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See Distribution

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## **ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION GIBRALTAR WEEKEND 2017**

**FRI 21 – SUN 23 APR 17**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION**

1. **Introduction.** The Royal Engineers Association Gibraltar Weekend will be held in Gibraltar between Fri 21 and Sun 23 Apr 17. The event will be organised by the members of the Gibraltar REA Branch; please note that it is not a Corps or REA HQ sponsored event.

We have considered the feedback received from previous Gibraltar Weekends, and have developed this year's event accordingly; for those who have joined us previously, you will note that we have extracted the Tunnel/Town Tour from the weekend activities, and will now present the Tour as a stand-alone event on Monday – this reduces the impact of events over the weekend, and makes Saturday a more manageable and comfortable day for our guests.

2. **Location.** The scheduled events will take place in various locations throughout Gibraltar and these are identified in the attached *Event Programme*.

3. **Event Format.**

a. **Meet and Greet.** A Meet and Greet function will be held on the afternoon of Fri 21 Apr 17 in the JPDU, Gun Wharf. The event will include food; entertainment and the REA Gibraltar Branch raffle and is likely to run into the early evening. This is an informal function in order to welcome all our friends, both old and new. Dress will be casual.

b. **Parade and March Past.** There will be a March through Main Street from Grand Casemates Square to Bomb House Lane. Dress will be REA/Corps Blazer, tie, beret and medals for REA attendees. This will start slightly later than previous years.

c. **Mayoral Reception (to be confirmed).** We hope to attend a Mayoral reception after the parade but at the time of writing, this event was still to be confirmed.

d. **Dinner Dance.** A formal Dinner Dance will be held in the lower pool garden of the Rock Hotel on the evening of Sat 22 Apr. The evening will include a waiter-served three-course meal; entertainment; an RE/REA/Gibraltar display and a **free bar**. And not forgetting of course the infamous Gibraltar Branch raffle! Dress will be lounge suits or blazer for gentlemen and appropriate for the ladies.

e. **Church Service.** A Church Service will be held in Kings Chapel on Sun 23 Apr. The Command Chaplin will lead a multi-denomination service of thanksgiving for the RE. REA

Branch Standards are most welcome. Dress will be as per the parade. There will also be an invitation by the Chaplain to join him in The Cloisters for refreshments after the service.

f. **Farewell Function.** We will hold informal social gathering to bid farewell to friends and colleagues on Sun 23 Apr in The Lynx Football Club, Europa Road. Hot and cold food will be provided. This event will start mid-afternoon and run through into the evening, with a casual dress code. We have arranged a second access point for those who struggled slightly with the steps last year.

This concludes the REA Weekend events.

4. **Tours.** This year, we will be providing two discrete and stand-alone tour options during Mon 24 Apr:

a. **Tunnel Tour.** The tour will capture the Great North Road tunnel system. Dress for this will be casual with comfortable walking shoes. This will be a leisurely walk across flat terrain and generally takes around an hour and a half, depending on the amount of questions asked! Guests are requested to meet in front of the Made Vale tunnel entrance (south of the old Casino building on Europa Road).

b. **Reservoir and Waterworks Tour.** The tour will capture the AquaGib reservoir and waterworks within the Rock. Dress for this will be casual with comfortable walking shoes. Again, this will be a leisurely walk on level ground and will take around an hour and a half. Guests are requested to meet at the entrance to Hays Level.

5. **Costs.** Members of the Gibraltar Branch have worked hard to ensure that costs for the REA Gibraltar Weekend are kept to a minimum, and have secured some sponsorship from local companies, to offset the cost of the Weekend. We are happy to confirm that despite the inclusion of all six events, the provision of three-course formal meal, and the provision of a free bar during the Saturday evening function, we have been able to keep the cost for attending the Weekend to approximately £65 per head.

This is a single payment that will cover all venues; staff; food and entertainment costs for all six events over the three-day period. Payment can be made by cheque (made payable to *Gibraltar Central Fund*) prior to Fri 21 Apr; cheques should be sent to the REA Gibraltar Secretary (Jack Noble) at either of the following addresses:

3D Rulander	Ramboll
Vineyards	Unit 20–21 Ragged Staff Wharf
Gibraltar	Queensway Quay
GX11 1AA	Gibraltar
	GX11 1AA

Alternatively, you may pay in cash/cheque directly to the REA Gibraltar Secretary (Jack Noble) during the Meet n Greet function. **All guests are respectfully requested to ensure that full payment is made before, or during the Meet n Greet function.**

The cost for the Tunnel or Reservoir and Waterworks tour will be approximately £5 per head, payable in cash on the day to the tour guide.

6. **Attendance.** There has been a significant level of interest for this year's event and we are hoping to improve on last year's attendance figures of circa 140. In order to finalise our preparations, we would be grateful for your earliest confirmation of attendance, ideally no later than 21 Mar. Please complete that attached attendance document, or simply provide this information in

an email if this is more convenient for you, to the Branch Secretary, Jack Noble – contact details above. Your very earliest response is appreciated.

7. **Travel from UK and Overseas.** Guests are to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Gibraltar. British Airways, Easyjet and Monarch fly into Gibraltar from Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol. Within one and a half hours drive of Gibraltar, are the international airports of Jerez or Malaga, served from almost all UK airports. Both have car hire facilities, although we are able to arrange taxi/coach from these locations to Gibraltar if required – this will attract a cost to those travelling payable at the time of the journey.

8. **Accommodation.** Unfortunately there is no military accommodation available for the REA Weekend, therefore use of local hotels or staying with friends is recommended.

A very useful and economic approach to arranging your visit (both flight and/or hotel) is **MYGIBALTAR** at <http://www.mygibraltar.co.uk> – we would recommend trying this initially.

Another useful mechanism for sourcing private accommodation (rather than hotel) is via **AIRBNB** at <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/>

If you prefer a hotel stay, local hotels include:

Bristol Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20076800	<a href="http://www.bristolhotel.gi">www.bristolhotel.gi</a>
Caleta Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20076501	<a href="http://www.caletahotel.com">www.caletahotel.com</a>
Cannon Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20051711	<a href="http://www.cannonhotel.gi">www.cannonhotel.gi</a>
O’Callaghan Elliott Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20070500	<a href="http://www.elliotthotel.com">www.elliotthotel.com</a>
Rock Hotel Gibraltar	Tel: 00350 20073000	<a href="http://www.rockhotelgibraltar.com">www.rockhotelgibraltar.com</a>
Sunborn Hotel	Tel: 00350 20016000	<a href="http://www.sunbornhotels.com/gibraltar">www.sunbornhotels.com/gibraltar</a>
Asur Hotel Campo de Gibraltar La Linea	Tel: 0034 956 691211	<a href="http://www.campodegibraltarhotel.com">www.campodegibraltarhotel.com</a>

Hotels are constantly busy and so spaces are generally in demand; we suggest that you identify and book accommodation as early as possible.

As the Dinner Dance will be held in the Rock Hotel, we have managed to secure the following discounted rate in the Rock Hotel for those who may be interested:

*This is based upon a group rate, with a guaranteed number of 10 rooms to be booked. These rooms will need to have a minimum length of stay which would be 2 nights per room for the following rates to apply:*

- Standard Sea View - Single occupancy: £110
- Standard Sea View - Double occupancy: £120

*The above rates are per room, per night and are inclusive of full buffet breakfast. As a further gesture, we will ensure all rooms are allocated with a balcony (subject to availability).*

9. **Medical.** Guests are to ensure they have appropriate Medical Insurance arranged before travelling. UK Citizens are able to use the services at St Bernard’s Hospital when in possession of an E111 European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Access to medical services will be denied otherwise. An EHIC can be obtained online at <https://www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card> or <https://www.e111.org.uk/> or by calling 0845 6062030. There will be emergency medical cover arranged for the events where required. Please ensure adequate personal arrangements are in place for family notification.

10. **Finance.** Gibraltar’s currency is pounds sterling and it has its own notes and coins – please note that these cannot be used or exchanged in the UK upon your return so please feel free to get rid of any remaining ‘Gibraltar’ currency during the raffle at the Farewell Function. There are familiar bank names within Gibraltar including NatWest and Jyske banks, and Newcastle and Leeds Building Societies. NatWest cashpoints will issue UK pounds sterling. Most retail outlets and hotels

will accept credit and debit cards and also cash (UK pounds sterling; Gibraltar pounds or Euros). Please note that Euros are required for Spain.

11. **Welfare.** The event organisers will be able to offer advice on welfare matters but guests must treat the Weekend as you would when travelling abroad anywhere else in the world and make the necessary arrangements for any known welfare matters.

12. **Additional Information.** Additional information will be published on the REA HQ website and the REA Gibraltar Facebook page. For any other queries at this stage, please contact:

Contact	Name	Email	Landline	Mobile
Secretary	Mr Jack Noble	<a href="mailto:jack.noble@ramboll.co.uk">jack.noble@ramboll.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jacknoble40@hotmail.com">jacknoble40@hotmail.com</a>	+350 200 51987	+350 58008085
Chairman	WO1 Ritchie Hicks	<a href="mailto:DIOSDOS-PJOB3d3GibProg@mod.uk">DIOSDOS- PJOB3d3GibProg@mod.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Richard.Hicks924@mod.uk">Richard.Hicks924@mod.uk</a>	+350 200 55372	+350 58009961

On behalf of all 'Sappers on the Rock', we very much look forward to your company to celebrate our friendship and heritage with Gibraltar and its people.

Warmest REgards





Jack Noble  
Secretary  
REA Gibraltar Branch  
for Chairman

Enclosures:

- Event Programme
- Attendance Proforma

Distribution:

External:

REA HQ – Controller REA   
REA Branch Secretaries   
REA HQ Website  
REA Gibraltar Facebook Page

Internal:

GIB HQBF COS (Green, Frank Col)   
DIO SD OS-PJOB3a Gib FM (Giandrea, Rocco Lt Col RE)   
DIO SD OS-PJOB3d3GIBPROG (Hicks, Ritchie WO1 RE)   
DIO Ops Int-PJOB DMG2e (Mukungunugwa, Believe WO2)   
DIO SD OS-PJOB3a2 Gib FM (Carter, Baz SSgt)   
REA Gibraltar Branch Members