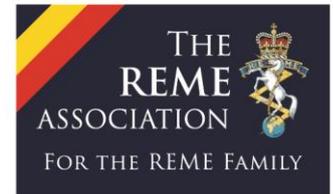




REME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Connect 🇬🇧 Support 🇬🇧 REMEMBER

NUMBER 30 – Sep 20

Here's the latest news from RHQ REME via MailChimp once again. If you need a separate Print Friendly version give me a shout. Please continue to watch out for scam emails which remain prevalent during these strange times. Watch out and do not click on any links if you are suspicious.

1. **REME Reunion.** The Association Executive Committee met this week on-line and concluded that the REME Reunion planned for October 2020 would have to be **postponed to April 2021**. This decision I am afraid was inevitable, particularly given the Government guidelines on gatherings are now strengthening rather than relaxing. We are where we are. Our Vice-Chairman, Brig Nigel Williams MBE is in contact with Shirley at IOW Tours and she has assured him that she will contact all individuals who have booked over the forthcoming days. Colonel REME and all committee members thank you for your patience during this dilemma and let's hope we can get together next April.

2. **Cenotaph 2020.** Hayley has received details from the Royal British Legion for the events at the Cenotaph this Remembrance weekend. The good news is the march will go ahead, the bad news is that rather understandably, numbers will be strictly limited. The total attending will be 2,200 with each Association allocated only a handful of tickets and under the recent 'Rule of 6' this may reduce even further. Who knows? I am afraid if this is the year you had planned to get a group together and meet up with your comrades, you will have to have a re-think and perhaps try again next year. The limit applies to all registered Associations, so AOBA etc. will be strictly limited also. Let us hope it goes ahead as normal next year. The Field of Remembrance event earlier that week will also go ahead with similarly limited numbers. An announcement on the Festival of Remembrance has yet to be made.

3. **REME Electronics Technicians Branch.** Following the announcement in the previous newsletter that we will be forming a Recovery Mechanics' Branch of the Association I am delighted to announce that a former Tels Tech Nik Brock, has volunteered as point of contact to form a Group for Electronics Technicians within the Association. Thanks for stepping forward Nik. For anyone unaware the Corps now has only 8 trades. The electronics trade groups we older folk recall such as Tels, Radar etc, now come under the single trade Electronics Tech. If you are a former Electronics Technician and would like to be involved please let me know and I will pass your contact details onto Nik. His plan is to form an informal Group and see how that goes. If it is an overwhelming success he may progress to a more formal Branch structure but one step at a time. If you are a member of another trade group and you are thinking 'Great idea – why don't we do the same?' Let me know and I can tell you how to go about it. In simple terms all we need is an individual to come forward as a point of contact and then you can decide how you want to progress. A good starting point is to read through the REME 75 Rules available on the REME Charity website, in particular the difference between a 'Group' and a 'Branch'. Give me a shout for any further info. Thanks again Nik.

4. **Ex Hardfall.** Maj (Retd) Rick Henderson, a veteran of AMF(L) has volunteered to review the book as detailed in the previous newsletter. Thanks Rick.

Lt Col (Retd) Stuart Cowen 🇬🇧 association@reme-rhq.org.uk 🇬🇧 07590 848766
RHQ REME

5. **Corps Events.** A reminder that RHQ REME is currently reviewing Corps events on a rolling 6 week period. The Corps Remembrance Events such as Field of Remembrance and Cenotaph will go ahead but with strictly limited numbers as detailed above. The REME Institution Officers' Corps Ball already re-scheduled for 4 January 2021 has been further postponed to July 2021.

6. **D-Day Veteran.** I regret to announce we have lost one of our few surviving REME D-Day Veterans. Geoffrey Pyne passed away recently at the age of 100 and his son picked up the Association mobile number from the REME Charity website to let us know. That one phone call then resulted in a turnout of 50+ at his funeral in Exeter in early September, from our North Devon Branch, serving soldiers, local RM and others, plus a Spitfire Fly-Past. Only 30 were allowed into the service with the remainder outside. The family sent a huge thank you to all who supported them and it was featured on West Country News on ITV and Spotlight on BBC South West. Local press too. This is a perfect example of the value and importance of the REME Family in action. Well done to everyone. If the link below does not work go to [ITV.COM](https://www.itv.com) then News, then Your Area, then West Country and scroll down using 'Load More' until you see 'Farewell for one of Region's last D-Day veterans'. You will see the family, the amazing turnout and very moving pieces to camera by Paul Shrimpton and Mike Evans from our North Devon Branch. Do it now as I expect it will disappear soon. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2020-09-04/funeral-of-one-of-west-countrys-last-d-day-veterans-held-in-devon>

7. **Veterans' Health Study.** University of West of England (UWE) is conducting a study to understand how looking different might be difficult for military veterans who have scars or limb loss because of injuries from deployments or deployment training. By learning what might be difficult, they plan to make new psychological support services available for veterans with these kinds of injuries. Their research is part of the Centre for Conflict Wound Research funded by the Scar Free Foundation <https://www.conflictwoundresearch.org.uk/projects/identifying-effective-psychological-interventions/>. As part of the project, there is a questionnaire-based study. The questionnaire can be completed online (<https://go.uwe.ac.uk/unitsveteran>) and aims to reach 200 injured veterans to take part and complete it. Each person who takes part can choose to be entered in to a prize draw to win up to £100 in Amazon vouchers (prizes: 1 x £100, 4 x £50, 8 x £25) or a donation to a charity of their choice. Here is a link to the promotional video for the questionnaire: <https://youtu.be/xCcaxWb8lA>

8. **V-Polo.** The sport not the car or the mint. A new sports project for Veterans has been launched based within Tidworth Garrison. The Horsepower for Veterans Polo Project (V-Polo) is run by Veterans, for Veterans and delivers activity to improve the health and wellbeing of Veterans. It is a 2-year project that has been co-funded by Tedworth Equestrian – the Armed Forces Equine Charity, and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Positive Pathways programme. All welcome; any rank, any service - as long as they've served in either the Regulars or Reserves. It's free to join and exceptionally simple. Contact Tedworth Polo club info@tedworthparkpolo.com and have a look at their Veterans Polo page www.tedworthparkpolo.com. At the very least, becoming a Social Member gives free car access to the Rundle Cup and Heroes Day – two major outstanding sporting and family focussed events at Tidworth - joining in the fun is the key.

9. **HRH Prince Philip.** I thought you would be interested to see this picked up from Forces Network. It details our Colonel-in Chief's recollections of VJ Day. Fascinating. <https://www.forces.net/news/vj-day-prince-philip-recalls-watching-japans-1945-surrender>

KEEP IN TOUCH STAY INFORMED

10. **REME Benevolence and Welfare.** RHQ REME employs two members of staff in the Benevolence office, Ms Bev Bate and Ms Pamela Bailey-Yates, and also has a serving Welfare Warrant Officer, WO2 Kelvin Redshaw. They all do fantastic work on behalf of the REME Family but, as a relatively small organisation, what they cannot provide is casework. Our casework is provided by other agencies, most notably SSAFA and Royal British Legion. What this means is if you find yourself, or are aware of somebody in need that may require help or advice, you will need to chat directly with your local RBL or SSAFA Regional Office. These organisations give advice and will task caseworkers where appropriate. Of course, if you want to talk to Bev, Pam or Kelvin as a friendly and familiar face first please do so on 01249 894523 or 4522 but casework comes from these other agencies. Serving personnel may access support through their Unit Welfare staff or the service related charities already mentioned. As a case develops The REME Charity is often asked to contribute financially alongside the other charities.

SSAFA - 0800 731 4880 from 9.00 to 17.30 weekdays. At other times a message can be left.

<https://www.ssafa.org.uk>

The Royal British Legion – 0808 802 8080 from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week.

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

11. **Obituaries.** A rather sad issue has emerged highlighted by a recent request from an individual trying to trace the obituary written for his father when he passed away after many years' service in the Corps. I am afraid there was no obituary either written or lodged with RHQ REME prior to his father's premature death. This highlights the fact that the obituaries we see published in the Craftsman magazine, have to be written by someone either prior to or after an individual passes away. This is stating the obvious but not many of us lodge obituaries with RHQ whilst we are still alive and when we pass away someone may or may not write one. An obituary is usually written by a member of his/her unit when an individual passes whilst still serving but for Veterans I am afraid that is not the case unless a good friend, former colleague or family member does so. RHQ REME does offer the service to lodge an obituary whilst you are still alive. If you would like to do so either written by yourself or by getting together with a close friend to do each other's please do so and send to Bev Bate, our Benevolence and Welfare officer at RHQ REME and she will store it on her system for the inevitable day. Please note not all are published in Craftsman magazine of course as that is an Editor's decision but it would at least give something to pass on to a family member should they request one in 5, 15 or 50 years' time. Note to self..... benevolence@reme-rhq.org.uk

12. **Driving Licences.** I picked this up from our local council website. If your photocard driving licence or entitlement to drive, runs out between 1 February 2020 and 31 December 2020, you will have your entitlement automatically extended from the expiry date, for a period of 11 months. You don't need to apply to renew your licence until you receive a reminder before your extension expires.

13. **Accommodation Charges.** Still serving? Living in single accommodation? The government has announced anyone charged for single accn whilst ordered to return home due to COVID will be refunded the charge. Chase it with your Pay Office!

Stay safe, look after your loved ones and further information will follow when available.

Arte et Marte.

Lt Col (Retd) Stuart Cowen
RHQ REME

association@reme-rhq.org.uk

07590 848766