

5th Royal Tank Regiment Re-union Association

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:

http://www.bucksinfo.net/5_royaltankreg_reunion_marlow/

NEWS LETTER SEPTEMBER 2009.



Blackpool 2008.

WOW what a magnificent effort you all put into the Re-Union at Blackpool in 2008. Your committee had promised to make this a memorable occasion for everyone and you all really entered into the spirit of making it a great weekend. We must say a great big thank you to all those that attended to make this the best ever reunion. We will really have to work hard to make it as good in 2009. Thanks must go to Howard Crump the Manager of the hotel and all his staff for the great way that they all pitched in to make a cracking week end. A list of all those that attended is attached and if anyone is missing please accept our apologies we do try to get it right but somehow someone gets missed. We did have a few grumbles where things did not go exactly to plan but they were only minor and did not dampen what was a great weekend. We did have a couple of late cancellations due to members not feeling well or were in hospital. The places were soon filled and a full house was the order of the day. We were pleased to welcome many first timers this year; we hope that you all enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones. WELL what a great evening Sunday night was, this was thanks to our Guest Star Dave Betton delivering the performance of his life for over two hours! Everyone was rolling on the floor and the tears of laughter threatened to flood the night club. Dave will be doing his stuff for you all on Saturday night in the NAFFI Club in the hotel, so make sure you don't miss it, if you did not see him last year, you are in for a fantastic entertainment treat.

RELIGION!

Two beggars are sitting side by side on a street in Rome. One has a cross in front of him. The other one - the Star of David.

Many people go by and look at both beggars, but only put money into the hat of the beggar sitting behind the cross. A priest comes by, stops and watches throngs of people giving money to the beggar behind the cross, but none give to the beggar behind the Star of David. Finally, the priest goes over to the beggar behind the Star of David and

Says:

"My poor fellow, don't you understand? This is a Catholic country. People aren't going to give you money if you sit there with a Star of David in front of you, especially when you're sitting beside a beggar who has a cross. In fact, they would probably give to him just out of spite."

The beggar behind the 'Star of David' listened to the priest, turned to the other beggar with the cross and said: "Moshe, look who's trying to teach the Goldstein brothers about marketing."

The New President Hotel Blackpool 2009:

*The committee are delighted to report that nearly all the 66 rooms available at Blackpool are booked, at the time of writing we have only 12 rooms vacant, booking forms and deposit cheques that had been received by the hotel so far and, they have stated that a letter has been sent to each one, confirming receipt of the deposit and the room number allocated to them. Many members had rebooked before leaving the hotel following the reunion. Don't miss this year's reunion, as it will be better than 2008. Get booked in quick to make sure that you get a room. Just ring the Manager Howard Crump on 01253 624 460. The hotel Cookhouse has been completely remodelled and the NAFFI bar area enlarged makes it the best cookhouse dining room in Blackpool. **SO BOOK NOW: Ring 01253 624 460.***

Continued on Page 2

The Staff worked very hard to make the reunion a great success and it will be hard to improve on the high standard, which they set in 2008, the committee truly appreciate the sterling efforts they all made, as did the members attending. In addition, thanks are given in no small measure for the way the cookhouse was decorated for the Saturday Evening Dinner, with The Regimental Colours displayed with balloons on each table, it looked brilliant. As for the Catering Corps staff under the expert guidance of Staff Sergeant Cook, Phil Whittle, there were NO COMPLAINTS and those who were on a special diet were well catered for, even Black Pudding was on the menu.

(The Committee attended the hotel in June to discuss with the Management the actual reunion for 2009 and to finalise and agree the last minute arrangements and just a few minor adjustments agreed.)

The Re-Union Raffle:

*Les Vickers and his band of merry ticket Wardens after receiving instructions from Tommy Ogden the treasurer to get the troops to dig deep into their pockets again as he really did need the money, Les and his band worked very hard and managed to prise money out of the tightest zippered pocket, we must thank everyone who donated the magnificent prizes for the raffle, there were over FORTY prizes which raised much needed funds in fact it was our best ever, **The annual raffle is our only source of revenue** so please. Don't forget, any unwanted or left over Christmas presents in fact, ANYTHING of value will be greatly appreciated at Blackpool even that old Rolex watch or the priceless necklace that the wife does not wear any more, would be more than welcome. We must mention that again we had a batch of vouchers from Paul Kelly of Selfridges and Sir Phillip Green at BHS, thanks to the efforts of Don Smith. But, it would all come to nothing without the sterling work of our Lady members who twisted everyone's arm and managed to extract the last dregs of the members pension money to buy their raffle tickets it was magic, to see how the womanly wiles extracted the money. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY*

Hardly Worth It!

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied. 'Two years older than me' 'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented. She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

REGIMENTAL FLAG:

It was suggested that it would be great if the Association had its own regimental flag, the committee discussed this and a 5th Royal Tank Regiment flag is now in our possession. RHQ kindly donated half of the cost. Hilda Sear suggested that we ask the members to contribute to the cost, If you all give a modest sum we will cover the cost, any excess donations will go into our funds so dig deep please, this is in no way compulsory but we do ask you to help.

DISBANDMENT PARADE 10:30am at the Cenotaph:

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the disbandment of our regiment, Mick Wilby and members of the committee have arranged a parade for Saturday Morning at the Blackpool Cenotaph at 10:30am. The Padre from the Blackpool Royal British Legion will conduct the ceremony. There will be RTRA standards on parade, The Mayor & Mayoress of Blackpool have been asked to attend the ceremony. So don't forget your medals and berets and lets show Blackpool just that we Tank men can Knock spots off the Locals. The Royal British Legion Blackpool have kindly invited you all to attend their club after the parade. Please make every effort to attend and make this a memorable event.

THE SENILITY PRAYER:

*Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
The good fortune to run into the ones I do, and The eyesight to tell the difference.*

Travelling in Blackpool:

You are advised again that you can use your bus pass to travel on local buses, please note that it will NOT cover travel on the trams (unless you are a Lancashire resident) You can buy a Travel Card for three days for £13 which will give you unlimited tram and bus travel, you can obtain one from any of the 60 agents which display the pay point sign.

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Thank you again to all that completed and returned the membership form last year so that we could check your details and up date our records if required, we still have a lot of old records that need updating so please make sure that you let us know of any change especially if you have moved address and if you know of any ex Fifth Tankies out there who are not yet members, just let us know as we would like them to join us. If you have not completed a form you can either download one on the web site or just give us a call and we will send you one. All those on the internet who have changed their Email address, please let us have a note of the new one, this applies to telephone numbers as well.

THE GREEN FIELDS.

Since Bridlington, we have sadly lost the following Comrades:

Ron Percy, who journeyed to the Green Fields on the 11th November 2007.

Ian McCabe represented the Association at Ron's Funeral.

Norman (TUG) Willson known to many ex fifth members.

RSM Stan Goodyear passed to the Green Fields on the 6th January 2008.

Edward (Paddy) O'Connell suddenly called to the Green Fields on the 24th January 2008.

Tom Sorby (Fijian) in May 2008. He served in Borneo with the fifth

Don Shepherd on the 19th May 2008. Passed suddenly to the Green Fields

Tom Bridgwater: It is with regret that we post the Passing of Tom on the 25th October 2008. Tom was a great supporter of the 5 RTRRA and will be greatly missed.

Harold (Dick) Murrell: It is with great regret that we post the passing of "Dickey" Murrell on the 22nd June 2009.

We wish you a Safe journey old comrades and friends to those Green Fields Beyond.

NOT WELL:

Pleased to advise that there is nothing to report

TREASURERS REPORT:

Tommy Ogden your Treasurer has excelled himself in fiddling the Imprest account to make them balance and, he says that he and Joan are really enjoyed their holiday Maldives.! They hope there will be enough to travel to "PHUKET" for this year's holiday.

5th Royal Tank Regiment Reunion Association Consolidated Accounts 2008			
	Group Details	Expenditure	Income
	Opening Balance		2069.01
A	Donations		2576.00
B	RQMS Stores (Badges/Shirts/"T" Coasters)	1210.84	410.50
C	Printing, Postage, Stationary, Tel & Sundries	260.12	0.00
D	General Expenses	24.10	0.00
E	Raffle Income	0.00	831.50
F	Decorations Etc	0.00	0.00
G	Bank Interest	0.00	0.00
H	Special:	0.00	0.00
I	Total	1495.06	5887.01
J	Balance (I -E)		4391.95

Tommy says that if there are any queries regarding the latest accounts then please bring them up at the AGM at Blackpool, he will have the books and receipts to hand for inspection, and answer queries.

Words of Wisdom

Know how to prevent sagging?
Just eat until the wrinkles fill out.

RQMS Stores:

Your committee Co-opted two new members to help with the running of the association, these were Mick Wilby and Sailor Baines. Mick was promoted to RQMS and Sailor (alias Richard) to SQMS (neither have passed their Part 1 Education Certificate! So they should do well! They are responsible for the members wishing to purchase stores (Shirts "T" and ordinary and other items) that the Association has for sale.

The Association has the following "Stores" for members to purchase:

Set of ten table coasters @ £10 + postage

Special five RTR wire blazer badge @ £16.50 including Postage

Disbandment Plate @ £9 Contact Les Vickers on 01642 82 68 06

"T" Shirt with Association Logo

Pilot Shirts with the Association Logo

Reunion in 2009: (30th October to 2nd November)

The New President Hotel has been booked again for 2009 the whole hotel is for our use only. There has been a price increase to £110 per head, due to the increase in fuel, food and other costs. If you want to book for 2010, please make sure that you book before you leave at this year's Reunion.

Any rooms not booked will be offered on a first come first served basis to other Tank members.

Your Committee is as follows:

NAME:	POSITION	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
<i>Terry Price</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>01628 484309</i>	5rtr@talktalk.net
<i>Tommy Ogden</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>01914 219866</i>	tom5193@hotmail.com
<i>Keith Nelson</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>01482 835462</i>	patandkeith@patandkeith.karoo.co.uk
<i>Les Vickers</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>01642 826806</i>	leslievickers@btinternet.com
<i>Mick Wilby</i>	<i>RQMS</i>	<i>01952 615423</i>	mick_5rtr@hotmail.co.uk
<i>Richard Baines</i>	<i>SQMS</i>	<i>01472 231034</i>	richard.baines1@ntlworld.com

Please let us know if anyone is unwell or give him or her telephone call, they are always pleased to hear from someone, it shows that they are not forgotten.

Your Committee are looking forward to seeing you again at BLACKPOOL, until then keep well and

FEAR NAUGHT

Terry Price
Chairman

EXERCISE IS THE THING!

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, So I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors.

I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, By the time, I got my leotards on;

The class was over.

Continued on Page 5

VERY SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS

Many of our current members were also members of the "B" Squadron OCA that was so ably run for sixty years by Dennis Cockbain. At this year's reunion in London, he announced to everyone that this was the last reunion and that he was disbanding the OCA. Dennis, having approached us earlier in the year, announced that the remaining membership was being taken over by our Association. As they were all ex members of the Fifth, the committee were more than happy for them to join us. Dennis announced that following the acceptance he intended to donate £3,000 to the RTR Benevolent Fund and the remainder to the 5th Royal Tank Regiment Reunion Association, which proved to be the magnificent sum of £2,576! (Shown in the accounts). The donation to the benevolent fund was accepted by General Leaky who expressed his gratitude on behalf of the fund and said, "I am delighted that the "B" Squadron OCA are not to fade into the sunlight but will be joining the 5 RTRRA".

A very special and warm welcome is extended to all ex "B" Squadron OCA members, we will be writing to you all in due course but please do not hesitate to contact us in the meantime if you wish to do so or that you require any information.

List of members attending Blackpool 2008

Please note that this is not a complete list as others booked outside of the hotel

Apologies for anyone missing their Christian names as the list was compiled from a booking sheet

Your Chairman and committee together with the Management and staff of the New President Hotel, look forward to welcoming you all at Blackpool, for the 2009 Reunion.

Baines Richard	Pauline	Brian Rogers	Janet*
Donald Smith	Eileen	Phil Sweet	Maria
Horace Brindley		Alan Hepburn	Peri*
Leslie Taylor	Kathleen	Gerald Barnes	Stephen
Michael Godley	Frances	Colin Hepburn	Christine
Ronald Greig	Patricia	Joe Bell	Mary
Fred Bolwell	Margaret	Colin Gear	Marilyn
Terry Farr	Winifred	Frank Nicholls	Linda
Keith Nelson	Patricia	Bill Dodge	Doreen
Robert Barber	Christine	Geordie Dawson	?
Barry Rhodes	Christine	Peter Mandeler	Irene
Amanda Morton-Scott		Mick Parrot	Yvonne
Terry Price	Pauline	Vick Battle	Susan
Brian Mott	Mary	John Gumm	Lesley
Tommy Ogden	Joan	Charles Dawkins	
Barry Ditchburn	Josephine	Eddie Sear	Hilda
Leslie Vickers	Mary	Bill Seabury	Joan
James Whiston	Marion		
Alan Freeman	Valerie	Gerald Barnes	Stephen

Continued on Page 6

Frank Acton	Margaret	Colin Hepburn	Christine
Frank Hopson	Evelyn	Joe Bell	Mary
John Milnes	Carol-Anne	Colin Gear	Marilyn
John Winterburn	Dianne	Frank Nicholls	Linda
Barry Safhill	Margaret	Bill Dodge	Doreen
Albert Charlton	Doreen	Geordie Dawson	?
Ray Mitchell	Beryl	Peter Mandeler	Irene
Michael Wilby	Sheila	Mick Parrot	Yvonne
Peter McGeown		Vick Battle	Susan
Dave Brooks	Josephine	John Gumm	Lesley
Mary Donley	Nancy	Charles Dawkins	
Bob Harriman	Marjorie*	Eddie Sear	Hilda
John James		Bill Seabury	Joan
David Pyneegar	Patricia	Brian Pearson	
M Feltwell	Carol	Michael Galloway	Patricia
John Damant	Jean	Michael Taylor	Gillian*
John Walker	Christine	John Masterton	Marilyn
Albert Eldridge	Shirley	Edward Holt	Victoria
Stanley Hill	Ilene	James Shaw	Lynne
John Rudge-Priestley	Kathleen	Brian Rogers	Janet*
Brian Gray	June	Phil Sweet	Maria
May Carol & Olive Ainsley	Trish	Alan Hepburn	Peri*
Tony Rennell	Olive		

Please note that some of those listed did not attend due to last minute reasons.(Hospital Not Well etc)

This is the Last ONE Folks!

A man took his wife to the rodeo and one of the first exhibits they stopped at was the breeding bulls . They went up to the first pen and there was a sign attached that said, **"This bull mated 50 times last year."**

The wife playfully nudged her husband in the ribs and said, "He mated 50 times last year."

They walked to the second pen, which had a sign attached that said, **"This bull mated 120 times last year. "**

The wife gave her husband a healthy jab and said, "That's more than twice a week! You could learn a lot from him."

They walked to the third pen and it had a sign attached that said, in capital letters, **"This bull mated 365 times last year."**

The wife, so excited that her elbow nearly broke her husband's ribs, said, "That's once a day. You could REALLY learn something from this one."

The husband looked at her and said, **"Go over and ask him if it was with the same cow."**

Looking forward to seeing you all again at Blackpool 2009.
If you have not already booked for 2009 RING: 01253 624 460 AND BOOK NOW