

SCRATCHINGS

from The Pen...



A monthly memo and scribblings
for members of the Pen & Sword Club
December 2011

December starts with an influx of new members. Welcome to all listed below. We look forward to learning more about your current and past work in media operations. If you have a story to tell, or an experience that will help your colleagues, please consider writing for the next edition of your journal, *The Networker*.

Luncheon Club

The London lunch is now fixed for December 13 at The Army & Navy Club. If you are in Town please take the opportunity to call in. Traditionally the last lunch of the year has been earlier and started off the festive season but in 2011 we are a week later and, no doubt, diaries are already quite full. Nevertheless we hope for a good turn out. It would help if you could inform the club secretary of your intentions.

A venue for the January *Tired of Turkey* lunch will be announced later in December

Westcountry /South West Region

In the Westcountry, Regional Chair Graham Barnett is hoping to organise a lunch early in the New Year. Venues are being explored that will suit the travelling plans of the main body of attendance. Please contact the regional secretary, Sue Nelmes – aosalisbury@therifles.co.uk or sue@nelmes1004.fsworld.co.uk

South East

Regional Chair John Boyes and Sophy Gardner remain focussed on the Bomber Command Memorial Fund and the building of the memorial in Green Park. John is the Treasurer of the Fund while Sophy is handling the corporate communications for this project to be opened by The Queen in 2012.

Central England

New Regional Chair Michael Collie has now been joined by Jo Bowlt as Vice-Chair and Kevin Harvey as secretary. Michael will be contacting those who look like they have a Midland-ish address shortly, but if you feel you'd like to be included in the Central England region because you occasionally drive along the M6, please let club secretary Doreen Cadwallader know.

Remembrance Day at The Cenotaph

Seven members met at Horse Guards at 0930 on 13 November - Barry Hawgood, John Boyes, David Falcke, Pat Morrish, Doreen Cadwallader, Jeremy Britton and Ian Proud paraded wearing their respective berets, except David who added a touch of style with his bowler.

Clutching our green tickets we fell in under banner F21 (Pen and Sword Club), writes Ian. There was quite a wait before we marched into position in Whitehall. During that time we were amazed at the regiments, corps, associations and other organisations as they formed up. For the military history enthusiast there were many old regimental cap badges that must soon become rarities. What was not absent was the camaraderie amongst the groups, welded by active service, BAOR service and other deployments and campaigns.

We marched from Horse Guards, under HQ London District's arch, to our position in Whitehall. Fortunately we were in a position to see the televised proceedings around the Cenotaph on a big screen some 100 yards down Whitehall. At 1100 hours when the HAC fired a single gun, there was absolute silence in the whole of Whitehall. Nearly everyone knew someone who had been killed or injured and that two minutes gave us time to concentrate our thoughts.

After the wreath laying came the service led by the Bishop of London. Several tens of thousands in Whitehall created quite a volume for the responses, hymn and National Anthem

Then came the march past. We were in the first column to march past the Cenotaph. To our right the public watching us applauded non-stop. To our left, the others on parade right turned and also joined in the applause. The crowds were dense and the applause non-stop. As we passed Horse Guards Parade there was a General in Guards uniform saluting the contingents with someone with a clipboard beside him? We duly gave eyes right to Prince Charles and the clipboard was held by Lt-Gen Sir John Kiseley who was informing Prince Charles on the names of the groups marching past.

Onto Horse Guards where the parade ended, but with so many groups that took some time. Looking around the neighbouring groups we spotted a familiar looking face in a wheelchair with an OBE as his lead medal and wearing an RGJ beret. It was Frank Gardiner. We made a quick appreciation and as a result David Falcke went over and after introductions asked if he would like to be a member of the Pen and Sword Club.

The dictum that an army marches on its stomach is still pertinent even after such a parade. The options were the "In and Out" or the RAF Club but this time we opted for a Chinese lunch in Wardour Street. Still with berets and medals we made our way to Wardour Street, marched into the Chuen Cheng Ku Restaurant, where the receptionist rapidly found us a table. The meal was great, the atmosphere lighthearted and it was the perfect end to a memorable day.

[Club Website](#)

The Club Website has been well used in the last month and Peter Griffiths, our web master, is working to include some new features. We plan to have a public listing of members' names but will not give contact details. Enquiries will be directed through the club secretary. This follows requests from those recently invited to join the club.

[MOG \(V\)](#)

The National Chairman and Club Secretary attended the Media Operations Group (V) dinner at RAF Halton in late November. Halton House is a magnificent setting for a regimental dinner.

The Chairman presented his trophy, Mike's Bugle, to the champion SA80 shot, Major Gary Hedges, and outlined the history of the trophy, which was originally presented in

1945 to The Bandmaster of The Somerset Light Infantry to highlight the band's service during WW2. One of the demands on the winner is to sound the Bugle. Gary surprised everyone with his rendition of a number of calls.

Doreen Cadwallader presented the Campbell Bowl, on behalf of Mrs Donald Campbell, to A/ Major Patrick Jackson, for the best MOG (V) performance of 2011.

The winner of the Protheroe Bayonet, for the best newcomer to the unit went to Sergeant Alison Baskerville, just back from Op Herrick 14 and winner of two prizes in the Army Photographic Competition. Colonel Alan Protheroe, the first Senior TAPIO, presented the prize on his retirement and he has long been known affectionately as "The Father of the Chapel " in recognition of his long career in journalism, which ended as Assistant Director General News at the BBC.

The prize for the top pistol shot went to L/Cpl Ian Chapman. The trophy is a custom carving by former unit member Captain Abby Cooke, who specialises in spectacular woodcarvings including ship's figureheads.

Club Trophy under consideration

The Pen is considering acquiring a trophy to be awarded annually to the club member who has made the greatest contribution to the advancement and recognition of military media operations. Suggestions for the nature of the trophy and the criteria for its award are welcomed.

Book reviews

Do you want your book reviewed by The NetWorker? Please send a copy to our Review Editor, Major Gerald Bartlett at 34, St. Stephens Hill, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7AX. gwbartlett@hotmail.co.uk

Confirmed New Members

Royal Navy

Cdr Steve Tatham, RN, Strategic Communications & formerly Media Ops
Lt Cdr Alexandra Brooks, RNR, NATO Media Ops
Lt Cdr Susan Lloyd, RNR, formerly Chief Public Affairs Officer Maritime Command & formerly MoD Press Office
Lt Sally Armstrong, RNR

Royal Marines

Capt Paul Gibbins, RM Combat Team Commander, Bosnia
Capt Stu McLaren, RM, Defence Media Operations Centre

Army:

Col Patrick Crowley, Colonel Media & Communications Army
Lt Col Luke Chauveau, MOG (V) & Advisor to CGS
Lt Col Edmund McMahon Turner, MOG (V)
Lt Col Julian Tyson-Woodcock, ACF Media Ops Training Team
Lt Col Mark Wenham, Chief of Public Affairs ARRC
Maj Andrew Bonfante, The Royal Gibraltar Regiment
Maj Patrick Jackson, Strategic Messaging, Afghanistan, MOG (V)

Royal Air Force

Hon Air Commodore Alex Dickson, RAuxAF, former CO 7644 Squadron
Wing Cdr Trevor Field, RAF, former Head Of News RAF.
Wing Cdr Michael Cairns, RAuxAF, and former CO 7644 Squadron.
Sqdn Ldr Dylan Eklund, RAuxAF, Deputy Commanding Officer, 7644 Squadron

Sqdn Ldr Wayne Palmer, RAF, Head of Digital Communications RAF
F/O Jane Shepherd, RAuxAF
Peter Lisney, RAuxAF
David Bennett, late Chief Media Ops, NATO.ISAF

NATO

Ms Shona Lowe, NATO Public Affairs Officer for Operation Ocean Shield

Government Information Services

Ms Tricia Quiller-Croasdell, Head of Communications Wales Office
& latterly Media Advisor CBF Afghanistan
Ms Pippa Norris, Head of Digital Engagement, Ministry of Defence

Police Forces

Ms Rachel Smyth, Head of Corporate Communications Gloucestershire Constabulary
and latterly Media Ops 143(WM) Brigade

Contributions & Suggestions to:

National Chairman: Colonel Mike Peters
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Secretary & Treasurer: Major Doreen Cadwallader
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