

From: Major Keith H Down TD CEng MInstRE RMONRE(M), Chairman

## THE DINING CLUB

### Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)

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Reference: RHQ G1133

Dining Club Members  
Regimental Officers

24 May 2015

### DINING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

A short newsletter to update you on the Dining Club and its activities.

#### Dining Club Luncheon

The Luncheon took place on 16<sup>th</sup> May at Great Castle House in the Officers' Mess. The event was a great success attended by 40 Members, serving officers and several guests. The occasion saw the first "outing" of the new Regimental crockery which was sourced by the Secretary, John Carter, and paid for from Dining Club funds. Our thanks goes to John for his outstanding work on this project and for his attention to detail.





Clive Smith & Richard Dilworth



Leigh Richardson (Padre), Fran Bullock (Adj), James Trescothick-Martin (Ops), Dave Bell (Militia Captain)



Our splendid new Mess crockery in action



John Carter (Secretary) & Fred Southey (Jim Southey's father)

## **Summer Ball**

This year the event will take place on the First of August. A proforma is attached. Please note that the number of places available to the Dining Club is restricted to twenty as the Ball has been scaled back in size this year. Apply early so as not to be disappointed.

## **Dining Club Dinner 19<sup>th</sup> September**

It is planned to be a joint function held with currently serving officers who are holding the Regimental Ladies Guest night that evening. The attendance proforma will follow when available

## **Regimental News from the Commanding Officer**

Actually, these are the Second-in-Command's speaking notes from the Luncheon (slightly edited)

### **Welcome back to the Mess.**

- Apologies from the CO – Cdo Engr Reunion

### **What's happened within the Regimental Family since your last meeting?**

#### **Introductions**

- Maj Owen - 2IC
- Maj Barry Martin - RAO
- Maj Dave Phillips – OC 100FS
- Maj Gareth Stockman – OC RHQ Gp and PMC
- Capt Geoff Banham - ROSO

#### **Farewells**

- Lt Col Ben Brown – SO1 62 Wks Gp
- Lt Col Andy Windram – CO 75 ER after a short spell as 2IC
- Maj Conrad Elsegood – to be replaced as TM by Phil Ord on his 4<sup>th</sup> tour with the Regt. Conrad is posted as COS 29 EOD & Search Gp
- Maj Noel Brown – Bristol UOTC
- Maj Jeremy Smith – On his retirement from 160 X
- Capt Mick Coles – PSAO 131 Cdo Sqn
- Capt Fran Bullock sometime this summer, posting TBC
- Capt Darren Williams – WM ATU

#### **Ops** - with our best wishes for a safe return

- Maj Craig Steadman – SO2 Engr Ops – Sierra Leone
- Capt Dirk Nusink – ANAOA – Mentor \_ Kabul

#### **Regimental Role**

Now under command 12 FS Engr Gp after some time with 170 Infra Sp Gp. Our role is still being formalised but in essence it is:

- Combat engineer and enabler support to deployed Works Groups
- Infrastructure development surge capability to support the Military Design Authority (MDA) in 170 ISG.
- Contract management and on-site supervision of locally employed civilian workers - ASOs
- Facilities Management (FM) of military engineer equipments in environments that are non-permissive for contractors.

Many new challenges and opportunities will result but essentially our versatility as **SAPPERS** will still remain paramount.

## **Internally**

### **Looking Back**

- Disbandment of 108 Fd Sqn in Sept. The Sqn went out in fine style with a Freedom Parade and is now well integrated as 2 x Tps with 100 FdSqn
- Loss of our LAD to 105 Bn REME
- Trg highlights were
  - Ski expeds in Jan
  - Battle Field Study to Ypres and Arras in April
  - Artisan trg at Caerwent and Infra recce for command groups over several WEs
  - LCpl Darlington loaded on Reg electricians course- good value for Defence.

### **Looking Forward**

- LION STAR – Infra Trg in Cyprus
- PRAIRIE STORM – Tp deployment to BATUS with 22 ER
- ARTISAN TRG – new Initiative, 2 x 2 week courses for Carp/ Blocklayers/ Concreters post Cbt engr trg
- Freedom parade 11 July in Monmouth
- RE games in June
- AT – Diving in Egypt Sept
- New CO in Jan. Lt Col Hislop has withdrawn replacement will be announced imminently.

### **Recruiting**

Current strength 385 of establishment of 420 reservists. 117 in Recruiting pipeline, outflow is varied but minimal including several to regular service. Therefore on track to meet A2020 targets.

### **Conclusion**

In summary the Regiment remains in good health and on an upward curve. Many new opportunities will result from A2020 and we have every reason to look forward to the Regiments continued prosperity.

Finally, many thanks to the Dining club for the splendid crockery we have all enjoyed using today.

e thank the 2IC for allowing us to include this update in this newsletter. It is much appreciated by the Dining Club and allows us to maintain our interest and support for the Regiment.

### **Members' News**

Do send me your news – your brother and sister officers and fellow Club Members like to know what you are doing and are always asking what the Regiment is up to these days! For those of you who missed the Luncheon here are some of the Parish Notices proclaimed at the event.

Our congratulations went to Andrew Tuggey appointed to High Sherriff of Gwent in April.

We welcomed:

Jim Southey and his son Ben and father Fred. He'd managed to fit in the visit as Sara was off climbing the Atlas Mountains for charity.

“Dill” aka Richard Dilworth former adjutant and equerry to Prince Andrew.

“JJ” John Josephi whom we haven't seen for many years.

John Carter's guest, Gordon Hickman on his first visit to the Regiment.

**Apologies for not being able to attend the Luncheon were received from:**

Tony George who was away in the USA but asked to be remembered to everyone.

Robin Herbert

Graham Northam was at his first grandchild's christening

Les and Sandra Preece who had been in the UK for a couple of weeks and returned to Cyprus on the day of the lunch! They ask to be remembered and also for anyone planning on visiting Cyprus, including those going on camp, to get in touch.

Scott Spencer was instructing on the Reserves' Advanced Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham.

Andy Windram couldn't be with us because Jo has been unwell. I understand she's on the mend and hoping to make it to the Ball.

Nigel Smith sent apologies from South Africa.

Robert Everett who is in the Canary Islands.

Roger and Sylvia Kent were baby sitting in Chesham.

Brian & Margaret Henderson were raising money for charity by driving a vintage tractor.

Alastair Cooper was attending a Study Weekend at 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp (which is where the Chairman should have been!).

Charles and Sian Pickles couldn't attend as this event clashed with his Royal British Legion Branch's one major fund raising event of the year. Despite his best efforts he couldn't fit both events in.

Paul Salmon who was on duty in the Philippines.

Bob Shanks who is unfortunately now unable to travel.

Ray & Jackie Morris as Ray was taking part in the Black Mountains Challenge to raise funds for the Longtown Mountain Rescue Team.

Tom Clarke of Magor.

Ian Thompson who was working at UWE in the morning and having to transport and watch his son at a cricket match in the afternoon.

David Caulfield who was in hospital having an operation on his shoulder.

Noel Mulliner was too busy in New York. He hopes to be in Monmouth somewhere at the end of July/ beginning of August and will look up old friends then.

**Chairman's News**

I completed the Ten Tors competition on Dartmoor last weekend covering a total of 62 miles over the two days. As part of a team of fourteen "over 55 year olds", I was the oldest at 60, and we came in with fifteen minutes to spare raising over £8500 for charity. My thanks to all of you who contributed to the team's chosen charities. For those that may have known him, the driving force behind this "adventure" was Brig (ret'd) Steve Hodder late RE. There's no stopping some sappers.

I have also been fortunate in being extended in my military service at 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp until the end of July 2016. This will take me up to one day short of 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday! It will also enable me to attend annual camp with 525 STRE in Cyprus in October. Not that this was a consideration.

*Kind regards,*

*Keith*

Do we have your correct postal and e-mail addresses?

If you have received this by post and you have an e-mail address, please let us know. You will get more news and you will get it quicker.

#### Contact Details

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**Major (Retd) John M Carter** *Treasurer and Membership Secretary*

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### **OFFICERS' MESS SUMMER BALL 1 AUGUST 2015**



**Timings: 1930 hrs until 2359 and beyond...**

**Dress: Black tie or Mess Dress (with Female equivalent for ladies)**

**Entertainments include: Band, Disco and others TBC**

**Cost: TBC but roughly £45**

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#### **Reply Slip**

**Please return to Adjutant by NLT 31 May 2015 ([RMONREM-RHQ-ADJT@mod.uk](mailto:RMONREM-RHQ-ADJT@mod.uk))**

**Adjutant, Great Castle House, Monmouth, NP25 3BS**

**Rank & Name :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Guest (s) and name(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary Requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_