



THE DINING CLUB

Preserving the comradeship of
officers and former officers of
R Mon RE (M) for 100 years

NEWSLETTER

Edition - September 2022

A message from the Honorary Colonel, our Club President, Colonel I C Thompson TD

Fellow Dining Club Members,

Having just watched the Accession Council take place following the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second one is reminded once again of our country's great history and traditions. Our own Regiment dating from at least 1539, just 3 years after St James's Palace was completed, is one thread running through that tapestry of history. Early in her reign Her Majesty directed that our place as the Senior Regiment of the Reserve Army be formally recognised. Her cousin Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was appointed as our Royal Honorary Colonel in her Silver Jubilee year 1977.

Understandably the planned Freedom of Monmouth Parade is now postponed but we hope to see His Royal Highness as soon as it proves possible to arrange a new date for the event. Our loyalty now passes to His Majesty King Charles the Third and we wish him a long and glorious reign.

Contents

Page 2 - Membership Matters

Page 3 - HMS Monmouth Regimental Peg Pot

Page 4 - Annual Dinner Saturday 29 October 2022

Page 5 - Hon Col Call to Dinner

Page 5 - Militia Crossing 2023 to Normandy

Change in Dining Club Secretary and Treasurer

As you will no doubt be aware it was proposed and accepted at the AGM Oct 21, that the then Militia Captain on his retirement from service with R Mon RE(M) would become the Dining Club Secretary and Treasurer. I can confirm that John Carter handed the accounts to me at the end the financial year, I am privileged to be fulfilling the role.

Can I express my gratitude and admiration for John who has done such a sterling job in keeping the accounts in order and updating the Dining Club with his many newsletters. I am further pleased to let you know that John has accepted to continue running Militia Crossings, Battlefield Tours and is in the progress of conducting a recce for the next one, more details to follow.

Can I request that you send all email correspondence in future to me via david.bell167@mod.gov.uk which is my Regimental Secretary Role for wider regimental family matters. Anything of an urgent matter can also be sent on davidbellwales@outlook.com I have set an account to deal with Regimental family matters from my mobile.

David Bell
07807 224467

The Regimental Peg Pot

HMS Monmouth

I suspect that I wasn't alone in assuming HMS Monmouth had gone in for a lengthy refit as planned, so it came as a shock to learn that as a result of defence reviews she had in fact been decommissioned and was due to be scrapped. Those of you present at the Summer Ball in 1993 will recall that the Regiment presented the ship with a Peg Pot similar to our own. This had been planned following our twinning with the ship, with Andrew Tuggey having attended the launch. I tracked down the Peg Pot to the RN Trophy Store at RNB Portsmouth and the Trustees of their Trophy Fund have very kindly handed the piece to our own Regimental Trust for long term safekeeping. It still looks good as you will see in the photo below although the slightly wonky hinge suggests serious use! It will only return to a future HMS Monmouth (or similar name) or any future ship twinned with the Regiment.



The plan is to display it in a new cabinet in the Museum with our HMS Monmouth display. We are in the process of replacing the last remaining wooden cabinets in our Museum with modern versions.

The ships bell is now in the care of Monmouth Town Council.

Colonel I C Thompson TD

Annual Dinner & AGM

Great Castle House, Monmouth

Saturday 29th October 2022

All members and their partners are welcome



- Timings:** 1900: AGM in the Militia Bar.
1915: Assemble for drinks in the main hall.
2000: Dinner will be served in the Officers' Mess.
- Costs:** Mess members' costs will be charged to their mess bill.
Non-serving Dining Club members and their partners are requested to pay the **subsidised price of £40 a head in advance to include reception drinks and wine.**
- Dress:** Mess kit or black tie with medals.
- Guests:** If space is available it may be possible for you to invite private guests in addition to your partner. Please ask when you book.
- To book:** **By not later than 30th September 2022** please.
Serving members: under Regimental arrangements.
Non-serving members: to the Secretary, either by post to: David Bell 28 Commercial EBBW VALE NP23 6BS. Or by email to: david.bell167@mod.gov.uk with the name of your partner and any additional guests. Please also provide any dietary requirements. If you cannot attend and you let us have your news or wish to send a message, the Chairman will be happy to pass this on after dinner in the traditional way.
- To pay:** Non-serving club members are requested to pay £40 per person in advance either: by cheque, payable to R MON RE (M) DINING CLUB and sent with your booking, or online to R MON RE /M/ DINING CLUB 30-95-71 00121519. If you pay online please mention this when you book. There will be a cash run bar after the Dinner.
- AGM:** Please include any items that you wish to be included at the AGM when you book.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our dinner on the 29 October 2022 where we are combining with the serving regiment to overcome in part the continuing problems with such as chefs. This will be the first Regimental Dinner for the Officers Mess since pre-lockdown so we are expecting a memorable night.

Col Ian

Militia Crossing 23

John Carter is planning the next Militia Crossing to Normandy.

Provisionally 2 to 5 March 2023

by coach via Portsmouth – Caen Ferry.

The intent is to visit the New Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer then study the Normandy Battlefields. John has secured the assistance of two exceptional historians from the Royal Engineers Historical Society, Maj Gen (Retd) Mungo Melvin CB OBE and Lt Col (Retd) Sticky Whitchurch MBE. He plans to follow the normal format Departing from Monmouth Thu 2 Mar with an end of tour Dinner at Caen 4 Mar where Maj Gen Mungo Melvin will be the guest speaker. The tour will then conclude returning on Sun 5 Mar.

There has been a great deal of effort to engage with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to organise a ceremony to unveil the first new headstone with the R Mon cap-badge. This will provide a unique opportunity for us to see the hard work in recognising the contribution of the Regiment made.

Expressions of interest should be sent to John Carter.

Mr J Carter Blistors' End, Lydney Road, Bream LYDNEY. GL15 6EW

01594 563455 07968 996725 | john.carter1@live.com