



Royal Tank Regiment Association London Branch

www.rtr-london-branch.org.uk



President: Lieutenant General David Leahey CMG CVO CBE

Vice-President: Colonel Simon Ridgway MBE

Newsletter

September October 2021

Editorial

Welcome to all who read this newsletter! October is flying by and our busy month of November is about to land upon us next week.

London Branch members and of course other RTR Associations will be gearing themselves up for the many events that involve their military backgrounds as well as those pertaining to the RTR.

There are so many events that on some days one is forced to make a choice of what (and where) to attend. We truly hope that the government won't change the current COVID status and that those hoped for Plan As don't change to Plan Bs, Cs, or Ds !

In October Martyn Caulfield, Brian Clarke, George Eaton, Keith Flower, Ted Fordham, Phil Johnson, Paul Lyall, Laurence Moore Phil Rawlings, Susan Robinson, Derrick Rex, Eddie Sear and Barry Wicks celebrated their birthdays and then in November we extend birthday wishes to Ron Calcutt, Cyril Cox, Brian Dartford, John Durrant, Trevor Euesden, Val Gaff, Pauline Gurling, Alan Hill, Martin Ivory, Gen. McAfee, Simon (Sam) Martin, Jim Robinson, Gerry Tann, Wayne Stockwell and Bob Withington.

The next issue of the Newsletter will be December. Contributions would be welcome by 1 December please.

Sue Hill

Message from the Chairman, Mel Swan

Covid continues to restrict our face-to-face activities. It was a pleasure to meet some of you at the Spooners social lunches and I look forward to putting more names to faces at the Branch Cambrai Lunch. I hope we can return to some semblance of normalcy in the new year and to this end I am sure the Cambrai lunch will be a good kickstart.



STOP PRESSES!!

London Branch Planting of the Crosses to go ahead [with caveat]

Saturday 13 November 2.30pm, Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, RAC/RTR Plots 280-281, London Branch other RTR/RAC family and friends will plant personal crosses and then hold a short service at 3.00pm. [Caveat: Should the government announce any new restrictions this could still change or be cancelled.]

For those who wish to gather after the service for a drink and a chat, we are now able to attend the bar at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. [Same caveat re changes by government]. Those with cars will offer lifts, taxis can be shared or make your own way to The Pensioners Club Bar, entry through the Chelsea Gate. [Parking is usually available behind the Abbey – no charge on Saturday/Sunday but you will be charged Congestion £15, plus ULEZ £12.50 if your car is not compliant. Useful information to remember for Sunday 21:]

The Poppy Factory ask that we kindly maintain social distancing, wear masks and ideally carry proof of vaccination while in the Field of Remembrance.

New Association WO2



I am delighted to introduce the newly appointed Associations' liaison WO Mark Bethell. Mark introduced himself to the Associations: "With Anthony Abbott's advice the RSM has chosen me to take this important role, I am looking forward to meeting as many branches/ members as possible and help in any way I can.

I joined the Army as a 16-year-old and joined 2RTR at the end of 2003. If you attended the amalgamation parade, I was commanding the Ajax tank. I have 4 years left to serve till my 22-year point and have been lucky enough to serve with most Sqns, Ajax being the only Sqn that I have missed. My current position within the Regiment is Trg WO & ARCMO. I have been the ARCMO for the last two years, and Trg WO for around

three months now. I should get my Sqn next year, something I am really looking forward too.

I have been married to Jennifer for the last 17 years and will try to bring her to events. We have 3 children Hayden 13, Holly 11, Heidi 5. I also volunteer for the local football team Tidworth Town and manage/coach teams. Although this takes most of my weekends, with enough advance planning I have coaches to cover me for association events."

I have met the Regimental Secretary [Dean Hutton – Ed.] and Dave Larcombe, [Chairman Bournemouth Poole and District Branch – Ed.] at HHQ a few weeks back and more recently met Bob Swiniarski, Standard Bearer London Branch RTRA at a rehearsal for the RTR march to the Cenotaph. I plan to attend the Cenotaph parade to march with the Association."

WO Bethell went on to say he looks forward to meeting all the associations and that if there are events Associations need him to engage with the Sqns or would like him to visit, he will do his best to fit in, if not he can work to getting someone to get someone from the Regiment.

Footnote: Mark has arranged for Lt Sebastian Shimmings and Sgt Kieren Clements to attend our Cambrai lunch and may also have one or two SP from Badger once they return on 1 November.

Sqn updates: Ajax are starting to prepare for Cabrit 20 CMR [Castle Martin Range – Ed.] Nov 2021, Badger have just returned from Cabrit 8 and are on well-earned leave and will be back to work for our most important month, November. Cyclops are ROG here in Tidworth, DN [DreadNaught] have deployed on Cabrit 9 with Egypt, some elements (like me) stayed back to support the Sqns here. Falcon are on normal CBRN [Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear materials - Ed] routine at Warminster.

Bethell, Mark (RTR-D-TrgWO)

London Branch Meetings

London Branch Meetings have continued to be held on ZOOM. Attendances have been constant in number with different people appearing on screen each month which truly justifies the decision to use this method to hold meetings. The formal part of the meeting can be as short as 25 minutes or when there are things to plan and news to impart up to 45 minutes. The rest of the time is available to chat and catch up. It is hoped that a face-to-face meeting at Royal Hospital Chelsea will be possible in December. The September meeting had 23 members present and 18 were present for October. It is very gratifying to see different faces each month and that they come from far and wide. There is no obligation to come to all meetings, nor to contribute. It is also very easy to leave unobtrusively part-way through. Rewarding too to see so many members stay online after the formal meeting to natter and catch up.

Regimental report – Vice-President: Colonel Simon Ridgway MBE

A large part of the Regiment has deployed on Operation Cabrit in Estonia where they will spend 6 months. Operation CABRIT is the name for the British Army's operational deployment to Eastern Europe as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence. They will shortly start cold weather training.

During the pandemic the Regiment operated in 'bubbles' to minimise the risk of transmission working in shifts on the tank park. Although there were a few cases in general they remained relatively COVID free.

Sqn updates, AJAX are starting to prepare for Cabrit 20 with firing in CMR [Castle Martin Range – Ed.] in Nov 2021, BADGER have just returned from Cabrit 8 and are on well-earned leave before coming back to work for our most important month of November, CYCLOPS are the Rear Operations Group in Tidworth, DREADNAUGHT have deployed on Cabrit 9 with EGYPT, some elements stayed back to support the Sqns in Tidworth and FALCON are continuing CBRN training in Warminster.

An extract from an update given by Simon, our Vice-President at the October Branch Meeting.

Out and About

London Branch Monthly Informal Social 'Spooners' Lunches Resume



to meet some of our members having only encountered them on ZOOM before and gallantly helped Frances to her chariot after the September lunch.

There have been two very successful Spooners lunches arranged by Allan Oliver. The September meeting at Penderels Oak attracted a group of friends who were more than delighted to see each other face-to-face after eighteen months of COVID restrictions. October at the Knights Templar in Chancery Lane provided further opportunity to catch up. On both occasions Branch Chairman Mel Swan came



Bournemouth Reunion



A very enjoyable time was had by all at the October Bournemouth Reunion. Thirty in all attended. There were lots of conversations and people catching up with folk not seen for ages (some since 1978!). The raffle was a great success and Bob proved to be the most hilarious bingo caller ever, it took ages to complete a line due to the

hysterical laughter he caused, an example of his calling “2 Fat ladies 88, 2 Thin ladies 44”. I certainly wasn't the only one needing to rush to the loo! It was wonderful that Ray Bebbington's (RIP) niece Tracey was able to attend. On the left in the photo is Horace (Brommie) Brindley [he served in Cyclops when 2RTR were the training regiment there in 72 – Ed.] who came as a surprise guest as he served in 5RTR with Fred Bolwell and Reg Fox was Fred's guest after they met at the RAC Church Service.



Wendy Whale organised a successful visit to Athelhampton House in Dorchester on Saturday – there was certainly lots to see and a return visit is planned as more rooms open. Thank you Wendy. – [shown adding to the colour with Jenny Powlesland in the garden at Athelhampton, previous page].

On Friday it was off to Portland Bill for Linda, Val and myself with Bob, a very windy & chilly experience but again full of good cheer particularly when in the warm Lobster pot restaurant after almost being blown away. Thanks to Bob for chauffeuring us three ladies out for the day - not forgetting the special effects when driving round corners etc!

Maureen Folgate

Hereford reunion

An annual get-together curtailed by COVID last year the Hereford Reunion went ahead on a small scale over the weekend of 22-24 October and Branch Members Bootsie Harnett, Peter Bennet and Norm Spicer can be seen in the photo. A fine bunch of old 2RTR veterans & wives says Bootsie ! It was a great opportunity to meet up with some people I hadn't seen since Munster in the early 70s. The venue has been booked for the same weekend next year.



Royal Hospital Chelsea, Royal Armoured Corps attend Chapel Service



On Sunday 17 October, London Branch members attended the RAC Church Service at the RHC. Among them were Peter and June Phelps, Bob Swiniarski, who paraded the Branch Standard in the company of Dave Larcombe with the Bournemouth Poole and District Branch Standard. David Orman, Keith and Isabella Probert and Reg Fox, a 95 year old veteran, also came up from BP&D. In-Pensioners on parade were Fred Bolwell and Bill McMinn. The service is always beautiful and the Choir are extraordinary. Their singing is truly divine. The Collect of the Royal Armoured Corps follows the State Prayers for the Queen, the Royal Family and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Then the National Anthem is sung, a blessing given by the Chaplain of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM The Queen by the Reverend S. D. Brookes (Stephen), after which the Choir and Chaplain process from the Chapel to My Boy Willie, the Quick March to the Royal Tank Regiment. The Choir sing the dismissal from the Octagon as the In Pensioners leave.

Throughout lockdown worship continued, sometimes inside and sometimes outside at other local Churches. The Chapel team rolled up their sleeves and worked serving meals, collecting and delivering prescriptions as well as newspapers. Over half of the pensioners had Covid, a number died, and overall they assisted in arranging 50 funerals and outdoor memorials for pensioners. As the gradual reopening of the Hospital continues a number of services for bereaved families are to be held and one or two other services as well. The RAC Church Service was the first service to host those from outside.



In true tradition of the RAC Church Service those RTRA present retired to the bar afterwards at the kind invitation of Fred and a pleasant and convivial afternoon was had. A fantastic footnote to this story is that Reg and Fred did not know each other and had so much in common that enjoyed chatting that Fred invited Reg to come along to the evening Saturday meal at the Bournemouth Weekend which he duly did.



Robert Swiniarski, Standard Bearer

Israeli Programme *Valley of Tears* features rehabilitated Tanks

Inspired by the true events of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, this harrowing drama series focuses on the universality of heroism and sacrifice through four intertwined stories. It covers the Yom Kippur War 6 – 25 October 1973.

The series depicts the battles of the Yom Kippur War, with the first season focusing on the northern front of the war, and a second season focusing on the southern front of the fighting planned. The series has been described as one of the most expensive television series in Israel, with advanced

technologies used to recreate the battles, including the Battle of the Valley of Tears, the cost of each episode reaching one million dollars. Part of the cost is due to realism of the battle scenes and the skills of the creatives who worked on the show; they also found and rehabilitated tanks that were used in the war with the help of Israel Defence Forces technicians, who outfitted them with new engines.

A ten-part series, the first two parts are currently scheduled to be shown on More 4, Friday 5th November 9pm and 10pm then all episodes will be available for streaming.

Footnote: Some may remember Harry 'Bill' Bryson who was an Observer in the Yom Kippur War, Brian Fallowfield remembers 'When I first meet Harry he was a Sargent he had just come back from MVEE and did desert trials in Israel on Chieftains having previously served as Sargent in Badger 2troop. While there it all kicked off. In 68 / 69 he disappeared again' Bootsie Harnett also knew him: "When I knew 'Bill' he was in Cyclops in Hohna in the 60s to when he went to Israel."

Exhibition Foe to Friend: The British Army in Germany since 1945

The Army Museum in Chelsea London is currently holding this FREE fascinating exhibition Foe & Friend which runs until the end of the year. A must if you were stationed in The BAOR or you were an Army Family in The BAOR. More than a million British soldiers have lived and served in Germany over the past 75 years. Immerse yourself in their stories and follow their evolution from conquerors and occupiers to allies and friends.

Germany has been at the heart of the British Army's story since 1945. After the Second World War, the Army helped rebuild a devastated and divided nation. It provided protection during the Cold War, and later used Germany as a base from which to deploy troops across the world. This major exhibition follows the lives of soldiers in Germany over the past 75 years. It looks at the changing relationship between Britain and Germany and charts the gradual transition from foe to friend.

Discover everyday tales of beer, bratwurst and family life set against intriguing accounts of espionage and military training on a massive scale.

It is a story of contrasts: adversaries and allies, east and west, military duty and family commitments. And at its heart lie the day-to-day challenges and triumphs of living and working in a new home overseas.

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/series/foe-friend>

Frances at her 'surprise' parties



Frances Pratts's family organised a surprise party for her 100th birthday and invited several London Branch members. She is shown on the left setting off to celebrate.

It was a lovely afternoon and Frances's daughter gave a glowing tribute to her. Many friends and relatives attended and Frances took the chance to catch up with everyone. It was held in the grounds of the Courtyard of the Royal Victoria Patriotic Building in Wandsworth.

Wendy Whale and several WRAC friends also attended a little party at her house the week before and took a champagne afternoon tea as a surprise. They presented her with a Land Army badge and a photo in a frame of the Land Army Memorial which Frances had never seen. And yes, Frances did receive a beautiful card from HM The Queen.



Not Forgotten Association Summer Drive-In Garden Parties

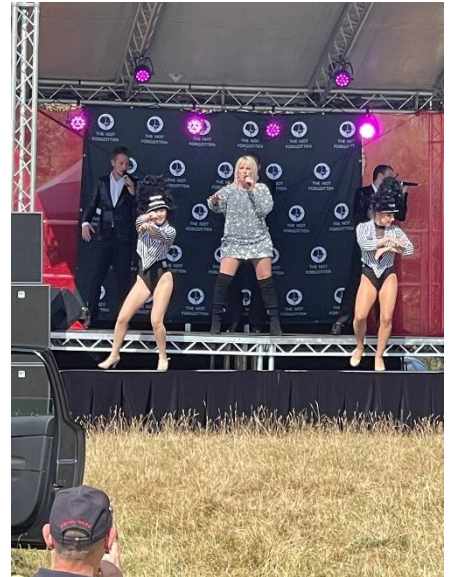
I was fortunate to attend one of the Not Forgotten Concerts with Carley Ansell at Penshurst Place as were Bob Swiniarski and Sue Hill who received tickets for the Caerhays Castle gardens that coincided with their holiday in Cornwall. These were held in a variety of venues during summer. It was thoroughly enjoyable and the quality of the entertainment was excellent. Each vehicle had to include at least one veteran and there were good turnouts at the events with guests entering into the spirit, wearing fancy dress and decorating their cars. These were complimentary and included a barbeque meal and drink.

After hearing about the charity's efforts during the pandemic, I proposed making a £100 donation to the Not Forgotten charity at the September meeting which was agreed.

More photos on:

<https://thenotforgotten.org/galleries/summer-garden-party-drive-ins/>

Ian Thompsett



Snippets

Many thanks for this. Thanks for all you do for us old Tankies. The Newsletter brings back a lot of memories of my time with the 8th in the 50s

Arthur Stockley. Ex.8th RTR.

New RTRA Branch Launched

RTR Col Comdt has granted approval for the setup of a new RTRA within East Anglia.

Report from Bob Swiniarski, Welfare Officer

Several of our members have been poorly recently and have been sent get well cards and or received a phone call from behalf of the Committee. We wish them a speedy recover. Please do get in touch if you know of anyone who would appreciate a cheery call.

5RTR take over at Catterick

After the Second World War, 5RTR remained in Germany until 1953 being stationed at Brunsbittel, Hamm and Hohne. The Regiment returned briefly to UK before being deployed to Korea in September 1953. The next move was to Libya in December 1954. In April 1957, the Regiment started to prepare for its move to Catterick in order to take over the RAC training role from 7RTR on 26 August 1957.

As I was due for demob in January 1958 and had resisted all attempts to persuade me to sign on, I was to transfer to 5RTR. Gunnery instructors from 5RTR commenced arriving well before August and I soon got to know them. They were a friendly bunch and we all got on well. As can be seen from the photo, the black denims that we wore weren't exactly the smartest uniform, especially if you were given the wrong size!

Although 5RTR was based in Bourlon Lines, the Gunnery Wing office, stores and classrooms, and the tank park of B Squadron were still at Waitwith Camp (Shaiba Lines), a mile or so away. This meant that trainee gunners, instructors and other staff had to be ferried backwards and forwards, each day. When this first started, in 1956 with 7RTR, the transport provided by the MT Troop was a 15 cwt Bedford, which had a permitted load of 8 passengers in the back. This meant that it had to make two or more



trips to move everyone backwards and forwards. However, everyone wanted to be in the first trip, except perhaps when starting work in the morning! As a consequence, more and more would cram into the back of the truck. This went on for some time until, one lunchtime, the MT officer happened to see the truck arrive at Bourlon Barracks. He noticed that the truck's rear springs were bent upwards instead of downwards and then saw hordes of soldiers climbing out. Fortunately, instead of taking disciplinary action, he arranged that in future a 3-ton truck was provided so that everyone could fit in!



The course for trainee tank gunners lasted for eight weeks with the same instructors throughout. [Photo of Corporal Lofty Webber]. As I didn't finish training a group of recruits until September, there was insufficient time left for me to take on another crew. This was because, as a Regular, I was entitled to demob leave of one month and also to a demob course of four weeks. In fact, it transpired that I would have five weeks' leave since the Regiment was to have ten days' block leave over Christmas and so I was to be sent home a week earlier! I was therefore used to fill in for other instructors, as required, and do odd jobs.

Eighteen months after I was demobbed, I was on a touring holiday and I stopped off at Catterick Camp and caught up with some of old colleagues in 5RTR. I discovered that the Gunnery Wing had now been moved to Bourlon Lines.

I often wonder what became of those shown in my photos. The only one I have since heard about was "Bugs" Horne, who joined this Branch in the 1990s. He had served his full term in the army and finished as a Major!

[Do get in touch if you know those shown in the photographs and I will pass the information on to Graham - Ed.]

Graham Edwards

For the Fallen

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

This verse is from the Poem For the Fallen by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in full *The Times* newspaper on 21 September 1914



Robert Laurence Binyon, by artist William Strang.

And from another World War 1 Poet

John William Streets,

**Extracted from *Poets of a Great War*, Tonie and Valmai Holt www.pen-and-sword.co.uk
ISBN 0850527066**

In May 1917 a collection of his war poems was posthumously published under the title *The Undying Splendour*

A Soldiers Cemetery



Behind that long and lonely trenched line
To which men come and go, where brave men die,
There is a yet unmarked and unknown shrine,
A broken plot, a soldiers' cemetery.
There lie the flower of youth, the men who scorn'd
To live (so died) when languished Liberty:
Across their graves flowerless and unadorned
Still scream the shells of each artillery.
When war shall cease this lonely unknown spot
Of many a pilgrimage will be the end,
And flowers will shine in this now barren plot
And fame upon it through the years descend:
But may a heart upon each simple cross
Will hang the grief, the memory of its loss.

John William Streets, 24 March 1886 - 1 July 1916
Sgt 12th York and Lancaster Regiment

John William Streets (Will), a Derbyshire miner was born in a tiny, terraced house where he slept in a bed with his five brothers. He left school at 13, went to work in the local Whitwell coal mine and spent fourteen years at the coal face. Will continued his education at home by correspondence course after a gruelling shift underground, determinedly working in the eye-straining light of a paraffin lamp to the noisy background of his young siblings..... taught himself Latin and Greek.....conversational French....became a teacher at Sunday School, learned the piano and organ..... he first wrote poetry in 1912 – about his coal mining experience.....which dramatically described the frustration of an intellect trapped in a literally inescapable pt. Will instinctively loved Derbyshire's open spaces, hedgerows, woodlands, flowers and birdsong.

Will enlisted in the 12th (Service) Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment, one of that extraordinary phenomenon, a Pals' battalion, in 1914. Until his death in 1916 he wrote numerous poems of exceptionally high calibre, each of which he sent to his mother or publishers as soon as completed. They were written in pencil on scraps of paper stained with mud. He feared he was destined to die and was anxious to have his work preserved.

His last batch was accompanied by one of his many letters which explained: 'They were inspired while I was in the trenches, where I have been so busy I have had little time to polish them. I have tried to picture some thoughts that pass through a man's brain when he dies. I may not see the end of the poems, but I hope to live to do so. We soldiers have our views of life to express, though the boom of death is in our ears.'

In another letter Will wrote: 'I am afraid even the English people fail to understand completely the English Tommy. His leviathan laughter in the face of grave peril and death seems to suggest a callous view of Life. On the contrary, in it often there lurks his noblest scorn; scorn for his own life and happiness when by yielding it he can benefit posterity.....Yes, Tommy in spite of his faults which are legion is a splendid fellow. He needs not any praise for what he does is natural and free...Where there is freedom of action there is freedom of spirit.'

Sadly Streets was not to live to enjoy the success he achieved in the literary world.... His battalion took part in the great Somme assault of 1 July 1916,Streets (aged 31) was wounded soon after the attack began, going back to get a wound tended, he went to the assistance of a more seriously wounded man and disappeared.His body lay unrecovered for ten months in no-mans-land was eventually identified and buried in Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps.

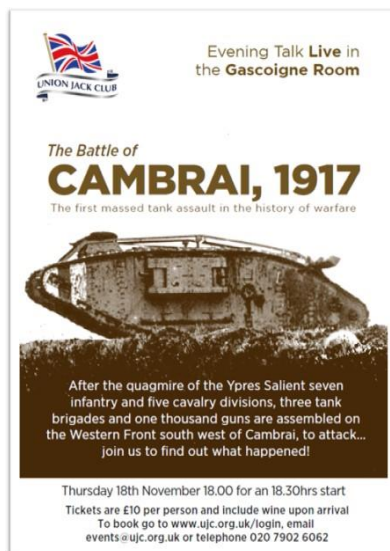
Headsets could cause hearing problems

Larisa Brown reported in *The Times* on Monday 25 October that the headset British troops use in armoured vehicles could be causing hearing problems. Consequently the army has restricted the use of armoured vehicles including Warriors, CRVT [Combat Vehicle Renaissance – Ed.] armoured fighting vehicles including the Scimitar light reconnaissance vehicle. We believe the headset is the same that caused hearing problems when used on the Ajax light tank programme.

Apparently, the matter is under investigation and a time limit has been set for personnel of 55 minutes per exercise until more is known.

The Times 25 October 2021

Historian Gareth Davies offers November Walks and Talks



Talk: 6 pm, Thursday 18th November 2021, *The Battle of Cambrai, 1917*, Lt Col (retd) Gareth Davies, Union Jack Club in London. £10 (which includes a glass of wine)

At least 7 members of the Bournemouth & Poole branch will be present on the night and would be good to meet up with members of the London Branch. You may need a UJC member to purchase your ticket or vouch for you.

Walk: Friday 19 November 10:00am Gareth is leading a couple of walking tours at central London. Starting on the Mall I will describe the first couple of years of the Great War, how tanks were developed to break the stalemate, He will talk about some of the key people and take you to a couple of key locations, and then using a number of memorials in and around Whitehall discuss the Somme, Arras, Messines & Ypres, Cambrai, and Amiens, before ending the tour with a short commemoration at the Cenotaph.

Booking details are here: At the time of going to press there are a couple of places left on the 19th walk.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-tank-tour-tickets-176280227907>

To the Green Fields

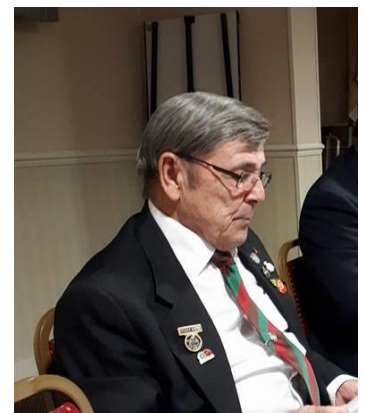
R I P Terry Smith - Died October 2021

It is with immense sadness that London Branch learned of the death of Terry Smith. Terry was a stalwart of Medway Branch, ex 1RTR, and variously Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. He was renowned for his dry sense of humour, his energy and ability to ensure that Medway was a thriving and successful branch. He had a skill in welcoming in new members and encouraging them to take a practical part in Medway Branch matters.

Roy Hill says "Terry was one of the first people I met when I joined the branch. This was six months before I left the Army. He quickly convinced me to take over from him as branch Chairman so that he could concentrate on being the Secretary. His death has hurt me greatly and I'm sure that it will have the same effect upon those of you who knew him. Only three days before his untimely death, at the last branch meeting, he was his normal funny self. He was always ready with a joke and he was happy making those around him laugh."

People like Terry have been the life-blood of many an RTRA Branch and their passing to the Green Fields is to be much mourned

. **He Feared Naught.**



R I P Donald Clough 8RTR 30 November 1937-7 July 2021



Alan Rigby, Secretary Preston Branch RTRA reports that Don died peacefully after a short illness at home in Blackpool.

Don was born in Blackburn, Lancashire, and was the Chairman and Standard Bearer of Preston Branch RTRA. He did National Service in BAOR with 8RTR as a Centurion Tank driver. Years later Don renewed his interests with the 8th and joined their Association. One of the year's highlights was to attend the annual reunion at Bournemouth with Barbara, his wife of 64 years. Both Don and Alan recently joined London Branch.



As well as Standard Bearer for Preston RTRA, Don attended Civic and Military events in Blackpool and further afield. That was Don Clough. It was always an honour for Don to carry the Preston Branch Standard at the annual RTR March to the Cenotaph in Whitehall and at the Regimental Church Service.

At the Committal, along with family and many friends, Preston Branch and Blackpool Veterans formed a Guard of Honour with the Standards.

He will be sorely missed **FEAR NAUGHT DON**

Thank you to Roy Hill of Medway Branch and Alan Rigby of Preston Branch for their tributes. Please send obituaries to the Newsletter Editor or the Committee for possible inclusion in future newsletters.

2021 Meetings and Events for your Diary

November

Saturday 13th Planting of the Crosses at Westminster Abbey – 2.30pm muster for 3.00pm Ceremony.

Saturday 20th Cambrai Day – remember your gunfire.

Sunday 21st 1030hrs to 1125hrs Royal Tank Regiment March to the Cenotaph

1030hrs Parade forms at Horse Guards Parade, 1040hrs Inspection, 1050hrs Parade Moves off, 1100hrs Cenotaph Service, 1110hrs Parade marches to RTR Comet Crew, 1120hrs Wreath laid 1125hrs Parade dismissed. 11.30hrs Two buses will transport persons to St Mary Aldermary Parade commanded by Lieutenant General David A D Leakey CMG CVO OBE and led by the Irish Guards Band followed by:-

Remembrance Service at St Mary Aldermary Church starting at 1200hrs, after which make your way to the Barley Mow.

Saturday 27 November 1200hrs for 1245hrs London Branch Cambrai Lunch

December

Saturday 11th 1400hrs: Branch ZOOM Meeting – Zoom open from 1.30-4.00pm pm – NB this will NOT be held at Royal Hospital Chelsea –

2022

January

Saturday 8th 1400hrs: Branch ZOOM Meeting – Zoom open from 1.30-4.00pm pm – NB there is a possibility this could be held at Royal Hospital Chelsea - tbc

February

Saturday 12th 1400hrs: Branch Meeting – venue to be confirmed

March

Saturday 12th 1400hrs: AGM followed by Branch ZOOM Meeting – Zoom open from 1.30-4.00pm pm – venue to be confirmed

March

Friday 18 to Monday 21 8RTR Reunion Bournemouth Trouville Hotel £49.50 pp/pn - Bed Breakfast & Evening Meal with Evening Entertainment [Add Thursday and Sunday for £45 pp pn]

Saturday Dinner Guest £23.95 pp

Sunday RTR Church Service, followed by a Curry Lunch (or alternative choice) by coach to Bovington

April

Saturday 9th 1400hrs: Branch Meeting – venue to be confirmed

October

Friday 14 to Monday 17 Bournemouth Weekender Trouville Hotel £45 p.p.n

Bed Breakfast & Evening Meal with Evening Entertainment [Add Thursday & Sunday for £45 pp pn]

Guests welcome for Saturday night Dinner £23.95 pp

RAC Church Service at RHC, date to be confirmed

Thank you all for your contributions. Please keep them coming. If you don't send it, we cant share it!

Sue Hill, Newsletter Editor

Annual Cambrai Lunch

12 noon for 1.00pm Saturday 27 November 2021

Room open Noon, seated 1245hrs, lunch served 1300hrs, retire to bar 1600hrs

Set Menu *£25.00 or **£37.50 See below

Starter

Classic Prawn Cocktail

(Vegetarian/Gluten Free Option available - advance request only)

Main Course

Oven Roasted Half Chicken, Roast Potatoes, Roasted Mixed Peppers, (GF)

(Vegetarian/Gluten Free Option available - advance request only)

Dessert

Caramel Apple Crumble Pie with Vanilla Custard

(Vegan /Gluten Free Option available - advance request only)

Half bottle of Red / White Wine

Tea / Coffee



***Members plus one guest £25.00 per head **Non-Members/additional guests £37.50 pp**

Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, Coram St, London WC1N 1HT

(Function room, bar and facilities all on ground level)

Less than 2 minutes from Russell Square Tube; 15–20 minute walk from Euston, Kings Cross/St Pancras;

Join us and remake old and new acquaintances at the London Branch Cambrai lunch in central London. This is not just an event for London Branch members. The branch welcomes members from all branches, non-members and those who served in the RTR or those with an affiliation to the Royal Tank Regiment and their families and friends. Why not combine your trip with some early Christmas shopping, a night at the theatre and stay overnight?

Must pre-book and make payment as soon as possible - by cheque or bank transfer