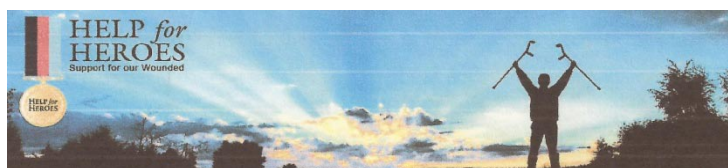


From Chris Davies



Dear Friends in the Yorkshire Branch AEA,

After your generous contribution to my H4H efforts I promised to let you know how my training was going. Well, the old body is complaining a bit, but I am getting more bike fit and I am now doing 40 miles in the saddle on four successive days. All I need to do for the Big Battlefield Ride is double this! As a warm up I have entered the Tedworth House – “Ride to Recovery” next Sunday. This is 70 miles up and down the Wiltshire hills. I am told the views are worth the effort. We will see. Oh well, at least the weather is a little warmer than it was in Jan/Feb when there were days when I went out looking more like Capt Oats leaving the tent than the sleek, lycra-clad youth I would like to be seen as!!

Not long now. The Big Ride is from 20-26 May and with the superb support that you have given me there is NO question of not completing. I will let you know how it goes. Meanwhile, once again, on behalf of all the young people who will benefit from your generosity please can I say a very big **THANK YOU** for your support.

*Chris*



Dear Mike and Members of the Yorkshire Branch AEA,

It's over! The first couple of days were windy, hilly, chilly and, at times, very misty. However, Dunkirk was reached in warm sunshine so the memories are all good. In company with 249 other supportive and very jolly riders we began at Caen on Monday morning and via some moving and thought-provoking memorial ceremonies on the way, we rode through, Dieppe, Amiens, Arras, The Somme battlefields (including the Thiepval memorial to the missing and the enormously impressive memorial to the Canadian fallen at Vimy Ridge) and Ypres. On the fifth and last day, Friday, (from Ypres to the Coast) we reverted to WW11 and were reminded of the events of 1940. The arrival in Dunkirk was marked by a final remembrance ceremony and, then, a display of aerobatics by a lone Spitfire, before a mile mass ride along the promenade to the acclaim of hundreds of tourists. Memorable or what?!

As ever it was humbling to be in the company of some real heroes - those still recovering from their wounds but gutsy enough to pedal every inch of the way; and those for whom the physical effort was something totally outside of their experience but who refused to be beaten by the challenge. Then there was 'Charlie' Chaplin who pedalled the *Team Sapper* rickshaw (Last seen on BBC I's *The One Show* - it weighs around 500 lbs!) Hero is a somewhat over-used word these days but it was not mis-applied to such people. It was a privilege for me to be in their company.



The whole experience made the months of training all worthwhile, not least because the event has raised over £500,000 to date for *Help for Heroes* and, thanks to your generous support, the total raised by *Team Sapper* to date is approaching £90,000. Our target of £100,000 is encouragingly within range and we still have some fund-raisers to come. Thank you so much for your support. You have been an inspiration to me and your generosity is very much appreciated by the young men and women who will be the beneficiaries.



Ian McGill

Jerry Taggart

Chris Davies

With Sincere thanks

*Chris*

Me with two other ex-OC's of 9 Para Sqn  
NB: They preceded me!!