

# The Listening Post

The Newsletter of the Langeleben Reunion Branch, Royal Signals Association



Issue No: 11

June 2012



## Langeleben



## Reunion Special 2012



Schumann's Königslutter 1958

Above shows our reunion 2012 held in Loughborough.

Then and now  
Below this shows Schumann's in Königslutter in 1958 and to the right Schumann's in 2009



Schumann's Königslutter 2009

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

## Abridged Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting



The meeting was attended by 54 members and proceedings opened by our Chairman Jim Husband who then introduced the members of the committee. The Chairman read out the roll of honour, this was followed by a minute's silence, our President; Major General Peter Baldwin recited the Act of remembrance as the Langeleben standard was lowered by bearer Tom Neal.

The minutes of the 18th AGM previously handed out for the benefit of attending members and published on our website and in our newsletter were accepted by the floor after a proposal by Ray Armstrong and seconded by Dave Thomas.

Major General Peter Baldwin in a humorous and short address spoke of the consolidation and rationalisation of the Royal Signals Corps.

Our Treasurer Gerry Kane issued a detailed report on the branch's current financial situation which showed an embarrassingly healthy balance, mainly due to the committee's prudence and generous donations from our members. Gerry suggested that perhaps we should consider setting aside a portion of our final balance to be donated to agreed charities. After a long open discussion it was agreed that £1000 should be apportioned to the following five recipients.

1. BLESMA, (British Limbless Ex Service Men's Association), £500.
2. Royal British Legion poppy appeal, £100.
3. 621 Ordnance bomb disposal unit, £100.
4. 18 Signals Regiment. £100.
5. Arnulf Baumann's Kenyan Orphans fund, £200.

Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by Ray Armstrong, seconded by John Rosson and accepted by the floor. Gerry asked that attending members paid him the monies for the ordered events at the end of the AGM.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

It's great to see such a good attendance again this year, we

have some 90 members and guests over the weekend, which considering the present economic situation confirms your commitment to our unique association.

Seven new members have joined us since the last AGM, the latest recruit, member No.514 Fred Simpson served at Langeleben in the late 1960's and various postings up to 1977, Fred now lives in the Falkland Isles so our fame is spreading.

Again I would like to thank both our webmaster Tom Perkin and Marlene Brooks, editor of "The Listening Post" for doing such a great job in keeping all of our members up to date with events. Marlene has asked me to encourage more of you into providing what is the lifeblood of the newsletter, that is copy; we need more articles, more old memories, stories and photo's of your times at Langeleben or indeed in the services.

**We especially need more input from the younger generations who served in the 70's, 80's and up to the closure of the camp in 1991. If anyone is not receiving their copies of the newsletter please speak to me.**

You will have heard that Gerry, Jim and I have expressed the desire to stand down from the committee, we gave notice ten months ago that after nearly 20 years and now in our mid seventies it was perhaps time to smell the roses and pass the baton on to a younger element with fresh ideas to take the association forward. So far not one person has volunteered, not one name has been recommended. A couple of members that we thought would fit the bill have declined so we are still where we were nearly a year ago. All three of us are happy to carry on for the next year to take us on to our 20th anniversary reunion; we must however instil in you all the pressing need for a shadow committee to be placed in situ as soon as possible to cover all eventualities. We will discuss the issue in detail later on in the meeting when we get to Election of Officers and the floor has had time to think of ways that will guarantee continuation of our association.

*Continued on page 3*



Cartoon by Clive Inman

**Minutes continued from page 2**

Chairman Jim Husband announced to the membership that honorary member Arnulf Baumann had recently received one of the highest civilian awards in Germany: The Federal Cross of Merit and Distinguished Service Medal, (equivalent to our OBE). Arnulf, long time Mayor of Königslutter and a great help to the association over the years accepted our congratulations and told us of the charity that he helps to run for orphans in Kenya and that our generous donation would be used to supply the children with ethnic musical instruments.

Member Peter Ellis proudly told the floor that his son Paul (shown right), also an honorary member and carver of our magnificent memorial in Langeleben, had been commissioned by Lincoln Cathedral



to produce a stone replica of the coronation crown, Paul has now completed this task and the result is indeed inspiring. It will be placed within the west wall of the Cathedral soon. Paul has an introduction to the Queen on the 13th of June...



The Secretary advised members that as no offers to replace the existing committee had been received the current committee were prepared to continue on for the next year to take us on to our 20th anniversary reunion. To ensure uninterrupted continuance of the Langeleben reunion branch a shadow committee must by then be put in place.

**2013 REUNION: It was agreed that our reunion in 2013 be held in Königslutter at the end of August to coincide with the town Schützenfest and we will be working to that effect.**

**Comments from some attending members**

Another great reunion at the weekend thanks to our great committee. Nice to see old friends and make new ones. The icing on the cake was the committee remains the same and will step down when they are ready. I think Dave Street said what the vast majority thought. Well done Dave. Looking forward already to Königslutter.

**John Plaskitt**

Would just like to say" thanks everybody for a great weekend"

**Bob Wells**

A big thank you to all members of the committee for a fantastic weekend. It was great to see so many people enjoying the Langeleben family get-together.

**Rod Goddard**

As usual a cracking weekend, thanks to our wonderful Committee (its going to be a shame to see them retire, they are going to be a hard act to follow) the weekend went perfectly, I never heard anyone whingeing on, so that speaks for itself, all I can say is thank you very much to the committee for all of their hard work in making the weekend a success, thank you

**Ken Vipond**

It was great to see so many new faces this year and hoping to see many of you in Germany next year.

We are aiming to celebrate our 20th anniversary reunion during the town Schützenfest at the end of August.

**Ernie Callaghan**

Many thanks to all who arranged, contributed and generally helped out. Although I was only there for AGM I was able to renew one friendship going back to Scharf and then Langy also to chat to one or two others. Well worth the visit down and back in the same day. Once again thanks to all.

**Bill Fry**

Many thanks to the committee for another great reunion. It was good also to see old friends whom we had not seen for over 30 years.

**Tom Neal**

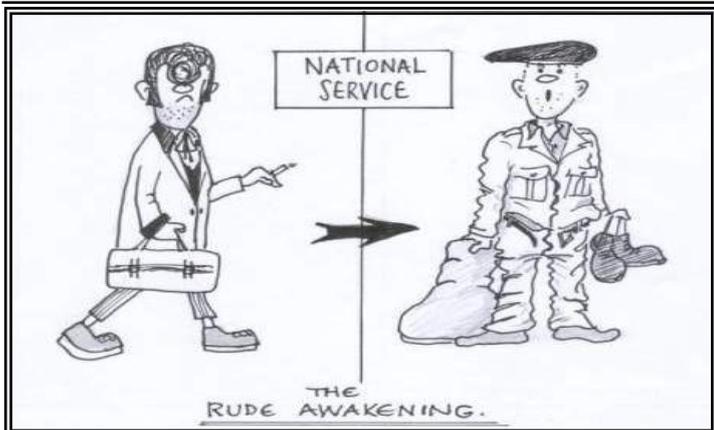
**We welcome two new members:**

**Fred Simpson Royal Signals 1960-77**

and

**James Hopper Intelligence Corps 1957**





Cartoon by Clive Inman

## Message from Clive Sanders



Clive Sanders is organizing a Reunion for former members of the British Detachment known as Hogling, or alternatively Bad Aibling.

Clive says that the reunion will be in late May 2013, so that we coincide with the Bad Aibling Volksfest, which starts on 24th May 2013. I already have around 10 couples interested in attending the reunion and I am also in communication with the American Veterans who served at Bad Aibling, who have also expressed interest in joining in with the reunion.

If anyone would like to know more, please contact me via any one of the following communication paths:

Home address: Fordham, Touchstone Close Chard Somerset TA20 1QZ Telephone: 01460 64512 e-mail: whcsanders@hotmail.com

## Reader Request

My name is Iain Pearson. I am trying to contact a David Bowers who served with the 101st wireless troop in the early 60s. Has anyone has contact with him or any Information? I can be contacted on: iain.pearson@yahoo.co.uk or 01924 515340 or 07712482646.

### 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



## Last Post

We will remember them



Mike Sloan  
Roger Manser  
Ian Johnstone

## Where are they now?

Bill Fry has recently gone through his album and came across this photo of a group of our NAAFI girls taken at Scharf, he is curious to know if anyone remembers them.



## Gypo and his bride celebrate 40 years of wedded bliss in August

Clive first saw Marlene at the gates by the guard room as she arrived to begin her tour in Langeleben in February 1969. who could have guessed that 43 years later she would still be making him a decent cup of tea, married 40 years, with two sons and two grandchildren.



“I didn't even like him in those early days” Marlene said, “I was so shy and he was so cheeky, I tried my best to avoid him.” Clive said, his first thought was “how could a lovely girl like her be in a place like this.”

But get together they did. On her last night, everyone threw a huge farewell party in the NAAFI and he asked her to dance and to write to him, then he kissed her and they went their separate ways. Clive stayed on in Langeleben and Marlene returned to Harlow Essex. Then, when Clive left the army, they met for a drink in London where she now worked and Clive came back to Harlow with her. Marlene's mum said that as soon as she saw them come up the path sharing an umbrella she knew they would be together forever, and she was right.

**Do you have a story of how you met your bride while serving in Germany? We would love to hear it.**

**Marlene Brooks (Editor)**  
167 Fold Croft Harlow Essex CM20 1SL  
Tel: 01279 862960  
E-mail: langelebennews@yahoo.co.uk