change for the Corps within my first 12 months of appointment as the Corps Regimental Sergeant Major, and no doubt there will be more to follow as we begin to implement the "Future Force 2020" review. Closest to home our largest noticeable change to the Corps began with the loss of the Signal Officer in Chief (Army) and his "Arms Directorate" headquarters. In place we now have Colonel Royal Signals (**Colonel Graham Norton**), who, with his small Headquarters "Headquarters Royal Signals" focusses exclusively on our people, whilst the technical and training aspects of business are now the work of an integrated Information Capability Directorate in Army Headquarters. This transformation and the physical move of the Headquarters to Griffin House has involved a huge amount of work by all.



In terms of change yet to come, the Army 2020 structures were announced on 5 July 2012. Overall, the outcome for the Royal Corps of Signals and Queen's Gurkha Signals was positive; no more Regular Regiments were cut, although the loss of one further Reserve Regiment is disappointing following the severe "cull" of 2009. However, whilst there will be a reduction to Regular posts in the Corps we have already made considerable progress towards meeting the required cuts as a result of the earlier Strategic Defence and Security Review exercise (the disbandment of 7 Signal Regiment, for example). While there will inevitably be a need for further redundancies, either to get down to the target numbers or for structural reasons, this will be considerably less painful than would have been the case if the Corps had simply waited for the announcement and then acted. In broad terms our pre-Strategic Defence and Security Review liability was approximately 8480, our current manning is around 7750, and our end-state is forecast to be around 7000.

Operationally, Afghanistan still continues to be our main effort with some 680 soldiers from across the Corps deployed; primarily from 2 Signal Regiment, 14 Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) and 204 Signal Squadron. On a daily basis it is humbling to hear of their many great deeds achieved, routinely proving themselves as technically able, robust and highly professional soldiers. Beyond Afghanistan our soldiers also performed exceptionally during the Olympics. As you would expect, the communications support was first class and many members of the Corps were in the public eye as they helped deliver the security for both Main and Paralympic Games. As ever, they did so in style, with professionalism and good humour.

Regimental Headquarters has also made notable changes to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, both to match the staff structures we now have and also to ensure that our charity matches current charity and company law. This has been led by our senior trustee, **Major General Ashley Truluck**, ably supported by the Regimental Secretary, **Colonel (Retired) Terry Canham**, who has become our expert in matters legal, financial and commercial! They have both done a huge amount of work in a very short timescale to see this to a successful conclusion. One consequence is that the Corps Committee has mutated to become the "Corps Council" with many of its trustee duties devolving to a corporate trustee board consisting of retired and serving senior officers. The Corps Council does, of course, retain overall control!

As you would expect, this change has not been allowed to impact on Benevolent Fund welfare business and we continue to place a very high priority on helping signallers and former signallers in need. Last year saw a further increase in charitable grants to £396,500 for 745 cases; an increase of over £20,000 from 2011. If you include the Army Benevolent Fund contributions the overall amount spent helping our people was over £480,000. However, with a reducing "one day's pay" income from our serving soldiers as unit numbers reduce, we are also now facing the possibility of a deficit balance for the Benevolent Fund in the future. This year, therefore, Regimental Headquarters is very much focussing on a number of initiatives to increase our income from other sources.

It has, again, been a fantastic year for Corps sport, and barely a week goes by without further success at Army and inter Corps level; the spectacle of two Corps units winning both the major and the minor units Army Cups in football back to back on one wet afternoon in Aldershot will live long in the memory. In a similar vein our people continue to find challenging opportunities for adventurous training and a highlight was the outstanding performance of Team Mercury in the Antarctic.

In conclusion, I suspect that the 2012 drumbeat of change looks set to increase in intensity as plans develop over the coming months. For Army 2020, much work is still to be done not least to identify where our units will be based, but we would hope to minimise any disruption and reorganise as quickly as possible on to our new structures in spite of the many unknowns at this time.

What is clear is that our people remain some of the very best around; we are fortunate to have them, and as long as we do we won't go far wrong!

Certa Cito





## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

Blandford Camp  
Dorset DT11 8RH

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>President</b><br/><b>Chairman</b><br/><b>Chairman Designate</b><br/><b>General Secretary</b></p>   | <p>Lieutenant General R Baxter CBE<br/>Brigadier N F Wood DL<br/>Brigadier D A Hargreaves<br/>Colonel T W (Terry) Canham</p>                                | <p>c/o Assn HQ<br/>c/o Assn HQ<br/>01258 482081<br/><a href="mailto:rhq@royalsignals.com">rhq@royalsignals.com</a><br/>01258 582082<br/><a href="mailto:rhq@royalsignals.com">rhq@royalsignals.com</a><br/>01258 482089<br/><a href="mailto:welfare@royalsignalsassociation.co.uk">welfare@royalsignalsassociation.co.uk</a><br/>01258 482090<br/><a href="mailto:admin@royalsignalsassociation.co.uk">admin@royalsignalsassociation.co.uk</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Assistant General Secretary</b></p>  | <p>Major (Retired) M Tivey</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Welfare Secretary</b></p>  | <p>Mrs Linda Sizeland</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Admin Officer</b><br/>(membership &amp; records)</p>   | <p>Mrs Caroline Addison</p>   |   |
| <b>Other useful numbers</b>  |   |   |
| <p><b>Chief Clerk RHQ R Signals</b><br/><b>Clerks</b><br/><b>Wire Editor</b><br/><b>Assistant Editor</b><br/><b>Accounts</b><br/><b>Royal Signals Institute (RSI)</b><br/><b>Museum Shop</b><br/><b>Museum Archives</b><br/><b>Corps Webmaster</b></p> | <p>01258 482161<br/>01258 482083<br/>01258 482817<br/>01258 482818<br/>01258 482087<br/>01258 482647<br/>01248 482248<br/>01258 582413<br/>Dave Sawyers</p> | <p><a href="mailto:hq@royalsignals.com">hq@royalsignals.com</a><br/><br/><a href="mailto:thewire@royalsignals.com">thewire@royalsignals.com</a><br/><a href="mailto:wiredeputy@royalsignals.com">wiredeputy@royalsignals.com</a><br/><a href="mailto:corpsaccoounts@royalsignals.com">corpsaccoounts@royalsignals.com</a><br/><a href="mailto:secretary@royalsignalsinstitution.co.uk">secretary@royalsignalsinstitution.co.uk</a><br/><a href="mailto:shop@royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk">shop@royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk</a><br/><a href="mailto:archivist@royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk">archivist@royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk</a><br/><a href="mailto:dave@davesawyers.co.uk">dave@davesawyers.co.uk</a></p> |



**Your Legacy can help us .....**

Did you ever benefit from a welfare grant from Corps Funds or maybe one of your mates received help with a welfare problem where the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund stepped in to help him or her in their time of need? There has been a long-standing saying that the "Corps looks after its own" and Royal Signals has a proud history of care for its people, supported by the one day's pay scheme and generous donations from serving and retired Signallers.

**.... help others in their time of need**

That work continues today and every year we help hundreds of those who have fallen on hard times whether it be a serving Signaller who has been injured on operations, the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, members of the Corps who need help with specialist medical care for their children or veterans who need help in maintaining their mobility and independence.

We don't distinguish between Regular and TA, National Service, ex-ATS or WRAC who served with the Corps, officer or soldier and their dependants; any case brought to us will be considered with expert support from SSAFA, The Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund. We will help whenever we can ... and you can help too, by leaving a legacy in your will. Its simple to do and can make all the difference to someone who has worn the same capbadge and who may not have been as lucky as you. If you would like to make a difference, please contact the Association who will tell you how to leave a legacy so that others from the Corps might benefit from your generosity.

The Royal Signals Association  
and  
The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Swift and Sure Help for Signallers in Need

**Royal Signals Association – 'phone 01258 482090 or e-mail [admin@royalsignalsassociation.co.uk](mailto:admin@royalsignalsassociation.co.uk)**





The 2012 RSA Reunion was held at Blandford Camp over the weekend 23/24 June. Around 650 members and guests attended. It is noticeable that the late availability of accommodation had an impact on how many were able to attend. The Reception was busy on Friday afternoon from 1400hrs when it opened almost right through until 1900hrs as many members chose to bring caravans and tents. The camp site was at the Sports Pavilion and our thanks go to **SSgt Chambers** for organising the camp site, in the planning stage and during the weekend. As usual our members and guests were met at Reception where they collected their pre-ordered meal tickets, programme and a souvenir lapel badge. There was also a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. The Reception was the focal point for members and was the backdrop for meetings of old friends. Amongst those attending were 3 of our In-Pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Our thanks go to everyone in the WOs and Sgts Mess for helping to make their stay memorable.



# RSA REUNION 2012

## Static Displays

- by Caroline Addison

There was a wide range of static displays which were set up in good time for an early start on Saturday morning. The Museum was open for members and guests as was the Museum Shop and Cafe. Outside the Museum there was a display of vintage vehicles (with some military examples), and a range of motor bikes. Both groups showed their vehicles to the assembled company on Hawke Square during the Arena Show in the afternoon. Our thanks go to **Dave Lancaster** and **Terry Inman** for arranging for these groups to be present. The local "Pimpernel Beagles" were here with a display of their dogs and the opportunity to see how well trained they are. The modern weapons were again kindly loaned by the RM at Poole and arranged by **SSgt Paul Broadbent** (MPGS Tp Comdr). 11 (RSS) Sig Regt provided a display of Falcon and Bowman equipment and vehicles. The indoor range was open to RSA members who were able to shoot the modern SA80 rifle at computer generated targets. The proved a very popular activity for many. Hawke Square was the setting for a PT display early on for those who were up and about. Later in the morning, The Princess Royal Day Parade by members of 11 (RSS) Sig Regt took place. The Parade was commanded by **Lt Col James Vosper**, CO 11 (RSS) Sig Regt. The Inspecting Officer was the Master of Signals, **Lt Gen R Baxter CBE**, who enjoyed a glass of port with parade personnel.

To round off the morning, the "Colours Restaurant" offered a varied menu of delicious food for us to enjoy at the 'all ranks lunch'.





### Arena Show

The weather this year was much better than last and there was a full programme of events in the arena display. This began with the Corps Band giving a polished display of military music and skill. They were followed by The White Helmets whose thrilling ride ended with the riders crossing following each over through the flames in the centre of the square. The Standard Bearers' Competition Final then took place. The 6 finalists were whittled down to 3, with the winner being **Bill May** from Glasgow Branch, second prize to **Daniel Millan** from Sale Branch and third prize to **Graham Mullin** from Liverpool Branch. Congratulations to them and thanks go to all who took part. The prizes were awarded by the Master of Signals who then made a special presentation of The Master of Signals Commendation to **Maj Ian Greig**, the Assistant General Secretary of the Association for the tremendous service he has given to the Association since he began in post in 2006. He retires at the end of July and will take our best wishes for the future with him. The other elements of the arena

# 3/24 JUNE 2012

display were: The Corps Pipes and Drums whose haunting music blowing in the wind will have stirred everyone who heard it, the Northern (TA) Band whose members chose to be here and gave both a proficient military account of themselves as well as an amusing take on the Alpine Horn! After the parade by the vintage vehicles and the motor bikes the afternoon was concluded with the Musical Finale and Retreat Ceremony featuring all the bands and the Sunset Ceremony/flag lowering. The evening was rounded off by the showing of 'Acts of Valour' in the cinema for those who did not attend the WOs and Sgts Mess and the curry supper.

### Drumhead Service

The Sunday morning was dry but windy after a night of heavy rain and wind during which we thought of those who were at the camp site. The Drumhead Service took place on Hawke Square. Officiating Chaplain was **Rev Frances Canham**. **Peter Clemmet** conducted the opening prayers, and **Rev R D Burley** gave the Address. The collection raised £395 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. Following the Service, our members formed up under the Corps RSM for the March Past on the square. The company was led by the Standard Bearers, then members who served on Op CORPORATE, followed by those who has served in 7 Sig Regt with the remainder following. The Northern Band provided the music. The Master of Signals took the salute as the members passed the dais. There then followed the final delight of the weekend, a hearty roast lunch in the Colours Restaurant. Hopefully everyone who attended enjoyed their time back in Blandford and will look forward to next year.



## FORECAST OF EVENTS FOR 2013

|             |  |                     |
|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 7 March     | Corps Guest Night*                               | Blandford           |
| 22 March    | RSA AGM  | London VSC          |
| 7 May       | Corps Dinner Night*                              | London              |
| 22 June     | Col Comdts Dinner*                               | Blandford           |
| 22-23 June  | Reunion Weeked                                   | Blandford           |
| 23 June     | Corps Luncheon*                                  | Blandford           |
| 3 July      | Corps Cycle to NMA, followed by Memorial Service | Stafford NMA        |
| 1 September | Corps Luncheon in the North*                     | Catterick           |
| 3 October   | Corps Guest Night*                               | Blandford           |
| 25 October  | Scottish Dinner*                                 | Glasgow             |
| 29 November | Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols              | Liverpool Cathedral |

\* \* \*

## CORPS BAND ENGAGEMENTS FOR 2013

|              |                       |                                     |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12 May 13    | Hyde Park             | Cavalry Memorial Parade             |
| 29 May 13    | Shepton Mallet        | Bath & West Show                    |
| 5 Jul 13     | Canford School Dorset | Concert                             |
| 17/18 Jul 13 | Cheltenham            | Cricket Festival                    |
| 26 Oct 13    | Newbury Racecourse    | Poppy Appeal Launch                 |
| 3 Nov 13     | Barnstaple            | Concert                             |
| 29 Nov       | Liverpool Cathedral   | Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols(?) |

\* \* \*

## ROYAL SIGNALS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM (THE WHITE HELMETS) SHOW CALENDAR 2013

|                   |                             |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 20 April          | Corps Opening Show          | Blandford         |
| 11 – 12 May       | Nottinghamshire County Show | Newark on Trent   |
| 31 May – 6 June   | TT Races                    | Isle of Man       |
| 14 – 16 June      | Three Counties Show         | Malvern           |
| 22 June           | RSA Reunion                 | Blandford         |
| 29 June           | Armed Forces Day            | Nottinghamshire   |
| 3 July            | Band Spectacular            | Grayshott         |
| 9 – 12 July       | Great Yorkshire Show        | Harrogate         |
| 27 July           | Families Day                | Pirbright         |
| 28 July           | Vehicle Show                | West Bergholt     |
| 9 – 10 August     | Shrewsbury Flower Show      | Shrewsbury        |
| 15 August         | Denbigh Show                | Flintshire, Wales |
| 17 – 18 August    | West Midlands Game Fair     | Nuneaton          |
| 21 August         | Cromer Carnival             | Norfolk           |
| 26 August         | Aylesham Show               | Norwich           |
| 29 August         | Bucks County Show           | Aylesbury         |
| 14 – 15 September | Waterloo Show               | Dorset            |

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## NOTICES

**Aldershot Branch.** We are short of new members and would like to see some more. Our Programme of Events for the whole of 2013 is on our website - <http://royalsignalsassociation.co.uk/WebSite/index.php/branches/165> On 14 March we are very much looking forward to a talk in Fleet by one of our members, **Lorna Almonds-Windmill** (author of "Gentleman Jim"), on the Story of the SAS. We are always delighted to see visitors at any of our meetings. If anyone would like to attend, especially the SAS talk, please contact **Neville Lyons** at [neville.lyons@btinternet.com](mailto:neville.lyons@btinternet.com)

**Association of Harrogate Apprentices (AOHA).** The AGM and Reunion Weekend of the AOHA will provisionally take place at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate on Friday 4 October/Saturday 5 October 2013. Any non-members of the AOHA but who served as an apprentice or permanent staff/cadre are invited to contact the secretary on [maurice@snook60.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:maurice@snook60.freeserve.co.uk) or by phone 02392372777. Active members of the AOHA will receive their application forms with the Journal later in the year.

**Beverley Ex-Boys.** The BEBA Barbecue will take place on 21 July 2013 at 1 pm. The Reunion will be over the weekend 20 - 22 September at Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry. The actual Reunion Dinner will be on Saturday 21 September. More details from BEBA website on <http://beba.bravehost.com>

**Birgelen Veterans.** The annual Birgelen Veterans Association (BVA) re-union will be held at the Cavendish Hotel in Torquay, Devon, over the weekend 4 - 7 October 2013. Enjoy a relaxing weekend with old comrades and friends at affordable rates, includes a gala dinner on the Saturday evening and much more to keep you entertained. Full details, including how to book, at [www.birgelenvets.org](http://www.birgelenvets.org)

**"Denbury Boys" Denbury JLR Assn.** The Newton Abbot Reunion 2013 will take place over the weekend 6 - 9 September 2013. The reunion on the Saturday night will be held at the RBL Club, Kingsteigton. Further information and booking details please contact: e-mail: [msb884@btinternet.com](mailto:msb884@btinternet.com) Tel: 01963 362599 or post with a SAE please to **Mr MS Butchers**, 25 Jarvis Way, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT102NW.

**Hull Branch.** This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Branch. Full details of events planned to celebrate will be on the website.

**South London Branch.** The following events are planned over the year: AGM on 11 April; a boat trip to Kew on 16 May; Trooping the Colour on 8 Jun; visit to Windsor for lunch (picnic) date TBN. Anyone who would like to attend, please contact **Steve Bland** via email on [blands@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:blands@blueyonder.co.uk)

**56 Div (London Signals) OCA.** The AGM will be held on 7 April in the RMR Mess (TBC). The Ladies Night will be on 20 April in Eastbourne, and the Annual Dinner at the UJC on 1 November. Further details are available from **Steve Bland** via [blands@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:blands@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Opening of the Field of Remembrance/Remembrance Sunday Cenotaph Parade.** The Opening of the Field of Remembrance will take place this year on 7 November at Westminster Abbey. There are a limited number of tickets allocated for this event. This year the Association has been allocated 48 tickets for the Cenotaph parade contingent which will take place on 10 November. Any member who would like attend either of these events should contact Assn HQ so that their name can be added to the lists which are being compiled.

**RSA Merchandise.** The Royal Signals Museum Shop now has Association plaques, polo shirts and sweat shirts in stock. The shirts can have the branch name added if requested. Don't forget the Car Stickers are also available from Assn HQ by sending a SAE with a 50p coin (for UK addresses).

**Project Noel IV – 29–30 November 2013.** The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral during the afternoon of 30 November commencing at 1300 hrs. The Band of the Royal Signals, The St Nicholas Singers and Emma James have all agreed to join us once again. During the evening following the Festival there will be a "Regimental Style Formal Dinner" in The Britannia Adelphi Hotel Liverpool. Full details will be released on the dedicated website, <http://projectnoelfest.co.uk/>





Catterick Branch - their 700th meeting



Aldershot Branch - The Overlord Tapestry at the D-Day Museum



Edinburgh Branch - Members with potential new RSA recruits



Peterborough Branch - Cream Tea on the Nene Valley Steam Railway



Loughborough Branch Members



Darlington Branch - Donation to Macmillan Cancer Support



Aldershot Branch - the infamous quiz



Liverpool Branch - RSA Reunion 2012



Glasgow Branch - Betty Taylor presenting the trophy to the Best Cadet Recruit

Project Noel 2012



## LAST POST

|                           |            |                      |           |                         |           |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Cpl V Abela               | 05-Jul-12  | Sig EE Goulden       | 25-May-12 | Lt Col G Oakley         | 13-Mar-12 |
| Lt Col WIM Allan          | 26-Oct-12  | Sgt M Green          | 14-Jul-12 | Maj JH O'Donnell        | 19-Mar-12 |
| WO1 WR Allen              | 19-Feb-12  | Cpl PJ Green         | ??-Dec-12 | WO2 H Orton             | 08-Aug-12 |
| Sig E Allen               | 05-Apr-12  | Sig H Greville       | 08-Oct-12 | Cpl G Oughton           | ??-Oct-12 |
| Cpl ECA Allen             | 09-Apr-12  | Sig R Griffin        | 23-Jan-12 | WO2 RK Owen             | ??-Aug-12 |
| Sig EB Anderson           | 25-Apr-12  | Sgt JS Griffin       | 31-Oct-12 | Lt GP Owen              | 08-Oct-12 |
| WO2 TR Anderson           | 12-May-12  | Sgt WAJ Griffin      | 10-Dec-12 | Cpl E Pacey             | ??-??-12  |
| B Appleby                 | ??-Feb-12  | Maj JD Griffiths     | 10-Jul-12 | Lt Col RPD Painter      | 18-Oct-12 |
| Maj TR Ash                | ??/07/2012 | LCpl MR Gunn         | 22-Oct-12 | Lt ZE Parsell (Page)    | 29-Sep-12 |
| LCpl TM Ashcroft          | 12-Dec-12  | Cpl P Haigh          | 07-Nov-12 | Lt Col SG Pavey         | 09-Oct-12 |
| Sig N Atkins              | 30-Mar-12  | Maj R Hails          | 17-Feb-12 | Sgt TJ Payne            | ??-Apr-12 |
| Sgt C Auty                | 05-Sep-12  | Sgt NV Hale          | 25-Jan-12 | Cpl D Pearce            | 28-Oct-12 |
| Sgt RWH Aveson            | 30-Jan-12  | WO1 WRF Hall         | ??-Sep-12 | Maj TJ Pengelley        | 14-Dec-12 |
| SSgt AJ Back              | 25-Dec-12  | Cpl BT Harding       | 13-Aug-12 | Sgt JHP Perry           | 13-Jul-12 |
| Sig GHE Bagshaw           | 16-Jun-12  | Capt R Harris        | 27-Sep-12 | Sgt WP Petchey          | 17-Dec-12 |
| Maj R Banham              | 31-Dec-12  | SSgt SA Harris       | 17-Oct-12 | Maj FVB Philp           | 08-Jul-12 |
| Capt JD Barrance          | ?? Feb 12  | Sig WW Hawthorne     | 14-Jan-12 | Sgt WA Pitcher          | 23-Sep-12 |
| B Barry                   | 21-Jan-12  | SSgt JR Healey       | 27-Nov-12 | Cpl K Pitchford         | 13-Jan-12 |
| Maj J Batchelor           | 05-Jun-12  | Cpl K Heath          | 30-Mar-12 | Sgt WS Pooley           | 12-Sep-12 |
| Maj W Batty               | 29-Nov-12  | Sig J Hewitt         | 20-Jan-12 | Sgt SF Prior            | 06-Aug-12 |
| WO2 ME Beardmore          | 15-Feb-12  | Maj DG Holt          | 05-May-12 | Cpl G Prosser           | ??-Oct-12 |
| LCpl RW Bennett           | 27-Aug-12  | Maj JA Hood          | 12-Jul-12 | Sig B Radwell           | 22-Feb-12 |
| Cpl AJ Bennison           | 20-Oct-12  | Sig N Hooper         | 20-Jun-12 | Cpl EJ Rawlinson        | 14-Jan-12 |
| LCpl F Bentley            | 11-Feb-12  | Capt W House         | 18-Jun-12 | Maj C Reynolds-Jones    | 31-Jul-12 |
| Lt Col FE Berry           | 11-Dec-12  | Capt JM Hughes       | ??-May-12 | Sgt JM Riggs            | 31-Jul-12 |
| Maj JTL Blackler          | 22-Jan-12  | Sgt EA Hutchinson    | 24-Jul-12 | WO1 J Roberts           | 07-Mar-12 |
| LCpl MR Bloore            | 02-Nov-12  | Cpl AH Hutton        | 25-Jul-12 | Sgt DM Robertson        | 12-Sep-12 |
| Sgt AJL Bond              | ??-Feb-12  | Sgt BW Isaac         | ??-Sep-12 | LCpl B Robinson         | 15-Jun-12 |
| Sig DE Brannigan          | ??-Jan-12  | Sig G Jackson        | ??-Jan-12 | Sgt G Robinson          | 13-Dec-12 |
| Maj RS Bresloff           | 02-Oct-12  | Sig HCW Jones        | ??-??-??  | Sgt DA Rogers           | 24-Sep-12 |
| Brig CA Brown             | 19-Aug-12  | Cpl JHG Jones        | 14-Jan-12 | WO2 B Rollings          | 20-Nov-12 |
| WO2 EW Bullen             | 26-Feb-12  | Capt D Jones         | 06-Jun-12 | Cpl JRA Roome           | 12-Jun-12 |
| Cpl AMK Burgess           | 23-May-12  | WO1 A Kean           | 14-Jun-12 | Capt JB Rose            | ?? Feb 12 |
| Col JN Burrell            | 12-Apr-12  | Cpl J Kehoe          | 29-Jan-12 | Cpl AJ Saunders         | 20-Jan-12 |
| Sig F Buttifant           | 10-May-12  | Sig DN Kellett       | 06-Dec-12 | Cpl R Savage            | 04-Aug-12 |
| Sgt G Byrne               | 12-Jun-12  | C Kelly              | ??-Aug-12 | Capt AMK Schofield      | 05-May-12 |
| Cpl GJM Cain              | 27-Sep-12  | Sgt H Kidney         | 18-Sep-12 | Cpl GD Seal             | ??-Feb-12 |
| Sig RG Campbell           | 13-Feb-12  | Capt L Kinsey        | 21-Mar-12 | Maj IWR Seraph          | 26-May-12 |
| Maj B Campbell            | 30-May-12  | Maj TE Knight        | 14-Aug-12 | TE Shaw                 | 08-Jul-12 |
| Sgt L Cantrill            | 04-May-12  | Sig A Knox           | ??-Jun-12 | Cpl JS Shires           | 06-Feb-12 |
| SSgt LW Carbutt           | 10-Jul-12  | Sig LH Ladbrooke     | 28-Dec-12 | Cpl AF Silk             | ??-??-??  |
| Maj GA Carmichael         | 03-Nov-12  | Dsig BJP Lavery      | 24-Oct-12 | Sig ER Sinfield         | 05-May-12 |
| Lt Col RA Cemm            | 12-Dec-12  | WO1 RA Lawry         | 02-Nov-12 | WO2 GW Smith BEM        | 10-Jan-12 |
| Sig EAF Charnley          | 21-Sep-12  | Sig D Lees           | 10-Feb-12 | WO2 WD Smith            | 20-Mar-12 |
| Maj JF Cheesewright       | 11-Jan-12  | Capt JU Liddell      | 27-Dec-12 | A Smith                 | ?? Sep 12 |
| Cpl RM Cherrie            | 31-May-12  | Sgt JF Lindsay       | 07-Oct-12 | Maj RE Smithard         | 02-Jun-12 |
| LCpl K Clark              | 14-Apr-12  | Maj JR Lingard       | 28-Mar-12 | SSgt K Snell            | 24-Jun-12 |
| Cpl TJ Clarkson           | 16-Jun-12  | Cpl BFG Littlecott   | 18-Oct-12 | Capt JA Speakes         | 04-Feb-12 |
| GW Clift                  | 09-May-12  | Sig TR Littler       | 22-Dec-12 | Cpl AL Spence           | 09-Oct-12 |
| Cpl J Cooke               | 10-Feb-12  | Capt ES Lomax        | 08-Oct-12 | WO2 J Spiers            | 09-Oct-12 |
| LCpl DR Cooper            | 09-Dec-12  | Maj JW Long          | ??-Apr-12 | Sgt JP Starling         | 31-Jul-12 |
| Sig S Cooper              | 11-Feb-12  | Maj GE Louden        | 15-Sep-12 | Lt Col ALWG Steane      | 26-Dec-12 |
| Maj MHW Cooper            | 20-Jul-12  | Maj WC Loveless      | 30-Jun-12 | Sgt CP Stewart          | 11-Aug-12 |
| Sig RL Coulson            | ??-Jun-12  | N Lovell             | 12-Jan-12 | Maj A Taylor            | 18-Feb-12 |
| LCpl GG Cowlin            | ??-Aug-12  | Cpl JP Lovelock      | 05-Jun-12 | WO2 W Taylor            | 02-Mar-12 |
| MStL Crowley              | 04-Nov-12  | Lt Col I MacDonald   | 15-Jun-12 | Capt DT Taylor          | 30-Jul-12 |
| Maj Gen AJ Deane-Drummond | 04-Dec-12  | Maj R Marsh MBE      | 19-Dec-12 | Sgt D Taylor            | ??/10/12  |
| WO2 AC Derbyshire         | 14-Jan-12  | Maj CS Mason         | 06-Oct-12 | LCpl TM Terence         | 12-Dec-12 |
| Sig CP Dewdney            | 03-Mar-12  | Sgt S McHale-Smith   | ??-Aug-12 | WO2 LP Thomas           | 01-Jul-12 |
| Maj JM Dickson            | ??-Mar-12  | Sig CJ McKenzie      | 26-Feb-12 | Maj P Thomson           | 22-Jan-12 |
| WO2 ES Egan               | 14-Aug-12  | Brig AWM McKinnon    | 30-Mar-12 | Sgt EC Thornton         | 11-Oct-12 |
| Capt JD Engledow          | 26-Apr-12  | Maj CB Mercer        | 09-Feb-12 | Cpl JG Todd             | 16-Jan-12 |
| Capt AD Eraut             | 19-Feb-12  | SSgt J Mileham       | 03-Jul-12 | Maj RS Todd             | 03-Dec-12 |
| Brig EM Erskine           | 27-Sep-12  | Sgt D Milner         | 28-Jul-12 | Lt LP Voller            | 15-Nov-12 |
| Sig G Evans               | 30-Mar-12  | Sig W Milner         | 04-Feb-12 | Sgt R Walker            | 08-Apr-12 |
| Sgt NJ Evans              | 12-Feb-12  | Sgt G Moarney        | 19-Apr-12 | Pte AS Waters (Thomson) | 22-Aug-12 |
| Pte V Falla               | 27-Dec-12  | Sgt EC Monk          | 12-May-12 | WO2 JD Waterspoon       | 05-Jun-12 |
| Sig EJ Ferdinando         | 03-Jul-12  | SSgt CJ Mooney       | 26-Nov-12 | Sig JH Watts            | 18-Mar-12 |
| LCpl GC Field (York)      | ??-Oct-12  | Cpl B Moore          | 08-Feb-12 | Capt SA Webb            | 27-Jan-12 |
| LCpl CJ Finnie            | 24-Nov-12  | LCpl DP Moore        | 12-Jul-12 | Cpl PE West             | 04-Jan-12 |
| Sgt D Flanagan            | 12-Sep-12  | LCpl J Morley        | 16-Apr-12 | WO2 JW Whelpton         | 23-Nov-12 |
| Sgt AA Flynn              | 31-Dec-12  | Maj NB Moss          | 26-Dec-12 | Sig KM White            | 16-Feb-12 |
| Sig JR Fowkes             | 02-Jan-12  | Sig JH Moss          | 14-Dec-12 | Cpl RM White            | 15-Sep-12 |
| Maj GHE Fowler            | 29-Mar-12  | Maj PD Mootham       | 07-Jul-12 | Sig R Winters           | 15-Dec-12 |
| Cpl E Frame               | 23-Dec-12  | Capt JR Morrison-Low | 14-Oct-12 | Sig D Wilkinson         | 03-Sep-12 |
| LJ Frost                  | 05-Oct-12  | CGB Muir             | 23-Oct-12 | Cpl PE Williams         | 17-Jan-12 |
| Sgt D Fryer               | 15-Jan-12  | Sgt JPF Nay          | 18-Jul-12 | Sig RC Williams         | 11-Jul-12 |
| Col MJC Galloway          | 13-Dec-12  | Sgt TJ Nelson        | 14-Mar-12 | LCpl J Williamson       | 04-Apr-12 |
| Cpl WH Gardiner           | 05-Oct-12  | WO2 CP Newby         | ?? Nov 12 | Sgt J Wilson-Brown      | 20-Feb-12 |
| Sig A Gelder              | ??-Oct-12  | Sgt JH Newell        | 01-Jul-12 | Sig DR Winter           | 29-Jan-12 |
| Sig W Gilholm             | 24-Nov-12  | Lt Col JR Nicoll     | ??-Jan-12 | Sig LA Wootten          | ??-Feb-12 |
| Capt P Gill               | 13-Apr-12  | SSgt LM Noble        | ?? Jan 12 | Sig JR Wright           | 13-Jul-12 |
| Maj BW Giller             | 02-Jan-12  | Cpl H Norton         | 29-Aug-12 | Sgt C Wyatt             | 07-Mar-12 |



