



THE ROYAL PIONEER CORPS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2004

51 St. Georges Drive - London - SW1V 4DE

T: 020 7834 0415

F: 020 7828 5860

E: pioneers@rpca.fsnet.co.uk



LONDON LUNCH

Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London

The London Lunch will be held in the Trafalgar Rooms, Services Victory Club, Seymour St, London on Saturday 12 June 2004 at 1100 hrs finishing at 3.30 p.m. (lunch will be at 1200 hrs). The dress is lounge suit or jacket and tie. The lunch is for Association members with guests, wives and children too, if the latter are big enough. The Victory Club is only three minutes from Marble Arch tube station and a two minute walk from Marble Arch itself. Walk along Edgware Road and take the first left. As Marble Arch is located at the top of Oxford Street it will be a great opportunity for wives to shop both before and after the lunch! The cost is either £10 or £20 per head (£10 is a subsidised rate for members only who are either wholly retired or registered disabled or not in paid employment). Please apply on the form printed on page 18 of this Newsletter, this must be received at HQ RPC Association by 29 May 2004.

39/93 CLUB WEEKEND

The Red Lion Hotel, Fareham

The 39/93 Club has arranged accommodation and breakfast for members at the Red Lion Hotel, Fareham, Hampshire at £20 per person per night from 5 to 7 March 2004. A dinner is to be held on Saturday 6 March 2004 at a cost of £14 per person, day visitors will be welcome to attend the dinner. If you wish to attend, please contact the Secretary, Les Rowley, telephone 0162 889 0913. The hotel will not accept telephone bookings.

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

The following events will be held in 2004:

13 March	-	Quiz Night/Auction
18 July	-	Summer Function
3 October	-	Out for a meal/back for a drink!
19 December	-	Christmas Party

A Newsletter will be forwarded to Branch members, if you currently do not receive this and wish to be included in the distribution please contact Mr N Brown (01604 403338).

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS' DINNER, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, St David's Barracks, Graven Hill, Bicester Friday 15 October 2004

Serving and ex-serving officers are invited to attend the 58th Past and Present Officers' Dinner at 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, St David's Barracks, Graven Hill, Bicester, Oxon on Friday 15 October 2004. Dress: black tie, miniature medals and neck decorations. Timings: 7 for 8 o'clock to allow time for a meeting. Members are asked to send their cheques for £20 to HQ RPC Association before Friday 1 October 2004 please state if accommodation is required. Members of 23 Regiment should book through their PMC.



PIONEER REUNION WEEKEND - 2004

The Pioneer Reunion Weekend is once again, thanks to the Commanding Officer 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, to be held at Bicester on 9/10 July 2004. A Booking Form is at page 18 of this Newsletter, this must be returned to HQ RPC Association by no later than 28 June 2004.

Once again accommodation is going to prove difficult with the Regiment undergoing Operation SLAM, the refurbishment of St David's Barracks. Accommodation has been offered at St George's Barracks (some six miles away) and transport will be provided on a regular basis. This accommodation will be in large barrack rooms with bunk beds, if this is unsuitable for anyone a list of local Hotels/Guest Houses can be supplied on application to HQ RPC Association. Transport to/from these hotels/guest houses will be provided whenever possible.

A programme of events is as follows:

9 July 2004

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION	DRESS
Bring a Boss	1600 hrs	Cpls' Club	Jacket/Tie
Invitation to Sgts' Mess	1900 hrs	Sgts' Mess	Jacket/Tie

10 July 2004

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION	DRESS
WOs & SNCOs Pnr Reunion Club AGM Note: members only	0900 hrs	Sgts' Mess	Jacket/Tie
Remembrance Parade	1000 hrs	Corps War Memorial	Uniform or Jacket/Tie
RPCA Committee Meeting	1100 hrs	RHQ (Conf Room)	Optional
RPCA AGM	1200 hrs	JRC (NAAFI)	Optional
23 Pnr Regt "Open Day"	1300 hrs	Sports Pitch	Uniform /Casual
The Pioneer Night	1930 hrs	Garrison Theatre	Casual



Editorial

We have included in this extended Newsletter details of both Anzio and Normandy Landings as we are about to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of these events.

'D' Day, 6 June 1944 - a date which would go down in history as the 'beginning of the end' of the War in Europe. By the beginning of June, 700 warships, including 23 cruisers and 5 battleships, 2,727 merchant vessels, 2,500 assault craft, 12,000 aircraft plus three million troops were assembled in Southern England ready for Operation Overlord, the invasion of northern France.

Under the command of Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D Eisenhower, the greatest armada the world had ever seen set sail for France.

The invasion began at 0020 hrs on June 6, as the first airborne Pathfinder troops parachuted onto French soil. At H hour, 0630 hrs, the biggest amphibious assault in history began as Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. By nightfall, 153,000 men had landed, paving the way for the Allies to liberate France and, ultimately, to rid the world of Adolf Hitler and his Third Reich.

Pioneers played a very important part in these dangerous actions and these articles are published to commemorate those brave men who took part and most significantly those who lost their lives during these campaigns. Whilst remembering the events of the past we must also remember the events of the present, also in this Newsletter is a report by Lt Col R A Cave RLC, CO 168 Pnr Regiment RLC.

To mark the occasion of the disbandment of the Royal Pioneer Corps, Terence Cuneo OBE was commissioned to portray the activities of the Pioneers during the D-Day Landings when probably the greatest ever concentration of Pioneers on operations was recorded.

Pioneers were among the first British troops to land on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, as part of Operation Overlord on 6 June 1944.

Copies of this print are available from HQ RPC Association (they are much more impressive on good quality paper) and are ideal for framing at a cost of:

Size 20 x 16 inches £35 (plus £1 p&p)
Size 8 x 10 inches £22 (plus £1 p&p)

Norman Brown

Back Cover

Pioneers, Sword Beach, Normandy.



THE ROYAL PIONEER CORPS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2004

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Registered Charity Number: 801733

Patron:

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCMG

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General Sir John Stibbon KCB OBE,
Major General G W Field OBE

President:

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Chairman:

Brigadier C B Telfer CBE

Honorary Treasurer:

Major E R Elliott

Controller:

Major C F Crook

Editor:

N Brown Esq

Typesetting / Design:

P Brown



51 St. Georges Drive - London - SW1V 4DE
T: 020 7834 0415 F: 020 7828 5860
E: pioneers@rpca.fsnet.co.uk





LAST YEARS EVENTS

57th PAST & PRESENT OFFICERS' DINNER

23 Pioneer Regiment, RLC Officers Mess,
St David's Bks, Bicester, Oxon, Friday 17 October 2003

The 57th Past and Present Officers' Dinner was held on Friday 17 October 2003. The members elected Col RF McDonald as Chairman and re-elected the management committee. Brigadier R Rook OBE, Director The Royal Logistic Corps and Col C J Murray CBE, Commander Bicester Garrison were our guests.

Brig H J Hickman CBE
Maj G McLane
Maj C B Markham
Col K J Broom
Capt S Field
Maj R J Bennett
Lt Col P A Jones OBE MBE
Capt G Thomas
Lt Col C McNish
Maj P J Fleming
Lt Col J A Starling
Capt D Hallett
Maj R J Saunders
Mr MH Rickard
Maj P Wise
Lt Col I A Milne
Mr S Addy
Maj S Woodward
Lt Col PA Vigneaux

Brig C B Telfer CBE
Maj A J Rickard
Maj M Hing
Maj D Stevens
Col R F McDonald
Capt J Shields
Maj M PotterLt A Yates
Maj S Berry
Lt Col P J O'Connell
Capt W Steele
Maj D Rainey
Lt Col R J Bennett
Capt R Chattell
Lt Col JRMcl Rayner
Mr T Bennett
Maj T W Muir
Lt Col MJ Grinnell-Moore
Mr M Telfer
Maj R Davies MBE

Loyal greetings were acknowledged by Her Majesty The Queen and by our Patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

During his speech, Brig Rook mentioned the operational side of the RLC stating that all we see is roaring success. The recent Gulf conflict, Op Telic, was a logistic heavy operation, and within this RLC Pioneers were the logisticians of 1st choice. On mounting the operation, the cry was ever for more Pioneers, to the extent that in very short order most of 23 Regiment departed with their sun cream and Raybans, followed quickly by a squadron of 168 Regt. Once there, they did a brilliant job and showed the benefits of their broad skills base - war graves, humanitarian assistance, running camps and ports, security patrols - no wonder they were the loggies of first choice. At one state, 23 Regt cookhouse was feeding 18,000 people! If Telic demonstrated nothing else, it demonstrated the real strengths and utility of Pioneers!

He concluded with 4 points:

- First, the Army prizes Pioneers and what they do.
- Second, Pioneering is core (CORE) business for The RLC.
- Third, trends for Pioneers are good, unlike some other RLC trades, which are being disestablished, with everything pointing to growth and greater diversity of employment and postings into the future.
- Fourth and finally, so long as I am Director - and I am sure that my successor will feel likewise - our Pioneers are here to stay, at the core of the Corps. The future is looking good, an illustrious past will project into an illustrious future, I have no doubt. And underpinning this will be the Pioneer spirit - so amply demonstrated this evening - which I admire and applaud.



WOS' & SNCOs' PIONEER REUNION CLUB

The Club will be holding the following events during 2004:

24 April	-	Ladies Dinner Night
31 July	-	Barbeque
16 October	-	Ladies Dinner Night

Members will receive a Club Newsletter describing these events this will contain a booking form.

The following are eligible to join the Club, fees are only £6 per year and application for membership can be obtained from the Secretary, c/o 195 Fullingdale Road, Northampton, NN3 2QH. (Tel No 01604 403338):

- All personnel of the rank of Sgt and above having service in the RPC and its predecessors.
- All eligible ranks of the RLC and AGC who have or are serving in Pnr units.
- Any eligible military rank and civilian equivalent status who has been directly with Pioneers may be invited to be an honorary member.
- Officers who served in the rank of Sgt and above in the RPC or RLC and have subsequently been granted a commission.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 2004

The Field of Remembrance will open on Thursday 11 November at 1100 hrs, when a short service will be given. Full details will appear in the September Newsletter.



CENOTAPH PARADE Whitehall 2004

Join us and 14,000 other veterans at Whitehall for the Cenotaph Parade and Service on Sunday 14 November 2004.

Again, full details will appear in the September Newsletter.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR 2

The 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War falls in 2005. The Ministry of Defence Commemorations Committee decided, in consultation with other Government Departments, that this should be commemorated by a MOD sponsored event, in the form of a religious service attended by the Royal Family. The service of commemoration will take place on Sunday afternoon 10th July (thus falling between VE and VJ days) and will take place on Horse Guards Parade. Further details will be published in a Newsletter nearer to the day.





WOs' & SNCOs' PIONEER REUNION CLUB LADIES DINNER NIGHT

Saturday 18 October 2003

Including guests a record attendance of 94 was achieved at the Reunion Club's Ladies Dinner Night on Saturday 18 October 2003:

Lt Col & Mrs P A Jones OBE MBE

WO1(RSM) & Mrs W Dilkes

WO1 (RSM) T Peach + 3 guests

WO2 & Mrs S Salmon

Sgt T Hill

Mr B McCann + 3 guests

Mr J Doble + 3 guests

WO2 & Mrs W Townsend

Mr & Mrs RNE Kirby

Mr & Mrs R Barfield

Mr M Hon + 1 guest

Sgt Venables + 1 guest

SSgt & Mrs R Stacey

Sgt & Mrs M McDowell

Sgt C Brown + 1 guest

Sgt S Blenman + 1 guest

SSgt & Mrs G Becket

Sgt A Woods + 1 guest

Mr & Mrs SR Palmer + 2 guests

Mr & Mrs I Dewsnap + 5 guests

Mr & Mrs A Hopper + 3 guests

Mr & Mrs N Moorhouse + 2 guests.

SSgt & Mrs AM Horrell

SSgt T Moir

Sgt & Mrs D Carter

Sgt & Mrs D Lane

WO2 & Mrs S Day

Sgt & Mrs E Twizell

SSgt & Mrs K Hilton

Mr & Mrs D Bryant

SSgt & Mrs J Mitchell

Sgt & Mrs G Luther

Mr & Mrs S Mitchell

Sgt & Mrs B Gramson

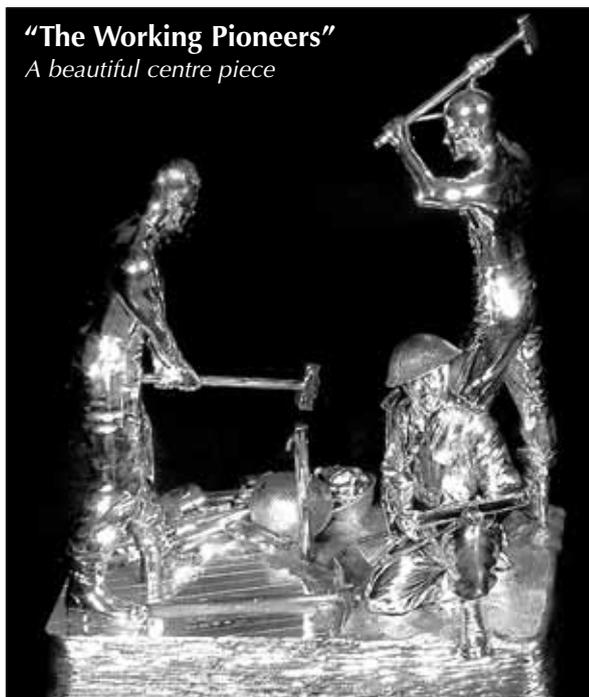
Mr G Barrett + 3 guests

Miss L Smart + 1 guest

Sgt & Mrs A Salter

Mr & Mrs N Brown

A new piece of silver which was commissioned to mark the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Reunion Club was shown to the members. This centre piece is based on the Cuneo print of Pioneers Landing on Sword Beach on D Day. The club secretary, Mr N Brown, described these activities and the numbers who took part. Copies of this silver-piece are obtainable in bronze at a cost of £117.50.



"The Working Pioneers"

A beautiful centre piece

SERVICE AND PARADE AT THE CENOTAPH, WHITEHALL

Sunday 9 November 2003

The following attended the Service at the Cenotaph on Sunday 9 November 2003, Capt PN Thomas, Mr G Taylor, Mr N Brown, Mr DNE Bryant, Mr A Fawcett, Mr J Read



(accompanied by a relative), Mr I Easingwood (accompanied by a relative), Mr HL Bishop (accompanied by a friend) and Mr R Moore who presented our wreath.

It was noted that spectators were markedly fewer as was those on parade. Please make a note in your diary for this year, the Parade will be held on Sunday 14 November, further details will be published in our September Newsletter.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Westminster Abbey

Every year since the formation of the Association members have met at the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on the Thursday before Remembrance Sunday to plant in crosses in memory of fallen comrades. However, do you know when and how this tradition started?

It was on 11th November 1928 when a small group gathered about a battlefield wooden cross near the railings of Westminster Abbey. They were planting Poppies beside the cross, poppies, which they had bought near by in aid of the Haig Fund.

These people many disabled from the battles of the First World War drew others to join in. It was from this first spontaneous act that our own annual pilgrimage has grown. Then it was known as the Empire Field of Remembrance today we know it as the Garden of Remembrance. The Haig Fund is better known today as the Poppy Appeal. But the act of planting a cross in memory of a loved one or comrade has remained unchanged.



If you would like us to plant a cross on your behalf please write to me with the details you would like to put on the cross (no more than 25 words please) and enclose a donation of at least £2 to cover the cost of the cross.

On 6 November 2003 the following members of the Association attended the Garden of Remembrance: Brig CB Telfer, Col PJ O'Connel, Col RF McDonald, Lt Col PA Jones, LT Col J Starling, Lt Col IA Milne, Maj PJ Fleming, WO1 M East, WO1 W Dilkes, Mr N Brown, Mr D Turner, Mr D Smith and Mr BL Freeth (an ex Suez Veteran) who stood at the front of our plot and spoke to HRH Duke of Edinburgh

39/93 CLUB WEEKEND

at the Red Lion Hotel, Fareham 24-26 October 2003

The Club held a meeting at the start of the weekend on Friday 24 October, in attendance were Mr EC Bates, Mr L Rowley, Mr F Berry, Mr W Buckler, Mr B Goode and Mr D Maddison. During Saturday some visited Portsmouth and other places whilst others shopped locally. On Saturday a Club Dinner was held together with members of the Royal Marine Association, Worcester Branch with their ladies. The Club was pleased to welcome as guest of honour, Brigadier CB Telfer OBE, Chairman of the RPC Association. Prior to the meal, Brig Telfer spoke to all members stating that it was marvellous that ex-members of the Corps could arrange weekends without involvement from HQ RPC Association. He then presented the Club with a gift from the Association, a bronze replica of "The Working Pioneers". This is a copy of the new silver-piece commissioned by the WOs' & SNCOs' Pioneer Reunion Club.





CONGRATULATIONS

Operation Telic Honours List

All members of the Association congratulate the following members of 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC on receiving awards in the Op Telic Honours List:

Lt Col PA Jones MBE

Awarded OBE

WO2 MW Roberts

Awarded QCVS (Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service)

Cpl P Bottom

Awarded QCVS (Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service)

NEWS FROM THE GULF

The following letter was received by our President, Brig H J Hickman CBE, in reply to a message of goodwill which had been forwarded on behalf of all members of the Association:

Many thanks for your message of goodwill, which I have passed on to all of my Pioneers and to those who are currently supporting the Regiment.

The men and women of the Regiment are flying the Pioneer flag in tremendous style. Based in SHAIBAH the RHQ is co-ordinating the security and development of the real estate of the Logistic Base for all UK Forces in theatre. We have already made massive inroads into the development of the Base and the Pioneers' artisan skills have been invaluable in doing so. They have been involved in a whole raft of pioneer tasks including the defensive wiring and preparation of technical working areas, Plant operations, the refurbishment of the Base's Guardroom (from an empty shell of a building) and not least restoring the water and electrical supply to the local village. We have even been involved in exhuming the bodies of Iraqi soldiers and returning them to the local Mullah, for which he and the locals were most grateful.

Unfortunately, artisan work in SHAIBAH is now on hold as we have lost all but a section of Pioneers to Umm Qasr where the remainder of 100 Pnr Sqn are based. Currently employed on Force Protection tasks, 100 Pnr Sqn is providing the security for Headquarters UK NSE and patrolling both of the ports in Umm Qasr. Due to a worsening of the security situation down there it was necessary to reinforce Major Rob Blake's troops with the lads from SHAIBAH. This Squadron is certainly doing a superb job.

In all, the men and women of the Regiment are in great spirits and enjoying the experience and the challenge of a variety of tasks. They have certainly made their mark. And despite the heat, the tempo of operations and the danger, the Regiment is in fine fettle and swinging along nicely.

Regards,

Tony Cave

DERBY DRAW 2004

Stubbs to be returned by Friday 21 May 2004

In compliance with The Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, this is a notice of the Derby Draw, promoted by me for the



Association to be drawn on Friday 21 May 2004. Your Derby Draw tickets are enclosed (unless you have already indicated you do not wish to receive them), please do your best to sell them at 50p each or £5 a book. We need the counterfoils and monies back here before Friday 21 May. If you would like us to send more tickets, please telephone or write for more, quoting your code number, which appears before your name in brackets on your envelope label.

Please note that your code number may have changed from previous issues. The code number may be used on the top stub of each book (provided the ten tickets are kept pinned together) and saves you the task of identifying each ticket stub. A return addressed label is enclosed to help you. Could you please be generous with your chances and sell books to your friends and acquaintances.

CHRISTMAS DRAW 2003

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

It is pleasing to report that a profit of £4,276 was made on the Christmas Draw 2003, the results are as follows:

1st Prize	£500	39643	E Cassford, Bicester
2nd Prize	£250	07062	S Franklin, Peterlee
3rd Prize	£125	03882	Boorman, St Leonards on Sea
4th Prize	£75	58783	RD Wallace, Crumblin
5th Prize	£50	45094	N Oxborough, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne

This is one of the few sources of income remaining for the Association and this profit helps us to fund the work of the Association. Thank you all very much for your support and a special mention must be made to WO2 W TOWNSEND RLC, his Squadron (206 Sqn) sold all their tickets some £500 worth.

PROUD GRANDAD

Mr Alan Fawcett (ex Cpl) 521 Coy RPC attended this years Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph, London and in the crowd was his very proud grandson, Lewis aged just 17 months.

After the parade he marched across Horse Guards dressed in his designer combat suit. The weather was kind to us this year, cold but dry. If you want to join Grandad Alan and the other association members this year come along, you will be made very welcome.



THE BENEVOLENCE WORK of the Association

During 2003 the Association awarded 254 grants to deserving cases at a total cost of £85,756 (average £337 per grant), during the same period 67 applications were refused.

The following are some examples of grants awarded:



A grant of £200 was made to an ex-war time Pioneer who had lost 6 stones whilst in hospital following treatment for cancer and then had no clothes to fit him.

A grant of £500 was made to a young man to help clear his rent arrears and other debts which had occurred whilst he had suffered a period of depression.

A grant of £205 was made to an 86 year old widow of a war time Pioneer to replace her cooker which had been condemned.

During this period the Association made grants totalling £24,244 towards mobility, nearly 25% of our expenditure. In the main this was for the supply of EPVs (electric scooters), this provides a greater degree of independence and quality of life for many of our former soldiers.

The Executive Committee remain committed to giving assistance to all eligible cases.

We must make a special tribute to the many caseworkers of SSAFA FH and the RBL without whose help we could not begin to meet the needs of our dependency. We must also record our thanks to the ABF for their sympathetic, speedy and generous response to requests.

REMEMBERING THE ASSOCIATION in your will



Without a will, laws dictate how your estate is distributed, to die without a proper will causes complications and much expense. Making a will is simple and painless and can be completed by a solicitor or a professional will writer at a cost of between £30 and £50.

After thinking of your family and friends, perhaps you would like to help the Association's work. A bequest to a registered charity (we are), might reduce an inheritance tax liability of your estate.

THE INSTITUTION OF A NEW MEDAL For service in the Suez Canal zone 16 October 1951 to 19 October 1954



The HQ RPC Association has received full details on the above medal and will gladly forward a copy to all who consider that they are entitled. Veterans, or the next of kin of those who have died, need to apply in writing for this medal.

It is known that the following RPC units served in the Canal Zone during this period:

- HQ 30 Group RPC
- 263 Company
- 522 Company
- 524 Company
- 6 PCLU RPC

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA Into its fifth Century

Accompanied by my wife, I recently visited our one In-Pensioner at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, Mr R Crump. It is wonderful to report that even at the age of 90 he is in good health and at that age still runs the Hospital Library which contains some 12,000 books. It is also pleasing to report how cheerful he is and how much he loves being an In-Pensioner. I thought it would be appropriate, therefore, to include some details about the Hospital and how to apply for admission.



Few of those who watch the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance each November can fail to be touched by the entry of the Chelsea Pensioners. The measured tones of 'The

Boys of the Old Brigade' start as a contingent of scarlet clad old men slowly marches into the arena. These men are a national symbol that has come to represent tradition and service to the Crown.

The Royal Hospital (meaning refuge or shelter) was founded in 1682 by Charles II for "the relief of veterans broken by age or war". Still located in the original buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren it is the home to about 350 former soldiers, who served in the Second World War and now more recent campaigns.

Admission as a Chelsea pensioner has always been prized. In the 18th Century anyone impersonating a Chelsea Pensioner could be sentenced to death or sent to the Colonies.

Today, to be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner a candidate must be male and:

- In receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Army Service,
- Normally at least 65 years of age, and
- Free from the obligation to support a wife or children.

Applications are welcome at any time from any former soldier who is qualified. Currently, because of the accommodation available, it is not possible to admit women.

NEW MONUMENT at the National Arboretum

A new monument to honour members of the British Armed Forces killed since the Second World War is to be built at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The decision to press ahead with the new tribute at Alrewas comes after the takeover of the site by The Royal British Legion. Doubts were cast over the future of the 150 acre centre near Lichfield amid fears over funding.



The Ministry of Defence has pledged £250,000 a year for the next three years to help finance the project which relies entirely on charitable donations. Sir Henry Every, Chief Executive of the National Memorial Arboretum, said: "It is excellent news that the Royal British Legion is taking over. It is a major charity with similar interests,

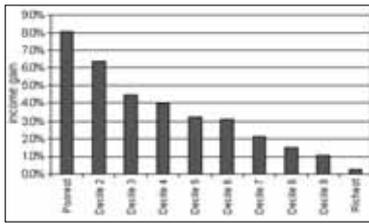
looking after ex servicemen and women and promoting the Act of Remembrance. The Arboretum is the only place in the country where there is a two-minute silence every day at 11a.m., so it is in our interests we work together."

A selection process to choose a design for the monument is to begin, with the finished structure to be completed by 2006.



THE PENSION CREDIT

Members and widows over 60 may be entitled to claim a 'top up' to their weekly income by applying for the Pension Credit, which has replaced the Income Support element of the Minimum Income Guarantee.



• Effect of Pension Credit reform across the pensioner income distribution

The Pension Credit aims to guarantee a basic level of income of £102.10 pw for single people and £155.80 pw for couples. The Pension Credit is formed in two parts; the Guarantee Credit and the Savings Credit.

A 'tariff' of £1pw is taken into account for every multiple of £500 or part over the base level of £6,000 of savings. Your residence is not taken into account providing you live there.

When assessing the entitlement to the Pension Credit the following sources of income are taken into account:

- State Retirement Pension
- Occupational Pension
- Personal Pension
- War Disability Pension
- War Widows Pension
- Unemployability Supplement
- Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation

Members and Widows should be aware that although the War Pension and the War Widows Pension are counted as income, the first £10 is disregarded. The pre-1973 War Widows Supplementary Pension is completely disregarded.

The following allowances are disregarded completely:

- Attendance Allowance
- Council Tax Benefit
- Comforts Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- Mobility Allowances
- Housing Benefit
- Disability Living Allowance (care component)

You may be likely to receive the Pension Credit if you are a severely disabled person in receipt of one of the following allowances; Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance (Care Component), Constant Care Allowance.

Applications can be made over the telephone and your claim form filled in while you speak (it should not take longer than half an hour). You will require the following information:

National Insurance Number and that of your spouse if claiming as a couple

Details of your income and details of your savings

To apply over the phone call Freephone 0800 991234.

MOD NEWS

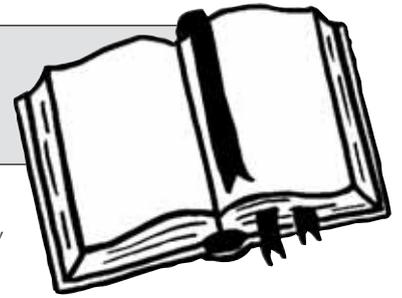
Concessionary Passports

The Home Office has recently announced a scheme to provide free one year passports to veterans wishing to attend 60th Anniversary Commemorative Events in 2004 and 2005. Full details are held at HQ RPC Association.



BOOK REVIEW

The T Force Story
(Produced by the 5th Kings/ No 2 T Force Old Comrades Association)



This is a short history of T Force Operations in NW Europe in (and immediately following) the Second World War.

6 Pioneer Companies were employed with this Force, they were 803, 805, 806, 810, 845 and 846 Smoke Companies. Once it had been appreciated that there would be little call for large-scale tactical smoke screens and still less for anti-aircraft screens these Companies which had a very ample allotment of transport; five of them had 48 x 4 1/2 ton lorries on their establishment with which they towed Esso generators and brought up smoke screens. They only had to jettison the Esso generators and their transport was immediately brought into use to transport T Force.

The role of Target or 'T' Force was to inspect specific targets, i.e. war factories, research and experimental establishments, static military headquarters, government departments and ministries, mines and fuel dumps and the like.

This involved moving in the immediate wake of the assaulting forces. Locating and securing intact these targets and preserve them from destruction, looting, robbery and, if necessary, from counter attack until examined by teams of experts.

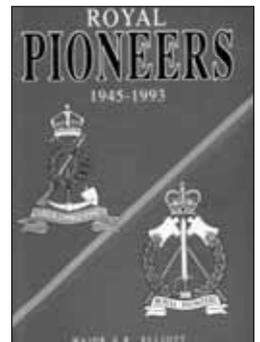
A very interesting book and well worth the £8.99 charge (this includes postage). It is available from:

Hon Treasurer, 5 Kings/2 T Force OCA, 27 Ferriers Road, Stevenage, SG2 ONU

SPECIAL OFFER

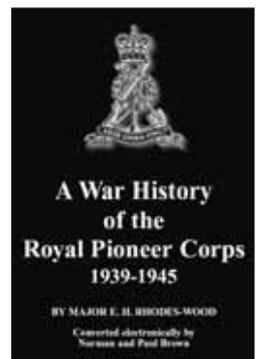
"Royal Pioneers 1945-1993"
by Major Bill Elliott

The Post-War History of the Corps was written by our honorary treasurer, Major Bill Elliott, who generously donated his work and rights entirely for the Association's benefit. It was published by Images, Malvern in May 1993 and is on sale in the book shops at £24. Callers to 51 St George's Drive or the Northampton Branch may now buy this book at the reduced price of £10. To order the book from here, please send a cheque for £14 which includes postage.



"A War History of the Royal Pioneer Corps 1939-45"
by Major E H Rhodes Wood

This book, long out of print, is now available on CD-Rom at a cost of £10 (plus £1 p&p) from HQ RPC Association.

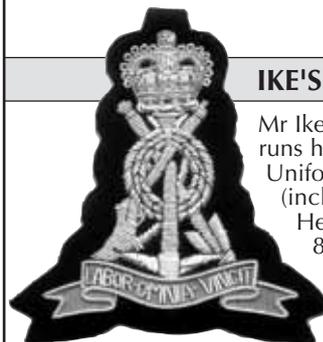


IKE'S EMPORIUM

Mr Ike Easingwood an ex Pioneers now runs his own emporium selling Uniforms, Cap Badge's, Blazer Badges (including crossed axes 1985-93).

He can be contacted on 0778 835989 or 0116 254 0836 (e-mail: i.easingwood@btopenworld.com).

- Old type badge sold by RPC Association



Pioneers

D★DAY

Picture: C-in-C talks to Pioneers Field Marshall Montgomery talking to Pioneers repairing the road to Douvres in France. Pioneers will always remember the words of encouragement and praise given them by the Commander-in-Chief at different times during the campaign.

PRELIMINARY PLANNING

As early as April 1942 the administrative planning for the invasion of Europe was initiated. After many months, the details of planning and organisation were completed and 35 Group Headquarters and 215 Companies were allotted in the final Order of Battle.

THE ASSAULT ON THE BEACHES

On D Day, thirteen Pioneer Companies landed with the first tide and a further ten companies with the second tide, making a total of 6,700 men ashore by the end of the day. By the end of D + 2, three Pioneer Group HQ and forty-two Companies were ashore (about 12,000 men) and by D + 5, when Second Army took over Command from Corps, the totals had increased to 10 Pioneer Groups and sixty-three Companies, representing approximately 19,000 men.

'Last to Leave and First to Return' - it should be noted that some of the Companies which landed on the first day were amongst the last units of the British Army to leave France in 1940, some leaving France two weeks after Dunkirk.

The build-up of the force was rapid and by D + 25 amounted to 14 Group HQs and 115 Companies (33,500 men) were in Normandy. When the final Pioneer Companies were phased in on 25 July (ten Companies) and 24 August (eleven Companies) the total force consisted of 35 Group Headquarters, 215 Companies and 20 AUCLs totalling 63,000 officers and men.

Alongside other troops, Pioneers coming ashore on the first few tides landed "wetshod" which often meant a long wade in full equipment. Some had to swim ashore from grounded craft and it must be assumed that most of the men reported missing at this stage were drowned. The first Pioneer party landed 20 minutes after Operation Overland had started, their task being to assist in mine clearance and to dig a Command Post in preparation for the arrival of the Beach Group Commander. The conduct of Pte A Moore, of HQ 41 Group deserves mention. Due to the sudden movement of the craft he, with two other soldiers, was thrown head first into the sea with eighty pounds of kit and equipment on their backs. One of the men, LCPL Webb, could not swim and sank. Pte Moore dived under the water for him and swam with him to the beach, a

distance of about thirty yards. His promptitude and bravery undoubtedly saved the life of his comrade, and it was a magnificent feat to swim fully loaded towing a non-swimmer.

Most of the Pioneers landing in the early stages came under heavy artillery and small arms fire but casualties were surprisingly light. Various parties of Pioneers became involved in some of the fighting before starting work on the beaches. Sixteen men of 120 Company distinguished themselves by rounding up eighty six German Marines. The OC, Major TCHAPLINE, caused much dismay amongst them by telling them he was a Russian and that thousands more of his countrymen were landing. 225 Company also captured one officer and twenty-six Germans. A party of 53 Company behaved very bravely and coolly when an aircraft crashed onto a petrol dump and started a conflagration which spread to an ammunition depot. The men of this Company formed a chain to save the ammunition and to localise the damage.

The task of the one Company incorporated in each Beach Group was to lay flexible causeways from landing craft to shore, often working waist deep in water, clearing beach obstacles, making roadways off the beaches and forming beach dumps of ammunition, petrol, Ordnance stores and RASC supplies. Other tasks for which Pioneers (243 & 267 Coys) had been specially trained were the operation of RHINO ferries which transported vehicles from ship to shore.

Three Pioneer Companies (209, 293 and 303 Companies) were specially trained in stretcher-bearing duties and performed valuable work on the evacuation of casualties. They worked long hours in Field Dressing Stations and carried out the essential but unpleasant task of collecting and burying the dead from craft and beaches. Much of the work was carried on under intermittent fire with the continual risk of touching a land mine. Many seemed to have charmed lives. They penetrated everywhere. If a DUKW blew up in a minefield they were on the spot immediately. During the first 72 hours the men had little or no sleep, they fed when possible, in all sorts of places, from varying dishes.

Evacuation was one mad rush against the tides but it was seldom that Father Neptune won the race, even >





during the spell of bad weather shortly after D Day. On one occasion a chain was formed to load the last 50 wounded by passing the stretchers from hand to hand overhead. The last man was put aboard as the water lapped the chins of those in the chain.

Airfield Construction Companies had also landed. They worked unceasingly until an airstrip was completed by the night of D + 3. Eleven Pioneer Companies, forming part of 5 Airfield Construction Group, were employed in laying track on the runways and on operating technical equipment. Many Companies kept up with the front of the advance.



Special Smoke Companies (112, 806 and 810 Companies) were also operating to prevent enemy observation of the beaches. Parties landed on the first tide and laid out a temporary circuit, putting up a smoke screen during the night. For the next two months circuits were manned day and night on "Nan", "Mike" and "Queen" beaches, the last named being subject to such heavy shelling that a day screen had to be manned for anti-artillery purposes. 112 Company had the singular honour for a military unit of taking a battleship on strength. This was the old Courbet which was used as a sea-borne HQ and smoke emission point. The ship was hit twenty times by shell fire and once by torpedo, but casualties were light one Signaller killed and one Pioneer wounded.



BUILD UP IN THE BRIDGEHEAD UNDER SECOND ARMY

During the period that Second Army was in control, the bridgehead was divided administratively between Corps, Army and 11 L of C. Corps maintenance was centred round an RMA, the Army operated depots at two roadheads, and 11 L of C was responsible for the discharge of stores from the beaches, Mulberry and Port en Bessin and for forward transmission to depots. It was soon apparent that the one Pioneer Company allotted to each Corps was insufficient as the expenditure of ammunition had been under-estimated. To remedy this one Company was split over three Corps, and at peak periods, such as the Caen battle, more sections were attached for handling ammunition.

The policy of insisting that soon after the initial assault Pioneer Companies should revert to the labour pool and throw off their fixed ties with employing services, proved correct and necessary when, after the three days storm which reduced depot stocks to a two days reserve, it became

imperative to switch labour quickly to the BADs to build up an ammunition reserve. 17 and 15 BADs employed twelve Companies between them for several days.

In 11 L of C area stores were landed by three methods; from ship to lorries on the Mulberry piers, from ship to DUKWS and from ship to barge. Stores were subsequently transported to the trans-shipment area where they were sorted. A Pioneer Group and four Companies were employed initially in unloading ships from Mulberry, while another Group and three Companies operated the DUKWS. The problem of quick supply was complicated by the inadequate road system from the beaches to the roadheads, and in the early days of July, no less than twenty Companies had to be switched to road maintenance, widening new roads and making by-passes.

Seldom has such work had to be done under more trying conditions. The roads were thick with dust and traffic was continually moving in great density. Companies working with Corps on roads in the forward areas suffered some casualties and were often under shell-fire.

The work of the Pioneer was not limited by Mulberry, the maintenance system and road making. A Group and four Companies were permanently employed on the Oil Pipe Line (the extension of PLUTO on land). As soon as work started in Normandy, 36 Company, previously trained for the job, was allocated for work at Port-en-Bessin. They laid 6" pipe-lines to Caen and Lisieux. On 2 November this Company started work on the line from Antwerp to Eindhoven - a line which was subsequently extended across the Rhine at Emmerich to Bocholt on 24 May 45. 70 Company alone strung 66,200 pipes, weighing 10,060 tons, over a distance of 251 miles. Ten Companies were employed on constructing tactical air landing grounds. Casualty Clearing Stations and Hospitals had an allotment of Pioneers for erecting tentage, general duty work and stretcher bearing. Companies were attached to Divisional RE for forward road work and bridging. REME had sections attached for repairing and salvaging landing craft and tanks even the RAF used some Pioneer Sections for their own ammunition points. The DPM Second Army also used Pioneers to help in Traffic Control in the Army Area and others were used permanently on making and erecting sign posts. Signals used Pioneers for laying air lines and buried cable.

NOTES FROM COMPANY WAR DIARIES

The following have been taken from Company War Diaries:

303 Company

(Had previously served in Faroes Islands)

6 Jun Touched down on Queen Red Beech but craft hit by enemy shells and so put to sea again. Lt Sneezum shot in both legs and evacuated. Coy transferred to another craft and disembarked between 1100 and 1115 hrs. 1 Offr and 3 Ors wounded. Task stretcher bearing duties on the beaches.

75 Company

(One of the last Coys to leave France in 1940, lost 40 men on HMT Lancastria)

6 Jun 0950 hrs 3 Sections landed, weather stormy and sea rough, immediately commenced laying track for exits - one casualty through a mine in sea. 1000 hrs HQ & 3 Sections landed, one casualty through shrapnel 1030 hrs 2 Sections and transport landed 1700 hrs 2 Sections landed. All laying track, clearing beach obstacles and salvaging.

8 Jun Whole Coy working on beach in King Sector

10 Jun Still on beach laying PSP track to enable transport to cross beach at low tide.

85 Company

(Had previously worked in London during the Blitz)

6 Jun Landed at Riva Bella, Ouisterham. CQMS and 3 Ptes injured on landing.

7 Jun 3 killed and 1 wounded by bomb whilst guarding PWs. 1 killed and 7 injured by mine.

144 Company

(One of the Coys returned from N Africa)

6 Jun 1600 hrs, 5 sections land, 2 Sections with Provost Coy and 3 Sections with R Berkshire. Remainder of the Coy under OC are approaching in an LCI when it strikes an underwater mine which blew the forward part of the LCI off. 39 Casualties, 12 killed and drowned and 27 wounded. 22 attempts made to land the survivors but unsuccessful due to the tide. Return to UK in LSI.

9 Jun Survivors land at Tilbury and move to Oxford remainder of Coy working on beaches.

13 Jun After being re-equipped the half Coy in UK land in Normandy and report to 8 Beach Group.

149 Company

(Had previously served in Iceland)

6 Jun 1800 hrs LCI 605 containing OC, 2 Subalterns and 124 ORs touched down and disembarked personnel on Roger Beach - deep landing with 5 ft of water and long wade to the beach. 1845 hrs LCI 603 containing 2IC, 2 Subalterns and 124 Ors beached in

Queen Red in deep water. 5 Sections employed removing obstructions from the beach. The remainder clearing mines from bivouac area.

170 Company

6 Jun 0825 hrs, first serials landed on Nan Sector, White and Red Beaches. LCI struck a submerged mine on landing which blew in the starboard side. Some opposition particularly heavy sniping on Red, some isolated pill boxes still holding out. These were eventually silenced by guns of landing craft. 1330 hours - remainder of Coy, including OC land on White Beach Tasks: clearing Red, White and Green Beaches, laying lateral track and constructing wheeled and track exits and connecting up laterals between them. 2 Sections on RE Dump.

7 Jun HQ established at railway terminus Courseulles, concentrating on White and Green Beaches. Red Beach closed as unsuitable.

209 Company

(Had served in Algiers in 1942 and then in Italy (Salerno landings) Sep 43)

6 Jun Landed at 0845 hrs and immediately started collecting casualties, giving First Aid, assisting operating theatres and burying dead.

12 Jun 7 Sections with medical units as casualties are decreasing and 3 Sections now on miscellaneous duties.

16 Jun Now working with 9 and 10 Beach Groups

18 Jun Moved to Vaux Sur Aure working with 17 AOD

19 Jun Moved to Tilly - working on ammunition and petrol

20 Jun Moved to Meauvaine. Movement order was received at 2115 hrs following a full and heavy days work on petrol and ammo. Camp vacated shortly after 2200 hrs.

243 Company

(Had participated in Sicily landings in Jul 43 and then Italy, returning to UK Jan 44)

3 Jun Embarked and transhipped to the RHINOS they were to man in operations. This Coy provided 15 crews for King Beach and 7 crews for Mike and spare crews and admin staff.

6 Jun Disembarkation hindered by the state of the sea and being dependant on shore room, and safety for landing which took place at various times. A number of RHINOS were put out of action by standing beach obstacles and mines. Pte Cheavins killed following a mine explosion under a RHINO loaded with ammunition and petrol. RHINOS commenced ferry service between LSTs and shore.

7 Jun HQ established at Ver Sur Mer - operating 16 RHINOS.

12 Jun 8 RHINO crews ferrying; surplus men on grave digging and road clearance.



267 Company

6 Jun 6 Offrs and 273 Ors landed between 1000 hrs 6 Jun and 2100 hrs 7 Jun. All employed on RHINO ferrying.

292 Company

6 Jun 1100 hrs - commenced landing, handling difficult in a heavy swell, some men are up to their necks. Landed on Queen White, 50 yds from the junction of Red and White Beaches. Commenced clearing beaches and unloading landing craft. Due to rendezvous at Benouville at H+12 hrs to ferry stores across Caen Canal for 6th Airborne Div and across River Orne, but rendezvous still in enemy hands. 1 Pte killed and 11 wounded by mortar fire.

293 Company

6 Jun 0800 hrs lay off beaches and at 1230 hrs landed and immediately commenced collecting casualties, worked all night. Intermittent bombing but no casualties.

7 Jun Continued collecting casualties from beaches and inland, transporting them from BDS to FDS and then loading them for evacuation. Loaded 2 LSTs with wounded. Bombed again during the night but no casualties.

8 Jun Collecting casualties and evacuating them by sea, collected dead and conveyed them to burial ground.

9 Jun Work as before.

10 Jun HQ staff also evacuating casualties. 2 killed and 1 wounded by enemy action.

11 Jun Evacuated over 500 casualties - quiet night (no bombing).

16 Jun Informed that all 2nd Army casualties will be evacuated through our sources and employment with RAMC will probably last longer than was initially thought.

17 Jun Evacuation of casualties continues. Sections with FDS making roads in addition to stretcher bearing.

18 Jun 700 casualties admitted and 450 evacuated between 0100 and 0530 hrs.

19 Jun Evacuated approx 250 casualties by sea - mostly 50 Division

53 Company

(Left France 18 Jun 40 and lost 50 men on HMT Lancastria)

6 Jun Landed first wave, HQ established within 2 hrs of landing. Under shell fire throughout day. 1 OR killed, 11 wounded and 9 missing.

7 Jun 6 Sections on beaches with RE stores and maintaining beach exits, 1 Section collecting dead, 1 Section on miscellaneous duties and 2 Sections at Beach Group HQs.

58 Company *(Left France 17 Jun 40)*

6 Jun Landed wetshod and marched to Aubin Sur Mer and took up defensive position.

7 Jun Moved to work sites

9 Jun Unloading Bailey bridges and RE stores.

12 Jun 3 killed and 24 wounded by anti-personnel bombs dropped on work site.

102 Company *(Left France May 40)*

6 Jun Landed wetshod at 1030 hrs and 1130 hrs and commenced unloading beached craft. 1 Offr killed by shellfire.

7 Jun 1 OR killed and 8 wounded. Issuing and receiving ammunition and stores on beach.

115 Company *(Left France 18 Jun 40)*

6 Jun Landed at Courseulles Sur Mer at 1700 hrs

7 Jun 1 OR killed and 2 wounded unloading a landing craft

135 Company

6 Jun Convoy arrived in position of J Beach

7 Jun LSTs attempted several times to beach but owing to rough seas unable to do so. Also unable to use RHINOS. Later beached and Coy went ashore dryshod at 1830 hrs, proceeded to Ver Sur Mer and commenced work on airfield.

129 Company *(Served in Algeria from Nov 42 and remained in Med area until Nov 43)*

6 Jun 0800 hrs, disembarked at Red Beach under mortar fire, water at commencement of day was only ankle deep but rose to 3'6", moved to prearranged rendezvous. Whilst going through a partially cleared minefield 2 of our stretcher bearers brought in 3 wounded Commandos who had been lying out in the open for 4 hrs. Several enemy pockets were encountered and broken up by concentrated mortar fire. Working on beach and road clearance.

7 Jun 5 Sections on road clearance, remainder digging in. Fairly active night by enemy air force.

8 Jun Direct hit on Coy lines by a bomb, 3 Ors killed, 8 wounded and 2 missing. 6 Sections working on beaches.

112 Company *(Left France May 40, worked in London during Blitz where a land mine landed on billet killing 13 men, served in Algiers, Malta, Sicily and Italy before returning to UK in Jan 44)*

6 Jun Off French coast - recce party landed. Main landing help up owing to RHINO service being unsatisfactory.

7 Jun LSTs beached and dry landing made. Suffered 4 casualties immediately, commenced setting out smoke circuit

225 Company

6 Jun Landed H+6 and proceeded to POL and Ammunition Depots

7 Jun 0730 hrs - captured enemy party (1 Offr and 26 Ors) 300 yds to rear of bivouac area.

73 Company *(Left France 17 Jun 40 losing 153 on HMT Lancastria, Jan 41)*

worked in London during Blitz, Jul 43 landed Sicily on D Day, Sep 43 landed Salerno returned to UK Mar 44)

7 Jun Landed wetshod at 1600 hrs.

9 Jun Clearing Bernieres Sur Mer of snipers and spies

10 Jun Clearing Courcelles Sur Mer of snipers and spies

11 Jun Moved to Courcelles - road repair and maintenance.

120 Company

8 Jun Landed about midday. Informed by local farmer that Germans were in a local farm. 86 Germans captured by 2000 hrs - no casualties.

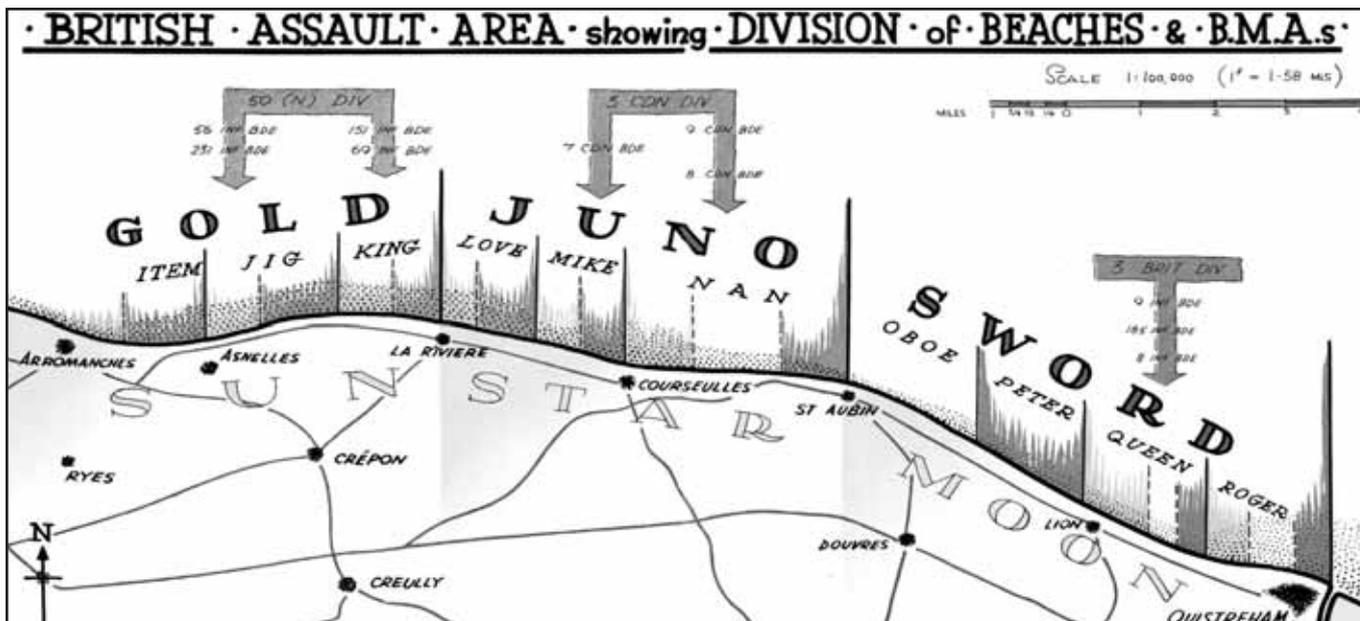
9 Jun Road maintenance.

222 Company

8 Jun Landed in Normandy and were employed immediately on airfield construction. (Coy HQ landed 9 Jun)

13 Jun Moved to Lantheuil for airfield construction. Coy takes poor view of statements in the Press "Airfields in France are now being constructed in forward areas by highly trained commandos of the RAF Regiment." ■





BREAKDOWN OF PIONEER COMPANIES which landed on D-DAY (6 June 1944)

UNIT	TO WORK WITH	REMARKS
FIRST TIDE		
53 Company	5 Beach Group	1 Corps
75 Company	9 Beach Group	30 Corps
85 Company	6 Beach Group	1 Corps
144 Company	8 Beach Group	1 Corps
149 Company	6 Beach Group	1 Corps
170 Company	8 Beach Group	1 Corps
173 Company	10 Beach Group	30 Corps
190 Company	7 Beach Group	1 Corps
209 Company	Stretcher Bearers	To MULBERRY D+6
292 Company	5 Beach Group	1 Corps
293 Company	Stretcher Bearers	To MULBERRY D+8
303 Company	Stretcher Bearers	To MULBERRY D+8
267 Company	940 IWT Coy	1 Corps RHINO
243 Company	961 IWT Coy	30 Corps RHINO
SECOND TIDE		
102 Company	101 BSA	1 Corps
115 Company	102 BSA	1 Corps
112 Company	80 AA Bde	Smoke
152 Company	76 AA Bde	Smoke
267 Company	966 IWT Coy	1 Corps RHINO
243 Company	953 IWT Coy	30 Corps RHINO
58 Company	176 W&P Coy RE	1 Corps RE Stores
129 Company	176 W&P Coy RE	1 Corps RE Stores
280 Company	180 W&P Coy RE	30 Corps RE Stores
135 Company	24 Airfield Gp	30 Corps
231 Company	16 Airfield Gp	30 Corps
279 Company	32 CCS	1 Corps
314 Company	16 CCS	1 Corps
320 Company	3 CCS	30 Corps

NEWS FROM THE ITALIAN FRONT May 2004

Are you travelling to Italy to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Italian Campaign?

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers makes an annual pilgrimage to Italy and doing so for the 60th Anniversary. To avoid confusion amongst the Italian hosts they would welcome news from others making the journey, perhaps you would like to drop me a line and I will pass on your Regimental details.

AUXILIARY MILITARY PIONEER CORPS Rates of Pay

The following is an extract from a recruiting leaflet for the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps:

SERGEANT 6/- Per day CORPORAL 4/- PRIVATE 2/-

Men with former colour or Territorial Army embodied service receive increments in respect of such service, of 3d. for one year's service and further increments for longer prior service, Total pay i.e. Pte with 1 Year's former service 2/3 per day 2 years 2/6 3 years 3/-

In addition War-Time Proficiency pay of 6d. per day may be granted on recommendation of the Commanding Officer on the completion of 6 months' service after 3rd September 1939.

For those who were born after decimalisation 6/- equates to 30p. Our modern day Pioneers earn slightly more than this!



LOST TRAILS

Members who know of those mentioned first below, please contact the last named who wish to trace old comrades:

LCpl RTL Beckford (Ray ? Lee) LCpl Beckford appeared on the front page of issue no 123 of The Royal Pioneer magazine in June 1975 - see details on the RPC web-site.

Contact RPC Association 0207 834 0415.

Pte John Stocks (46 Company) Anyone who knew Pte John Stocks who was killed in the tragedy of the sinking of MHT Lancastria please contact RPC Association.

Pte John Webber and Pte Alan Shaw Both served with 9 Sig Regt Cyprus 1971-1974 please contact Mr P J Marks 01296 482450 or 07717 178606

Mr Ronald Spellman (405 Company) Please contact Mr Leonard Barretta, 8 Daytona Road, Waitakere, Auckland 08, New Zealand.

Mr Roy Lewis (Taff) (151 Company) Served in Andover Jun-Oct 45, contact Mr Peter Farrell (0151 5100915)

Ex Sgt Sage (42 Company and 396 Company) Contact Mr F D Griffiths, 2 Coldwaunger, Sennybridge, Nr Brecon, Powys, LD3 8TP

Ex Forced Labour Camps. Anyone who after their release from Forced Labour Camps in Morocco and Algeria and joined the Pioneer Corps (mainly 338 and 339 Companies) contact Mr R Satloff e-mail robs@washingtoninstitute.org
222 Company. Mr Arthur Pearson is trying to contact fellow ex-members of this Coy. Unit 53 'Horizons', 1941 Gold Coast Highway, Burleigh Heads 4200, Queensland, Austria.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness and regret that we have to report the following deaths:

Ex Sgt Ernest Harold VERE

(Aged 91) 10 Dec 03 Nottingham
(Served 1940 -46 at El Alamein, Egypt, Monte Casino, Tunisia, Normandy & Germany)

Mr J R TAIT

(Aged 69) 30 Oct 03 Stockton on Tees

Mr A Cooper

09 Dec 03 Liverpool

Capt AS Wragg

02 Jul 03 Nottingham

Mr J W Simmons

15 Mar 03 Birmingham

Mr P M Williams

23 Aug 03 Newcastle upon Tyne (RTA)

Mr J H Holden (Aged 83) 21 Jun 03 Liverpool

Mr J D Cochrane (Aged 84) 6 Nov 03 Erskine Hosp

WO2 JR Ponton (Aged 87) 27 Oct 03 Edinburgh
(CSM 178 Company, landed on Normandy on D Day)

Mr D Drinkwater 7 Oct 03 Allerton, West Yorks
(An active Assoc. Member who always attended Reunions)

Sgt M Parry BEM (Aged 63) 14 Oct 03 Northampton
(also RCT)

Mr G Hinson 2 Oct 03 Grimsby

LCpl W Ierston 7 Oct 03 Liverpool
(168 Pnr Regt RLC(V))

Lt Col FW Thorne MBE 18 May 03 Helston, Cornwall
(Aged 89)

Ex SSgt J Walker (Aged 90) 2 Oct 03 Norwich
(Ex CQMS 1 (Spanish) Coy)

Dr F Dalmau i Norat 2 Oct 03 Palamos, Spain
(Aged 88) (Ex 1 (Spanish) Coy)

Ex WO2 D B Isgar (Aged 62) 4 Apr 03 Brecon

Ex Cpl E (Geordie) Johnson 14 Mar 02 Chester le Street

Mr G H Willoughby 7 Nov 03 Chester
(Aged 73)

Mr F G Bromley (Aged 86) 31 Dec 03
Plymouth
(Ex 214 Company - Normandy veteran)

Mr F W Moore 15 Dec 03 Bournemouth



OBITUARY

Lt Col F W O C THORNE NA MA B Ed MBE
18 Jan 1914 to 18 May 2003

Pat joined the Corps in 1941 and served until 1946. His war record was exceptional. He was involved in the North African and Italian campaigns which involved horrific beach landings. He was when the war finished a Lt Col decorated with an MBE and was mentioned in despatches twice. He held the office of ADL of the Mediterranean Zone responsible for a labour force of 170,000 civilian men. Col J S Pope-Smith said regarding his MBE "His conduct has always been an inspiration and example to other officers and other ranks" and of "his magnificent work in Africa until the conclusion of hostilities in this theatre". He was instrumental in the forming and organisation of some 84 Italian Pioneer Companies.

After the war he returned to his old job at Bristol University before helping to create Basingbourn Village College where he stayed for nearly 25 years developing and widening the original ideas to form a very successful school and Adult Education Centre. Whilst doing this he also acted as a parish councillor and a Rural District Councillor. He was an Open University tutor (one of the first). He was Branch chairman of the RBL and organised the Poppy Appeal for 16 years.

TIES, BLAZER BADGES BUTTONS AND SHIELDS

(prices include postage and packing)



Wall Shields
85-93 badge £17



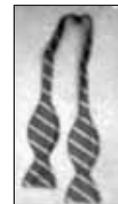
Bow Tie
adjustable £5.50



Wall Shields
Hand Painted £17



Ties
polyester £5



Bow Tie
silk £14

Blazer Badge
silk & wire £6



Blazer Buttons
gilt on brass, engraved,
6 small and 6 large £22



Seasons Greetings Cards
x10 £2.50

THE ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS YACHT CLUB

The Yacht Club is active in windsurfing, dinghy and offshore sailing, serving your needs, be they racing, training or just getting started. Membership is open to all RLC serving personnel contributing to the 'One Day Pay Scheme'. The all-new web site, 'rlcyc.org.uk' has been set up to deliver the information you need or you can contact the following:

Dinghy Sailing

Capt Phil Hawkins 94249 4245 (Mil) or 07802 726381 (Civ)

Offshore Sailing

Regt Col RLC 94214 5380 (Mil) or 01252 833380 (Civ)

Windsurfing

Capt Rick Shepherd 94222 2150 (Mil)
or Capt Kris Beauman 02380 635535 (Civ)

PIONEERS *on*

ITALY & SICILY

0 50 100 200

Scale of Miles

ANZIO

North of the River Garigliano, the German line was holding firm. Cunningly sited in the hills dominating the Garigliano valley, German strong-points were making progress difficult. To invigorate the campaign, it was decided to land a force behind the German lines in the area of Anzio, and so, on the morning of 22 January 1944, the first waves of allied infantry stormed "Yellow" and "Peter" beaches.

Surprise was complete, little resistance was encountered, and within a few hours the Pioneers were at work on the beachhead. 11 Company were unloading stores from LCTs and other craft onto the beaches; 188 Company was laying Sommerfield tracking to carry transport across the beaches; 242 Company had gone ahead to the Maintenance Area, and was setting up and working ammunition, food and ordnance dumps; 1991 Company was working on the beaches, and also, farther inland, making preparation to "smoke" the Maintenance Area.

For the first few days, all was quiet on Anzio, and supplies poured over the beaches in ever increasing streams. An occasional sneak raider provided the only excitement. So quiet was it that the Pioneers emerged from their "foxholes" and moved into more comfortable billets. But not for long. In the first week of February, the Maintenance Area began to receive more attention from the enemy and increased bombing and shelling drove the Pioneers back to their foxholes, and in foxholes they lived until the beachhead troops finally broke out on the 25th May.

On 7th February, HQ 108 Group and 79 Company arrived in Anzio. They were given a hostile reception. Whilst still out in the bay in their LST, they had a grandstand view of a dive-bombing attack on the harbour - a glimpse of things to come. Two hours later, just after they had beached, a hit-and-run raid was made on the beaches. Bombs were clearly seen to fall among a large group of soldiers working on LCTs fifty yards away. Two Lorries and a "Dukw" went up in flames; several ambulances and a lorry carried away the casualties. Later in the day, Group Headquarters received its first signal on Anzio. It read: X 1 and 11; Y Nil and 29; Z Nil and Nil. Twelve killed, twenty-nine wounded. 11 Company had been unloading LCTs that morning. The same day, the enemy started an all-out attack against the beach-head forces. Their main thrust was down the Rome Road, past now the famous tobacco factory, and under the much contested Flyover Bridge. Daily the bulge on the map lengthened, and things looked pretty grim. Supplies in good >



quantity had been built up in the beachhead but every available round of ammunition was needed. All day long, the 25-pounders could be heard going "all out", and at night the sky-line was continuously lit by their flashes. Then the weather failed. For a whole week, the sky was covered with black clouds, and rain soaked men and filled foxholes; the blue Mediterranean which had seemed so beautiful was whipped into a frenzy of dirty yellow waves by a biting wind. Off-loading was impossible. No ship could approach the beaches and "Dukws" could not live in the heavy seas. However willing, the Pioneers simply had to wait, and ammunition stocks fell lower and lower. The 25-pounders were rationed and 25-pounders were vital. So the Pioneers watched and waited; by day, they were shelled, and at night, their restless sleep was broken by the noise of aeroplanes diving, heavy bombs bursting, anti-personnel bombs cracking like fireworks. Tracers and shell bursts covered the sky. Whatever the official line may be, the troops on the beach-head will thank the AA gunners for their immunity from really serious air attack. "We've got to hand it to the Ack-Ack boys," they said. In foxholes and dugouts was re-discovered the truth of the saying, "There are no atheists in foxholes."

February was the bad month and although the Germans were held at the Flyover, Anzio lived up to its reputation as "All Hell in a Hatbox." One Pioneer was not amused by his wife's untimely request. "Darling," she wrote, "Do send me a photograph of the beachhead." Yes, it was as small as that. Miraculously, Pioneer casualties were not heavy, although very few days passed without any. "Escape" stories were legion. One officer of 1991 Company was very surprised to see a shell come in through the wall of his mess and go out through the door; a 200 pound crashed through the roof of an 11 Company billet, passed so close to a soldier that its fin severed the rim of the helmet he was wearing before burying itself harmlessly in the floor; a 2,000 pound bomb landed right behind Group HQ, but failed to explode; a shell from "Anzio Annie" passed quite close to the cookhouse at Headquarters. "Nearly took the roof of the cookhouse, Sir? It nearly took the crust of the apple pie!" said the Cockney cook.

All this time, the Pioneers had been adding to the reputation gained by the Corps in the Solerno landings, and at the crossing of the Volturno and Garigliano. At the end of the "bad week" the weather improved, and at the call for ammunition and still more ammunition, the Pioneers rose to the occasion. Pile after pile of 25 pounder ammunition just "disappeared" and to such purpose did the Pioneers work that all demands were

met. On the beaches, records of tonnages handled were being bettered almost every day.

For one day, Anzio became "World Port No 1." On the night of 7/8 March, 1045 tons were unloaded by the Pioneers, and on 12 March, Gen Mark Clark, GOC 5th Army, signalled the Port Commandant; "I have watched carefully during the last few days operations at Anzio. The excellent work done by you and your man has resulted in a record unequalled to date. The discharge of over 5,000 tons daily for the last 3 days indicated a high degree of organisation and willingness to perform under most trying conditions. I congratulate you and your men on this outstanding performance." To the Pioneers and their American counterparts goes most of the credit. The beaches were by far the most dangerous part of Anzio. Shipping attracted raiders and the German long range guns were ranged on the Port area. The Pioneers were working all day and night unloading LCTs and other



Picture: Pioneers wading ashore Sicily, July 1943

craft and soon became acclimatised to shellfire. A shell a hundred yards away was "a long way off." "Anzio Annie" seemed never to stop banging away. Annie was a spiteful creature, and from her hide-out in the Alban Hills, 20 miles away, she hurled 240mm shells at the Allied troops. Her bark was a bad as her bite. The report of the discharge sounded to be "in the next field;" a very slight pause, and with a hair-raising whistle, over came "Annie." At night, the noise of the burst rolled round and round the bay. Yes, Annie was spiteful, and she did considerable damage, both in men and material, but we came to accept her, her parentage was often the subject of comment amongst the Pioneers, with whom she was frequently too friendly.

Pioneers by now had become a feature of Anzio. You wanted ammunition - there they were on the ammunition dump; your rations were issued by Pioneers; the beaches were alive with them, loading lorries from craft, you found them in the Ordnance Depot, on the Salvage Dump, even the CCSs and Mobile Bath had them; the NAAFI too, always had a few willing helpers!! Conspicuous were the swarthy Swazis of 1991 Company. Their cheerful light-hearted ways made them

extremely popular on the beach-head, and for work they were second to none. Under fire they were every bit as steady as their white comrades. The smoke screen, so effective a part of the Anzio defences, were partly the responsibility of 1991 Company. On one occasion a shell landed right behind an unsuspecting Swazi. The concussion blew him into the air. When he returned to earth, he took to his heels as though the devil was after him. It would have done your heart good to see his comrades roaring with laughter at the antics of the unfortunate man. He suffered only a few bruises.

Anzio was almost exclusively British territory. Side-turnings bore familiar English names, and only the "Via Roma" was "alien". The district had been cleared of civilians by the Germans and they were found concentrated in a camp near the front line. Captain S Clapp came to Anzio to organise civil labour, but he was working under difficulties from the start. The record figure of civilians on any one day was 99 but the figure fluctuated greatly. Absenteeism after heavy bombing and shelling was common. Capt Clapp soon found that his offer of work with pay was not attractive. Money had long ceased to have any value at Anzio, and Italian civilian "co-operation" fell to a very low level. Eventually, on the orders of VI Corps, all civilians except "those organised groups of civilians brought to the beachhead for specific labour assignments" and "a small proportion of the present farm population" were evacuated.

After the arrival of 108 Group HQ, which took them under command, the Companies worked on a roster, taking turn and turn about on the various jobs. A change-over took place every four days. Thus, each Company worked twelve days out of sixteen on the docks - the most dangerous area - followed by four days in comparative safety. 242 Company was employed continuously on ration and ordnance dumps by virtue of their previous experience in this work.

At the beginning of the campaign, three 8 hours shifts were worked on the beaches and "hard" daily, but during March night work was eliminated. More Pioneers were therefore employed during daylight in two 7 hours shifts on Yellow Beach and the "hard" Tonnages remained high.

After a lull in shelling and bombing early in March the enemy took up his attack again and the beach-head livened up considerably. Particular attention was paid to dumps and, almost nightly, enemy raiders started fires in ammunition dumps. The losses were considered serious, and the Pioneer Fire Fighting Section found themselves fully employed. Pioneers on night work at the ammunition dumps were continually called upon to save >

ammunition. The OC 8 OBD wrote, "Personnel of 242 Company have rendered invaluable assistance in dealing with, and bringing under control, several fires, caused through enemy action, which have broken out in this depot. They have shown a promptitude and disregard for personal safety which has been highly commendable. In one instance, when Ordnance personnel and the Fire Squad arrived at the scene of the fire, they found a party of Pioneers from a nearby billet were already there and were dealing with the fire effectively." It was later decided to de-crate ammunition to prevent fires spreading, as the crates were made of wood. Pioneers were employed on de-crating.

By the end of March, conditions on the beach-head were improving. Stores had been landed ahead of schedule, and dumps were well stocked. Reinforcements of men and material streamed through Anzio towards the Front, and the beach-head began to "think ahead." One could hardly move for troops and transport, and a note of optimism prevailed. On 9 April, 140 Company arrived to relieve 79 Company, who had earned a rest. In his farewell letter to 79 Company, the Group Commander said, "Your Company came here straight from the Garigliano without a moments rest; they took in their stride the dangers and discomforts of the beach-head; they broke record after record in the handling of stores over the beaches"

The work of the Pioneers was now beginning to earn a dividend and they began to find time to spare. Inevitably, out came the footballs, and in the middle of April on a tree-sheltered football pitch in a quiet part of the beach-head, the "Anzio Pioneers Football Tournament" was keenly contested for 10 days, 188 Company emerging victorious on goal average. Here the Swazis proved their popularity. Their light-heartedness was infectious. 'Shoe-shine' was the great favourite. To the Swazi shouts of 'Washeesh' (that was how it sounded) Shoeshine bounded all over the field, indefatigable, always grinning happily.

"Flying Fortresses" began to fly over in hundreds, and what a thrill they gave the Anzio troops who saw and heard them drop their bombs on "Jerry" just "up the road." The artillery barrage increased and Jerry began to falter. "Annie" was still with them, its true and the Germans attempted one more heavy air attack on the dock area. The concentration of Ack-Ack fire that met the thirty-odd raiders was terrifying in its intensity. The sky was almost obscured by shell bursts. Eleven raiders were seen to fall in flames, the remaining planes fled in great haste.

The beginning of May saw a hundred Pioneers working under 5 Division just

behind the front line. Under cover of darkness, they carried water to a strong point in the front line. Their next job was the digging of communication trenches along and under the "lateral" road and forward to the "wadi" just short of the front line. After the first night's work, the OC RE Company said to the Group Commander, "These Pioneers certainly can work." Most of the work was done in daylight under camouflage, since patrols and carrying parties hindered the work by night. Later the Pioneers were employed setting up a Bailey Bridge Dump. The Tiber was not far away now! On the beaches, tonnages handled (5,600 tons from liberty ships on 21 May) brought fresh commendation from General Clark.

Meanwhile, the Pioneers in the Maintenance Area were becoming more and more "sports conscious." A Group Cross-Country Race was won by 140 Company; 188 Company lost in the final of the "Anzio Cup" (a real silver



Picture: On portorage Italy, October 1943

one!) before a "gate" which would have made a League club at home green with envy. A few days earlier a three-day sports meeting had been staged for beach-head units. The Pioneers scored 6 firsts, 1 second and 2 thirds out of eleven events. The "Double One" Concert Party (11 Company) complete with dance band gave the Pioneers and other units many a pleasant evening.

Then came the great day. In his Order of the Day, General Alexander said, "To us is given the honour of striking the first blow." That night "the greatest artillery barrage ever" opened up, and a few days later, Anzio had ceased to be a beach-head. "Annie" still fired on us but retribution was at hand. She was finally located and removed to the salvage dump. Unhappily her last round killed three men of 188 Company.

Well the beach-head was a memory. Heads emerged cautiously from foxholes and dugouts, and the Pioneers discovered that the sun was shining, birds were singing, the countryside was green, the Mediterranean was as blue as ever.

The war is a long way off now, but in the little British Military Cemetery "dedicated to those British soldiers who

gave their lives to hold the beachhead" 32 white crosses pay tribute to the devotion to duty of six Pioneer Companies on Anzio. They had to work, eat and sleep in most difficult conditions for eighteen weeks. They accepted this as they accepted their ninety-six casualties, and worked the harder, remaining disciplined and cheerful throughout. They were a credit to the Pioneer Corps.

NOTE This account of the work of the Pioneers on Anzio was written immediately after the "break out" by Lt R Rice.

It only remains to add that General Mark Clark awarded the American Fifth Army Plaque and Clasp to 108 Group for their work on the beachhead. The citation reads as follows:

"The 108th Pioneer Group is awarded the Plaque and Clasp for exceptionally meritorious performance of duty from February 1944 to May 1944. This organisation contributed materially to the successful unloading of craft, laying of tracks on the beaches, assisting American Units to prepare Smoke circuits, and the setting up of various supply dumps at Anzio under constant shelling. Personnel of the 108th Group displayed a high degree of perseverance and a determined spirit in accomplishing their many diverse assignments in an exceptional manner and exemplifies the co-ordinated efforts of the Allied Forces in the successful prosecution of the War." ■

Battlefield PC Game

You can play the Anzio map on the PC game called Battlefield 1942. Other maps you can play are Monte Cassino and Omaha beach and hundreds more. It is incredibly realistic and is very recommended.



LONDON LUNCH - Saturday 12 June 2004 (Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London, W2 2HF)

To: General Secretary
 RPC Association
 51 St George's Drive
 London SW1V 4DE

Name:

Address:

Tel No:

NOTE: TO BE RECEIVED AT HQ RPC ASSOCIATION BY 29 May 2004

I would like to attend the London lunch and will be accompanied by

The remittance of ten pounds for myself is enclosed because I am wholly retired/registered disabled / not in paid employment*
 *Please delete those not applicable.

My remittance forpeople at £20 per head is enclosed. Total remittance is £.....
 (Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to RPC Association)

Date

Signed

RECEIPT / TICKET FOR LONDON LUNCH ON SATURDAY, 1200 HRS.

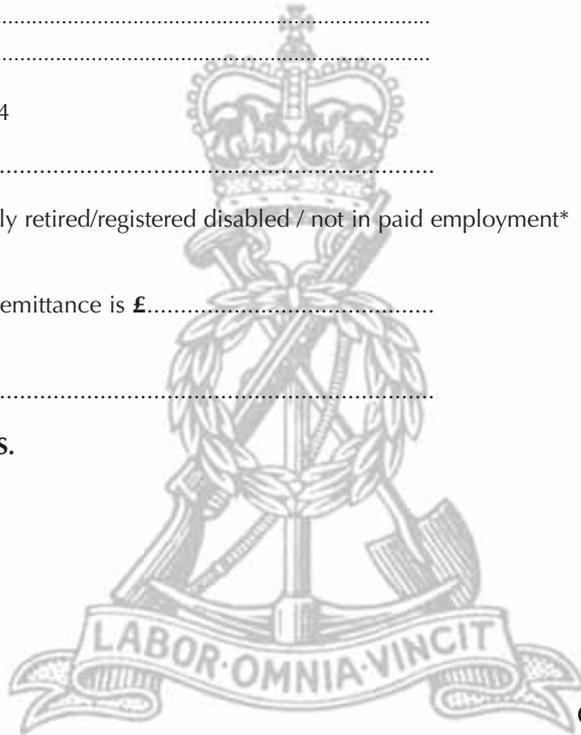
Dear

Thank you for your cheque/postal order for £.....

..... seats are reserved for you, I look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary RPC Association



RPC ASSOCIATION REUNION WEEKEND

9/10 July 2004
 to be held at 23 PNR REGR RLC, Bicester

To: General Secretary
 RPC Association
 51 St George's Drive
 London SW1V 4DE

Name:

Address:

Tel No:

NOTE: TO BE RECEIVED AT HQ RPC ASSOCIATION BY 24 JUNE 2004

I would like to attend the reunion weekend, my partner/guests names are

My car make and index number are

Please reserve for me, and for the above named people, the following:

Accommodation

Friday 9 July 2004 **YES / NO** are stairs difficult? **YES / NO**
 Saturday 10 July 2004 **YES / NO** are stairs difficult? **YES / NO**

(NOTE: accommodation is likely to be at St George's Barracks and will consist of large barrack type rooms with bunk beds.
 Accommodation will only be provided on the Friday evening for those attending the Memorial Service on the Saturday morning)

Meals

Saturday Breakfast	80p per head	Number	Cost £.....
Saturday Lunch	£2.30 per head	Number	Cost £.....
BBQ (Sports Field)	£2.00 per head	Number	Cost £.....
Evening Function Inside	£7.50 per head	Number	Cost £.....
Outside	£5.00 per head	Number	Cost £.....

Total enclosed £

Signed Rank while serving

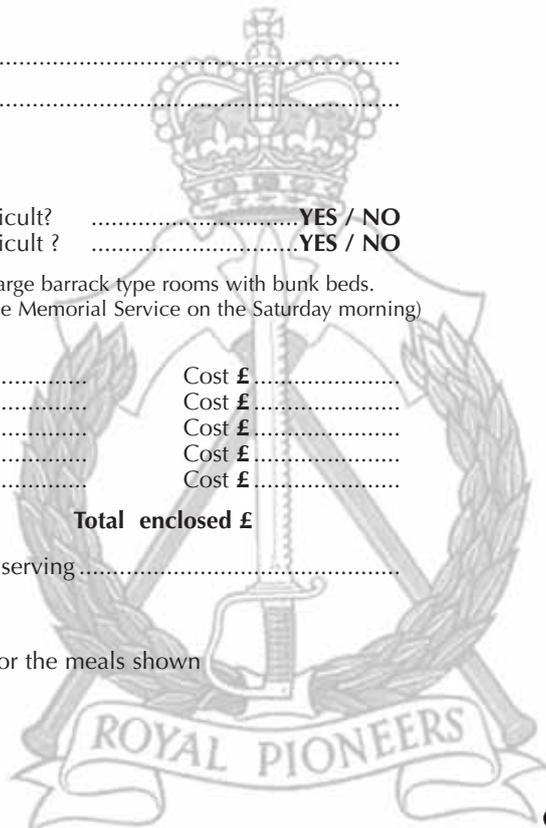
To: Guardroom, St David's Barracks, Bicester

This is to certify that the Association member above has been booked in for the meals shown

Ticket Number

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary RPC Association



MEMBERSHIP

The following item appeared in the June 1948 edition of The Royal Pioneer magazine and is as true today as it was then except that lost members will now be wearing different medal ribbons.



LOST !



To the Association, about ten thousand ex-Royal Pioneers.
Last known to have been residing in UK.
Description - Tough, handy at any job, likes a pint, is probably wearing 1939-43 Star, African Star, Italy Star, France and Germany Star and 1914-1918 ribbons.
Will the finder of one or more of these Royal Pioneers please inform the Controller Royal Pioneer Corps Association.
Reward Offered - in the shape of greater comradeship.
Although the Pioneer Website (www.royalpioneer corps.co.uk) is attracting new members to the Association there are still a lot 'missing'.

WHERE HAVE THEY MOVED?

If you move address please let us know, the following did not and we might now lose touch. The following is a list of names whose last Newsletters were return 'Gone Away', 'Moved' or 'Not Known at this Address'. If you know their addresses please let me know.

25065182 ASHBY S 24137937 ASTBURY K 512323 ATKINSON CN 24367138 ATKINSON R 24493190 BAGGULEY K 24687356 BAILEY RP 24508437 BALL RC 24269795 BANKS MJ 23717950 BARR RAJ 24091673 BASSETT M 24745371 BEARD J 24383501 BERRY P 24694977 BISHOP PA 24368283 BLACK DM 24581582 BLATCHFORD PD 25052834 BONE SB 24341224 BRADLEY SJ 24262790 BREEZE RD 497380 BROWN CF 24587844 BROWN R 517252 BUCKINGHAM MBJ 24519306 BURNS D 24723510 CAPPLETON CEM 24719499 CARTER DJ 24491983 CARWOOD RK 24137042 CASSELDEN R 24006370 CASTLE I 23369901 CATTERMOLE RF 24576882 CHALICE PA 24470414 CHAMBERS DD 24961016 CHOW HY 24329760 CLAYS M 24611985 CONNOLLY AL 24654965 COTTER S 24670710 CURRIE WB 24541398 DALLAS GM 24488553 DIXON FC 24228817 DOHERTY JJ 24006052 DOYLE P 24326696 EDDY RG	24744814 EVANS G 24315769 FARRELL D 24368733 FITZGIBBON P 24091320 FORDE JJ 24705334 FROST D 24493327 GIBSON C R 24166595 GILLON DW 24348075 GOLDING LJ 24957357 GORDON KD 24711520 GRAY MA 24097221 GREENHAM MJ 24339895 HACKING JT 23920340 HADDEN RW 500362 HARDY CG 24767231 HARDY DA 23939911 HARDY P 25031999 HARGREAVES CL 24318294 HARPER P L 23996326 HENRY WWG 24383253 HIGGINS D 24961018 HOGG W 24116812 HOLLAND BJ 24783135 HORDER DF 24198604 HORNER MT 24250338 HORSFIELD MJ 24767050 HOWE G 13069773 HUGHES CH 24783007 ILEY N 24175959 JENNINGS PB 499852 JOYCE A 24281738 KEWLEY AE 300040 KEEN RBT 23996748 KING WA 24353579 KNIGHT S 326774 LONDON IJ 24231134 LAPOMPE VP 23302674 LEESON M 24137456 LUCKMAN PJ 24324660 MADDOCKS BF 24599218 MALTBY DW	24305940 MATHIE A 18091572 MAURIER CP 24522138 MEREDITH RA 24618405 MERRITT JA 24137451 MIDDLEHURST A 24687822 MILLS JM 24196089 MORRISON WH 24598249 MOTTLEY NW 24156807 MYKYTKA A 24697123 MYRES SD 24557051 McFADDEN A 24833906 McGEOGH B 24555775 McGUIRE GM 24625053 McINTOSH MR 24091457 McNALLY A 541204 McNEIL R J 24501610 NASH SPN 250369761 NEAFFLY JP 24417543 NOSKO J 24600484 O'KANE J 24473912 PAINE DG 24625494 PALMER D 24522968 PARKIN A 24405761 PEPPER MJ 24676826 PHILLIPS MJ 24522676 PINNEY M 24645989 PITCHER KLA 24754481 PRICE A 24902710 RANCE P 24509931 RAVENSCROFT DJ 24262632 REES CJ 24272212 RIX CJ 24553297 ROSS SJ 22989419 ROWLANDS C 24783560 SAUNDERS SR 24706972 SAYERS KR 24585189 SEMPLE JM 24685673 SHERWOOD PA 24693469 SIMPSON NB	24319865 SKEEMER GR 24608799 SKELTON CF 24516422 SLIM PJ 24618054 SMITH CE 24645815 SMITH G 24565177 SMITH MA 24330803 SMITH S 24769417 SMITHSON PM 23846172 SPRIGGS AJ 24779939 STACEY RG 24763102 STADIUS WRR 24527325 STANDRING CSS 24137033 STEVENSON JG 24378862 STRATTON SMJ 24198005 STURT C 24285627 SUTHERLAND R 13067687 SWINBURNE RF 24767058 SYKES-TUCKER D 24231136 TARR KB 24653591 THOMSON PR 24783133 THILSON RD 24175317 TRAINER RJ 24491544 TRICKETT MG 24647625 TUFTON PA 24477754 VICK AJV 24364378 WADE J M 24687727 WALKER CLO 24447250 WALKER P 24277575 WALSH JVF 24779263 WATTS N 538777 WEIR RD 24252204 WELLAVIZE TJ 24075505 WEST JM 24959584 WILKES BD 24957702 WILLIAMS A 24645296 WILLIAMS AJ MAJ WILLIAMS AR 24574422 WILLMER PJ
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OBITUARY - Mrs Julianna Rose Shields (Julie)

It is with much sadness that I have to report that Julie, wife of Captain Jimmy Shields, died at home on 16 January 2004. A moving tribute was made at her funeral on 27 January by Mr Scoobie Roberts to a packed church. Julie will best be remembered for her infectious smile and good humour. Our deepest condolences go to Jimmy and family. Jimmy has asked me through the medium of this Newsletter to thank all who have sent messages of sympathy, there are too many to answer personally.



