

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

PATRON HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Brompton Barracks CHATHAM, Kent ME4 4UG

President: Gen Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE ADC Gen
Chief Royal Engineer

Chairman: Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL

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See Distribution 17 March 2011

HQ CIRCULAR NO 138

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ITEM 1 - AWARD OF THE BADGE OF MERIT

1. At their meeting in London on the 27th January 2011, the Management Committee approved the award of the prestigious REA Badge of Merit to the following members:

Name	Branch	Group
Bob Prosser	Airborne Engineers	North East
Mike Payne	Reading & W Berks	Central Southern
Ron Atkins	Andover & Winchester	South West
Norman Hardisty	Southampton	South West
Michael Gardner	Woolwich	London
Ivan Edmondson	North Wales	North West
Keith Evans	Chester	North West
John Burke	Birkenhead	North West
Stan Rawcliffe	Blackpool	North West
Doug McKenzie Scott	Edinburgh	Scotland & NI

2. In addition to those listed above, the following member was awarded the Badge of Merit as a result of a recommendation by the Chairman REA, Maj Gen J D Moore-Bick CBE DL

Name	Branch	Group
Frank Saunders	Forth Valley Branch	Scotland & NI Gp

3. The Chairman noted that Lt Col (Retd) Frank Saunders, currently in his 105th year, had been a member of the REOCA and then the REA for a total of 75 years.

ITEM 2 - AGM NOTIFICATION

4. This year the Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF on Saturday 8th October 2011, commencing at 1600 hours.

5. The attention of Groups and Branches is drawn to Rules 11.01 to 11.40, which govern the procedure at the Annual General Meeting.

6. The REA Form for notifying the names and addresses of Branch Delegates and details of travel expenses claimed will be issued with the next HQ Circular.

ITEM 3 - ANNUAL DINNER

7. This year the Annual Dinner of the Association is to be held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF on Saturday 8th October 2011, following the Annual General Meeting. Reception will be at 1800 hours for 1830 hours with the bar opening at 1730 hours. Branches and members are encouraged to support this very enjoyable annual event.

8. Dress for gentlemen will be lounge suits or blazer and flannels with Corps tie; ladies should dress appropriately.

9. Ticket price remains at £20. This represents extremely good value for a 4 course meal at a top quality venue in Central London.

10. An application form for tickets will be issued with the next HQ Circular. Closing date for bookings will be 23 September 2011.

ITEM 4 - SAPPER SUNDAY, THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

11. SAPPER SUNDAY will take place on Sunday 9th October 2011 at The Royal Hospital Chelsea. This is the day after the REA AGM and Annual Dinner and a good turnout from REA Members in London and from around the country is expected. Members are encouraged to attend this event, meet RE In-Pensioners and swap stories over a few pints. Branches are requested to give this event the very widest publicity. It is hoped that a Curry Buffet can be made available; if it is, catering will be limited to 50, and available only to those in possession of an "REA Curry Pass". So if you are attending Sapper Sunday and would like a curry, please advise the Deputy Controller REA so that he can issue tickets for catering. Members attending the Annual Dinner and Sapper Sunday will be given priority for "REA Curry Passes".

ITEM 5 - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

12. Remembrance Sunday will be on Sunday 13th November 2011. Branches requiring tickets for the Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London, are to apply, in writing, to HQ REA stating the number of tickets required.

13. The Royal British Legion has requested that bids are only made through Regimental Association Headquarters and not direct to them. Bids are requested by 30th July 2011 to enable a consolidated bid to be submitted during August.



ITEM 6 - NATIONAL STANDARD BEARERS COMPETITION

14. The National Standard Bearers' Competition is to be held at Brompton Barracks, Chatham during the Veterans/Corps Memorial Weekend on Saturday 16th September 2011. The exact timings are not yet known.

15. All Groups are encouraged to enter the competition, particularly as entrants for the competition may claim travelling and reasonable overnight expenses.

16. Groups and Branches are reminded that:

- a. Competitors must be REA members and members of the REA branch for which they carry the Standard.
- b. Participation is limited to winners of the Group Competition or person nominated by the Group Director where no competition takes place.
- c. Only one Standard Bearer from each Group can take part in the National Competition.
- d. The current National Standard Bearer does not get automatic entry to the National Competition. The criteria at 16.b above apply.

ITEM 7 - VETERANS' WEEKENDS

17. The Veterans' Weekend at Chilwell is to be held over the weekend 13 - 15 May 2011

18. The Veterans' Weekend at Minley is to be held over the weekend 24 - 26 June 2011.

19. The Veterans' Weekend at Chatham is to be held over the weekend 15 - 18 September 2011.

ITEM 8 - REA SPRING REUNION, SOUTH DOWN HOLIDAY VILLAGE

20. The REA Spring Reunion will take place at Southdown Holiday Village, Bracklesham Bay, Chichester over the period 20 - 27 May 2011. This is a top quality event that offers not only superb value for money, but also the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, make new ones and have a thoroughly good time. All the hard work has been done for you, all you need to do is attend and enjoy yourself. There may still be some vacancies for this event and Branches are urged to give this event priority advertising. Enquiries should be addressed to the Chairman, National Organiser and Secretary at the following address:

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

ITEM 9 - GROUP AND BRANCH OFFICIALS CONTACT LIST

21. In order that an up-to-date Contact List can be compiled, printed and distributed by mid 2011, branch secretaries are requested to complete and return the enclosed REA Form 4 (Branch Officials) **by 29th April 2011**. The Form has been revised to include the title and known name of branch officials. Branches are requested to ensure this new information is included. Branches failing to return REA Form 4 will not have their up-to-date details published in the 2011 Group and Branch Officials Contact List.



ITEM 10 - STANDARD BEARERS EXPENSES

22. On 30th November 2010, HQ REA, 'along with the other Corps charities, adopted online banking. What this means to Standard Bearers is that cheques for expenses will no longer be issued; all payments will now be made by on-line bank transfer. Because of this change, it has been necessary to modify the old Standard Bearers Travel Claim Form (REA Form 3). All Branches were advised of this change in November 2010. A copy of the revised Form 3 is enclosed for branch use and should be photocopied as required. REA Form 3 is also available on the REA website.

ITEM 11 - REA FORM 8 - NOTIFICATION OF DEATH - OLD COMRADE

23. Branches are requested to use REA Form 8 when notifying HQ REA of the death of old comrades. Form 8 requests certain essential information that notification by letter often fails to convey. Unless Form 8 is used to notify HQ REA of a death, it will not be possible to process details of the death for publication in the Sapper magazine or for publication in the Corps Memorial Book. Two copies of Form 8 are enclosed and should be copied as required. The Form is also available online at <http://reahq.org.uk/pages-and-navigation/>

ITEM 12 - SAPPERS SIX - A GOOD READ FOR THE KIDS

24. Brian Warburton, the author of Sappers Six, has kindly donated a copy of his book to each REA Branch. The book is intended for children in the age range 8 - 12 and is a wonderful introduction for youngsters into the work of the Royal Engineers. Please ensure the book is passed around your members. The letter and poster accompanying the book provides details of how to order further copies.

ITEM 13 - NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DAY - EDINBURGH

25. The National event to celebrate Armed Forces Day in 2011 is taking place in Edinburgh on Saturday 25 June. Full details of the event, including attendance and accommodation bookings proforma are enclosed with this Circular. You are requested to give the event the widest possible publication.

ITEM 14 - REA FACEBOOK PRESENCE

26. The REA now has a presence on Facebook. The page is only in its infancy and we hope will develop over time. Please visit the page at:
www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Engineers-Association/175905092455207
or just search for 'Royal Engineers Association'. If you like it, please click 'Like it'

ITEM 15 - RE MUSEUM EVENTS

27. During the coming four months the RE Museum will be holding a number of events which will be of interest to many REA members. Details of the events are enclosed with this Circular and you are requested to give them the widest possible publication.


N JORDAN
Lt Col (Retd)
Deputy Controller