



Twice Yearly Journal

Lead by Example

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The first thing you will have noticed on receipt of the Newsletter is the Royal Engineers envelope. We haven't been spending the Branches hard earned; we have relieved the Ripon Branch of some assets that are not of use. The Ripon and District logo on the front was obscured to save confusion. You are not now in the Ripon Branch (although I am). This year we will be putting something a little bit special together, ready for our fifteenth celebration of the Branch being formed, which is in 2014 and of course this year at Lichfield and The National Memorial Arboretum. Suggestions and helpful comments on all things to do with the Branch are welcome. One last thing on this, is there a Poet in the house for the Bench plaque? (Read the Appeal).

Sapperfest 2013 This year will be held at Tilstock Airfield, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA. The cost for the whole weekend including a camping pitch is £25, and the dates are the 14th, 15th and 16th of June 2013. The web address is www.sapperfest.co.uk Around 200 attended last year, the word has gone out that it's different and many more are expected this year. Live music on both Friday and Saturday, Euchre schools, a showing of "Zulu" at some stage and general tall storytelling and comradeship. Book time off from work afterwards for your ribs to settle down. All details you need from the web address.

Many will have seen the Appeal on page 2 seen in the Sapper Magazine. The response from those who are not members of the branch has been encouraging. Now it's our members who are being asked to consider contributing. Junior Sappers have served the Corps well over the years and some with even more distinction. The J.L.system is no longer with us and we should not let it be forgotten. Our members have been known for their charitable giving over the years and now I would suggest **Our Appeal** is worthy of your attention.

APPEAL

Boys Sqn. and later Junior Leaders who joined up and went to Malta Barracks Aldershot, or Old Park Barracks Dover are being asked to contribute financially to the provision of a memorial bench which will be sited at the National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas in Staffordshire. The bench will be sited at the side, and overlooking, the Royal Engineers memorial. The Corps Standard and the Falkland Island rocks make this a dignified place and our memorial should add to this. The date for the inauguration is Sunday the 6th October 2013, and this will also be the weekend of the Junior Leaders A.G.M. and annual dinner to be held at Lichfield and Sunday at the Arboretum. A plaque appx. 14ins by 9ins is to be attached to the central uprights of the bench with a suitable inscription and poem. Contributions as to a suitable poem reflecting youth, companionship and commitment are being sought. We stress that the contributions are open to all Junior Sappers, not just members of the Branch. We look forward to the inauguration being attended by as many Ex Boys and Sappers as possible. Contributions should be sent to the Chairman Mr. Dave Bishop, 2 Hollings Farm, Low Springs, Baildon, Shipley. BD17 6BE. For more info you can call me on 01274 580481. Or Email david.bishop373@btinternet.com We ask those who can to consider donating £10.00. More would be acceptable but less would be just as acceptable. Make your cheques payable to JLRRE Branch REA Please write on the back of cheque "Bench" If you wish you can donate directly through your bank. The branch details are Barclays Bank PLC Lowestoft Branch Sort Code 20- 53- 06 A/C Number 70559741 A/C Name JLR LRRE Branch REA Please mark payment "Bench Appeal" Your contributions will make sure Boys Service in the Corps, has a fitting memorial at the side of the R.E. site.

2013 AGM and Annual Dinner. Also inauguration of commemorative bench.

You can book your room Quoting Junior Leaders R.E. 4th,5th,6th October. The Hotel is The Cathedral Lodge Hotel Lichfield. Tel Number 01543 414500. Single Rooms £60.00. Double Rooms. £68.00. Superior £78.00 This is for bed and breakfast. The Saturday Dinner price with wine and port for the loyal toast, and a Disco for dancing after dinner will cost £23.00. The dinner choices and booking forms will be posted shortly. The bench will be inaugurated on Sunday at the Arboretum on the 6th October.

A joke from Bernard Davis (sent via email) (No contributions! it's Bernard's jokes, I warned you).

A man walked out to the street and caught a taxi just going by. He got into the taxi and the cabbie said, "Perfect timing. You're just like Brian" Passenger: "Who? " Brian Sullivan. He's a guy who did everything right all the time. Like my coming along when you needed a cab, things happen like that to Brian every single time." Passenger: "There are always a few clouds over everybody." Cabbie: "Not Brian Sullivan. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand Slam at tennis. He could golf with the pros. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway star and you should have heard him play the piano. He was an amazing guy." Passenger: "Sounds like he was something really special." Cabbie: "There's more. He had a

memory like a computer. He remembered everybody's birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and which fork to eat them with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse and the whole street blacks out. But Brian Sullivan, he could do everything right."

Passenger: "Wow. Some guy then." Cabbie: "He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and avoid traffic jams. Not like me, I always seem to get stuck in them. But Brian, he never made a mistake and he really knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good. He would never answer her back even if she was in the wrong; and his clothing was always immaculate, shoes polished too. He was the perfect man! He never made a mistake. No one could ever measure up to Brian Sullivan." Passenger: "An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?"

Cabbie: "Well, I never actually met Brian. He died. I'm married to his bleeding widow."

Part One ; Doug's Canal Walks

For Help for Heroes

On Feb 2012 I commenced my latest project to walk all the canals of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Eire, approximately 2500 miles in total adding up to about 4000 miles over my four walks. A gentle stroll along the Exeter Ship Canal was the starting point and I was led to believe this to be the first British canal. It has very interesting history; their web site is well worth a visit. Next on to the Bridgwater/Taunton Canal, walked in the company of my brother and a section of Marines from 40 Commando. In March I decided to brave the delights of Brum and tackle the numerous canals criss-crossing our second City (of course it rates second to my home city of Exeter), there are said to be more canals in Birmingham than in Venice. It's quite an experience to walk right across a vast city in every direction in virtual silence, meeting very few people and almost always below street level, which moved me to christen it the Underworld. Because all the industry has gone, very little happens along the canals, except for a few bars and cafes in the city centre, despite all the towpaths being restored since the mid 1980's, funded partly by the EU Regional Development Fund. The Dudley tunnel inaccessible (no towpath) but the adjacent Netherton tunnel called. 3027 yards, cold, dark, and very eerie. One to remember! That was Birmingham. Canal walking gets into your blood so having a few days to spare I walked south on the Stourbridge canal and then onto the Staff/Worcester canal at Stourton. If you look at your canal maps you will know this gives access to Stourport on Severn. Worcester was a place I was looking forward to spending a day collecting for "Help for Heroes". The Mayor came to meet me which helped the charities profile. Collecting finished, the Worcs/Brum canal beckoned which is where I finished on the Brum city walk. At a later date I walked all the little odds n'sods that I had missed, when I was accompanied by a mate from 11 Squadron R.E. Early April saw us have a very successful collection at Morrison's in Plymouth, then on to walk the now defunct and little remaining Liskeard/Looe canal followed by a not very successful and bitterly cold collection in Liskeard. Next day off to Tiverton to walk the Grand Western Canal, (not so grand now it's burst its banks), accompanied by Councillor Lewis and Mayor Neil Davey, and followed by a Town Centre collection ably assisted by Tiverton Army Cadets. Mid April we travelled up to South Wales to stay with an old friend who was our next door neighbour in Devon just after we got married. O.M.G. is it really that long!! We stayed with Pauline while I walked all the South Wales canals namely Monmouthshire, Mon/Brecon, Crumlin Arm, no longer existing beyond

Cwmcarn, very interesting history, the 8 miles left accessible of the Swansea canal. Later that day Sue dropped me at Tonna where I walked south on the Tennant canal passing the magnificent ruins of Neath Abbey (which Sue and I subsequently took time out to visit, time well spent!!) After the Abbey the towpath gradually deteriorated until I reached a section where diggers had been working. An abandoned ship had left deep water filled ruts. Canal walking is supposed to be leisurely. This part was trying and difficult to negotiate. The water's edge was the way to go until I reached a low bridge. A high bank had been constructed. Boxed in! Sapper initiative; so up and over I went. The canal finally finished at Swansea.

Part Two in August

The 2012 AGM and Dinner

The Dover Marina Hotel was once again the meeting place for the A.G.M. and Dinner. As usual the Hotel looked after us very well. The AGM took place on Saturday at 1400 hrs. This year Lt.Col (Rtd) Neil Jordan deputy controller of the REA joined us on the top bench. He was there as a guest of our President, so was pressed into service to give us a run down on all matters REA. Our President Lt.Col. (Rtd.) Larry Inge took us through what is happening with the Corps and the implications of the restructuring that is being enacted at the moment, and over the next few years. The main points of discussion from the floor were the state of the membership, the finances and the member's agreement for the Memorial Bench. Gary Jardine was elected as Membership Secretary and the present serving officers were re-elected. The next AGM and Dinner to be in Lichfield with the Sunday at the Arboretum. 4th, 5th, & 6th October 2013.

Footnote Since the AGM it's with regret that our President Larry Inge has had to resign for family reasons. We thank him for all that he has done for the branch whilst in office.

Also at the Committee meeting in January it was decided that the Charity Auction at the Dinner 2013 will be left over this year.

Dinner This year the deputy Standard Bearer Ray Ellis started the evening's proceedings off in our usual style. The Corps fanfare, Wings and a rendition of Hurrah for the CRE set us in the mood for a great evening. Our Padre the Rev David Ridley said grace. The meal was adjudged very good and special thanks must go to Ron Atkins for providing port for the Loyal Toast. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Group Directors Commendation to Peter O'Callaghan. Lt. Col Neil Jordan presented and congratulated Peter on the award. The branch says well done.

Obituary Tony Hayward

One who is called a true gentleman, that is the epitaph that applies to Tony Hayward. He joined the Boys Squadron at Aldershot, moved to Dover and set off on his journey through mans service. He reached the rank of Major. He was one of the original members of the branch and attended with his wife Ann at every Re-union. He was popular with a wide ranging interest in most things and you looked forward to his company. His funeral at Bovingdon was attended by many Sappers. Member Bill Lodge liaised with the family. President Larry Inge read The Soldiers Farewell and the Commendation. Last Post and Reveille were played along with the silence. Dave Bishop (Chairman). Peter O'Callaghan (Vice Chairman) Mick Dobson (Secretary) represented the Branch. Simon Crowley with Standard, was on duty during the Service and also at the graveside during the internment. Afterwards Ann, daughters Charlotte and Becky said "Simon and those that attended had made a difficult day a little easier". From all of us: Rest in peace Tony.