



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING 25th October 2024 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Chairman, Michael Hobden.

Members Present: John Bishop, Jerry Docherty, Budge Harding, Lee Harding, Mark Harding, Michael Hobden, John Talmey, Darryl Twinch, Mark Eve, Paul Hughes, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Gary Miles, Jack Neil, Brian Scott, Jim Talmey, Peter Talmey, Ray Talmey, John Woollard and Phil Kemp.

Apologies for Absence: Bob Parker, Tex Rees-Avery, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Peter Head, Andy Reddy, Dave Scott, Alan South, Michael Taylor, Steve White and Peter Wyatt. Maj Dickie Davies (Retd) RAA Secretary sent his apologies.

Chairman's Report: Michael Hobden welcomed Members to the Meeting and apologised for missing parades recently due to work and family commitments. Michael Welcomed our new Associate Member, Phil Kemp.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that there is currently £1,234.59 available in our funds.

Welfare Officer's Report: John Bishop provided a Welfare Update to Members. John also brought Ray Metcalfe along to the Meeting. Many thanks to John and Ray.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 27th September 2024. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Paul Hughes and seconded by Jerry Docherty. Carried.
2. Lewes Remembrance Parade 10th November 2024. 43 Bty have confirmed that they will be providing 4 Sentinels and 1 Wreath Layer. Please refer to the attached Remembrance Parade Orders for the Parade Timings.

Mark has arranged access to St Marys' from 1300 to allow Members and 43 Bty to meet and change. Lee has volunteered to chaperone 43 Bty and take them to Lewes TC Offices to meet with the Parade Commander for further orders and return them to St Marys' after the Parade.

All Members are asked to join 43 Bty at St Marys' after the Parade where Carly has kindly arranged a buffet. Drinks and games will also be available.

3. Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner 2024 is booked at Lewes Golf Club Saturday 23rd November 2024. Names and menu choices to Mark ASAP. The closing date for confirmation of attendance is 9th November 2024.

As always, Members are asked to donate a Raffle prize for the evening.

4. 43 Bty Lloyds Company visit. This has been booked for Thursday 6th February 2025 1100hrs. This will include a tour around Bty Lines, equipment etc and lunch has been kindly arranged in 47 Regt RA WO's & Sgt's Mess (Dress TBC) followed by a visit to the RA Museum then an evening meal out. Would Members please

advise Mark of their interest in this no later than 31 December 2024 to enable planning. 10 to date have confirmed. Mark and Ray Talmey have volunteered to drive, so 8 spaces available.

5. Branch Website. Send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on the Gallery Area of our website. Please contact Lee/Mark for access to the Members Area of our website. <https://www.theraalewes.co.uk/>
6. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
7. Wall space in the Meeting Room. If anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where Members will vote. Mark has asked the Club for more wall space and awaits their responses.

AOB:

8. Branch Gazebo. Mark provided a colour 'draft' of the suggested gazebo. RAA HQ agreed to pay half. This has been voted on and passed. It was agreed that we wait to order this until after our Annual Christmas Dinner to ensure we have the relevant funds to pay for it.
9. German visit. Mark discussed the costs of this and it was agreed that this be put on hold. However, it was also discussed regarding a Ypres or Dunkirk type trip. Mark to look into this and revert.
10. Branch polo shirts now available. See email sent to all by Mark for full details. When ordering online and requiring nonstandard additions such as Name/nickname etc., please be very specific in the instructions box as to where you would like this to be embroidered. E.g. On left arm, on right arm, on right breast etc. <https://www.windsor-embroidery.co.uk/>
11. Darryl advised that after the last RBL Meeting, he confirmed that a space in Lewes town centre has been booked for the RBL for AFD on Saturday 28th June 2024. Jack advised that he would speak to Clare Crouch to ascertain if there will be enough room for Lewes Branch RAA to attend and revert back ASAP. Failure of this, we will look into applying for space directly.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA October 2024 Monthly Meeting closed at 21:15.

Lewes Branch RAA Remembrance Parade will be held on Sunday 10th November 2024.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club
Dress: Blazers and Regt Ties (Medals if applicable)

Timings:
St Marys' 1300
Marching: 1415 at White Lion Car Park
Spectating: 1430 at Lewes War Memorial

Lewes Branch RAA Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday 23rd November 2024 at Lewes Golf Club.

Venue: Lewes Golf Club
Dress: Blazers and Regt Ties (Medals if applicable). Guests/Ladies dress equivalent
Timings: 1715 for 1800 to be seated

The next Lewes Branch RAA Monthly Meeting will be held on Friday 29th November 2024 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club
Dress: Smart Casual (Branch Polo Shirts if held)
Timings: 1715 for 1800 to be seated

Captain-General and Patron: His Majesty King Charles III

President: David Harding

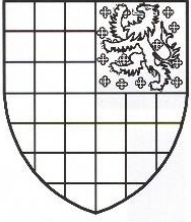
Chairman: Michael Hobden

Secretary: Mark Harding

Treasurer: Lee Harding

Tel: 07903 702 767

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REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE IN LEWES

Sunday, 10 November 2024

1. **General arrangements and marshalling of contingents in procession etc.**
N.B. Dress for those attending; lounge suit or jacket and trousers. For Service and Ex-Service personnel in order to comply with Kings dress regulations permission must be obtained from the C.O. of the relevant unit if you intend to wear uniform.

These will be under the overall control of the Parade Commander.

2. **ASSEMBLY** – 2.15pm in White Lion Lane Car Park, in readiness to march off at 2.30pm.

3. **MEDALS** – It is hoped that all entitled to wear medals will do so.

4. **ORDER OF PARADE** – Ex-Service personnel, unless committed to other contingents, will form up behind the Ex-Service Standards and become the 'Royal British Legion' (RBL) contingent. Adults of other organisations such as Police, Prison Service, etc., will form up behind the RBL contingent subject to any variation considered necessary by the Parade Commander. Armed Service Cadet Units will form up with Naval Cadets first followed by Army Cadets, then Air Cadets. Other Cadet Units will take up the rear.

2.20pm – Four sentinels will march to the Memorial to take up positions as detailed by their Unit Commander.

The Parade will form up in Column of Route in White Lion Lane.

5. **DEPARTURE AND ROUTE** – At 2.30pm the Column will march off to High Street and down to the War Memorial, to arrive at 2.35pm approximately. As the Column approaches the Law Courts the band will incline right to take up position at the top of Station Street and continue playing until the main Parade reaches its position at the War Memorial. The band will rejoin the Parade once the last Cadets have passed Station Street, then advance towards the War Memorial and halt once past the dias. The Band will stop playing as they approach the War Memorial. (see Para. 8 vi)

6. **POSITIONING AT WAR MEMORIAL** –

- i) On arrival at the Memorial the Parade will proceed to the right of it and wheel in an anti-clockwise direction to circle the Memorial. The leading unit will guide the Column to a point by the retail outlet at 36 High Street before commencing the wheel, this is to allow space at the School Hill side of the Memorial for the Mayoral Party.

- ii) When the head of the Column reaches a point opposite the twin white pillars of the Old Bank Building, the parade will be halted by the parade commander and turned to face the Memorial.
 - iii) When all units are in position the Parade Commander will order “**WITHOUT INTERVALS RIGHT DRESS**” (shoulder to shoulder). When dressing is complete the Parade Commander will give “**EYES FRONT**”.
 - iv) Standard Bearers will be marched out to form a single line in front of the Parade by the Memorial Marshal or the Deputy Parade Commander.
 - vi) The Parade Commander will then order “**STAND AT EASE**”.
 - vii) When Mayoral Party leave the Town Hall, Parade Commander will call the Parade to “**ATTENTION**”.
7. **MAYORAL PARTY** – Robed and led in single file by the Mace Bearer, Lord Lieutenant (if attending) Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk, the Party will leave the Town Hall about 2.40pm, (or as soon as the parade is fully positioned), pass round the further (right hand) side of the Memorial. Wreath layers in the Mayoral party will be directed to form one line in front of the party, the remainder will form up behind the wreath layers, all will turn left to face the Memorial.
8. **CEREMONY AT THE WAR MEMORIAL –**
- i) The Parade Commander will order “**STAND AT EASE**”.
 - ii) The Chaplain nominated by the Royal British Legion, Lewes, for the occasion will read the Royal British Legion **EXHORTATION**, followed by the Kohima Epitaph, the Lord’s Prayer and Grace.
 - iii) The Memorial Marshal will step forward to read out the wreath laying order.
 - v) The dignitaries will step forward and lay their wreaths at the foot of the War Memorial and step back one pace. If in uniform, they will then stand to attention, and if wearing headdress salute, about turn smartly and return to their places. Other personnel will follow their own appropriate routine, and the go back to their places.
 - vi) A Trumpeter from the band will have positioned him / herself in sight of the Parade Commander and, when indicated by the Parade Commander, sound **LAST POST** as signal for silence.
 - vii) At the first notes of Last Post Standard Bearers will slowly dip standards. Officers will salute.
 - viii) Standards will remain dipped, and the salute will be held. At the conclusion of **LAST POST** all will stand silent for **TWO MINUTES**.
 - ix) On the pre-arranged signal from the Parade Commander at the end of the two minutes, trumpeter will then sound **REVEILLE**.
 - x) On the first notes of this, Standard Bearers will raise the standards again.

- xi) The Mace Bearer will then lead the Mayoral Party in a “U” turn in single file back into the vestibule of the Town Hall, from which the Mayor will take up his / her position on a stand just outside the entrance, flanked by the Mace Bearer on the right and with the Town Clerk on his / her left, and other distinguished guests and Councillors on either side. As the Mayoral Party turns into the Town Hall, the Band will turn and counter march to be in position to lead the Parade past the dais.
- xii) The Parade Commander will march the Standard Bearers back into the ranks.

9. MARCH PAST THE TOWN HALL

- i) Band will turn and take up position for March Past as soon as the Mayor and Councillors have taken up positions as in 8. xi above. The Parade Commander will order “**PARADE WILL MARCH PAST IN COLUMN OF ROUTE – PARADE RIGHT TURN**”. The Parade Commander will take up his position at the head of the Column and give the order “**PARADE WILL MARCH PAST IN COLUMN OF ROUTE BY THE LEFT, QUICK MARCH**”. As the parade steps off, the band will strike up.
- ii) The Mayor will take the salute (unless the Lord Lieutenant or DL of East Sussex is present, in which case he / she will take the salute). “**EYES RIGHT**” will be ordered by Unit Commanders as they approach the saluting dais. The Mayor and male Councillors will remove their hats. “**EYES FRONT**” will be ordered when each Unit has passed the saluting dais. The Mayor and all male Councillors will don their hats once the parade has passed.
- iii) The parade will then continue down the High Street turning back into Westgate Street. As all the parade enters Westgate Street the band will cease to play as it passes the YMCA steps. The Parade Commander will give the order “**PARADE HALT**” “**PARADE WILL ADVANCE RIGHT TURN**”. The Parade Commander will then give the order “**PARADE FALL OUT**”.

Anyone who then wishes to attend the church service should make their way to St Michael's Church in the High Street in advance of the Mayoral party arriving.

10. MAYORAL PARTY – TRAVEL TO THE CHURCH AND ARRANGEMENTS ON ARRIVAL -

- i) At the conclusion of the March Past the Mayoral Party will remain at the Town Hall for 4 minutes or so to allow the marching Column to pass and those wishing to attend the church service get settled.
- ii) The Party will then proceed to the church and wait outside the Church at the entrance gate until the whole party has assembled.
- iii) When the Mayoral party has arrived, it will enter the Church, in the order already described (para.7). It will be met by the Rector (Reverend Ben Brown). The congregation will be invited to stand, by a sidesman.

The Church Wardens will escort the Mayor's Party to their seats and then return to the back of the Church. The Mayor's Party and the congregation will remain standing.

- iv) The Choir and Rector will proceed to the Chancel.
- v) The Church Wardens will then go outside the Church and direct the Standard Bearers up the aisle to the Sanctuary where they will present their banners to the Rector and then return to the seats reserved for them.

11. THE SERVICE

- i) The Rector will then conduct the service in accordance with arrangements by him.
- ii) During the last hymn the Standard Bearers will proceed to the Chancel **IN THE REVERSE ORDER AS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SERVICE** where the Rector will hand back their standards.

As each Standard Bearer receives his / her standard they will leave the Chancel and take up a position indicated by the Leading Standard Bearer to fall in either on his / her right or left to form a line across the Church in front of the pews.

Please keep proper intervals between Standard Bearers and allow room for those who follow you to receive their standards and then to pass you if it is desired to face the front in order of seniority at the end of the service.

- iii) The National Anthem will then be sung. The Standard Bearers will dip their standards.
- iv) Immediately after the Blessing has been given by the Rector, about turn, and proceed down the centre aisle, through the main doors, and form up in two lines, outside the Church, ready for the Mayoral Party to pass by.

12. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE – The Choir will lead the Clergy to the back of the Church. They will be followed by the Rector.

The Church Wardens will then conduct the Mayoral Party, preceded by the Mace Bearer, in single file down the aisle in the customary order (para. 7). The Mayoral Party will, with guests who have been invited, adjourn to St Michael's Church Hall for refreshments.

Units remain standing until the procession has left the Church and then disperse.