

The Listening Post

The Newsletter of the Langeleben Reunion Branch, Royal Signals Association



Issue No: 7

Spring 2011



Langeleben



Reunion 2011

Book Now to avoid disappointment!

The 18th reunion and AGM will be held in Königslutter over the three days **Friday 27th May to Sunday 29th May inclusive** and will again take place at the Avalon Hotelpark Königshof which is in Braunschweiger Strasse, only 10 minutes walk from the Town Centre. There are still places available so if you would like to attend please fill out the enclosed form and return it to Ernie Callaghan as soon as possible.

Who is going so far?

Don Aitken
Peter & Gail Baldwin
Michael & Irene Braham
Charlie & Jud Charlesworth
Stephen Clifford
Tom & Avril Daly
Pete Ellis
Dave Garner
Peter Hailey
George & Illona Hawxwell
Mick Hurn & Wife
Steve Jarvis
Gerry & Janet Kane
Bob Kay
Robbie McCallum
Mike Miller
Tom & Helen Neal
Dick Pickup & Martina Tait
John Rosson
Ian Trowhill
Ken Vipond

Ray & Elsie Armstrong
Stephen, Kathryn & Jack Betts
Ernie Callaghan
John Chudleigh
Pete & Pauline Corker
Paul Ellis & Cheryl Brown
Horst Funke
Rod & Eileen Goddard
John Hardy & Betty
Sid & Onne Hicken
Jim & Erica Husband
Henry Jones
Lee Griffin & Kathryn Kane
Ron Mason
Stuart McCleod
Chris Moseley
John Newband
John Plaskitt
David & Rosemary Thomas
Stephen Vaughan
Bob Wells



Right: Reunion at Königslutter in 2009

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

The 'Punishment' Posting

I arrived at Langeleben under something of a cloud. Well, for me, it was meant to be something of a punishment posting. Not that I was a bad lad I had just managed to get off on the wrong foot from the start. This continued as I got off the train at the wrong station and found myself at Königslutter East. A kind taxi driver took me up to the Camp whilst the driver was still waiting for me at the right station. This so-called punishment posting turned out to be the best of my Army career.

My passion was sport and I certainly had plenty of this with the great Langeleben football team – 'Brummie' Andrews, Ian Ellinor, David Whittaker, 'Gypo' Brooks just to name a few. We won the 'Minor Units Cup' and with Langeleben being such a small unit this was a fantastic achievement! I also played for the local Helmstedt Hockey team where I was so well liked that they said they intended buying me out of the Army and finding me a job locally should a posting come through for me from REME records. Even Our C.O. played for the same team and he asked REME records if I could stay on. Alas, back came the answer "NO".



Funny moments?

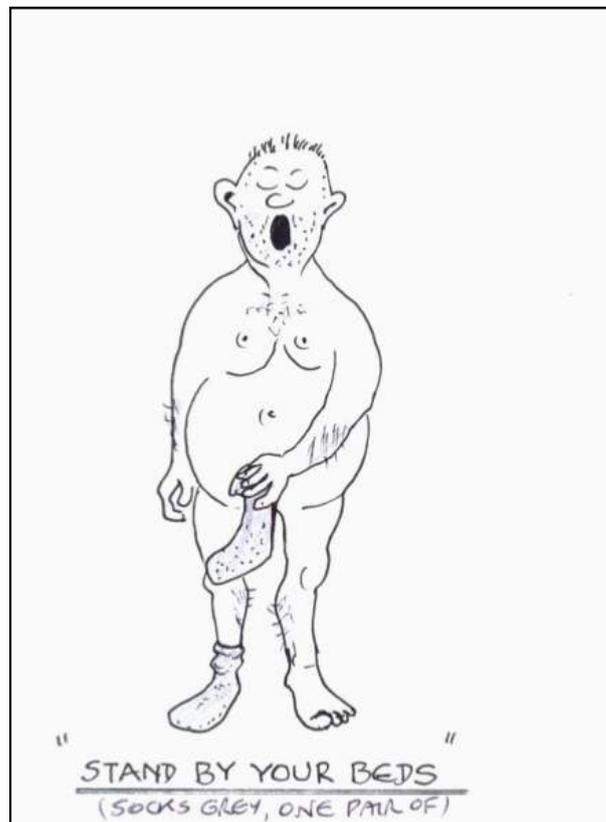
There were a lot of **Bob Stacey Graeme Atkinson Robbie** them, one time Graeme Atkinson (who was later to become Yeoman) and myself (now a Corporal) were 'waitering' at the Sergeants'/ Officers' Mess one evening when they were holding a Dinner/Dance. After helping out with the left-overs and a lot of wine we thought it would be a good idea to be in first for breakfast. We got our sleeping bags and camped out in the Cookhouse. We never made breakfast. So much for it being a 'Punishment Posting', actually it turned out to be the best ever as far as I was concerned.

I met some fantastic mates. Bob Kay and Ron Mason and Mick (Taff)

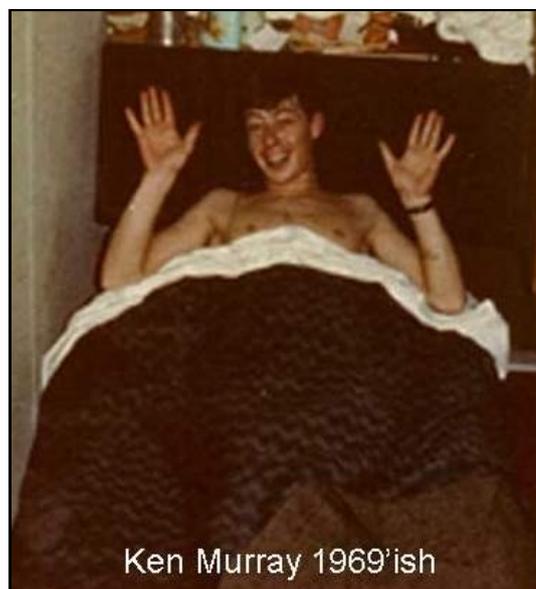


Robbie McCallum

Kavanagh, I still see to this day and we usually attend the reunions together. Photo left shows us at the reunion in 2009 marching to the the site of the new memorial stone.



With thanks to Clive Inman



Ken Murray 1969'ish

Thanks to our contributors and also a special thanks to our buddies who print and send out this newsletter to members without a computer. Without you this newsletter wouldn't be possible with rising costs etc. PLEASE If you have received your copy from a volunteer 'buddy,' let them know so that they, and we, know you are still with us. Thank you.

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HUMOUR IN UNIFORM

A friend of mine Alf Cooper whilst he was at Langeleben as a Captain told me the following.



“The swimming pool had been emptied for cleaning and Alf who is very artistic decided he would paint a Mouflon Head on the floor of the tank. He was lying face down in the tank with chalk in both hands making a sweeping motion to get the right sweep of the horns when a voice from above said "excuse me sir, but shouldn't you wait for it to be filled with water before you try to swim?" It was one of the cooks.”

Tom Neal



Mike Hudson joined the Royal Signals in 1963, intending to be a Radio Op, as earlier he had been in the communications section of his local Civil Defence Corps, (which he absolutely loved).

‘It was actually good training for the Army, as a certain sense of discipline and personal pride was instilled. Then to Catterick, 11 Signals where “Out of the youth came the man”. Then came 'The Job Interviews'. Basically you were given an intelligence and aptitude test, somewhat on a par with Mensa, (which incidentally I am a member of) but on a lesser scale. The powers that be decided, in their infinite wisdom, that I should become a Special Operator and sent me off to Garats Hey. I was happy as it was only about 60 miles from home , as it was”.

”Unfortunately, due to a bout of Glandular Fever, I missed the 'Pass Out' and never got to be 'Right Hand Marker'. I did, however, on my release from Catterick Hospital, seek out both Cpl Kelly and Sgt McCarthy and thank them for everything they had done and they were as nice as pie”.

“Then to 224 Sigs, which after 11 Sigs was heaven. My Instructor was a Scottish Cpl named Rab Aitken and he was GOOD. He cared, about the job, about people and so got the

best out of them. so, as an A3 Spec Op, I was detailed for 225 Signal Squadron, Scharfoldendorf and then moved with them in 1967 to Langeleben. You have to understand that Scharfoldendorf was for me and others THE posting, although I did not know it at the time. WO2 Gobby Blease was the SSM and that is the worst I can say about it and he wasn't all that bad”

“When it came to the move to Langeleben, there were not that many who were happy to go, I being one. Scharfoldendorf was a unique posting and 'C' Troop was more like a family. However, came the day and off we went and arrived at “Butlins”. Sadly greatcoats, not Redcoats but, billets not barrack rooms with a proper bed, not a metal monster, with a bedhead that pulled down and gave access to a personal items storage area; individual lighting and even a carpet on the floor. The only fault in the whole place was that Marlene had yet to come to the NAAFI.



Langeleben was now 225 Signal Squadron, the BELL was hung (which together with the Moufflon seems to hold a special place in the hearts of ex - Scharfoldendorf members.)

Support in the North

On Thursday 27th January 2011 a contingent of Langy veterans met up in York railway



station before making their way to the Minster area in order to welcome back 2 Signal Regiment from their tour of Afghanistan.

Medals were presented to the returning soldiers by the Lord Mayor of York accompanied by the Sheriff of York. A large turn out of well wishers gave their enthusiastic support throughout the ceremony after which the soldiers marched through the city centre, led by the band of the Royal Signals.

Clive Inman



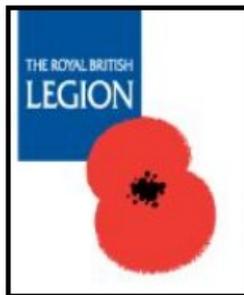
Last Post

We will remember them



Lawrence (Paddy) Morris 1960-1965.
Tony Amos 1960-1961

"We will remember them"



Birgelen Veterans Charity Donations:

We are now supporting the **Royal British Legion, Garats Hay Branch** who as you know, help serving and ex-Service personnel and their families. Not just those who fought in the two World Wars, but also those involved in the many conflicts since 1945 and those still fighting today. You are asked to give us as much support as you possibly can to maintaining the generosity that you have all shown in the past to helping the men and women of our armed services by supporting this charity.

Cheques should be made out to the **BVA Charity Appeal** and sent to the Secretary of the **Birgelen Veterans Association**. Please note that standing order forms are available from the Secretary and these are an ideal way of making a small monthly or quarterly donation; for example paying as little as £5.00/ month or quarter enables Taff and I to sustain and to maintain our charity over time. Additionally, if anyone has any interesting ideas on how to raise funds for our charity, they would be most welcomed.

The Cheri Hopkins BVA Charity initiative. **Cheri Hopkins**, the wife of one of our members **David Hopkins**, is attempting a 3,400 miles cycle ride across the States in aid of the **BVA charity** which is the **Royal British Legion (Garats Hay Branch)**.

The aim is to depart **Guadalajara Mexico**, on the 24 of August and to spend 4 days intense preparation time in **Seattle**. They will then depart **Seattle** on 28 August. The provisional route will be **Washington State - Idaho - Wyoming - Nebraska - Missouri - Mississippi - Alabama** – finishing in **Jacksonville, Florida**. I have summarised this mammoth event in one simple paragraph but there can be little doubt that this is going to be a long and arduous endurance feat and one which is likely to take between **75 - 90** days.

Ideally, we would like sponsors to donate: **£5.00** for the first **1000 miles cycled**, **£6.00** for the next **1000 miles** and **£9.00** for the last **1,400** or so miles (**£20.00** for complete journey but basically, it is anything that you are able to afford) Payment can be made by cheque, made payable to the **BVA Charity** and sent to the **BVA Secretary** at: **14 Park Close, Abergavenny, Mons. NP7 5SU**

I know that these are difficult times for us all and that **Cheri's solo** attempt will prove a difficult and formidable challenge, but it is one as an ex US naval person she is determined to achieve. I ask that you do all that you can to support what she is doing on behalf of our **BVA charity**.

If you are able to recruit other sponsors from amongst family, friends, acquaintances and commercial entities etc, this would be a great help.

Thank you all for your kind support.

Fred Searle
Chairman BVA

We welcome our new members:

Cliff Buckley	Murray Brock.
Patrick Greetham	Mike Constable.
Dave Chamberlain	Michael Jackson.
Keith Richardson	Gary Painter.
Alan Mealing	Nick Turner.
Mick Harris	Eric Dorrington.
Don Clarke	Barry Wright.
Adrian Surtees.	

Messages from our website

Maybe this is for you or someone you know:

I did a search on Pete Waller, who I knew when I was a Signals Spec Op in 60s in RAF Gatow (from 13 sigs). Brother George and I were shown around the underside of Berlin by Pete. I happened across this web site after watching 'Air Hunters' in BBC that followed a White Russian who taught interpreters in 1950s & 60s. Are you there Pete, and if so are you still collecting Lead Military figures?

Patrick Wraith

Was never at Langy, but was at Scharf. and Wesendorf. Looking for any information on Pete Conway, Dave Tompson, Rev Southgate, Ted Ridge Barry May, all from 226 Wesendorf 1966/99.

Dave Wilson

Served at Langy 1970 TG OP. I remember Taff Kavanagh, Petra; and a host of other faces who's names elude me.

Keith Kenworthy-Jones

Please contact Marlene or Ernie if you feel we can help

Please note that due to limited space and to include a good variety of various articles of general interest to our members, where possible articles must be around 250 words if it includes a photo, a little longer if not. Thank you