



OLD PARKY

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Twice Yearly Journal

Of the Junior Leaders RGT. RE

Branch of the REA

Lead by Example

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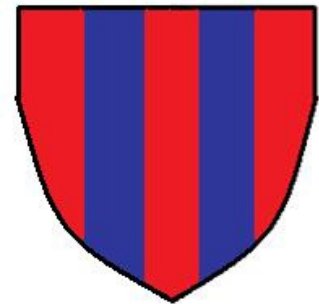
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also Lands End Dougs Walk.



The annual A.G.M. and Dinner of 2010 are now passed. The general consensus was that once again a good time was had by all. A report on page three as to the discussions at the AGM and their outcomes is published. The general attendance this year was down at the dinner. Questions as to why this was so were asked, and the only reasons that could be given, were maybe the economics and family commitments that we all have. Over the years Gavin Palmer and his family have made the trip to our annual get together. Amanda, Gavin's daughter, met and fell in love with Peter Tapp, Konrads son. The Junior Leaders have been accused of many things over the years, but now the role of Cupid can go onto our battle honours. Their burgeoning relationship started, after meeting first of all at one of our annual meetings. We of course pass the branches very best wishes to them both, and wish them every possible happiness for the future.

2010 Dinner & Service We started to meet on the Friday afternoon at the Ramada Hotel, Whitfield Dover. The memories were stirred once again as the hotel is just about, at what was once the camp gates. The camp or the gates of course are no longer there. Two local pub/food hotels gave us a choice of where to have our evening meal. Some of us chose the Cricketers and some the quite expansive pub that has been built on the site of where the Sergeants mess stood. On return to the Ramada we partook in what could be called a very enjoyable evening. The Saturday evening dinner was held in the Marquee at the Ramada. Colin Kirby presented the Branch Standard to the accompaniment of "The Corps Fanfare and Wings." The assembled guests and members then gave voice to "Hurrah for the C.R.E."

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Visit the branch website at: www.rejuniorleaders.co.uk
to see the latest news, and talk to old friends.

Part One of Bernard's Travels with the R.Es 23773866 Junior Sapper Bernard Kenneth Davis RE

In September 1963 I joined B Squadron, at Old Park Barracks, Dover, Kent. The Junior RSM at that time was Jake Townsley. After all these years he is the Corps Treasurer at RHQ. I was posted to Section 1, in the Winter Term of 1963. The OC at that time was Major J McKay-Forbes RE and the Troop Officer was Lt P Miller RE. Our permanent staff NCO i/c Troop was Cpl Don Doherty RE. A photograph was taken in the first week of Intake. This is on the Junior Leaders web site. Some of the people who were in my intake, I have either met, seen, or heard of over the years are as follows: Chris Beaumont, who is a member of the Branch. I enjoy seeing every year at the AGM. Jack Tarr who was commissioned and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel RE. I last saw and spoke to him in Gibraltar Barracks at the Remembrance Sunday Service the year he left the Army, a few years ago. Ken Lewis who was commissioned and retired as a Major RE. Met up with Jack Tarr and myself at Chattenden Barracks, Rochester in the WO's & Sgt's Mess. That was October 1992. How time does fly. Andy Watt retired as a WO1 RE and I last saw him about 1990 at 40 Army Sp Regt, Willich. There were many more, met over the years besides these. My time as a Junior Leader seems to be made up of accident and illness. In fact, I remember one OC B Sqn near the end of my time there saying to my father, that he believed I was genuinely accident-prone. He also indicated to my Dad, that the Army might not have been my best future career choice. I lost my top two front teeth in school before I joined the Army. Being put to the test at Dover, I was nominated to shout the drill time on Sqn. parade. Inevitably my false teeth didn't stand the test and were picked up off the Square, after the Squadron was set the task of finding them. They were broken of course, providing the Squadron with great mirth at my expense and me with embarrassment. On reflection, memories of the barrack room discipline, we were all subjected to, come readily to mind: Square bed packs; floor bumping; hob nailed boots; blanco & webbing; conservancy night and housewives. **Square bed packs.** Some had their bed packs permanently made up and slept in old blankets on the bed. Our inspecting officer ripped every bed pack apart. The things that came out of those packs were unbelievable and very quickly confiscated. Nobody seemed to bother after that, just had the normal day-to-day bed packs. **Laying floor polish** and bumping rooms, as well as the corridors with Cleepol and Red Cardinal. The beds and lockers were moved from one side of the room to the other. We used dusters or old blankets on the feet until after inspection. Digging out the excess floor polish from the screw holes in the floor and using Brasso to carefully polish the screw heads. Been there, done that!! **The hobnailed boots**, 13 studs (I think) were another source of fun. If there was a stud missing on inspection, the **Last and Hammer** came out to replace missing studs. **Blanco on webbing.** I never got that completely right and I spent hours doing it, then polishing the brasses. I always seemed to mess something up or get a spot on the belt and have to start again!! **Parade ground drill** was something the Junior NCOs took a great deal of pride in. Any one they felt wasn't up to scratch usually had to be able to make their own case. I had to do this, with success, and my Judo training saved the day for me. For Trade Training I had visions of becoming a Refrigeration Mechanic. That wasn't to be. I became a Clerk RE, something to do with a lack of math's qualifications. I was due to leave JLRRE in the summer of 1965. I had an accident whilst building a gyn, part of the gyn and shears of an aerial ropeway. I lost the top of my little finger and was back squaded for a Section to complete the Cbt Engr B3 tests that I missed in the summer.

Bernard's time in the Regimental Band and contributions to the Sovereignty of the State over 32 years will conclude in the August issue.

2010 Dinner & Service

We were delighted that The Revd. David Ridley and his partner were able to join us for dinner. David over the past 3 years has become the branch Padre, whether he realises this or not. The dinner and wine was of an excellent standard, with Larry Inge our president proposing the Toasts. Mick Dobson the branch secretary and Dave Orrmsby the treasurer set about relieving those of us present, of our hard earned cash towards the charities we support. The auction lots had two large R.E. brass badges, which made £62.00 each. The lots this year included a choice of two prints of Junior Sappers in either Denims or the Band uniform dating probably from the 60's. The annual lots that are returned each year had the Walking Stick and the Vase. The vase now only exists as the Mahogany stand, it once stood on. Unfortunately last year it was broken, a plaque has been attached and a Mahogany cabinet made to keep it, hopefully safe. The Charities this year received £600 from various lots sold. Our thanks go to the successful bidders. The evening finished with Heads and Tails, the proceeds of which go towards the FAFF. (Fifteenth anniversary fund.) The Bar was the favourite watering hole after the dancing, with the Chairman excusing himself with weak legs. Sundays Drum Head Service was conducted by The Revd. David Ridley. Dover Branch Standard and the Junior Leaders Standard, courtesy Dave Crocket and Colin Kirby were as usual on parade. The meal and the conviviality we all shared, both at the service and over the whole weekend, makes attending worthwhile.

The A.G.M. Meeting 2010

The President Larry Inge (Lt. Col Retd.) Opened the meeting. The Chairman (Dave Bishop) then welcomed all, and introduced the committee. Dep. Chairman, Mr Peter Ocallaghan, Secretary, Mr Michael Dobson, Treasurer Mr Dave Ormsby. Absent on duty Mr Simon Crowley, Standard Bearer & Newsletter Editor and Serving representative Maj. Spence Spenser MBE. We all stood for a minute's silence for those who are no longer with us, members and serving soldiers. Reports were given by The President, and the Officers of the Branch. These were passed unanimously by those present. Points raised as the meeting progressed were as follows; Stewart Whiffen asked that the itinerary and Agenda for the weekend could be posted on the Web site. This was accepted. He also asked that the role of members be published. Larry Inge agreed to find out if this could be done under the present Data Protection Act. (We are informed this is possible but not address information.) Ron Atkins and Colin Kirby agreed to act as Auditors at the January meeting. Bernard Davis was thanked for his article in the Newsletter and again members are asked if they can enlighten us with their articles. Under any other business a vote from members as to whether a Guest of Honour at our annual meeting is desirable. Peter Ocallaghan explained the financial implications for the accounts of the Branch. A lively debate ensued with the vote being going to invite a Guest of Honour with the final decision with the committee. Next years AGM and dinner dates to be arranged after consultation with the REA diary, but early in the month of October.

(Since the meeting we are now in the process of contacting a wounded Sapper that would like to attend our weekend as the branch guest.)

The Branch Accounts. The Treasurer Dave Ormsby has provided the following figures.

Opening Balance Dec 2009= £9,460.88 . Surplus Income/Exp. to Dec 2010 = £502.19.

Closing Balance Dec 2010 = £9,963.07. Incorporates £1,178.84 in the FAFF Fifteenth Fund.

Management & Admin costs. £504.57. Newsletter etc. £631.72 The branch auditors Colin Kirby and Ron Atkins found the A/c's to be as well presented this year as always, at the January meeting, with no course for concern. The AGM made a vote of thanks to the treasurer. The January meeting was

able to arrive at the date for the 2011 AGM. This will be the 7th, 8th, 9th Of October. Provisionally the Churchill Hotel (now to be called " The Dover Marina Hotel & Spa.") intends to be booked by us. Ron Beat's observations about costs that he posted on the web-site were discussed at great length. The general feelings of the committee and the Auditors who were at the meeting was that we are at the mercy of the market. What your management have to do, is provide a venue that gives us the quality we require at what we regard as a decent price. These are the prices as near as we can get, to start saving for. **Double rooms £75.00 B&B. Singles £68.00 B&B. Saturday Evening Dinner £25.00 which includes a half bottle of wine. Sunday Lunch after the service back at the Dover Marina 2 Course £11.00.** This

year we are planning to provide guests with a trip to a heritage or similar site on Saturday and on Sunday a coach will be provided to transport us to the Service at Old Park and return us to the hotel for lunch on Sunday. Peter Ocallaghan once again is keeping in close contact with the hotel and we will hopefully be able to finalise the venue, after we have made a visit early in May. Booking forms will be with you in June. The Branch funds go a long way to help us enjoy the weekend , so as usual we look forward to many bookings. Our Branch Logo now adorns pairs of Cuff Links. Peter was the model.

The designer thought his wrists were ideal to show them off. They will cost you £10.00 per pair. They are in a square setting, and the quality is very good. There will be a small charge for postage. Dave Ormsby is the one to contact. If you have the Branch Logo lapel badge this makes the set. Other items we have on stock are: Lapel Badges, Junior Leaders Rgt. Shields, Ties & the 10th Anniversary Polo Shirts being sold at a discount. Again Dave Ormsby is the one to contact. 01502 560052. **Doug Hamilton Cox in 2009 took it on himself to walk from his home in Devon to Wooton Bassett. Doug collected Appx, £13,000 for Help for Heroes. A stroll from John O Gaunts to Lands End is the next project. As you can imagine this will be a massive feat for anyone. Doug was at Dover in the early 1960s so you can see what he is taking on. What he needs is our help. His route will be in brief as follows: John O'Groats – Wick-Brora-Inverness-Fort Augustus-Pitlochry-Crieff-Stirling-Falkirk (Glasgow)-Airdrie-Motherwell-Hamilton-Lanark-Abington-Moffat-Lockerbie-Gretna Green-Carlisle-Penrith-Kendal-Brough-Skipton-Keighley-Halifax-Huddersfield-Holmfirth-Glossop-Buxton-Ashbourne-Derby-Burton-on-Trent-Nuneaton-(Birmingham & Coventry) Warwick/Royal Leamington-Spa-Stratford-Upon-Avon-Alcester-Evesham-Stow on the Wold-Cheltenham-Cirencester-Tetbury-Malmsbury-Chippenham-Bath-Trowbridge-Frome-Shepton Mallet-Somerton-Langport-Honiton-Exeter-Moretonhampstead-Tavistock-Liskeard-St Austell-Truro-Redruth-Penzance-Lands End-Yippee!!!!**

Alternative route may take in Carnforth-Lancaster-Preston-Leyland-Wigan-Warrington-Shrewsbury-Worcester-Tewksbury-Cheltenham/Gloucester-Stroud & Nailsworth. He plans to start in April and he needs all the help we can give him. If your local REA branches are in the proximity of the walk or British Legion branches, let them know of Dougs walk. He needs help carrying buckets for donations, someone to walk along with him as he passes by and also offers of help with accommodation, would really help out. His Email is sue.hamiltoncox@btinternet.com Help with publicity by writing to your local papers, contacting any Regiments that are Garrisoned near to you in the vicinity of the walk would also be of great help.

Committees Members:

Larry Inge, - President, Dave Bishop - Chairman, Peter O'Callaghan - Vice Chairman, Dave Ormsby - Treasurer

Mick Dobson - Branch & Minutes Secretary

Simon Crowley - Newsletter Editor & Standard Bearer, Major Nigel Spencer - Serving Member