



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association
26th July 2019 at St Mary's Supporters Club
Meeting Opened at 20:00

Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by our Vice Chairman, David Harding.

Members Present: Peter Crowhurst, Mark Eve, David Harding, Lee Harding, Mark Harding, Paul Hughes, Colin Kemp, Mick Norris, John Shill, Alan South, Michael Taylor, Darryl Twinch and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Brian Cager, David Collett, Des Foord, Derek Glen, Peter Godding, Michael Hobden, Sean Kelly, Ray Metcalfe, Jack Neil, Robbie Parker, John Talmey and Steve Winter.

Chairman's Report: Our Vice Chairman David Harding welcomed all Members to the Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp advised that the Cash available in the bank as at today is £551.75.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 28th June 2019. With no comments advised, the April 2019 Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Peter Wyatt and seconded by Colin Kemp. Carried.
2. Mark advised that due to commitments with the imminent deployment to Cyprus and leave, 43 Bty were unable to attend our Meeting. Mark provided a current update for 43 Bty which was provided by Sgt Dave Houghton.

Lewes Branch Members wish to send their congratulations to 43 Bty Members for coming 2nd in their RSM's Challenge. Well done to all who participated.

3. Mark provided copies of the Forecast of Events including the RA Assembly along with the draft accounts for all Members to read.
4. Annual Dinner. The Annual Dinner is being held on Saturday 30th November 2019 at the White Hart. Arrive 18:30 to be seated at 19:00. The cost for the Christmas Dinner is £25.00 per person. Please note that Members and Guests are responsible for the cost of their own refreshments.

Would all Members please advise Mark if they are attending or not and if so, if they are bringing a guest soonest to allow for a final number count to see if we can then invite other guests as we have a maximum of 41 place settings available.

5. Mark reminded Members with regards to the Eastbourne & District Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club and left leaflets for Member to take. This is held at the Toby Carvery, Willingdon Drove, Eastbourne. BN23 8AS every 1st Sunday at 0930 onwards.
6. Mark advised Members regarding the volunteers required by Steve Scudder of the Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club for the help in the refurbishment of the Scouts assault course at their camp site Parkwood. The provisional dates are either 18th August or 8th September. Steve will let Mark know the final date where he will advise Members accordingly.
7. Mark confirmed that he has booked Megan who is the Public Engagement Coordinator (South East) for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, to provide a presentation to our Branch during our February 2020 Meeting.

Would any Member with access to a presentation screen please let Mark know soonest as this will be needed for this presentation? Alan Mayers advised he is unable to source this. Paul Hughes and Michael Taylor advised they would also look into this.

8. Mark confirmed he has contacted Waterloo Uncovered asking if they are available to come along to one of our Meetings to provide us with a presentation. Mark has yet to hear back from them but will advise once they do.
9. Mark reminded Members regarding the Annual Dieppe Raid Memorial to be held in Newhaven on Sunday 11st August 2019 where Darryl will be Parading our Standard. Members wishing to Parade are welcome to do so.
10. Mark has confirmed that Paul had spoken to Martyn Quigley to build an affiliation with the ACF. Mark confirmed he has emailed Martyn but has yet to receive a reply.
11. Derek Glen contacted Mark during the month with regards to posting various events on our website. However, due to the time and work involved, Mark suggested he speak to Members first with regards to posting certain items that may not be viable to Members in terms of distance to these events. It was agreed that any events within the Sussex area be added to our website, but anyone wishing to post other events further away, please use our Facebook page to post these.

AOB:

1. Mark Eve advised that he had attended War & Peace Revival at Paddock Wood yesterday and the event was brilliant (apart from the extremely hot weather!).
2. Mark advised Members with regards to a new Veterans lapel badge which also has your service numbers engraved on the back and passed one around for Members to see. For all Veterans, this badge is free and can be obtained from:

<https://www.empiremedals.com/products/free-gift-union-flag-veteran-lapel-badge?variant=16953509955>

Please note that there is a delay in delivery for these due to the demand but you will receive it eventually.

3. Darryl advised that there is a new Veterans ID Card being provided by the Government. A new ID card for armed forces veterans, which will help them access specialist support and services, has started to be issued to service leavers. From today, any personnel who have left the military since December 2018 will automatically be given one of the new ID cards, which will allow them to maintain a tangible link to their career in the forces.

The cards allow veterans to easily verify their service to the NHS, their local authority, and charities, helping them to access support and services where needed. All other veterans will be able to apply for a new ID card by the end of this year, to mark their time in the armed forces.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-veterans-id-cards-rolled-out-to-service-leavers>

4. Members discussed the possibility of holding our Annual Dinner 2020 at 43 Bty in Larkhill. Mark advised he will liaise with Sgt Dave Houghton and the BSM with regards to this as there may be a lot to arrange including venue, transport, accommodation etc.

With no other business, the July 2019 Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 21:00.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 27th September 2019 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Timings: 19:30 meet for 20:00 start. Dress: Smart Casual.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Treasurer: Colin Kemp

Secretary: Mark Harding

39 Dunstall Avenue, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. RH15 8PJ

Tel: 01444 871 885 Mob: 07903 702 767

Email: theraalewes@gmail.com