

Benevolence Report

54th REA Council Meeting - 7th May 2009

1. **Trends.** Although the number of applications considered throughout 2008 showed a decrease on 2007 in the cases helped, it cannot be taken as a trend and is an increase on the previous four years.

2. **Benevolence Cases 2002 - 2008**

Annual Totals	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan- Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan- Dec	Jan-Dec
Requests	984	1048	936	910	878	897	1007
Grants	975	1026	919	886	855	877	1039

3. **Cost of Benevolence 2008** The audited net costs of REA benevolence: Grants, Christmas grants & weekly allowances for 2008 was £551,406.

4. **REA Branch Observers.** Observers are most welcome to visit an REA Benevolence Meeting in London to see how the business of making financial grants is carried out on behalf of the Corps. Controller REA invites Branches to attend with the aim of those observers reporting back to their Branch of what they have seen and to pass the word around that we are there to help.

5. **Christmas Cards.** Christmas cards and a modest Christmas box are sent out from HQ REA to over eight hundred Members or their widows and to those being treated for Combat Stress. At this time of year we receive many letters of appreciation for this thought and consideration and although it creates a heavy workload on the REA Staff to complete this task on behalf of the REA as a whole it is most rewarding to see that the gesture is appreciated.

6. **Grants to Other Charities.** REA Council has approved grants to other Service charities who maybe involved in the care and benevolent work for our Sappers and their families. The ABF received £35,000 (including a grant of £5K for the ABF Current Operations Fund, SSAFA Forces Help received £5,000 and Combat Stress received £7,500 for their excellent work.

7. **Kitchener Scholarship.** The REA Council have accepted the responsibilities of running the Kitchener Scholarship on behalf of the Corps and have delegated the day-to-day running of the fund to the REA Benevolence Committee.

8. **Corps Memorial Book.** The REA website, in the In Memoriam section there is a link to the Corps Memorial Book with names of those who died over the past few years. It is a new initiative and one that we hope will be used and populated by friends and families to commemorate the lives of those Sappers who have died whilst on or off duty. It includes the names of Sapper Azimkar & Sapper Quinsey who were murdered in Northern Ireland.