

The Listening Post

The Newsletter of the Langeleben Reunion Branch, Royal Signals Association



Issue No: 13

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Coming soon...Our Reunion



Dear Friends and colleagues,

As August quickly approach, I hope you are all excited as Eileen and I are, with the prospect of another get-together with our friends and colleagues at our reunion in Königslutter.

Thanks to efforts of Ernie and the committee, plus your commitment in getting over to Germany in the first place. I am in no doubt that we will all be in for a wonderful time. Whilst on the subject of committees, please don't forget that there is a direct relationship between a dedicated committee and a successful association.

Your current committee is looking to stand down in August, so if our fabulous association is to continue to thrive, we need volunteers to come forward and fill these key posts.

Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Rodney Goddard MBE.

Life has been so Good!

by Clive Sanders

I have been so lucky in the way I've led my life,
I have a loving family and the most adorable wife.
My Father taught me manners and how to be a man,
And my Mother taught me how to cook, and how to care and plan.

I joined the Army when old enough in nineteen sixty-five.
I then learned how to work with men, in order to survive.
I learned to be a soldier first, in every little way,
And when I look back at my Army life, I wouldn't change a day.

I was posted to Germany in nineteen sixty-six,
I learned to drink, and fight and swear, and into trouble mix.
I spent my days with the best of men and travelled Europe through,
There was scarcely a bar in Germany that I had not been to.

Then I met my lovely wife in nineteen seventy-one,
We married and lived in a married pad and now I had someone
Who loved me and wanted me to become a more successful man
So that we could have the better things, that all the others can.

Then a few years later, our daughter came along.
The three of us had a wonderful life, full of laughter, joy and song.
We also travelled to warmer climes, and Cyprus was our home.
We loved Greek food and wine and beer, and sun and sea and foam.

And occasionally, I would have to go, to places not too nice,
To serve my Queen and country, in conflict once or twice.
Then you find the friends you're with, will be there when it's bad
And also teach you how to live your life, when it's happy or it's sad.

And now I am at ripe old age, and like a rich red wine,
I have a rich full body, and a taste of things divine.
I am thankful to all my friends in life and those that have now gone,
So pass the bottle and light a fag, let's have a laugh my son.

**Letter from our
Secretary
on back page**

"To foster and keep alive the comrade spirit of all those who served at Langeleben."

Changing Tyres on a Land Rover

In late 1969 I had been at Langeleben for some months when I was informed by the MTO that one of the tyres on our Land Rover, 48 FG 81, needed to be changed. A bit of a problem really, as I had no idea how to change a tyre on a Land Rover. I asked around and a friend whispered that if I asked Staff Sergeant Jock Cheyne, he would show me how to change the tyre. So with enormous effort I managed to jack the Land Rover wheel off the ground, undo the nuts and remove the wheel, which I then rolled to the A Troop garages and asked Jock to show me how to change the tyre for a new one. Staff Sergeant Cheyne was somewhat reluctant to get his hands dirty, but after a few minutes pathetic whingeing and pleading on my part, he agreed to show me

how to change the tyre. He let down the tyre, got out the tyre levers and managed to remove the old tyre and replace it with a shiny new tyre, only trapping his fingers and crying out in pain 5 or 6 times. Happy as Larry I fitted the wheel back on the Land Rover and thanked the gods that it was Staff Sergeant Cheyne's fingers that were dirty and bleeding, and not mine.

Some months later I had a blow-out and had to change another tyre. Vividly remembering how much pain Jock Cheyne had suffered changing the tyre before, I was nearly sick with worry about how to change the tyre. Then a thought hit me, could I get Jock to show me how to change the tyre again? So I took the wheel off, rolled it up to A Troop garages and said to Jock that I had to change the tyre and I had never seen it done before, but someone had mentioned that he was the expert on changing Land Rover tyres, and if I asked nicely he would show me how to do it. Jock stared hard at me and said he was sure he had shown me how to change tyres before, but I insisted that it hadn't been me. Mumbling quite loudly Jock got out the tyre levers and changed the tyres, stopping a few times to insist that he had shown me before, but I held out that he must have mistaken me for another innocent newcomer to the unit. Jock only had his fingers nipped about 4 times on this occasion and I thanked him sincerely for his demonstration and then happily refitted the wheel back on the Land Rover.

Disaster happened a few months later. Another tyre needed to be changed. Plucking up all my courage I managed to talk Jock into showing me how to change the tyre on a Land Rover a third time, and over the next 18 months managed to get Jock to show me how to change a tyre on a Land Rover wheel a few more times.

Years passed and in 1996 I was at a Christmas party in Garats Hay Sergeant's Mess and I noticed that Jock Cheyne was there as an Honorary Member of the Mess. I couldn't resist going over to him, throwing my arm over his shoulder and telling him about all the times he showed me how to change a tyre on a Land Rover and ended by asking him whether he realised that he had shown me how to change the tyre on Land Rover many times. He responded by saying that he did remember that he had shown me many times, but he thought "I was slow"

Clive Sanders



We welcome our New Members

Bob Harrison. Royal Sigs. Langeleben 1976-81.
 Peter Blackhall. Royal Sigs. Langeleben 1960-61.
 Phil Atkins. Royal Sigs. Langeleben 1956-57.
 Henrik Kiertzner. Int. Corps. Langeleben 1985-89.
 Roger Nadin. Int. Corps. Langeleben 1961-66.
 John Moses. Int. Corps. Langeleben 1990-93.
 Neil Osborne. Int. Corps. Langeleben 1974-77.
 David Bowers. Int. Corps. Langeleben 1957.
 John Brown, Royal Signals/ Int. Corps
 Langeleben 1969,



FIVE GO A CAMPING

On a sunny Friday morning in the summer of 66, five intrepid campers - Cpls Jim and Mike, Lcpls Titch, Walt and me set off in a 3 ton truck. The truck was being driven by Phil Osborne. We were heading into the Harz Mountains for a spot of adventure training, Langy style. The camp site we were heading for was located between Claustel Zellerfelt and Wildeman. For the benefit of the other campers, who in the main were Danish, we were determined to put on a display of military proficiency. However, we were under a bit of a pressure because Phil had said if we got a grip, he would drop us off in Claustel Zellerfelt. We quickly erected our ridged tents with fixed ground sheets, blew up our air beds, tidied things away and set off for town. Except in our haste we had paid little or no attention to the lay of the land.

Many drinks later we decided it was time to stagger back to the camp site. However, by this time it was raining hard and it was a much longer walk than we had anticipated. So soaked to the skin and totally exhausted it took very little to persuade us to enter a hostelry. Rather a posh place, the band were dressed in djs and we were in jeans and the famous boots DMS. The first of many live experiments that took place. While MoD were trying to find a suitable replacement for the Ammo boot. We did discover one thing about boots DMS, that it was virtually impossible to do the twist in them. However, it could have had something to do with the amount of alcohol we had consumed. As we were unaware of the proximity of the campsite in relation to our current location and it was still raining, we decided to get a taxi back. The journey only lasted 2 minutes. There was quite a ruckus going on in the bar, so we just had to investigate. Late into the night, having said farewell to our new found camping buddies we staggered off into the night to try and find our tents. Jim being the Cpl led the way; unfortunately he lost his footing whilst cross a narrow bridge and fell into the river. Cpl, Mike decided that in his slightly wobbly state the narrow bridge was a step too far. So he followed the track round and then along the road, blissfully unaware that the stream followed the contours of the road. He jumped the fence straight into the river. Eventually we all made it back to our tents, only to discover that water had found its way in, but because of our lack of attention to detail, when erecting the tents and the fitted ground sheets, there the water had stayed. Regardless of the water, we splashed our way onto the air beds and gently rocked ourselves off to sleep.

The following morning a call of nature meant that I was the first to rise. Upon my return, I noticed that the tent containing the two Cpls had collapsed. So I awoke the two from their alcohol induced slumbers, only to be hit by an overwhelming smell. A cocktail of stale alcohol and sick, diluted by water just oozed out to greet me. Sometime during the night one of the Cpls had felt unwell. Then in a foggy alcoholic state combined with his haste to escape the confines of the tent, he managed to collapse the tent. So he just threw up in the tent

and went back to sleep. Needless to say this little incident risked damaging our gallant camper image, so swift action would be required. The offending canvas was washed down and placed over the bushes to dry. Before explanations were required we quickly made our escape and went wandering around the local area for the remainder of the day. We never did discover which one of the two Cpls had put our reputation as "courageous campers" at risk.

Rodney J Goddard MBE.

Does anyone remember?

Does anybody remember/still have one or more of these priceless souvenirs of 225 Signal Squadron.

Stephen Lawrence

Yes, I still have mine - sorry to halve the value lol

Ian Ellinor

I've got 2 that must be 2/3rds of the world stock. I'll put them back in the cupboard for another 40 years.

Stephen Lawrence

I've still got a netball skirt with the mouflon 225 logo on that we used when we played netball in the local Ladies League.

Jackie Fowler

Afraid my netball skirt got lost somewhere over the years !!

Ian Ellinor

I have one, acquired from Ron Clay a few months ago. Also have a 225 tie with mouflon logo. You can tell how old it is cos its a "slim jim".

Gerry Kane

Yep - still got mine plus 'Slim Jim' tie, together with the Grunewald (Green) Boar and even the 'Secret Squirrel' from nearer home and one or two other even stranger looking Plaques. Does that mean that we now each have a 1/3 at this stage before someone else finds theirs?

Peter Westwell

I have a couple of mouflon plaques and also some Langy medals for the lauf und wandertags we did (with ribbons) and many happy memories too!

Neil Mapp

From messages on Facebook by kind permission



Update from our Secretary

Only two months to go before our 20th anniversary reunion in Königsutter. Bookings have been exceptional and at the time of going to press we have over eighty members and guests attending, with over a month to go before we close the book it would be great if we could reach the century. A full itinerary will be sent at the end of July to those members who are attending.

The Bürgermeister of Königsutter Herr Alexander Hoppe has kindly accepted our invitation to join us at the AGM on Saturday 24th August; it will be a great opportunity for us to make the new Mayor familiar with our long standing association with the town and of the many friends we have made there over the last sixty two years,

On the excellent suggestion from member Ken Vipond we have also decided to send an open invitation to local ex camp civilian workers to join us at our Sunday evening BBQ. This has been organised by member Ilona Hawxwell who was Mess supervisor at the camp from 1966 to 1992, so far we have had 10 acceptances.

Our Chairman Jim Husband, Treasurer Gerry Kane and myself are still determined that this year will be our last on the committee, between us we have served some 52 years on the platform and feel that this anniversary of our association will be the ideal time to stand down.

We surely have enough dedicated members that would consider it an honour to take over the baton and carry on the proud tradition of the Langeleben Reunion branch.

We ask that any of our members who would like to be considered for any of the three posts contact a member of the current committee before the next AGM.

Ernie Callaghan

The 20th AGM and Reunion 23rd - 26th August 2013 Who's going so far?

Don Aitken, Tom Allum, Ray & Elsie Armstrong, Peter & Gail Baldwin, Kev Bamforth, Malcolm Bowker, Michael & Irene Braham, Ian & Wendy Buckley, Ernie & Sheila Callaghan, Charlie & Jud Charlesworth, Stephen Clifford, Brian Cowling, Pete Ellis, Horst & Regine Funke, Dave Garner, Rod & Eileen Goddard, John "Jim" Hardy, Bob Harrison, Ilona Hawxwell, Sid & Onne Hicken, Jim & Ulrike Hilton, Philip & Annabel Hobson + 2, Jim & Erica Husband, Steve Jarvis, Henry Jones, Chris Jones & Brigitte Peter, Teresa & John Jones, Gerry & Janet Kane, Bob Kay, Stephen & Jacqueline Lawrence, Neil & Fe Mapp, Robbie McCallum, Stuart McCleod, Darrell Middleton, Tom & Helen Neal, Denis & Joyce Parr, Bob Pritchard, Ernie & Avril Robertson, Barry &

Susan Robinson, Steve Rofe, John Rosson & Nigel Butler, Clive & Prin Sanders, Robin Seaward, Dave Seddon, Patrick Seymour-Smith, Jock Stirling, Jeff Thomas, Brian & Bernice Turnbull, Stephen Vaughan, Ken Vipond, Dennis Weir, Bob Wells, and Peter Westwell



John & Doreen Cassels with our newest member John Brown taken at 224 Sigs Sqn Sgts Mess Garats Hay Fancy dress night 1972.

Where are they now?

Having spent 6 very happy years at Langeleben from 72 to 78, and made lots of friends, we were wondering if anyone knew what happened to Mick and Pat Hodgkinson and Ed and Cynthia Bates. Mick and Pat lived opposite us in Wolfenbüttel, and Ed and family just round the corner. Would love to hear how they are doing.

Sue and John Pryor

IMPORTANT

If you received this newsletter from a volunteer buddy, please do let him know it has been received so we are aware you are well and happy to continue to receive it. Your reunion (or other) memories are welcomed for our next newsletter. Please send to:

Marlene Brooks
167 Fold Croft
Harlow Essex
CM20 1SL

Or email to: langelebennews@yahoo.co.uk



Last Post

We will remember them



John (Paddy) Graham. Royal Sigs. Langeleben 1967-70
Brian Winson. Royal Sigs. Langeleben 1960-61
Fred Sanderson. Royal Sigs. Langeleben 1955-57
Norman Richardson. Royal Sigs. Langeleben 1969-72