

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Brompton Barracks CHATHAM, Kent ME4 4UG

President: General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE
Chief Royal Engineer

Chairman: Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL

Controller: Lieutenant Colonel J R McLennan Medway (01634) 822982

Deputy Controller: Lieutenant Colonel N A Jordan Medway (01634) 822407

See Distribution 13 November 2009

HQ CIRCULAR NO 134

Contents:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Result of the National Standard Bearers' Competition | 7. Trooping The Colour |
| 2. Group and Branch Annual Financial Summary | 8. Spring Families Event |
| 3. Public Liability Insurance | 9. Royal Hospital Chelsea, Founders Day |
| 4. Branch Annual Reports 2008 | 10. Airborne Engineers Branch |
| 5. Annual Members Subscriptions 2008 | 11. REA Rules 2009 |
| 6. Forecast of Events 2009 | 12. Forgotten Heroes of the Somme |

ITEM 1 - RESULT OF THE NATIONAL STANDARD BEARERS' COMPETITION

1. The 2009 National Standard Bearers Competition held at Chatham on Sat 19th September 2009 produced the usual very high standard of presentation and drill. There were five competitors this year and all competitors are to be congratulated on their commanding performance. The competition was extremely close and the judges had a difficult and unenviable task. The result was as follows:

First: Mr Brian Simm, Cambridge Branch for the East Anglia Group
Second: Mr Mike Crooke, Potteries Branch for the North West Group
Third: Mr John Ettles, Highlands & Islands Branch for the Scotland & NI Group

ITEM 2 - GROUP AND BRANCH ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2. Group HQs and Branches are reminded to submit to HQ REA by 31st January annually, a signed copy of their scrutinised Financial Summary declaring: Income, expenditure, assets and liabilities as at 31st December. A letter from the Deputy Controller was sent to all Branch Treasurers and Group Secretaries in October 2009 reminding addressees of their responsibilities. A blank Summary sheet for the 2009 FY with the end of year Branch/Group Worth at end 2008 was also included. **In order to maintain consistency and ensure legibility, groups and branches are required to use the Summary sheet sent out with the Deputy Controller's letter and not to create their own form. Please, please, do not use a self made form, if you do it will be returned to you.**

ITEM 3 - PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

3. The Corps Treasurer has authorised the renewal of the Corps Insurance Policy through Wilson's, our previous insurer. The new policy became effective on 23rd October 2009. A copy of the policy schedule is enclosed with this Circular. Your attention is drawn to the caveats in the Public and Products Liability section (Para 29 and Terrorism). Branches and groups, or the nominated event organiser, should to check with the insurer that the current public liability cover extends to events that they may decide to organise.

ITEM 4 – BRANCH ANNUAL REPORTS 2009

4. In accordance with Rule 17.22, Branch Annual Reports for the year 2009, as at 31st December, are to be completed and returned to HQ REA by end February 2010. Three copies of REA FORM 1 are enclosed with this Circular for Branch Secretaries. These are to be completed and distributed as follows:

- a. One Copy to: HQ REA
- b. One Copy to: Group Secretary (*Do not send this copy to HQ REA*)
- c. One Copy to: Be retained as Branch file copy

ITEM 5 - ANNUAL MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS 2009

5. Branch Treasurers are reminded that subscriptions received from Annual Members of the Branch during 2009 are to be forwarded to HQ REA by 1st February 2010. Two copies of REA FORM 2 are enclosed with this Circular. Completed copies are to be distributed as follows:

- a. One copy, accompanied by the subscriptions due, to be sent to HQ REA
- b. One copy is to be retained in the Branch.

6. **The form is to be returned to HQ REA, suitably annotated, even if the Branch has no Annual Members.**

7. Branch Treasurers are requested to ensure that the Annual Members details, Army Number, Rank, Name and Initials are accurate.

8. Branch Officials will be aware of the amount of work involved in maintaining the records for Annual Members. The effort required at HQ REA to process all branch Annual Members is particularly time and labour intensive and branches are requested to urge their Annual Members to consider transferring to Life Membership. There will, in most cases, be a small sum to pay for conversion and staff at HQ REA can advise individual cases of the cost involved.

ITEM 6 – FORECAST OF EVENTS 2010

9. The following events of interest for 2010 have been notified to HQ REA:

09-10 June	Beating Retreat, London
14–21 May	Spring Reunion, Mundesley Holiday Village, Mundesley
29 May	Trooping the Colour – “Major Generals Review”
10 June	Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day Parade
05 June	Trooping the Colour – “Colonel’s Review”
12 June	Queens Birthday Parade
19-20 June	Aldershot Weekend *
17-19 September	Corps Memorial Weekend Chatham*

09 October	REA AGM and Annual Dinner *
10 October	Sapper Sunday at Royal Hospital Chelsea
11 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
14 November	Remembrance Sunday

* National Events

ITEM 7 – TROOPING THE COLOUR – 1ST BN GRENADIER GUARDS (TBC)

10. The Major Generals Review will take place on 29th May 2010 and there is no charge for entry tickets. Applications for tickets to attend the Major Generals Review must reach HQ REA by close of play 19th February 2010.

11. The ‘Colonel’s Review’ will take place on 5th June 2010. The cost of a ticket will be about £10. Applications for tickets to attend the Colonels Review, and payment, must reach HQ REA by close of play 20th February 2010. Before sending any cheques please confirm the cost of a ticket with HQ REA. Cheques to be made payable to “RE Association”.

12. The Queens Birthday Parade will take place on 12th June 2010. Tickets for this event will be about £25 and the allocation of tickets to this event is by ballot. Applications to enter the ballot for tickets must be received at HQ Household Division by 28th February 2010 and must include a SAE envelope. For further information and confirmed cost of tickets please call 020 7414 2479.

Do not send applications for the Queens Birthday Parade to HQ REA. Applications for tickets to attend the Queens Birthday Parade must be made to:

Superintending Clerk
Headquarters Household Division
Horseguards
Whitehall
London
SW1 2AX

ITEM 8 – SPRING FAMILIES EVENT, MUNDESLEY HOLIDAY VILLAGE

13. The Spring Reunion 2010 will be held at the Mundesley Holiday Village, Mundesley, Norfolk over the period 14 – 21 May 2010. This will be a 7-day reunion and will be the only family’s event for 2010; booking forms are now available. Don’t be lulled into a false sense of security, this is a most popular event and members wishing to attend are advised to obtain a booking form from the Chairman, National Organiser and Secretary of the Families Event Organisation at the earliest opportunity. His contact details are:

Mr Harold Evans
20 Cormorant Rise
Lower Wick
Worcester WR2 4BA

14. A letter to all Branch Secretaries from the Chairman, National Organiser and Secretary of the Families Event Organisation is enclosed with this Circular. Branch Secretaries are asked to give it the widest coverage.

ITEM 9 – ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA, FOUNDERS DAY PARADE

15. Founders Day 2010 will be held on Thursday 10th June, attendance is by invitation only. Individuals wishing to attend the event should apply for tickets in writing to HQ REA. Because of the strict security arrangement that must be in place for such a high profile event, bids are to include the name, address and telephone number of each person wishing to attend. Bids must reach this HQ by 11th March 2010. In the event of the number of tickets available being less than requested,

HQ REA will distribute the tickets as fairly as possible. The Governor's dress rehearsal, which is open to the public, will be held on Tuesday 8th June 2010. Tickets are not required to attend the dress rehearsal

ITEM 10 – AIRBORNE ENGINEERS BRANCH

16. The Airborne Engineers Branch is actively searching for new members. A poster from the Branch is enclosed with this Circular, and Branch Secretaries are asked to place the poster in a prominent position.

ITEM 11 – REA RULES 2009

17. An up-to-date copy of REA Rules 2009 is enclosed for the retention of Branch Secretaries.

ITEM 12 – FORGOTTEN HEROES OF THE SOMME

18. Historian Seeks Memoirs. Historian Hugh Sebag-Montefiore is looking for accounts written or recorded by soldiers who served in the Royal Engineers, including in tunnelling companies, or in any other regiment, during the July-November 1916 battle of the Somme. This is in connection with a book on the fighting on the Somme commissioned by Penguin which he is researching. The book will focus on the capture or attempted capture of the chain of villages and strongpoints which had to be overcome if the German line was to be broken and will include action taken by the 174th, 178th, 179th, 183rd, 252nd Tunnelling Companies when digging tunnels and exploding mines under German lines in order to assist the infantry's advances. If anyone has access to any such account they are asked to contact Hugh Sebag-Montefiore at 37 Tanza Road, London NW3 2UA, on 0207-435-1035 or at sebags@hsmontefiore.com



N.A. JORDAN
Lt Col
Deputy Controller

Enclosures:

1. Current Insurance Policy
2. REA Form 1 Annual Report (3x copies to Branches only)
3. REA Form 2 Annual Subscriptions (2 x copies to Branches only)
4. Families Events Letter
5. Airborne Engineer Branch Poster
6. REA Rules 2009

Distribution:

REA Council Members
Management Committee Members
Group Secretaries
Deputy Group Directors
Branch Secretaries



ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

FAMILIES EVENTS ORGANISATION.

Mr.H R Evans,
20, Cormorant Rise,
Lower Wick,
Worcester,
WR2 4BA.
Tel: 01905 422682.
14TH October 09.

Dear Honorary Secretary,

14-21

MUNDESLEY HOLIDAY VILLAGE, MAY 2010.

I have decided to write to you all following my having to step back into harness after Ken Coward decided to step down from Families Events in June of this year.

Bookings for the Reunion are progressing well, but I would ask you all to urge your Members and their Families and Friends to give us their support if they have not already booked.

It is crucial to our continued existence to reach our minimum numbers to achieve exclusivity, failure to do so means that we do not have our full say in what we have always tried to do, to make the Reunions the huge success they have always been.

The venues available to us have now been reduced to only three, other venues have now increased their capacity which has put them out of our reach.

So to sum-up, Family Events Org needs the support of Branch Members and their families as never before. I do not want to see Family Events cease to exist due to lack of numbers. Its your organisation so please pull out all the stops and give us your full support. My Team and I will do the rest.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Evans,
President and National Organiser.

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION (AIRBORNE BRANCH)

What is the REA?

The REA has been around in one form or another since 1888 and aims to maintain the esprit de corps of the Royal Engineers and act as a link between serving and retired members. It is a charitable organisation that can help serving or retired Sappers and their families when in need. The association has over a hundred local and national branches across the country.

Who are the Airborne Branch?

Branch members are serving or past Sappers who have served in an RE Airborne unit and are keen to maintain the airborne ethos. They organise meetings and social functions as well as assisting in the wider aims of the REA as described above.

Am I eligible to join?

If you are serving or have served in an RE Unit, regular or TA, that has had an Airborne role you are eligible to join.

How much will it cost me?

It is free if you are or have been a member of the Corps days pay scheme. You are already a life member of the REA and may transfer your name to the Airborne Branch at nil cost. If you have not been a member of this scheme then a small one off payment will be required. Please ask when you apply.

Who do I see?

See your SSM or contact the RCMC 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) and ask for a membership form:

Phone: 01394 462406

Email: Kevin.Lillicrap467@mod.uk

Websites: www.reahq.org.uk/national-branches/airborne



AIRBORNE

