



# Airborne Engineers Association

Registered Charity No. 1009201

# *Newsletter*

AUGUST 1999

PRESIDENT

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Brigadier G.A. Hewish, MBE

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## From the Chair

Dear Members,

The June OGM was held at Ripon during the "Ripon Veterans Weekend." This was, as we have come to expect, a well-organised and enjoyable event. As most of you know, the Association Secretary, Ray Coleman has been seriously ill, but I'm pleased to inform you that he is now on the road to recovery. I am sure you will all want to join me in wishing Ray and his wife Eve all the best for the future.

It was good to see Col Chris Davies, our Vice President, at Ripon. He also has made a good recovery from illness. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Charlie Dunk for stepping into the breach as the Association Assistant Secretary.

Last but not least I would like to thank the Yorkshire Branches of the REA and AEA for their help and hospitality over the weekend.

I would like to draw your attention to a point discussed at the OGM, the Membership Directory. The information in the directory is difficult to keep up to date. It would help if you could pass the word around and get the members to contact Chris Chambers (Membership Secretary) to confirm and add to the information that he already holds. We would like to make the directory more like a staff list, and to achieve this we would require the following information:

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Title (Mr. Or Rank)               | 2. First name and/or nickname  |
| 3. Initials                          | 4. Surname                     |
| 5. Your wife/partners first name     | 6. Decorations/awards          |
| 7. Address                           | 8. Postal code                 |
| 9. Telephone number                  | 10. Fax number (if applicable) |
| 11. "E" mail address (if applicable) |                                |

Please also indicate how you would wish any mail from the Association to be addressed to you.

There will be no update to the present directory this year. If we get the response required, the New Directory should be available for the start of the new century i.e. the 1st January 2001.

Hopefully I will see you all at the AGM/Reunion in Birmingham in October. If you have not booked your tickets yet, please contact Bunny Brown (██████████) ASAP.

Tom Ormiston — Chairman

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# Minutes of the AGM

held at Seacroft Holiday Centre Great Yarmouth  
on Saturday 17th October 1998

## 1. Opening Address - (Members in attendance 118)

The Chairman - Tom Ormiston welcomed everyone present, with particular praise for those that had travelled long distances. This he stated was mainly due to "Esprit de Corps" that is so prevalent within the Association. The Chairman then gave his "state of the nation" summary and emphasised how well the Association had fulfilled its obligations.

He then introduced our new President, Brig. GA Hewish MBE, to the assembly and invited the President to say a few words of introduction. The President stated how highly honoured he felt to be selected to take over as President, from Maj. Gen. GW Field CB, OBE, and sincerely hoped that as president he would be able to contribute to the continued wellbeing on an Association to which we are justly proud.

## 2. Silent Tribute

The members stood for one minute in respect of the following colleagues who had passed away during the past year: Edwin Wren, Reg Phillips, Robert Batty, Rhys Price, Ian Wilson, John Davies, Paul Dickinson, Bill Powell, Len Hughes, George Fairs, Ken Cowie, Mick Lobb and Bill Helsdon.

## 3. Apologies

There were 55 notifications of apology.

## 4. Minutes of 1997 AGM

The Minutes of 1997 AGM held at Chatham were passed as a true record of proceedings.  
Proposed by Brian Jones Seconded by John Davies - Agreed: Unanimously

## 5. Chairman's Report

Tom Ormiston stated that the Association was progressing well, but that there were areas in which we could improve and get more involved. The way ahead had some challenges, which we needed to address now, in order that the progression could be well planned.

- (a) He would like us to include in our programme of events, the responsibility of laying a wreath at the Oosterbeek ceremony, on the behalf of the Corps of Engineers. He suggested that an Arnhem Veteran, with a uniformed escort from 9 Parachute Squadron represented the Association, and that this should commence in 1999.
- (b) On the "grapevine" it has been intimated that the Commando Squadron is considering forming its own Association based on similar lines to ours. An offer of help and advice in the setting up of their Association has been promised.

Before concluding, the Chairman requested feedback from those members present regarding future AGMs/Reunions being held at civilian premises similar to those at Seacroft Holiday Centre.

## 6. Treasurers Report

Capt. Dick Brown RE gave comprehensive Treasures report of the Association accounts as at Saturday 17th October 1998.

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash in Bank	£ [REDACTED]	Newsletter	£ [REDACTED]
Deposit Account	£ [REDACTED]	World Cup Raffle	£ [REDACTED]
Shop stock (at cost)	£ [REDACTED]		
Property Value	£ [REDACTED]		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£ [REDACTED]</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>£ [REDACTED]</b>
Transfer of Capital			
World Cup Raffle to GPF	£ [REDACTED]		
<b>Total Net Working Capital</b>	<b>£ [REDACTED]</b>		

Proposed by Bob Jones Seconded by Fred Gray - That the figures as presented be accepted. Carried Unanimously

At this point, a "vote of thanks" was recorded for the Treasurer for the well-defined Statement of Account.

#### Addendum

The Treasurer stated that the Association had been bequeathed a sum of money from the will of the late William Charles Helsdon. The estate trustees have since amended the original figure of £ [REDACTED], to £ [REDACTED].

#### 7. Membership Secretary

Chris Chambers gave a full report of the Association membership strength and stated that he had recently issued membership number 984. He congratulated our Scottish colleagues who have now formed a branch in Edinburgh. Further praise was conveyed to the South West Branch, to whom he wished continued success.

#### 8. Election of Officers

The election of officers was as follows:

President	Brig. G.A. Hewish MBE	In Office
Vice Presidents	Col. C.M. Davies MBE	In Office
	Maj. W. Rudd MBE	Proposed by Eric Blenkinsop
		Seconded by Tom Tuddenham
Chairman	Tom Ormiston	Proposed by Col CM Davies
	(Tenure 1 year only)	Seconded by John Thompson
Hon. Secretary	Ray Coleman	In Office
Hon Treasurer	Capt. R. Brown RE	In Office
Membership	Chris Chambers	In Office

#### 9. Election of Representatives

1 Squadron	Bob Jones
2 Squadron	Ollie Atkins
3 Squadron	Bob Sullivan MBE
4 Squadron	Eric Richards
9 Squadron	OC & SSM
131 Squadron	Bunny Brown
147 Squadron	Ian Robbie
591 Squadron	Tony Jackson
9 Field Coy (Airborne)	Tom Carpenter
Aldershot Branch	Maurice Metcalfe
Birmingham Branch	George Barrett
Chatham Branch	Eric Blenkinsop
North West Branch	Brian Jones

South West Branch	To be nominated
Yorkshire Branch	Bill Rudd MBE
Hameln Branch	To be nominated
Edinburgh Branch	To be nominated

#### 10. Confirmation of Trustees

The following Members were appointed as trustees for the Association:

Mr. Tom Ormiston  
Col. Chris Davies MBE  
Maj. Bill Rudd MBE      Agreed unanimously

#### 11. Amendment to Rules

At the instigation of the Chairman, which was fully supported by Col. Chris Davies, a lengthy discussion ensued concerning the tenure of appointment to the post of Chairman. After noting that this would require an amendment to the rules, it was agreed unanimously that the appointment of Chairman would be for a period of five (5) years commencing the year 2000.

#### 12. Date and Venue of the 1999 Annual General Meeting/Reunion

The date of the 1999 annual General Meeting will be 16/17 October 1999 at a venue in the Birmingham.

It was suggested that we commence to formulate our plans for the "Millennium" Annual General Meeting. Dave Rutter gave a comprehensive assessment of what he felt we could accomplish and offered his assistance to organise the celebration.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1715 hours.

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## 1999 AGM/Reunion – Birmingham

The 1999 AGM/Reunion is to be held in Birmingham during the weekend 16/17th October. Accommodation has been arranged at the Birmingham City Posthouse Forte Hotel. The cost per night is £25-00 per head, and includes bed and breakfast.

The AGM is to be held in the United Services Club, Gough Street, which is approx. 200 yards from the hotel. The meeting will commence at 1400 hours prompt. A light lunch may be purchased at the United Services Club at a very reasonable rate.

The reunion dinner, will be held in the Posthouse hotel. The dinner will be silver service and will cost £18-00 per head.

To assist the Birmingham Branch members, who are hosting this event, please don't wait until the last minute to submit your attendance bid.

This has the makings of a really great weekend - so don't miss out by failing to attend.

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### Forecast Of Events

Chatham Veterans Weekend	Chatham	10-12 September
6th Airborne Division Reunion Dinner	Victory Club	11 September
Laying Up 10 Para (V) Colours	Oosterbeek	18/19 September
Double Hills Commemorative Service	Paulton	26 September

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## 9 Parachute Squadron RE

by Captain Dick Brown RE

As the majority of you will be aware, 5 Airborne Brigade deployed to Kosovo as part of the NATO force. This included 9 Para Sqn who deployed on Monday 7th June. Originally, only 1 Troop was to deploy with 1 Para. However, this plan was amended on Saturday 5th June, when it was decided to increase the Sqn involvement, and would now include 3 Troop, Support Troop and Squadron HQ. This created just a slight hiccup, as these personnel had now disappeared for the weekend!

Frantic 'phone calls were made throughout the day recalling all personnel from weekend leave. These included one man on a weekend trip to France with his girlfriend, and Sgt Poole, who was about to give his wife's sister away at a wedding ceremony. I feel sure that a few choice words were exchanged before his return that same afternoon!

By Monday morning on the 7th June, 100 men plus equipment were ready. This was no mean feat, as there had been no warning order given, and is a great testament to the professionalism and dedication of the men who serve with the Sqn.

They flew to Kosovo in various aircraft, interestingly; Russian Antonov aircraft flew in the heavy equipment. Quite ironic that two weeks later 5 Brigade was preparing to stop the Russians from taking Pristina airfield. What follows is a newsletter from 5 Bde Ops, which was dated 22 June. This gives an insight into what has happened so far.

### Operation Agricola

We left Aldershot in something of a hurry and you will have noticed from the papers that we have been quite busy for the past 2 weeks. Now that we have a chance to draw breath, I will bring you up to date on what we have been doing.

We flew into Skopje airport in Macedonia and initially moved to Petrovic Training Area. After a couple of days making plans, conducting training and generally shaking ourselves out, we moved forward to Piper Camp, some 10 kilometres south of the border with Kosovo. There we had to make rapid preparations for an assault on Pristina airfield. Although this never came to fruition, it was extremely close and 5 AB Bde were the only force in theatre who were ready and willing to do the task - a fine testament to the professionalism of all our soldiers after only a few days in theatre.

Then, as you know, we seized the Kalanick defile to allow the rest of KFOR to roll into Kosovo. The defile is a long valley with numerous tunnels and bridges and could have posed a significant obstacle to NATO armoured vehicles. We deployed by massed helicopter and cleared the route much more quickly than anyone expected. As a result we found ourselves racing to Pristina, both by road and helicopter. After only a week in theatre we were already in the capital of Kosovo.

Our emphasis has now switched to controlling our area. The Serbian Army (VJ) and the Special Police (MUP) have withdrawn in accordance with the cease-fire Agreement and we have just heard that the UCK have signed an undertaking to disarm. There are Albanians moving back into Kosovo and Serbs fleeing North and West. The result is that a large amount of weapons and ammunition are relatively uncontrolled and inevitably there are those who wish to use them for their own purposes.

To combat this 1 Para have deployed into the capital of Pristina and are drawing a clear line in the sand. They are employing 30 years of experience from Northern Ireland and the result is a series of weapon finds and arrests. ! RGR straddle both Serb and Albanian areas and have the additional task of securing the outskirts of Pristina airfield, as the political situation requires. 9 Para Sqn RE dominate the town of Lipijan and the Pathfinders provide us with information across the Bde area. 7 RHA have 2 troops of guns deployed and all of this is supported by the immense efforts of 63 AB CS Sqn RLC.

We are now putting considerable effort into humanitarian and civic project work. 23 PFA are visiting the local

community and are beginning to undertake whatever medical assistance they can to both sides of the community, many of whom are suffering from old wounds. The HQ of 5 AB Bde Logistic Bn are quickly getting to grips with establishing 'who is who' in the community and specifically where are the ethnic interfaces. With this information we can target who really needs the humanitarian assistance. As you can see our work is already transitioning from the purely military to one of rebuilding of communities. There are some distressing scenes and we cannot imagine what it is like to return to our homes which have been gutted by fire; and all this before we even consider the death and destruction that has been wrought throughout Kosovo. It is very humbling to see the smiling faces of the children as we drive by throwing them sweets and chocolate from our ration packs.

Finally we are in relative comfort. Most of us have access to showers, laundry and fresh rations of some sort. Your letters reach us by the sack full, as do the daily papers.

The EFI has arrived to sell 'goodies' and some gymnasium equipment is coming. Importantly, we know we are here for a limited period of time, so we have a clear focus and have no time to be bored. In sum we are confident, fit and in good heart and expect to see you in the not too distant future. Keep the letter coming

\*\* Stop Press <sup>TM</sup>

All members of 9 Para Sqdn returned safely to the UK during the early hours of Friday 9th July.

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## Aldershot Branch

by Fred Gray (Secretary)

The branch held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 9th May followed by an Ordinary Meeting. The attendance was excellent with twenty-one members attending and a further nine sending in their apologies. We also had two guests; Derrick Leggett and Ernie Handley, both are now members of the branch. Our chairman, Derek Taylor, reviewed the year of activities and emphasised the amount of individual work done by members of the Aldershot Branch for the good of the association, having no less than seven members on the committee and Jan Chambers running the "Shop." In between the two meetings we enjoyed an excellent curry prepared by the Squadron chef which had been organised by Capt. Dick Brown.

Sunday lunches continue to be very popular, as do the Sunday meetings. Dave Rutter has been very busy scouring the area on the lookout for good quality eateries, and so far has not failed us. At the last lunch we had in March the branch had the very great pleasure of seeing Mrs Sally Wilson with us again, the first time since Colonel Wilson passed away. We look forward to seeing her on a regular basis in the future.

Unfortunately two of our members have been seriously ill in recent months. Bryan Andrews took a very serious downturn in his battle against the stroke he suffered almost three years ago. On a visit to his long-time friends, Bert Flatters and Tom Gilks, Bryan suffered a further stroke and is now in hospital whilst test are carried out to determine his long term future treatment. Ray Coleman, the Association Secretary, has also been very ill of late. However there is much better news in that he is now making a fast recovery and we expect that he will be back in the saddle by the time this newsletter is published.

Wally Clift made a very welcome appearance at our AGM, having now fully recovered from his recent illness. We need him badly to organise our raffles!

The branch has five new members since the April Newsletter. Captain Alan McKerricher, formally serving with 591 Para Sqn (1944—45), 3 AB Sqn (1945), and 301 Ab Sqn (TA) 1947—65. Geoff Rossie, 9 Sqn (1951-56), Ernie Handley 9 Sqn (1949—54), Bob (Taffy) Knowles 3 Para Sqn and 9 AB Sqn (1948—54), and Derek Leggett 9 Sqn (1956—59). They are most welcome, and we look forward to seeing them at our meetings.

The last Airborne Forces Weekend in Aldershot will have come and gone by the time this letter is published and some of our members will be attending other re-unions and functions around the country. The branch will also be holding a summer BBQ on 18th July to which a number of the Aldershot Branch of the REA has been invited. In June we accepted an invitation to Sunday lunch to be followed by a quiz. Our hosts were the Chatham Branch. Although greatly outnumbered this resulted in a stunning victory by Aldershot in the Quiz.

Our meetings continue to be held on a Sunday and anyone in the Aldershot area, either visiting or resident will be most welcome.

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## Chatham Branch

by Eric Blenkinsop

We have commenced the year in good heart and continue to count our blessings for our most excellent meeting place.

To this end it was decided that it was high time we demonstrated our appreciation and John Stubbs our own model maker extraordinaire, was commissioned to produce a suitable gift for presentation to the WOs & Sgts Mess.

The gift produced was in fact a painting of a fully kitted Sapper circa 1944, exiting the side door of a Dakota with a border of various airborne insignias, shoulder flashes and finished with a suitable inscription. It is quite magnificent.

The presentation ceremony took place on the 22nd February, with 18 members and several ladies present. Our guests for the evening were the RSM and Mrs G. Lakey. Our chairman, Arthur Cheesman, made the presentation to the RSM, with the customary speeches kept short but meaningful. The evening proved to be an excellent social occasion.

Our annual Branch AGM was held during the April meeting, which was well attended, and also saw the welcome return of Bert Fordham, courtesy of chauffeur Terry Porter. All of the current committee members girded their loins for a further year in office.

Flaming June arrived like a damp squib, but was somewhat livened up with our Sunday lunch and quiz which was held on 13th of the month. The event was well attended with 40 adults and several children. Swelling our numbers we were delighted to welcome four members and their ladies of the Aldershot Branch, together with Peggy Neave and George Bell. The latter had recently arrived on a visit from New Zealand. George had been a member of 1 troop and was orderly corporal when the Sqn returned from Egypt in 1954. Fortunately for George, Fred Gray had brought along a superb collection of photograph albums, which George was able to peruse while the remainder of us pitted our wits against each other under the testing grilling of Magnuss Gibson!

### Looking Ahead

August: The mess is closed for the block leave period, so we are taking the opportunity to go out and meet some of our out stationed members for lunch. Details as follows:

Sunday 22nd August at 1300 hours - meet at the Five Bells pub in South Chailey (Near Newick E. Sussex). Following lunch, Bert and Dee Fordham have invited us to their home for tea and biscuits.

September: 10th - 12th Chatham Veterans' Weekend. We are hoping that there will be sufficient numbers of our members present to be able to welcome any other visiting AEA members.

September 11th — 6th Airborne Division RE Reunion held at the Victory Club in London. A coach has been booked, but there are only 8 seats remaining (as this goes to print). The coach will leave the King Charles Hotel Chatham at 1630 hours. A separate dinner has been arranged for the ladies, which is to be held in the grillroom at the Victory Club. Should you wish to participate in either the coach trip or the ladies dinner, please ring [REDACTED].

September 26th - Double Hills Ceremony. Several of our members will be in attendance.

October: 15th - 16th AEA AGM/Reunion to be held in Birmingham. We are hoping to be there in strength! Health Matters - Three of our members have suffered severe setbacks in health, Frank Shepherd, John Elliot and quite recently, Keith King. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Prior to closing my contribution to this issue of the newsletter, I would like you all to take a long look at this former Airborne Engineer - does anyone recognise him.

A pint for the first correct answer!



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## Birmingham Branch

By Bunny Brown (Secretary)

Since our last contribution to the newsletter the Branch has witnessed a few changes on our committee. Mike Holdsworth is now occupying the 'chair' with Bunny Brown as Secretary, Steve Brown as Vice Chairman and Dave Clarke, ably assisted by Roger Howies, who are responsible for Entertainment's.

We have recently held two successful fund raising events, a beer and skittles night, and our annual Clay Shoot and BBQ. Our skittles night was organised by Rip Kirby, to whom we are extremely grateful, and our Clay Shoot and BBQ, by Chris Green and Sue Holdsworth. The clay shoot went well, and a fair profit was made during the event. Sincere thanks are extended to Chris and Sue, not only for organising the event but also for the safe custody of the cash and the purchasing of the trophies.

The Branch are now well into the organisation of the annual AEA AGM/Reunion, which is to be held in the Birmingham City Posthouse Hotel (formerly the Albany). It is hoped that the sauna, swimming pool and gymnasium leisure facilities will have been completed in time for the reunion.

Bookings for the event are going well, but there are many people who normally attend these functions that have yet to forward their bookings. So please, if you intend coming to the AGM/Reunion, send your cheques and booking proformas to me as soon as possible.

The absolute cut-off date for bookings is the 19th September.

Any problems, call me on the following number: [REDACTED] or send your return to:

To whet your appetite, the Saturday evening menu is as follows:

Seafood Cocktail with Marie Rose Sauce

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Supreme of Chicken with Grapes, Tarragon and White Wine A Seasonal Medley of Vegetables and Potatoes

\*\*

Cream filled Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce

\*\*

Coffee and Mints

Please support this Unique Association

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## North West Branch

by Brian Jones (Chairman)

The Branch continues to make steady progress; however, we are changing our meeting venue to HQ 75 Engr Regt (V) at Failsworth Manchester. This location is easy to get to, as it is a straight run down Broadway from Junction 20 of the M60/62. The TAC is on the edge of Oldham.

At our AGM there was only one change to the committee which was the election of Ian Strettle into the post of Secretary. The vacancy was as a result of Alan Marshall standing down, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to Alan for his work and support in the Branch.

All future correspondence for the Secretary should be directed to:  
Ian Strettle [REDACTED]

The date of our next branch meeting is Saturday 29th October.

We are all looking forward to the Association AGM and reunion dinner in October.



I am taking the liberty of enclosing a photograph taken in the "Mucky Duck" in Ripon. This was taken after the Yorkshire Branch dinner. (Bill, it was a right good do!)

Having recently returned from Egypt and a visit to the Canal Zone, the battle for recognition continues - maybe one day the MOD will wake up.

To Ray Coleman and Col. Chris Davies we extend our sincere good wishes for a hasty return to full health.

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## Greetings From Yorkshire

by Charlie Dunk

Here we are again, Monday morning immediately after the Ripon Weekend. I just cannot understand why my head hurts!

Once again the Ripon branch of the Royal Engineers Association made the Airborne Engineers Association most welcome. Lots of the old and bold and even a few of the not so old were in attendance. On the Saturday afternoon there were about fifty of us Airborne types around, - a great turnout. Thanks very much to all those who attended from far and wide making the weekend such a success. I was asked to sit in as Association Secretary on behalf of Ray Coleman who is still unwell - I will keep the chair warm for you Ray - "Get well and hope to see you soon." It was particularly good to see Chris Davis back in his chair and looking considerably fitter than I did!

The Yorkshire Branch also took the opportunity to run a raffle to raise cash for Bud Grocock's cycle ride from Mexico to Canada in aid of CHAS. The raffle raised £49.00 - Thank You Gentlemen. I have also received a couple of donations that takes us up to £70.00. I now want to get a bit more so if anyone from the Yorkshire Branch wishes to make a further donation please send a cheque and I will make sure that it gets to the right place. Do I hear £100.00? Cheques made payable to "Airborne Engineers Association - Yorkshire Branch." Cheques can be sent to Roy King or myself but please make sure you let us know that it is for CHAS, 'cos if you don't I will think they are for Chaz (and that's my beer charity!).

At branch level we have been evicted (nicely) from Pennypot Barracks in Harrogate, this is due to the restructuring of the TA. Presently we hold our meetings (thanks to RSM 38 Engr Regt) in the Corporals Club at Ripon. It was thought that many members might not be able to get to Ripon due to travelling time. Approximately 75% of our members come from central or southern part of Yorkshire. So if possible the venue for meetings may change so that we have meetings alternately in the north and south of Yorkshire. It is hoped that this change of venue will encourage those who feel Harrogate or Ripon "A Bit too far" (I could use that for a film title!) to travel. So if you are heading this way and want to find out if a meeting is taking place please give Bill Rudd or myself a call and we will let you know if there is a meeting and where we will be.

Our Sunday lunches are proving to be a great success with many members and their wives attending. I arranged the last one just outside Castleford at the New Queens Head. We were made most welcome by the Landlady and have been invited back - that came as a surprise - when was the last time you can remember the Sqn being invited back? Our next venue is the Swan and Cygnet in Swanland near Hull on the 11 July (already passed by the time you read this) and is being arranged by Baz Henderson.

Several Yorkshire Branch members including Bill Rudd and myself will be travelling down to Birmingham for the AGM in October - I am sure it will be an excellent function - see you there!

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## Fighting the Flab

According to the Australian Armed Forces

Submitted by Don Newman (Perth, Australia)

The following article is an extract from the recently published Sunday Times newspaper in Australia.

Almost 700 soldiers are getting the boot from the Army because they are too fat to fight. The tubby troops are being kicked out under a tough new policy to weed weakling warriors from the ranks.

The Army Individual Readiness policy, which has been in place for a year, kicked out five officers and 42 soldiers. Forty more officers - including five lieutenant colonels - and 607 other ranks have been given notice of discharge. Several of them are women!

The policy was introduced because of concerns that the Army, which has produced tough diggers from Gallipoli to Vietnam, was becoming too soft.

The readiness notices require soldiers to prove they are physically fit, can shoot straight, and can be deployed overseas within 30 days

They must also be able to prove they can do their job efficiently, be they infantryman, tank gunner or truck mechanic. The Royal Australian Air Force has instituted a similar policy and booted out 211 personnel, with a further 46 on notice.

The Army's get-tough policy has resulted in many senior soldiers being told they no longer have a place in a lean fighting machine. Fourteen Warrant Officer Class Ones and 57 WO2s - the sergeant-majors who are the most senior non-commissioned officers - have been told they will be sacked, as have 114 sergeants. The lower ranks, which are filled with more, but younger troops, have largely escaped the purge. Just 172 privates have been told they are not fit to fight, while there are 230 corporals in a similar position.

### What the Army Needs from its Few Good Men

Physical Fitness: Must be able to run 2.5 kms in less than 12 minutes

Straight Shooting: Quality once a year with the Steyr assaults rifle

Commitment: Guarantee to be ready to deploy overseas within 30 days

Efficiency: Be qualified for the job, be it tank gunnery or electronic warfare

Medical: Be medically fit, with no recurring illnesses or disabilities

Dental: Have a good set of teeth that will not need work on operations.

Thank you for forwarding the article Don, this will certainly raise a chuckle or two amongst the Squadron lads.

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## “The Forgotten War Remembered” - April 1999

by Horace Stokes

Leaving Korea in 1952, the over-riding impression was that the capital, Seoul, was completely destroyed. Flying into Seoul in 1999 one could be forgiven for thinking that this was Singapore or Hong Kong, with sky-scrapers and a comprehensive road and river system. This was a city of 11 million inhabitants, nearly a third of the total population of South Korea.

The British Korean Veterans Association and the UN Korean War Allies Association of South Korea arranged the 8-day visit of Korean Veterans. Also represented were the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Associations. Services were held at the Commonwealth Military Cemetery in Pusan, and at each of the Commonwealth Memorials. At each of the services, representatives of the Commonwealth Embassies and South Korean Armed Forces escorted us.

The largest gathering was at the Gloucestershire Regiment Memorial near the Imjin River, where so many of the Regiment, including Sappers was killed, wounded or taken prisoner. The British Defence Attache in South Korea, Brigadier John Baker MBE, himself a Sapper, gave an excellent resume of the battle from a peak overlooking the Imjin River Valley. The scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the war. Sir Stephen Brown, the British Ambassador, conveyed a message from the Queen.

A visit to the De-Militarised Zone was the first sign of the Korea of the 1950's. Looking into North Korea one could only see the dark hills with no sign of habitation other than the observation posts manned by North Korean Service men. A forbidding place!



The highlight of the visit was an invitation by the Queen to a reception to be held in the garden of the British Embassy in Seoul. The Queen and Prince Phillip took time out of the State visit to South Korea to chat to the majority of the Commonwealth Ex- Servicemen gathered together.

**Horace Stokes and Dan Diamond meet HM the Queen**

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## VC Day Kirkee

by Pat Munro

Betty and I visited India earlier this year, where we first met some 52 years ago. We first visited Delhi, Jaipur and Agra (a piece of useless information, the Taj Mahal is closed on Mondays, and also check first that the day of your visit will not be a Public holiday!).

We had accepted an invitation to visit the Bombay Engr Gp at Kirkee for their VC Day celebrations. This commemorates the award of the VC to 2Lt Premindra Singh Bhagat in 1941. Whilst serving as 3 Sect (now Tp) Comd of 21 (R Bombay) Fd Coy. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry in action over the period 29 Jan to 1 Feb 1941. His section was with the vanguard of a battalion advancing along a mountainous road into Eritrea. In the four days concerned, the column advanced 55 miles, and he cleared 15 minefields by hand defusing. His Bren-gun carrier was blown up twice. In the first incident his driver was killed, and on the second occasion, the driver was wounded. He was finally evacuated suffering from exhaustion and a perforated eardrum.

Of the three VCs won by Sappers in WW II, this was the only one to be awarded for a Sapper activity. He was also the first Indian Officer to be awarded the VC in the war. Later he was appointed Commandant of the Bombay Engineer Group 1949-53, and retired in 1974 as a Lt Gen, commanding the Northern Command (which included Kashmir). Sadly, he died a year later.

Every year the Bombay Engineer Group celebrate VC Day at their HQ & Depot in Kirkee (near Pune - Poona that was), to "Pay homage to the gallant Bombay Sappers who made the supreme sacrifice". Indian Army Sappers total around 100,000 today, and are split evenly over three Groups, Bengal, Madras and Bombay. This reflects the three original Presidency Armies of the East India Company. So they go back a long way. The earliest Bombay unit (today 18 Fd Coy) can trace its ancestry back to 1777.

The first day is one of assembly and this is followed by a reception hosted by the Col. Comdt. The background lighting of the garden was fantastic. It was impossible to count the number of bulbs used, or estimate how long it took to install them.

The second day traditionally starts with a parachute drop by 411 (Indep) Para Fd Coy. This Bombay unit was the first Airborne Sapper unit of the Indian Army. It was raised as a Para Sect (today a Tp) on 20 Nov 1941, and formed part of 50 Indep Para Bde. It was further expanded to a full Para Sqn some 12 months later. It still serves as the Para Sqn of 50 Para Bde, and is stationed at Agra. It has never changed its number or role since its formation. The DZ is a bit tricky. It's not very long, and to the far side (from the spectators), there are three long low hills (some 150-ft high) that run the length of the DZ. These tend to channel any breeze along the DZ. In addition to this there are also some nasty rock outcrops. The current Sqn OC is always the first to jump, acting as a drifter. This, despite the more senior ranks behind him. The plane used was a Russian twin engine scaled down version of a Hercules. The aircraft carries 40 parachute troops, who have to be dropped in sticks of 8 so as to land within the DZ. Included in one stick was a former Sqn OC, who later retired as the E in C (a Lt Gen) and is now 74 years old - It rather put me to shame! Two very disappointed people, both ex 411, were the next day's Parade Commander and his Deputy. The Commandant had ruled "No jump" for them both, "What happens if both of you break a leg?" (A fair comment). In the afternoon the finals of the Inter Regimental Basketball Championships were held. Again 411 (following in 9 Sqn's footsteps) were in competition. Sadly they lost to 106 Engr Regt by some 20 points. 106's team was appreciably taller than 41 Ts, and were the better team.

The formal parade was held on the following day. The drill was superb! The Book of Remembrance was escorted on to the Parade Ground by a single file of soldiers on each side. There was a priest at the rear of each file. Their slow marching was immaculate.

The whole visit was a truly memorable occasion. We were made so welcome that it felt just like going home after a very long absence. Somehow, with 411, one felt that one had just left yesterday! In reality, I left almost 52 years ago, as its last British Officer Commanding.

A week later, two Officers from 411 arrived at our hotel in Madras, and presented us a 10" high silver statuette of a 1999 paratrooper kitted out ready to jump. It now holds pride of place on the mantelpiece in our home. Just

for the record, Agra to Madras is 1,000 miles as a crow flies).

One final item. The current policy of the Indian Army (after several changes) is that having served in the Para Bde, and irrespective of which Regiment you served, you retain the right to wear your Red Beret at all times. (Except on the most formal of unit parades). A nice touch, possibly the British Army could follow their example!



**411 Past & Present**

**Para drop by 441 (Indep)  
Para Fd Coy - Dighi Ranges,  
Kirkee 29th January 1999**

**Lt Gen Sharma (aged 74)  
front centre (wearing the  
overalls)**

## Another Piece Of 131 History.

### THE DHALA ROAD – 1964

Trouble in Aden had really been brewing since tribal unrest in 1955-58, but the South Arabian Peninsula was well known for continuing tribal feuds. Great Britain had promised independence to South Arabia in 1968 (with the centre of Government in Aden) and various facilities were built up between 1962 and 1964. These were not only to house an enlarged British garrison until 1968 but to hand over to a new independent government and its emerging regular army.

Royal Engineer Works Services personnel were heavily involved in this project assisted by 32 Field Squadron on track and camp construction. However, two rival nationalist groups supported by Egypt and Yemen began the usual campaign of terrorism and treachery by local forces, which led to the Radfan Campaign of 1964. This led to the construction of the Dhala Road from Aden to Dhala (1750 metres above sea level in the North and near the border with Yemen) to improve access in this barren and mountainous country. It was decided to blacktop the road to hinder the practice of burying mines in the surface.

Between 1964 and 1966 approximately 64 km of road was built on the site of an earlier road. 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment TA played their part in the construction when they worked on the road during their 1964 annual camp. Two of the Squadrons were attacked in their leaguer on the Dhala Road near the Yemen Frontier by the enemy and two men, including the Squadron Sergeant Major, were killed. The Regimental Doctor, who risked his life to give first aid and rescue two badly injured men caught in the open, was awarded the MBE for gallantry. He was recommended for the MC, but that award could not be made, as the Regiment had not been embodied for active service. Overall the project took 31 months to complete.

#### **The following letter was sent to the Daily Mail in January 1999.**

The tragic Yemen kidnappings bring back memories of an Army Tour of Duty I did in that area with 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment (V). Adjoining Yemen is Dhala, a wild inhospitable land with an ill-defined, largely ignored border that tribesmen crossed at will. Our task was to modernise the old dirt trade route and install bridges along it.

While the road was being built, we patrolled the heights to cover the workers from attack. High up, we encountered two SAS soldiers, holed up to monitor native movements, on foot or by vehicle.

On the night of 11/12th April 1965, a sustained attack was launched on our camp lasting some 45 minutes. A furious battle ensued, with small arms fire and bazookas. We suffered two killed and five wounded while a scout car and a truck hit mines and three soldiers were wounded. The wounded were evacuated to RAF Aden. We later heard that two soldiers had been captured, and that their heads were on display outside Sana'a. I wondered if they were the SAS men that we had previously met.

Are 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment (V) the only TA unit to have been in action and suffered casualties overseas in peacetime?

Ex Sgt Stan Pepper. Garston, Herts.

Written by Bunny Brown 131 Rep.

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## 300 Parachute Squadron RE (TA)

### Al Milah 1965

131 Parachute Engineer Regiment (TA) was deployed in Aden on the Dhala Road Construction Project in early 1965.

300 Parachute Squadron RE (TA) the Scottish Squadron within the Regiment was detached to Al Milah, many miles to the north of the remainder of the Regiment. The "host" unit at Al Milah was 24 Field Squadron RE commanded by Major Mike Jenkins.

The Squadron task was to construct culverts and any other measures, to prevent rainstorms from washing away the road, thus making it impassable to military traffic. Each morning, the road to the sites and the sites themselves had to be cleared of mines, and checked for booby traps, before traffic was permitted to pass. During this period of deployment, a mine blew up one of 24 Squadron's vehicles.

Early on Monday morning, 12 April, at 0015hours, dissidents using machine guns firing on fixed lines, together with rifles and hand-held rocket launchers, attacked the Al Milah tented camp from a nearby ridge. The incoming fire was considerable and prolonged and concentrated on the Officers and Sergeants lines. During a lengthy period through the night, fire was returned by 300 and 24 Squadrons, utilising Browning machine guns positioned in Scout Cars, and by individuals in sangers and around the perimeter, armed with SLR's. The enemy was eventually driven off and moved into the hills north of the camp.

SSM John Lonergan of 300 Squadron and a Sergeant from 24 Squadron were killed. Captain MacLachlainn and Sergeant Earl, both of 300 Squadron were among 5 others wounded.

Several members of the Squadron carried out brave acts during the night, under sustained and at times, extremely heavy fire. The Regimental doctor, on attachment, Major Clive Samuel, was awarded the MBE for attending casualties in the open.

Army Air Corps evacuated all the wounded to the hospital at RAF Khormaksar helicopter.

After conducting a brief clean-up and mine clearance of the Dhala Road, 300 Squadron returned to Aden later that day. as had been previously planned.

The 300 Squadron officers present were Stanley Peake (OC), Eoghann MacLachlainn (2i/c) Allan Davidson and Alan Parker (Troop Commanders) and Peter Long (IO)

Submitted by Captains E. MacLachlainn, A.L. Davidson and P.E. Long

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## SSAFA - Forces Help

You've jumped - LOOKUP!

If you appear to be supported in your headlong descent by no more than a bundle of unsorted dirty linen. Bad-luck. Help!

SSAFA -Forces Help is here to give that help. We will not be on the DZ itself, but will be around to help you if you need us (if you survive), and to help your family (if you don't).

Give us a ring; (if you haven't survived, get someone else to do it) we're in your local Phone Book. SSAFA-Forces Help.

And remember its Wartime Service, Regular Service, National Service, TA&AER Service, which all count to your contribution to our Country's defence. We needed you; if you need us ask. We are here to help, we want to help, and we can help you, or any of your mates who may need us.

SSAFA - Forces Help.

Registered Charity No.210760

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## Chris Chambers - Membership Secretary

Since the April Newsletter, a further (8) members have joined our ranks and file, they are as follows:

Kenneth Bowen	9 Indep Para Sqn RE	1958 - 1969
John Roberts	300 Para Engr Sqn (TA)	1959 - 1963
William Roberts	300 Sqn RE 131 Indep Para Engr Regt(TA)	1957 - 1960 1965 - 1967
Ralph Pedder	14 Bn Para Regt (TA) 131 Para Engr Ret (TA)	1949- 1950 1958 - 1967
Robert Jennings	8/10 & 11 Para Bns 9 Indep AB Sqn RE	1943 - 1947 1948 - 1952
Robert Stevenson	9 Indep Para Sqn RE 131 Para Engr Regt (TA)	1948 - 1955 1955 - 1958
Philip Tavener	9 Indep Para Sqn RE	1953 - 1959
Terence Bark	Para Regt Royal Engineers	1981 - 1984 1989 - Serving

To all of the above:

“Welcome to the Association”

Ken Bowen becomes the 1000th member of the Airborne Engineers Association; even so, his daughter paid for his subscription. Rumour has it that he was awaiting his 65th birthday so that it would have cost less! He is most welcome and I suspect that when his address and telephone number are published he can expect numerous calls from former colleagues and friends. Some of these guys may be looking for money! You can run Ken, but you can't hide!

Ray Coleman is making very good progress after his tug of war with the 'grim reaper,' and is now on the way to what we sincerely hope will be a speedy return to full health.

Tom Ormiston, Jan and myself visited Ray a few times whilst he was in hospital and it was good to see all the 'get well' cards that members had been thoughtful and kind enough to send him.

I would like to mention the doctors and nurses at the Royal Haslar hospital in Gosport who took care of Ray and really gave him VIP treatment.

A sincere vote of thanks is extended to them all from the Association.

A sincere vote of thanks is extended to all members of staff on the behalf of the AEA membership.

Congratulations are extended to Brian (Yorkie) Elmer on being presented with the REA Badge of Merit. This was in recognition for all the hard work and dedication that he has put in for the Eastbourne Branch of the REA. I'm secretly hoping that this publicity will encourage him to join our Association!

### Double Hills Service (Paulton) 26th September 1999

The service of Remembrance commences at 1400 hours. This is the 20th Anniversary, so let's make it a good turnout.

### Ripon (REA) Veterans Weekend

The weekend was as always a great success - in fact it gets better each year.

The committee and Branch members put in a lot of hard work, and they are to be congratulated for their efforts. The weather was kind (No rain!) but it was certainly rather chilly and the gusting winds certainly tested Roy King

and the other standard bearers during the parade on Sunday.  
Brian & Elizabeth Clark took care of the usual sinners who did the traditional right wheel at the cathedral to "pray" in the 'Black Swan' pub.

If you have never experienced a Ripon Veterans weekend, let me assure you, you've missed out on a very enjoyable time.

The crack is good and so too is the hospitality of Yorkshire folk.

### Airborne Forces Weekend

5 AB Log Bn disbandment parade, which was to have been the last Airborne Forces weekend, as we know it, was cancelled due to the Bde's commitment in Kosovo. No doubt on their return to the UK they will be able to hold their disbandment parade as they become surplus to requirement - What a strange world we live in!

Captain Dick Brown (Admin Offr) organised a BBQ for the rear party, which turned into a great day with the rear party lads and their wives, girlfriends and children enjoying the beautiful sunshine.

The Sqn location (Rhine Barracks) was probably the only place in Aldershot where it was all happening for the Airborne forces. Lots of stories and booze, which started on Friday night through until Sunday, made it the 'in' place to be.

### AEA Membership

Sadly we have seen the passing of a few of our veterans during the past months, and our condolences are extended to all their families, loved ones and comrades.

These very brave men are our heroes who set the standards for all Airborne Engineers that follow in their footsteps, and I hope they were/are, as proud of us as we are of them.

The young Para RE's may well be living in the veterans shadow, but that's no problem because it's a very special and exclusive place to be.

Before I bid farewell, I must extend sincere thanks to all those members who have sent me names and addresses of potential members.

Both Jan and me look forward to meeting up with you all at the AGM (Birmingham) in October.

"Happy Landings"  
Chris

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## Senior Citizens are the Nation's Leading Carriers of AIDS

Hearing AIDS, Band AIDS, Roll AIDS, Walking AIDS Medical AIDS, Government AIDS and most of all Monetary AIDS to their children

So the Golden Years have come at last, I cannot See, I cannot Pee, I cannot Chew, and I cannot Screw, My Memory Shrinks, My Hearing Stinks, No sense of Smell, I look like Hell, My Body's Drooping, Got Trouble Pooping.

So the Golden years have come at last  
WELL THE GOLDEN YEARS CAN KISS MY ASS

Anon.

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## Association Shop

Items available & applicable prices

Description	Price	Post & Packing (UK Post Rate)
Association Ties (Pegasus logo)	£12.50	75p
Association Blazer Badges	£12.50	60p
Association Jumpers (sizes 38-48) Maroon or blue with Pegasus logo Embroidered 'Airborne Engineers'	£19.00	£2.60*
Association Sweatshirts Maroon or blue logo as above Medium - large - extra large	£15.00	£2.60*
Association Polo Shirts Fred Perry Style - Maroon or blue logo as above Medium - large - extra large	£14.50	£2.50*
Association Tee Shirts Maroon only - Large or Extra Large only	£8.50	£1.00
Association Shields	£16.00	£2.60*
Book 'The 9th by Tom Purves - former 9 Indep Para Sqn (special price)	£14.00	£3.50*
A Memoir of 9 Para Sqn RE in the Falklands Campaign 1982 by Maj. CM Davies MBE RE	£12.00	£1.50
Stick Pins (Para Wings)	£2.60	60p
Anniversary Ties (silk)	£15.00	75p
Christmas Cards (pack of 6) Association badge on cover	£3.25	60p
Association Cuff Links (slightly smaller than lapel badge)	£8.50	£1.50

\* Recorded delivery

Would overseas members please send cheques in £ pounds sterling, with a little extra to cover postage, from your local bank or an International money order from Post Office.

Cheques should be made payable to: "Airborne Engineers Association"

My thanks for your continued support - until the next time, Yours aye, Jan

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## Newsletter Subscriptions

Alas the time is once again upon us for the renewal of your newsletter subscriptions. There appears to be some confusion as to when subscriptions are due, and more importantly how much does it cost. To clarify this situation I will explain exactly how the subscriptions are collected and credited. Three copies of the newsletter are published within a 12 month period - they are programmed to be issued in the first week of each of the following months:

April - August – December

Subscription reminders are included with this August issue. Payment for the next 3 issues is £5-00, and payment is required by 30 November. Where possible, payment should be by cheque, payable to "Airborne Engineers Association." For those UK based members that do not have a bank account, postal order payment is quite acceptable - but PLEASE write your name on the back of the postal order. Members residing in the sunny climates of South Africa, Canada, Australia, New Zealand etc. - if you do not have access to a UK account, please send a STERLING BANKERS DRAFT. Several overseas members have in the past sent cheques drawn on foreign banks. Unfortunately the UK bank charges are excessive, and can be almost as much as the value of the £5-00. The other alternative is to pay several years in advance, or, although not strictly legal, send a local equivalent in your own (paper) currency.

Many of you have a credit balance in your newsletter account, and I have enclosed a statement reflecting this in with your Newsletter.

With so many of us now on the wrong side of 40! One's memory tends to forget things like paying newsletter subscriptions, so why not make it easier on yourself, and pay several years in advance. You would certainly make my task that much easier, reduce the risk of being struck off the mailing list, and additionally, it would allow the treasurer to make some interest on the advance payments. The latter will assist in keeping the newsletter at an attractive price.

If you have a newsletter item that you feel will be of interest to the Association members, please take the time to put pen to paper, then send it to Ray Coleman (Association Secretary), and we will endeavour to publish it. As you will have seen in recent issues, we can also scan in photographs, so please provided you can spare the copy (we don't always get them back from the printers) feel free to include it with your article. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

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## Bud Grocock - Cycling for Charity Canada to Mexico

In his bid to raise £50,000 for the Children's Respite Care, Bud Grocock (former 2 Troop 9 Indep Para Sqn RE) will be participating in the Canada to Mexico Pacific Challenge Cycle Ride, a distance of 1,825 miles. The event is due to take place during the period 29th September and 3rd November 1999.

As you will have read in the Yorkshire Branch news item, they raised a worthy sum, which is being donated as sponsorship. Not to be outdone, Wally Clift of the Aldershot Branch took it upon himself to run a raffle during the (so-called Airborne Forces Weekend). By persuasion, coaching and possibly strong-arm tactics, Wally made a superb raffle profit of £160-00. This money will now be forwarded to Bud Grocock's charity.

On the behalf of all the members of the Aldershot Branch we extend a hearty vote of thanks to Wally, and are delighted that he has made such an outstanding contribution to his friend's most worthy cause.

Congratulations Wally

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## Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Memorial - Northern Ireland

On Sunday 21st November 1999 at 1400 hours, the annual Memorial Service will take place at Palace Barracks in Holywood, Northern Ireland.

The ceremony will be in remembrance of the 101 men of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces who lost their lives while serving in Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands. Northern Ireland (52) Falkland Islands (49) A buffet lunch will be held in the mess following the service. Attendance will be by ticket only, which may be purchased by contacting [REDACTED] (Memorial Custodian) on [REDACTED].

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## Golden Wedding

Sincere congratulations are extended to Albert and Margaret Ball who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Albert, who now resides in Tonbridge, was on demob leave after serving with the Corps in Palestine, when he met his teenage bride at the Social Centre in Lyons Crescent

The couple live at the house in Lavender Hill, Tonbridge, where Albert was born.

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## Obituaries

### Colin Cameron (1st Parachute Squadron RE.)

During the month of November 1998, Colin Cameron, a very well respected member of the 1st Para Squadron passed away suddenly at the age of 77 years at his home in Troon, Scotland. Colin was an efficient and brave member of the Squadron and was an instructive Corporal to "C" Troop throughout the campaigns in North Africa, Sicily Italy and Arnhem in which battles he proved himself a gallant soldier. He was born in Glasgow and after the war was a civil engineer running his own civil engineering company.

Sincere condolences are extended to wife Flora and to his son. Shortly before he died, Colin attended the Squadron re-union with his son. May he rest in peace.

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### Bill Owens

Bill Owens died in Dec 1998 aged 84 years. He was an enthusiastic member of the Luton Branch of the PRA and regularly attended meetings. He was born in Treharris Glamorganshire and worked as a coal miner for seven years after leaving school at the age of 14. He joined the Royal Engineers (TA) at the outbreak of war in 1939 and then volunteered for parachute training. He served in Sicily, Syracuse and Italy. After his return to the UK he then went to Arnhem.

After war service he variously worked in Sunderland and then Luton at both Electrolux and Vauxhall Motors finally retiring as an inspector. Being Welsh he loved to sing and joined the Vauxhall Male choir with whom he served for thirty-nine years both in the choir and as a committeeman. Weeks before his death he was presented with a long service award by the choir.

He had a great zest for life, regularly attending keep fit classes and travelling around the country, first on his tandem and then his motorbike. His wife died eleven years ago and he leaves 2 children, 3 grandchildren and five great grandchildren, all of whom he adored.

His funeral was attended by the Standards of the PRA and the REA with the most moving tribute to him being conveyed by the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir who sang magnificently

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## Last Post

Name	Unit	Date of Passing
L.R. Bryant	261 AB Fd Pk Sqn	20 March 1999
W. Dalgarno	131 Para Engr Regt TA	November 1998
K.F. Dawson	9 Para Sqn & 1st Para Sqn	
M.W. Gratten	9 AB Sqn	January 1999
Capt B.W. Holtam	2nd Para Sqn	2 February 1999
Sgt Joynson	1st Para Sqn	November 1998
H. McDonald		October 1998
D. Parks	1st Para Sqn / 249 Fd Sqn / 9 Para Sqn	December 1998
G. Paine	1st Para Sqn	January 1999
R. Shaw	4 Para Sqn	November 1998
Capt. J.S. Shinner	3 Para Sqn / HQ RE 6th AB Div	February 1999
R. Skidmore	4 Para Sqn	September 1998
N.B. Towler	9 Fd Coy / 9 AB Sqn	December 1998
K.L. Underwood		March 1999

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## Billy Bates

It has only recently been learned of the passing of Billy Bates (9 Para Sqn 1956). He died in November 1993 leaving nine children and fourteen grandchildren.

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