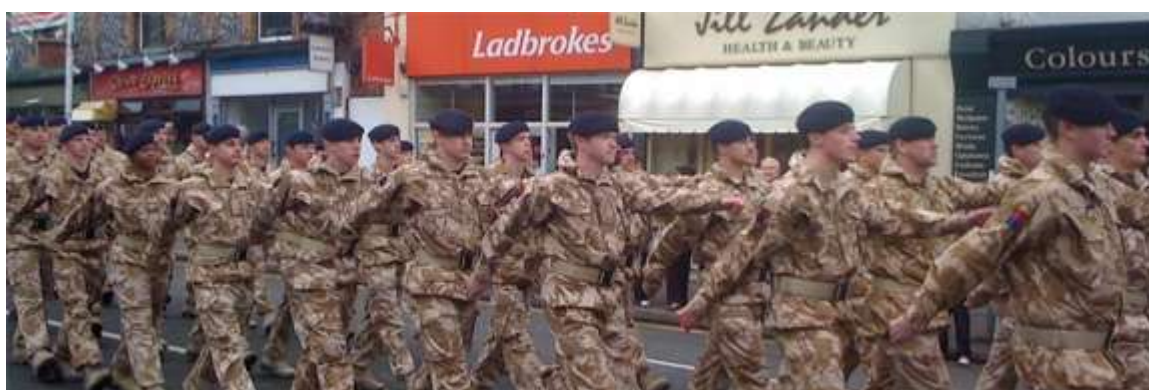




Newsletter – January 2012

THE REGIMENT ON PARADE IN ESHER



On Friday 17 February 2012 at 1030hrs soldiers from 7th Parachute Regiment RHA will march through Esher, in Surrey. The Parade will begin at Esher Police station, continue down Esher High Street and end at Sandown Park in time for the Royal Artillery Gold Cup Meeting.

The regiment, together with artillery equipment from 7 Regt RHA & 16 Regt RA will be accompanied by The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, The Royal Artillery Band, The Pipes and Drums of 19th and 40th Regiments, comrades from the Royal Artillery Association and the local Army Cadet Force.

The salute will be taken by the Master Gunner St James's Park, General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman GBE KCB, accompanied by the Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor John Sheldon and COS HQ DRA.

Gunner Sunday



This year Gunner Sunday will take place at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Sunday 22 April. Branches and regiments are most welcome to attend. So that we can have some ideas of numbers attending, please call the RAA Membership Secretary on 01980 845362 or 845233 if you intend to attend.

Timings are:

10.00hrs Assemble in the Octagon Colonnade
10.30hrs Latest arrival time
10.40hrs Pensioners and RAA Standard Bearers form up and parade *
11.00hrs Service begins.

After the service the club will be open for you to meet the pensioners and have a drink.

Dress:

Suits or blazers with Gunner tie. Only Standard bearers should wear medals.
Parking is very limited and further details can be obtained by calling 020 7881 5298.
We regret that lunch cannot be provided and you should consider this when planning your visit.

Branch Standard Bearers are strongly encouraged to attend and support our In-pensioners and for this Standard Bearers will receive their travel expenses back under the normal rules.

Royal Artillery Assembly 2012



The Royal Artillery Assembly will take place at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool, over the weekend 18 to 20 May.

Details have already been sent to Branch Secretaries and RSMs.

This is the major event of the year in which the RAA is involved and to recognise its significance we are promising to reimburse 90% of the travel costs incurred by branches that travel to the event in a full coach or minibus.

The RA Assembly provides a great opportunity to come and enjoy the company of hundreds of Gunners from all over the country in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There will be an update on the current situation of the serving regiments, including a report from a regiment recently returned from operations in Afghanistan.

As well as all this, you will be treated to a fabulous marching band display and then invited to relax and enjoy our Gala Dinner with live entertainment.

With all of this and the chance of a 90% travel subsidy it's certainly a weekend not to be missed!

To avoid disappointment book today using the official booking form available to download at: [Book My Room](#)

Details from your local RAA branch secretary or by phoning 01980 845233 or 845362



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION GRAND DRAW **2012**



The RAA Grand Draw will take place at Larkhill on Wednesday 15 August 2012. Prizes consist of £1,000, £500, £150, £100 & 10 prizes of £50 each. Tickets cost 25p each. All proceeds go to the RAA charities. To be in with a chance of winning send your order to: [Membership Office](#) or phone 01980 845233 then return the stubs with your payment to Artillery House.

REUNIONS

RA BOYS, ARTIFICERS AND JUNIOR LEADERS ASSOCIATION

The 2012 reunion of the Royal Artillery Boys, Artificers and Junior Leaders Association will once again, by popular demand, be held at the Holiday Inn, Walsgrave Road, Coventry CV2 2HP over the weekend Fri 20-Sat 21-Sun 22 Apr 2012. Full details, programme, costs etc will be published in the January edition of *The Trumpeter*. For further information please contact Ted McKenzie on 07900 806235 or email: tiger-ted@exboysra.co.uk

C BTY RHA PPMA

A C Bty RHA past and present members all ranks reunion is being held on 24 Mar 12 at the Copthorne Hotel, Birmingham B3 3HJ. For further details please email: cbatteryrh@gmail.com or: jeffsmith1809@yahoo.co.uk

26 REGT RA ASSOCIATION

The next reunion of the 26 Regt RAA will be held on the weekend 2-4 Mar 12 at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. For more information call the secretary on 07792 976042 or visit the association website: www.26thregra-asc.com

FALKLANDS WAR 30TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The 30th anniversary of the Falklands War will be marked by an anniversary dinner for all serving and retired RA officers who served in the war in May-Jun 82. It is to be held at the RA Mess Larkhill on Fri 1 Jun 12. Please spread the word and contact the event secretary, Lt Col Peter Bates, by email to: peter.bates555@mod.uk

YOS' COURSE AUTUMN 1961

A reunion lunch to mark the 50th anniversary of the YOs' course held in the autumn of 1961 (RMAS Intake 27 + Mons) will be held in the RA Mess, Larkhill on Wed 25 Apr 12. The event will start at 1100 hours and ladies are warmly invited. Would any ex-YO who wishes to attend and has not been contacted please contact either Stuart Severs by e-mail: stuart.severs@orange.fr or Nigel Bladon by telephone on 01300 341375.

OBITUARIES

Lt Col C J Boulter OBE MC

In mid-1941 the situation of the Allies in Syria under the country's Vichy French administration was fast deteriorating and, after the fall of Crete, there were fears that the country would become a springboard for reinforcing the German military presence in the Middle East. The capture of Damascus was seen as the key to securing Syria for the Allies, and 5 Indian Inf Bde was despatched from Irbid in Transjordan. The 3rd Bn 1st Punjab Regt (3/1 PR) made up part of the force, and Boulter was detached to an anti-tank company.

In June a night assault by 3/1 PR on the strongly defended village of Kissoué, 15 miles south of Damascus, took the Vichy forces by surprise. Subsequent mopping up operations at dawn the following day flushed out several of the enemy hiding up to their necks in the river that ran to a depth of five feet through groves and orchards. A counter-attack by a Vichy battalion, supported by tanks and heavy artillery, was repulsed due, in great extent, to Boulter's skilful use of anti-tank weapons. From Kissoué, Allied forces pressed on towards Damascus in pitch darkness spasmodically lit by intense artillery shelling.

In fierce engagements at Sheik Miskine and Mezze, Boulter commanded his anti-tank guns while under intense fire, driving off enemy tanks and armoured cars. The citation for the award of an MC stated that from 8 June to 19 June he had shown great determination, coolness and gallantry throughout the whole of operations culminating in the capture of Damascus. Charles John Boulter, the son of an army officer, was born at Dorking, Surrey, on 20 January 1918. He was educated at the Imperial Service College, Windsor, before passing out from Sandhurst in January 1938. He was with 3/1 PR at Sidi Barrani in the Western Desert, at the Battle of Keren in Eritrea, and subsequently in Italy, at one point assuming command of the battalion after four previous commanding officers had been killed in quick succession. Unflamboyant and modest by nature, he was remembered by fellow officers as a first-rate commander.

After the partition of India in 1947, like many infantry officers of the Indian Army with a distinguished war record, Boulter was offered a transfer to the RA, becoming in the process what was known at the time as a 'Black Gunner'. He found his initial service in the Royal Regiment quite different and challenging, but a tour in Korea as an FOO with 14 Fd Regt

RA, in which his infantry combat experience stood him in good stead, changed all that. Several staff appointments followed, and he then served with the UN in the Congo and in Malaysia, being appointed OBE for his work in establishing the Malaysian Army after Malaysian independence.

Boulter resigned from the Army in 1966 and joined John Swire and Sons. A popular and respected shipping manager at the London office, he recruited officers for the group's China Navigation Company fleet. He retired in 1983 and settled in Kent.

Charles Boulter died on 10 July. He married Maureen Robins in Singapore in 1949, having met her on board the ship out when she was travelling with her mother to join her father, Col CG Robins. She died on 21 July succeeding her husband of over 60 years by only 11 days. He is survived by their daughter and four sons.

Lt Col A E Woodford MBE

Lt Col Adrian (Alan) Edward Woodford MBE passed away suddenly at home in Winkleigh, Devon on 23 November.

He was born on 26 August 1928 in Victoria Barracks Windsor to Clara and Kenneth Woodford. Kenneth was a Guardsman as was his father, so it was no surprise that the boy always intended soldiering as a career. This ambition was also driven by the period of tension, rearmament and eventually war which arrived in 1939 when Alan was 11.

He was a bright and studious boy, despite tales within the family of riotous behaviour within the barracks. He won a scholarship to grammar school, which was no mean feat for the son of a warrant officer in the 1930s. His education, however, was interrupted by wartime factory work with Hawker Aircraft at Langley, building Hurricane fighters. He held a huge affection for this aircraft all his life and one of his regrets much later, as a vastly experienced pilot, was that he never managed to fly one.

Alan was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in February 1949. He intended a career as a commando and completed various amphibious and parachute courses but injured himself which prevented further arduous exercise. He then transferred to air observation and gained his wings in 1950, becoming an AOP pilot flying Auster aircraft, mainly in Germany.

Alan married Sylvia Root of London in 1950. Sylvia was a grammar school girl from a modest background but took the role of an officer's wife in the declining years of empire with aplomb. They made a good partnership which lasted until her death from cancer in 1994.

War service followed in Korea where he returned to his primary trade of artillery officer, initially directing heavy guns but then specialising in anti-aircraft artillery. He was mentioned in despatches for bravery in repulsing mass Chinese infantry assaults with field guns at minimum range.

Alan returned to the United Kingdom after the war and continued in army aviation. He flew a variety of aircraft including Austers, Chipmunks and the very earliest British Army helicopter, the Skeeter. More active service followed in the Malayan Emergency where he served in mixed roles as both pilot, gunner and occasionally as an infantry officer. 1956 found him still in the Far East, this time serving with the Hong Kong garrison tasked with border security. There followed a decade of tours in both the UK, based at Middle Wallop and in Germany based in Fallingbommel. Alan was doing the same job that he had done in Hong Kong but this

time on the inner German border, practising artillery shoots against the massed tank divisions of the Soviet Union parked less than 20 miles away.

1968 found him in Plymouth, commanding a mixed Army Air Corps detachment tasked with supporting Royal Marine and Royal Navy special operations. This posting moved abruptly to Northern Ireland when the Troubles flared in 1969 where it was more of the same, but this time out of Bessbrook.

1971 saw him promoted to lieutenant colonel and back in Hong Kong commanding 656 AAC Sqn from Sek Kong airfield in the New Territories, flying Westland Scout and Bell Sioux helicopters. Alan was working in close cooperation with the garrison and with the Hong Kong Police in a role that took in everything from countering economic smugglers across the colonial border to measured reactions to communist Chinese 'provocations' and 'shows of force' by the million strong People's Liberation Army, just over the border in Guangdong Province.

Alan said that his final posting was also his most interesting. He went to the United States as the British Liaison Officer to the US Army Helicopter School at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He was involved in a vast range of helicopter projects and missile trials, most of which remain classified. He flew all the then current US helicopter types including the AH-1 Cobra and the ubiquitous UH-1 of *M*A*S*H* fame. He was also the very first 'foreign' pilot to fly and evaluate the Boeing Model 77 attack helicopter which became the AH 64 Apache, now in service in the modern AAC.

He took early retirement from the army in 1976 and became an emergency planning officer for various local authorities from Surrey to Edinburgh and south to Devon. Emergency planning lost momentum after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 and Alan retired fully. He was, however, an active man and resisted the lure of cardigan and lawnmower. He particularly needed an outlet after the death of Sylvia in 1994 so he volunteered to work for the British Red Cross and did sterling service coordinating flood relief work in Devon. For this work he was awarded an MBE in 2001. After this his health began to decline, mainly physical disabilities surfacing after an extremely active life and he retired to a small cottage in Devon. In the last weeks of his life he was intensely proud to become a great-grandfather for the first time. Alan is survived by three sons: Andrew, Alastair and Jonathan.

A FORECAST OF EVENTS

2012

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 15 January | Last date for 2011 Award Nominations to reach Artillery House | Branch, L/S, District, Region, Chairman |
| 31 January | Last date for bank balances (as at 31 Dec 2011) to reach Artillery House | Branch, L/S, District, Region, Treasurer/Chairman |
| 17 February | RA Gold Cup | Sandown Park |
| 1 March | Last date for Annual Returns to reach Artillery House | Branch, L/S, District, Region, Treasurer/Chairman |
| 13 March | NEC Meeting | Larkhill |
| 22 April | Gunner Sunday | Royal Hospital Chelsea |
| 18 - 20 May | RA Assembly* | Blackpool |
| 19 May | NEC Meeting | Blackpool |
| 29 May | RA Board of Management Meeting | Larkhill |
| 30 June | National Armed Forces Day | National/Local Events (Plymouth will host national event) |
| 7 July | RAA Service of Remembrance* | NMA, Alrewas, Staffordshire |
| 15 August | RAA Grand Draw | Larkhill |
| 20 September | NEC Meeting | TBC |
| 8 November | RBL Field of Remembrance | Westminster Abbey |
| 11 November | RA Ceremony of Remembrance* | Hyde Park Corner |
| 2 December | St Barbara's Day* | Larkhill |

Events marked * will attract a transport subsidy for branches travelling by coach or minibus

Unrestricted Permission to receive and wear the
PJM



A statement to the press was published on the 6 Nov 2011 by the MOD which outlined that for the first time British Veterans could wear the PJM during Remembrance Events from 11 November 2011.

The full statement is as follows:

VETERANS TO WEAR MALAYSIA MEDAL OFFICIALLY FOR FIRST TIME

British veterans awarded the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) Medal have been given permission by Her Majesty The Queen to wear it for the first time during Remembrance events in 2011.

The Government of Malaysia introduced the medal in 2005 and awarded it to British and Commonwealth veterans who served in the conflict in Malaya in the late 1950s and 1960s.

Approval is not normally given for foreign medals to be accepted if British recognition for a campaign has already been presented. Previously, veterans had been able to accept but not wear the medal. It has now been agreed they can both accept and wear the PJM.

This was done to recognise the generous gesture by the King and Government of Malaysia, and their wish to award the PJM in recognition of service given by many veterans in the difficult years leading up to and following Malaysian independence.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said:

“I am delighted that Her Majesty The Queen has given approval for veterans to formally wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal in recognition of service given in the difficult years leading up to and following Malaysian independence. This timely decision is particularly welcome for veterans who will, for the first time, be able to wear this medal with pride on Remembrance Sunday.”

Applying for the Medal

[Application Form \(Veterans\)](#)

[Application Form \(Posthumous\)](#)

The Ministry of Defence does not have lists of veterans who served in Malaya/Borneo between August 1957 and August 1966, or indeed for any other overseas deployments, so people who wish to receive this medal will have to submit applications individually or through an appropriate veterans' organisation. Applications should not be sent to either the Ministry of Defence or the FCO.

All new applications for the PJM medal should be sent to:

Mr John Simcock
Representative of the Malayan and Borneo Veterans Assn
19 Lowther Gardens
Manchester M41 8RJ

DIAMOND JUBILEE PAGEANT



DIAMOND JUBILEE PAGEANT

10th, 11th, 13th MAY 2012 · WINDSOR CASTLE

The Diamond Jubilee Pageant is a major event marking The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the presence of Her Majesty. The event takes place in the private grounds of Windsor Castle on the evenings of the 10th, 11th and 13th May 2012.

Welcome

The Diamond Jubilee Pageant is a major event marking The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the presence of Her Majesty. The event takes place in the private grounds of Windsor Castle on the evenings of 10th, 11th and 13th May 2012.

Dancers, musicians, military and equestrian displays from around the world will come together for three nights in a performance to pay tribute to 60 spectacular years of Her Reign.

Programme

Around the World in 60 Years and 90 minutes

Visitors will be treated to a spectacular journey around the world, reflecting The Queen's State and Commonwealth visits during the course of Her Reign. Starting from London the journey goes West visiting The Americas, Australasia, Asia, The Middle East, Africa, Europe and finally Great Britain.

At each stop indigenous dancers, musicians, military personnel and horsemen will join together in a scene full of movement, colour and sound that culminates in a spectacular demonstration of the culture of their country.

Tickets

Tickets can be purchased by telephoning: 0844 581 4970

Group Bookings: 0800 358 0058

Tickets can also be purchased in person from Windsor Information Centre, located in Windsor Royal Shopping Centre. Or you can telephone the Information Centre on 01753 743900.

Ticket Prices:

Thursday 10th and Friday 11th May: - £30, £40, £50, £60, £80

Sunday 13th May: - £40, £50, £60, £70, £100

Tickets also allow access to The Jubilee Royal Windsor Horse Show which takes place in the same showground during the day. Over 200 shops, cafes and bars are available for your enjoyment. You will also be able to view the action in the outside competition rings (three in total). Should you wish to view the competition in the Main Arena you will need to purchase Horse Show tickets separately by telephoning 0844 581 4960.

Disabled Facilities:

A wheelchair platform and seats for the walking disabled are available. Please telephone the box office for more information.

Visit the Official website at:

diamond-jubilee-pageant

Diamond Jubilee Events

Official celebrations for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will take place over a central weekend between Saturday 2nd June and Tuesday 5th June 2012.

Saturday 2nd June

The Queen will attend the **Epsom Derby**. An avid racing fan, the Queen has been attending the Epsom Derby for eight decades.

Sunday 3 June

The Big Jubilee Lunch – people will be encouraged to share lunch with neighbours and friends as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant – up to 1,000 boats, assembled from across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world, will sail down the Thames. The Queen will lead the flotilla in the Royal Barge.

Monday 4th June

A BBC Concert at Buckingham Palace - a televised Diamond Jubilee Concert held at Buckingham Palace, with tickets available to UK residents and public ballot.

The Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons - 2012 beacons will be lit by communities and individuals throughout the United Kingdom, as well as the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Commonwealth.

Tuesday 5th June

A **Service of Thanksgiving and Carriage Procession** – the service will take place at St Paul's Cathedral, with a formal carriage procession by The Queen.

Aside from the official celebrations lots of different activities will be happening across the UK and the Commonwealth.

FORCES DISCOUNT LINKS



1,000s of serving and ex-service personnel are taking advantage of 100s of great discount offers. You could join them now. Just go to :

forcesdiscounts

A screenshot of the website homepage for forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk. The header features the site name, a navigation menu (Home, Newsletter, Advertise, Contact, FAQs, Join, Login), and a login section with fields for email and password. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Who is it for?' listing eligible groups like Royal Navy and Veterans; 'What are the members benefits?' listing access to discounts, magazines, and a helpline; and 'How can I become a member?' stating it's free and easy to join. A 'join now' button is prominent. A footer banner says 'Save £££! See how much you could be saving from 760 businesses online now!'.

