

The Listening Post

The Newsletter of the Langeleben Reunion Branch, Royal Signals Association



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Reunion Special

Well that is our 21st reunion under our belts and what a fantastic weekend it turned out to be. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to catch up with old friends and some new members. As always our members and friends made the journey over from Königslutter and it was great to see them. The committee had obviously worked very hard to ensure everyone had such an enjoyable weekend and they must all be congratulated. We would also like to thank John Rosson for taking on the responsibility of treasurer.

Our president Peter Baldwin continues to make good progress following his fall and subsequent illness. They were both very disappointed to miss this year's reunion, but did say they hope to be with us next year. Gail was delighted to receive her bouquet of flowers and asked me to pass on her best wishes to one and all. Plans are already being put in place for the reunion next year. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Rod Goddard
Vice President/Chairman.

The Reunion by Clive Sanders

The old soldiers met friends of long standing,
With lots of warm handshakes and hugs.
Their friendships were close, not demanding;
Requests met with nodding, not shrugs.

There were drinks being bought by the tray-full,
For friendships that had lasted for years.
The old soldiers grouped tight round a table,
Telling tales full of fighting and beers.
The wives smiled as they listened to stories,
That they wished everyone would forget.
Their husbands remembered old glories,
Or something they'd done for a bet.

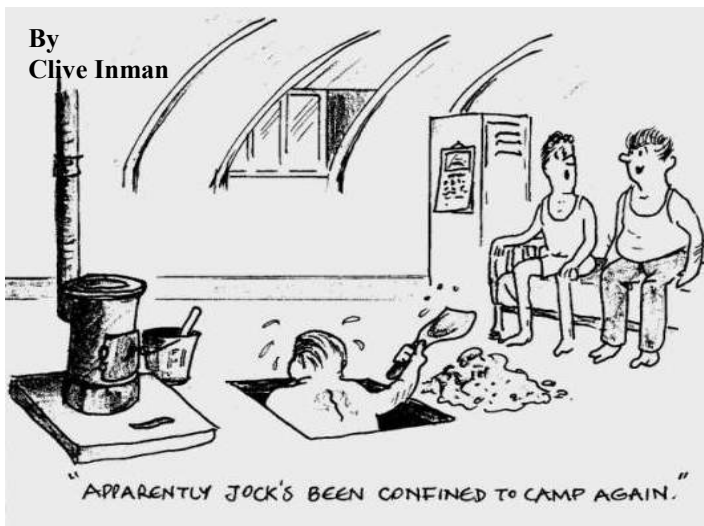
They remembered the good times together.
They remembered being soaked in the rain.
They remembered the hot and cold weather,
And forgot all the suffering and pain.

Much later the drinking became slower,
And the chatter began to die down.
The tone of those speaking grew lower,
And foreheads began slowly to frown.

Thoughts turned to those who were missing,
They remembered with fondness and pride.
And their names came with warm reminiscing,
Of old friends who had stood by their side.

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By
Clive Inman



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

Minutes of the 21st AGM of the Langeleben Reunion Branch

The meeting was attended by 43 members and proceedings opened by our stand-in Chairman Jim Husband, who then introduced the members of the committee. The chairman read out the roll of honour, which was followed by a minute silence as the branch standard was lowered by our standard bearer Tom Neal.

APOLOGIES:

The Secretary, Clive Sanders, read out the apologies of those members who for various reasons were unable to attend.

MINUTES OF 20th AGM:

The minutes of the 20th AGM, having been previously been circulated on the branch website and in the Listening Post, were taken as read by the meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

In the absence of our President, Major General Peter Baldwin, our Vice President, Rodney Goddard welcomed the members and thanked them for making the effort to attend our 21st reunion. Rodney explained that he was standing in for our President, who was very unwell and was thus unable to make the trip this year and asked the floor to join him both in thought and prayer for Peter and Gail at what was a difficult time for them.

Rodney then gave a very interesting talk on a series of events that had occurred at Kinmel Park Camp during the First World War, which resulted in the deaths of 5 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, whose deaths were commemorated by 5 cast-iron maple leaves marking the graves of these soldiers .

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gerry Kane, on behalf of our Treasurer, John Plaskitt, read through a detailed report on the branch's current financial situation, which showed that for the year 2013, the branch finances continued to be in a very healthy state. The branch started 2013 with an opening balance of £4182.42p and at the end of 2013, the closing balance stood at £4360.98p.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Branch Secretary, Clive Sanders, started his report by thanking Dick Pickup for the wonderful job he had done arranging this year's reunion. He also thanked Ernie Callaghan for all the help and advice he had given in his first year as secretary. He reported that the branch now consisted of 448 members and asked the Chairman to welcome and hand introduction packs to our latest new members, Chris Jones and Mac Peden. Clive stressed that for the branch to survive we need to recruit new members and the attraction of having our Königslutter reunions coincide with the town's Schützenfest served a very good incentive for new members to join the branch. He thanked Marlene Brooks for the continuing excellent work she was doing as the editor of our branch maga-

zine, the "Listening Post". He stated that a letter had been sent to the CO 14 Signal Regiment, informing him of our branch and inviting him to consider sending a Marching Party of his young soldiers to join us at next year's Königslutter reunion. Clive ended by saying that he hoped everyone liked the Identity Badges he had made for this year's reunion and asked everyone to hand them back to him before they departed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Vice President stated that the branch needed two new officers to take on the duties of Chairman and Treasurer. On the subject of the vacancy for Chairman he stated that he believed that the roles of Vice President and Chairman could easily be combined and therefore he would gladly volunteer to take on both posts. Clive Sanders thus proposed that Rod Goddard should become Chairman and this was seconded by Dennis Weir. John Rosson then offered to take on the office of Treasurer and Rod Goddard proposed and Clive Sanders seconded this proposal. Both positions were subsequently endorsed by the meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

John Rosson asked the committee members to approve an advance by the branch to the Birgelen Veterans Association, with a view to coordinating our reunions with their association, so that people with membership of both organizations would only have one venue to attend. He pointed out that our President, Major General Peter Baldwin, always tried to attend the reunions of both organizations and it would make it much easier for him if he only had to make one trip. The motion was strongly debated and finally Dennis Weir proposed that the secretary should write to the BVA to liaise on a common date for the reunions of both organizations. Ernie Callaghan seconded this proposal and it was put to the vote, which resulted in the proposal being rejected.

Stuart McLeod raised issues with last year's Schützenfest in Königslutter. He stated that people felt very cramped in and that the food was abysmal. The secretary offered to contact our Königslutter Reunion Organizer, John Richardson, on this issue. Ernie Callaghan pointed out that most of us did not go to the Schützenfest for the food.

Robbie McCallum proposed that the branch send flowers to Marlene Brooks and Gail Baldwin as a gesture of support. Ernie Callaghan seconded this motion and the committee approved this proposal.

Horst Funke made a short speech and presented the branch with a trophy in German national colours.

Ilona Hawxwell also made a short speech of thanks to the committee and pointed out that there were new places of interest that could be visited during next year's Königslutter reunion.

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Jim Husband proposed that next year's Königsutter reunion be moved back to the May period, as it was a cheaper option. Ernie Callaghan seconded this proposal, but when it came to a vote the proposal was unanimously rejected by the members.

2015 REUNION:

The provisional dates for the 2015 Königsutter were agreed as 28th-30th August 2015, but this was dependent on confirmation by the Schützenmeister.

Close of meeting

Editorial Note: Reference the provisional dates noted in the minutes, these dates have now been confirmed as outlined in Clive's secretary's report.

Reunion thoughts and photos

I have been invited by our magazine editor to submit some brief thoughts and a couple of pictures from the recent reunion in Loughborough.

The weekend was once again well attended. I don't recall seeing too many new faces, but it was wonderful to see so many of our stalwart members still going strong and remaining loyal to our Reunion Branch.

The Saturday morning Annual General Meeting was, to say the least, a lively affair, with some interesting proposals, followed by some eloquent and at times heated debate.

The venue was as ever very good in almost all respects except the bar prices which are frankly exorbitant. This thrifty Yorkshire man really baulks at paying £4.10 for a pint of mediocre draft bitter, so I was delighted to learn that Heine Feddeck had once again shown the forethought to import a substantial amount of wonderful German Pils in the back of his car.



Heine Feddeck shows off his imports

I quickly reserved one of his 5L cans and this guaranteed a much cheaper and more enjoyable Saturday evening. We were of course told by the management that we would have to pay corkage for our German beer and we readily agreed to

do so. Very strange that, in the event, no-one thought to come and collect the corkage! I guess that made it taste even better.

The Saturday evening function was very good indeed. The DJ catered to the 'seniority' of his audience and the Greek themed buffet was delicious. Our table consisted of old friends, both English and German, who first met in Langeleben in 1968.



Ken Wilford, Georgie Berg, Dennis Weir and Phil Cork
46 years may have passed since we four were the kings of Königsutter but the fact that Georgie's English is spoken in a strong Yorkshire accent bears witness to the influence that Ken and Dennis had on his early learning.

In summary a very good weekend and the next one in Königsutter promises to be even better. If you are reading this and have yet to attend a reunion, give it some thought. Let's see even more old friends gather in 'Slutter' in August 2015.

Dennis Weir

Latest News

At this year's AGM, many members of the branch expressed concerns about the food we are served when we attend the opening evening of the Königsutter Schützenfest. Heine Feddeck offered to contact the Königsutter Schützenfest committee on this issue and see if he could arrange an alternate meal for members of the branch. True to his word, Heine has now reported that the Schützenfest committee is perfectly willing to issue members of the branch vouchers in lieu of the traditional food they normally serve. The vouchers can then be used to purchase Bratwurst and chips, or something similar, from the vendors at the fest site. On the strength of this, Heine should do alright for drinks from grateful members at next year's Königsutter reunion.

Thank you to all for the bouquet of flowers you sent to me, they were lovely and so plentiful I was able to share/donate some to our little old church in Clive's memory. He would have liked that. Marlene Brooks

Secretary's Report.

I think it is fairly safe to say that our 2014 Loughborough reunion proved a great success, due mainly to the wonderful job done by Dick Pickup, our Loughborough reunion coordinator. He managed to cope with a considerable number of late changes to the booking, right up until the week before the reunion and everyone is very grateful for his efforts.

Unfortunately, our President, Major General Peter Baldwin could not attend the reunion, due to an accident shortly before the meeting and his presence was missed by all. The AGM wished him a speedy recovery from his injuries.

The AGM resulted in our Vice-president, Rod Goddard, taking on the office of Chairman, in addition to his current role and John Rosson becoming our new Treasurer.

The highlight of the reunion was Saturday's dinner, with the meal consisting of a Greek Fork Buffet followed by a selection of deserts, which proved a great hit. The dinner was followed by a disco which featured a good selection of vintage pop music. The raffle, run again by Jim Husband and Ernie Callaghan, raised an impressive £326.

Besides the formal activities of the reunion, there was the normal range of informal social gatherings, which are always a feature of our reunions.

We are now already beginning to work on our 2015 Königsfutter reunion, which has now been confirmed as **Friday 28th August – Monday 31st August 2015.**



Last Post

We will remember them



Belated last post

We have recently received the sad news that Guy Clarke has passed away. Unfortunately, as we were not directly informed at the time we were unable to let you know closer to the time of his passing. Guy was with the Intelligence Corp and served in Langeleben 1955-1956.

Associate member Jim Jarman known to many of us passed away in June 2014 shortly after his article was printed in the last issue of the Listening Post. Jim at age 90 was still communicating with us until recently using just one finger on the keyboard.

Welcome new members

Chris Jones 1975 - 1978 1982-1985

Christopher Swindin June or July 1958 to February 1959

Malcom (Mac) Peden 1970-1972

Graham Oldfield 1983-1986

Good time was had by all

The 21st AGM and reunion saw an exchange visit by three Königsfutter men (Horst, Heine, and George) they exchanged gifts given by David and Barbara Whittaker, five tubes of Senf (mustard) in exchange for two packets of



Paxo Sage and Onion stuffing and two packs of Oxo cubes. Who said bartering was dead? Heine and George also gave me a present of a German flag and a lovely bier glass, in return I gave them a Scotland tea towel showing a map of Scotland. I worked with Heine for three years (1969-1972) in the REME Heine being the civilian fitter.

Just to put on record I really enjoyed the reunion very much and would like to say a big thank you to the committee for working so hard to make it a big success.

Robbie McCallum

It felt quite strange attending the first reunion in 15 years that I did not have a hand in organising. No responsibilities, I could do as I liked within reason and was not on call for the next 48 hours. Gerry and Jim had been called back to the platform at the AGM to fill in for the absent Chairman and Treasurer so I was left on my own to happily join the OR's on the floor with the opportunity to harass the committee.

I must say that the whole weekend went as smoothly as ever, Burleigh Court has never let us down.

I know that our 22nd reunion in Königsfutter next year will also be a success with the arrangements in the capable hands of John Richardson, John who did such a great job in organising the whole ceremony for the inauguration of our commemorative stone at Langeleben in 2009.

Ernie Callaghan.

Lost contact – where are they now?

If anyone is in contact with Anne Partridge or Rita Wingfield to drop me an e-mail at: whcsanders@hotmail.com.

Prin and Clive Sanders

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 CM20 1SL

Or email to: langelebennews@yahoo.co.uk