

The Listening Post

The Newsletter of the Langeleben Reunion Association,
Affiliated member of the Royal Signals Association



No 36

October 2019



2019 UK Reunion

The annual reunion for 2019 was held at the Quorn Grange Hotel, between the 6th and 8th of September. There were over 40 members present. The new location was well received by association members.

After meeting up in the hotel bar during the Friday afternoon. Some of us then ventured into Quorn in the evening.

On the Saturday morning after the group photograph was taken in the gardens of the hotel, we assembled for the AGM.

Saturday evening saw us all suited and booted for the formal dinner. Afterwards we were entertained by the fabulous Hotsie Totsies.



Tony Moore made a guest appearance. He is shown here with Dick Pickup and Jeff Thomas.



A three girl group sang, in perfect harmony, hits from the 40's and 50's, whilst having a bit of comic banter with our members.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

Everybody is looking forward to meeting up again in Königslutter next year to help celebrate the 550th anniversary of the Schützengilde

Chris Jones (Editor)



The Quorn Grange Hotel got the thumbs up. The staff looked after us very nicely.



Our President's address at the AGM



The President stated that he was conscious that he was very much the “new boy”: not only was he never stationed at Langeleben, he was never stationed in Loughborough either! The closest he had come was a two day familiarisation visit on his way to command 9 Signal Regiment in 1995. An even more tenuous link was his

attendance at Welbeck College – when it was in Welbeck and not in Woodhouse Eaves. He and his wife, Sally, looked forward to meeting those members they had not yet met and to catching up with others.

On behalf of the members he thanked the Committee, and in particular Dick Pickup, for their work in organising the reunion this year.

He then spoke about the challenges facing the Army today, from two perspectives:

Firstly, its size. He compared the manning numbers over the decades and concluded that now, our Army is very small, smaller that it had been for over 200 years. Military charities glean a considerable amount of their income from the ‘one day’s pay scheme’ from serving soldiers. The fewer the soldiers, the less money is available to Corps charities and, as Chair of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, he had seen a considerable drop in revenue over the years.

Secondly, the type of operations the Army is expected to be able to conduct today. The expectation is that it continues to carry out what it has traditionally done over the past 60 decades as well as increase its capabilities in the new challenges such as Cyber operations. With a smaller Army and less funding for equipment the Army is facing challenging times and the skills possessed by the Royal Signals and the Intelligence Corps – with their supporting Services - are probably more in demand now than ever before.

2020 is the centenary of the Royal Corps of Signals and one of the ways the Corps would be marking the milestone is the production of a book covering the history of the Corps through a series of very short articles. He had been involved with the production of

the book and was hopeful that one of the stories included might be about Langeleben and the Reunion Association.

He then turned his attention to the future challenges to the Reunion Association. To have reached a 25 year point in such good shape was a fantastic achievement, but the challenge would be to keep the reunion going. Having done the sums he concluded that it would be quite possible to reach another 25 year mark and spoke about the issues that may stop the Association achieving that goal:

One – the lack of volunteers to serve on the Committee. He particularly commended Rod Goddard for the fantastic job and number of years that he had served both as Vice President and Chairman, but that he needed to handover the position of Chairman. He encouraged the younger generation to step up to the plate and also to re-double their efforts to encourage their generation to enrol as members.

Two – BREXIT. Whilst the reunion in Germany was not everyone’s cup of tea and some could no longer make the journey, he felt it to be the mainstay of the Reunion Association and supported more by the younger generation. He thought that very little would change in the event of leaving the EU, and it would be a huge shame for BREXIT to be an excuse for not making the trip across the channel, and thus threaten the future of the Association as a whole. The Association had been specifically invited by the Stadt to be their guest at its Schützengilde 550th anniversary next year and thus even more reason for the younger element to persuade their mates to return to Königslutter for a great time.

So, rather than seeing the 25th anniversary as the beginning of the end, the President asked the membership to see it as the beginning of the next 25 years and asked the younger generation to lead the charge in filling positions on the Committee - starting with the Chairman - and increasing the membership in order to prolong an Association that he described as truly special. He felt it was a great privilege to our President.

2019 Reunion. By Charlie Charlesworth

At the AGM on 7 September in Quorn it was brought to the attention of the membership that, with the demise of Marlene Brooks (God rest her soul), there was urgent need of a new Editor for the Listening Post if that means of keeping everyone in touch was to continue. There were no volunteers at that time. However, subsequent to that, Chris Jones has volunteered and his offer has been very speedily accepted. Thank you Chris for coming forward. So, if you have an article that you wish to submit for inclusion into any forthcoming Listening Posts, please forward them to Chris Jones.

listeningpost@chjones.net

Tom Perkin – our website administrator - has spent a lot of time on the computer and phone trying to contact members who did not get back with their GDPR permissions. I am very pleased to report that, as a result, another 35 members have responded and updated their information. This now brings to 309 the total who have agreed to GDPR - well done Tom. Unfortunately there are still 133 members who have still not signed up for GDPR or we have been unable to contact. If that is you please contact your Secretary, Charlie Charlesworth on 01423 771935.

I am very happy to report that we have one new member, JIM HAGUE, who signed up at our reunion in Quorn, WELCOME JIM. There are also another three in the pipeline so we are not at a standstill yet!

I have to say our Quorn reunion appeared to be a great success and the hotel was very pleasing, it was great seeing everyone enjoying themselves. Thanks again to Dick Pickup who did such a wonderful job organising the weekend and to Rod Goddard for suggesting the entertainment of the Hotsie Totsies. They certainly brought some pazzazz to the proceedings. If you have not seen the video of the evening's entertainment it can be viewed on our web site in the video section.

Finally, if you have not already made a note in your new 2020 diary, our next Langeleben Reunion Association get together will be in Langeleben on 28-30 August. This ties in with the 550th anniversary of the Schützengilde so it will be a BIG celebration – not to be missed!

The Sentinel

by Clive Sanders

**The guard stood erect in the
churchyard,
His memorial behind his thin back,
He'd protect it from shame and
dishonour,
And defend it from any attack.
His jacket buttoned high at the
collar,
Its cuffs still bore the mud stains,
His trousers tucked into his
puttees,
Wrapped tight and secured by
their reins.**

**His rifle poised close to his
shoulder,
Its bayonet was sharp to the
touch,
He would hold off the hardest
attacker,
With his weapon held in his strong
clutch.
His face showed the strain of the
battle,
His eyes focused firmly ahead,
He would not permit any person,
To dishonour his friends who are
dead.**

**So stand by this valiant soldier,
Who has given his all for this land.
Help him protect what he stood
for,
His country so noble and grand.
Remember those innocent
warriors,
Whose names all appear on the
list,
Pray that they now live in glory,
And honour the dead who are
missed.**

Ramblings from the HF Setroom

It is December 1964, the A3 Spec Op training has finished and all remaining squad members were happy. Now all we had to do was to wait, where will we be posted to? would it be before Christmas? Surely not. Well how about 13 Signal Regiment in mid December. After a train journey to Manchester, a flight (for the first time ever) to Düsseldorf airport, a first trip overseas, (Unless Anglesey is classed as being overseas.) the excitement is never-ending. Then a bus to Mönchengladbach and finally a mini bus to the Regiment. A rather hostile orderly Cpl is at the guardroom to greet you, he issues you with emergency bedding and explains where the transit accommodation is to be found. Three trips later everything is in the room, you're exhausted and it's fast approaching midnight. At this time you realise an early call would be a good idea, so yet again it's back to the guardroom and by this time you must have notched up a couple of miles.

After an early breakfast, its time to get smartened up, before reporting to the 1 Squadron Office. (Must make a good impression, especially on your first day.) However, before this can happen a rather small, very cross looking Sergeant Major appears in the doorway, he had dark piercing eyes and a lopsided grin on his face. Later I would realise that the grin was a permanent feature. He was asking me for an explanation as to why I hadn't attended this morning's "Fire Training parade at 0630hrs! The reply that nobody had told me really did seem to upset him. That is until the moment he spotted a pile of empty beer cans in the corner of the transit room. They had been there long before I had arrived, that made no difference because now beyond any doubt he was really mad. Once he had calmed down a bit, he said he would be back at 1200hrs to inspect the place and it had better be spotless or else! Eventually he did return and appeared to be in a much better frame of mind, he didn't even look at the room, instead I am taken on a trip around 1 Squadron lines. This is purely for my benefit, now he will show me "first hand" how real soldiers should live. Obviously this SSM is very proud of his Squadron and the spotless accommodation blocks, it reminded me of our rooms in boy service. Then he tells me that he would not put up with a scruffy individual like me in his squadron any longer. (I have only been there for about 18hrs.)

Consequently he had arranged for me to be posted to 2 Squadron and don't get comfortable here, he warned because you will be gone well before Christmas. Oh and by the way, 2 Squadron is a punishment posting! Little wonder he had been looking rather happy.

A few days later armed with a travel order and a rail ticket from Wassenberg to Königslutter, I started my journey across West Germany. Back in 64 my knowledge of Germany was feeble and my understanding of the German language was even worse. That's why, even if I had known where I was heading to, that I had little or no confidence in getting there. On the first leg of the journey from Wassenberg to Mönchengladbach, I eventually found a person who spoke English and seemed prepared to help. At Mönchengladbach station he escorted me round to the RTO office, which at the time was manned by an RASC clerk, luckily for me we had shared a room during our time in boys service. He quickly put together a list of stations, platforms and times for me, something the Regiment had failed to do. Maybe they were hoping that I would get lost and to never return! It was rather late in the day when I arrived at Königslutter station, there was no transport there to meet me, just a station master, who would not have been out of place on the square at Pirbright. Fortunately for me he had seen this all before and indicated that he would make a telephone call. About 30 minutes later a driver (Phil Osborne) arrived to take me to the camp. On route there was a mandatory stop in Königslutter for a glass of beer and then off to the camp. By this time the camps lines had been fully refurbished and what a fantastic looking place it was, more like a holiday camp than a British military barracks. As I was checking in with the MSO the duty officer came into the guardroom and introduced himself as Captain (Dan) Bailey, a Royal Anglian Regiment, what was he doing here? Anyway, he asked if he could help and with that he picked up my case and said follow me I will show you to your accommodation block.

If only the SSM 1 Squadron could see me now, my punishment posting had certainly started in style.

VP/Chairman
Rod Goddard

News of Langeleben veterans.

Phil Froom

The following has been taken from The Military Intelligence Museum Facebook page.



Phil Froom has joined our team and become a new Ambassador for the museum, fully supporting us in our move to Milton Bryan, the home of Black Propaganda.

He served for nine years in the British Army in Signals Intelligence and Electronic Warfare,

before leaving the Forces for a career in Defence Electronics.

Having received a great deal of Escape and Evasion training during his service with the British Army on the Rhine during the Cold War, he became intrigued by the gadgets he had been issued, and began to research the entirety of Escape and Evasion within the Armed Forces, its origins, devices produced and the training provided to Allied troops during World War Two.

In 2015, after twelve years of research, Froom published his acclaimed book, 'Evasion and Escape Devices Produced by MI9, MIS-X and SOE in WWII'. He continues to promote the work of MI9 as the founding organisation of the doctrine and art of Escape and Evasion (today known as SERE). Froom also acts as a historical advisor for museums, fellow authors, and television. He is currently acting as historical advisor for the International Spy Museum in Washington and is a pending member of their Advisory Board. He has written numerous articles on the subject of Escape and Evasion. He is married with two adult children and lives in Berkshire.

Thanks to Mick Hurn for this information.

Clive Sanders



Clive was recently appointed Poetry Facilitator to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where he greatly enjoys working with the Chelsea Pensioners to tell their experiences in poetic form.

He has also been asked to become a judge for next year's

Never Such Innocence charity and it looks like he will be working with Princess Anne's husband, Rear Admiral Sir Timothy Lawrence, in that role.

Thanks to Clive for blowing his own trumpet

To get the brain cells working.

From the GCHQ Puzzle book, for the linguists amongst us.

My first is in Finland but not in Finnish

My second is in Estonia but not in Estonian

My third is in Albania but not in Albanian

My fourth is in Sweden but not in Swedish

My fifth is in Germany but not in German

My sixth is in Iceland but not in Icelandic

My last is in Wales but not in Welsh

My whole is in England but not in English

Where am I?

Answer on page 7.



Courtesy of Clive Inman

MINUTES OF THE 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2019

at

QUORN GRANGE HOTEL, LOUGHBOROUGH

INTRODUCTION

Following a group photograph outside the hotel, the meeting, attended by 41 members, was opened at 1100 hrs by the Chairman, Rod Goddard. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and the Committee:

- President: Maj Gen Tim Inshaw CB
Chairman: Rod Goddard MBE
Treasurer: Stephen "Farmer" Vaughan
(absent from the meeting)
Secretary: Charlie and Jud Charlesworth
Our Man in UK" Dick Pickup

LAST POST

The Chairman asked everyone to be upstanding to remember those members/non-members who had passed away since the last AGM:

PETER RADNIDGE

BOB ALLUM

TED APPLEBY

RUSTY ROSSON

BRIAN KEIGHTLEY

MICHAEL BRAHAM

BOB RIDLEY

MARLENE BROOKS

HELEN NEAL

DEREK IRWIN

ERNIE COOPER

The Exhortation was cited and a minute's silence kept.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Dennis Weir, Horst Funke, Stephen "Farmer" Vaughan, Tom Perkin, Arnuff Baumann (very ill in hospital and wished a speedy recovery), Jim and Betty Hardy (who, with bags packed, were unable to travel as Jim was

hospitalised the previous morning), Tom Neal, Ron Mason, Bob Kay.

MINUTES OF THE 25TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Secretary presented the minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting to the meeting. Ernie Callaghan proposed and Jim Husband seconded, that the minutes were a true reflection of proceedings at that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

At the last meeting the Treasurer, Rusty Rosson, through the Chairman, had indicated his wish to hand over the role but, at that time, no-one volunteered. Subsequent to that, Stephen "Farmer" Vaughan had come forward and has taken the post.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Each member had received a copy of the Annual Accounts. In the Treasurer's absence, the Chairman gave an overview of the Association's accounts for the year. The Opening balance on 1 January 2019 was £3,917.45 and the closing balance at 13 August 2019 was £2,371.73.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last AGM the Association had sadly lost eight members. Of those eight members, three families had requested the use of the Reunion Coffin Drape at their funerals, and it was much appreciated. The Secretary reminded the meeting that this facility is available to all members.

The Association had gained one new member - GRAHAM SLACK - and a warm welcome was extended to him.

The total of active and honorary members stood at 272.

With the demise of Marlene Brooks, the Association had lost its Listening Post Editor. The Secretary paid tribute to the considerable time and effort Marlene had given to the Association with the publication of the Listening Post over many years. He stressed that the Listening Post played a huge role in keeping those members who cannot attend meetings in touch with what is happening in the Association, and gave them an opportunity to relive old times.

It was stated that the previous venue, Burleigh Court, had served the Association well in the past but had become too expensive. He then thanked Peter Ellis for finding and recommending the Quorn Grange Hotel. He hoped the present membership agreed that the rates were very competitive and rooms very good.

Special mention was given to Dick Pickup who had liaised, on behalf of the Association, with the Hotel Conferencing Co-ordinator, had collated all accommodation and meal choices, and was the main point of contact for the entertainment artistes, The Hotsie Totsies. The members were asked, and showed their appreciation for the work Dick had put in.

Finally, he thanked Tom Perkin, for all his efforts in maintaining and up-keeping the Langeleben website.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Secretary and Treasurer had indicated a willingness to continue to serve in those posts and, as there were no new nominations for either post, the proposal that they should continue for a further year was carried.

The Chairman indicated his desire to hand over the role but would continue for a further one year only if no volunteer was forthcoming. No-one stepped forward and, subject to anyone volunteering outside the meeting, it was agreed that Rod Goddard remain Chairman for one final year.

LISTENING POST EDITOR

With the demise of Marlene Brooks the very important role of Editor of the Listening Post had become vacant. No-one from those attending volunteered to take the role. The President made a plea to the wider membership to look around them (sons/daughters/grandchildren) to identify anyone who might have a passion for IT editing. *See article by Charlie Charlesworth.

COFFIN DRAPE

The Chairman reported that it had become apparent that when the current coffin drape was laid over a coffin and word 'LANGELEBEN' was upside down. It was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that a new coffin drape be purchased. It was suggested, and agreed, that members donate towards this purchase. A plea, via Tom Perkin and the website to be initiated.

WEEKEND ARRANGEMENTS

Dick Pickup gave comprehensive details of all the timings, logistics and payments for the weekend.

2020 27TH REUNION

The Chairman announced that the next reunion, in Germany on 28th – 30th August 2020, would coincide with the 550th anniversary of the Schützengilde. While the general format for the weekend would change very little, he stated that many more

Schützengilde groups would be joining Königslutter for their celebrations. The need was therefore identified to book accommodation with the Avalon Hotel at the earliest possible opportunity via “our man in Germany”, John Richardson.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gerry Kane mentioned that an Attendance Book was missing. It was agreed that the previous Secretary (Clive Sanders) be approached and, if nothing transpired, a new book be purchased.

A member from the meeting stated that it was very good that Gail Baldwin continued to support the Association and all in attendance heartily agreed.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 1215 hrs.

IMPORTANT
 If you received this newsletter from a volunteer buddy, please do let them know it has been received and whether you still want a copy. Please do keep your memories coming in
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Puzzle answer
 LONDRES. Each line refers to a letter which appears in a country's name in English, but not in the native language.

Finland	Suomi	L
Estonia	Eesti	O
Albania	Shqiperia	N
Sweden	Sverige	D
Germany	Deutschland	R
Iceland	Island	E
Wales	Cymru	S