

TO ALL RETIRED & SERVING EX-JUNIOR LEADERS

Dear All,

Please see below the letter from our Branch Chairman, Iain George.

For those who may not have been aware Junior Leaders Regt. RE (JLRRE) Branch of the REA had a memorial cairn situated in the area of the old church within what was Old Park Barracks (OPB). This was fairly well protected by the Dover Harbour Board (DHB) who bought OPB, and, used the old church building as a social club. Subsequently, the club closed down and the building was leased out to another organisation, and, in the time from then to date the Cairn was vandalised and spoilt. The Cairn over the years was the centre point of many Re-Union weekends annually or bi-annually. As we were unable to maintain a constant surveillance via the DHB staff the decision was made:

“At the JLRRE AGM in October 2015 the plan to relocate the Cairn was discussed.

Since that meeting Mick Dobson has spent a great deal of time and effort liaising with the Corps Colonel and the RSM of 1 RSME Regiment to get this project off the ground. This has included planning meetings, design of the Cairn and finding a suitable location in Brompton Barracks.

In the last couple of weeks the project has started to gather pace with a design of the cairn been produced, ground work ready to start (a garden by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess) and preparation for the cairn being unveiled at the reunion weekend in October 2016.

Originally it was hoped that there would be no cost for the Cairn but as we are all aware you don't get anything free nowadays.

The Corps Colonel and the RSM have been very good and the original cost of £9000 was due to the Cairn being built with Portland Stone to blend in with the existing buildings. However this has now been reduced to £2400 which includes VAT.

Having spoken to Dave Ormsby we have enough money to cover the projected £2400.00 cost but that would leave the Branch depleted a little. However if we go on a fund raising journey to offset the costs as Dave Bishop did with the Bench and ask ex - Junior Leaders for a contribution towards the Cairn this would help with some of the cost. If you feel that you are able to contribute please do so by sending a cheque to the Branch Treasurer. Details below

The Committee believe that this is a really worthwhile project to pursue as we have always wanted a permanent place to remember those that have gone before us. To have a permanent memorial to all boy soldiers that past through the Royal Engineers system at the home of the Corps where we will be able to hold our services and remember Junior Leaders past and present would be fantastic. Also we know it will be protected from the outside world who possibly have no love of HM Forces. Additionally, we have volunteers from the Medway Branch who would be prepared to look after it on a daily basis.

Your help in this matter is most appreciated.

Regards

Iain George

Chairman of the JLRRE Branch of the REA.

**Please annotate your name on the back of the cheque and send, to the Treasurer;
Mr David Ormsby,
11 Royal Avenue,
Lowestoft
NR32 4HJ**