FOR THE FALLEN

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit.
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into mortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

Straight of limb, true of eye,
steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the daytime;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a wellspring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

The poem “For the Fallen” written by Robert Laurence Binyon

We will remember them

When you go home tell them of us and say -
For your tomorrow we gave our today
TURNING OF THE PAGE
CEREMONY – WESTMINSTER
ABBEY

Just to remind members of the dates for the above Ceremony.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 December 2015</td>
<td>335 Medical Evac Regiment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Books are now located at the front of Westminster Abbey under the RAMC windows.

The Ceremony always starts at 1100 hours sharp.

Those wishing to attend should be in at the designated location before 1045hrs so that they can be in position and, if they need a seat then earlier as there are only approximately 20 seats.

Those attending should state that they are attending the RAMC Service and will be allowed in.

Are there any members who have performed the Turning of the Page Ceremony and, would they like to share their experience with us?

CAPTAIN G A MALIN VC
RAMC

George Allan Maling was born on 6th October 1888 at Bishopwearmouth, Co. Durham to Edwin Maling and Maria, né Hartley. Edwin Maling was a General Practitioner and a Justice of the Peace.

George’s initial education took place at Oatlands College Harrogate, where he is listed as a twelve year old boarder, Uppingham and then he went up to Exeter College Oxford. After graduation he undertook his medical training at St. Thomas’s Hospital where he gained a M.A. M.B. B.Ch. M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. At the time he
was at St. Thomas’s he lodged at 39 Clifton gardens, Paddington. (1) With the continued need for doctors in both the army and navy, Maling applied to join the army and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps on the 18th January 1915 and attached to the 12th Battalion, Rifle Brigade as their Regimental Medical Officer. (2)

The Battalion left Larkhill on 21st July 1916, embarking at Southampton the same day. They eventually arrived at Le Havre at 7am the next morning. Over the next few weeks the battalion moved across France, eventually taking their place in the trenches and suffering their first casualties on 12th August. On 1st September they had moved to L’Epinette. (3) On 2nd September the battalion relieved the 12th battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps in the trenches and on 4th September suffered more casualties when an officer and a rifleman were killed whilst manning a listening post in front of their wire. (4)

Over the next few days the position remained fairly quiet with work being carried out on the trenches. A few days in billets followed and then the battalion returned to the trenches, again spending time improving their position and providing working parties but not without suffering casualties. (5)

On 21st September orders were received for an attack during which the battalion would support the Meerut Division. This attack by the Indian Corps was part of a three Corps attack to distract the enemy’s attention from the main assault near Loos. As such no reserves were available for this attack and little artillery preparation would be forthcoming. (6) This was known as the action at Pietre.

The brigade operation order does not name the battalions specifically but refers to them as ‘No1 Bn’, ‘No2 Bn’ and ‘No4 Bn’ and as such their Regimental Aid Posts (RAP) are located as such. (7)

The battalions stood to arms at 4am on 25th September; zero hour originally planned for 4.50am was postponed for one hour due to a change in the wind direction. At 6am the Meerut Division had attacked and twenty five minutes later had reached the German third line trenches. At 8.25am the battalion commenced their assault followed at 8.45am by the headquarters moving up to Chaplin Street. A RAP had been established at the southern end of Chaplin Street. As the companies attacked they met with fierce enemy fire and sustained casualties. By 12.30pm all the companies now having sustained heavy casualties and out of bombs had retired back to their own trenches and reorganised back in the support trenches. (8) By 6pm that evening the battalion had moved back to billets and the toll became apparent:

- 4 officers killed
- 3 officers wounded
- 43 other ranks killed
- 213 other ranks wounded
- 73 missing

It was felt that many of the missing were in fact killed and many of the bodies remained lying in dead ground. (10)

Maling’s day was destined to be busy with such a large casualty toll but things did not go smoothly for him as his position was twice subjected to enemy artillery fire soon after the headquarters had moved up. At 8.30am it received a direct hit killing all but the Commanding Officer and
Adjutant and also wrecking the RAP. The medical Corporal, other orderlies and several wounded were killed and Maling was knocked over. He quickly recovered and continued to work by himself. Shortly after another direct hit flung him into the air. Despite twice being on the receiving end of enemy shelling and being slightly wounded himself Maling continued to work on the wounded for 24 hours most of the time without any help. (11) Interestingly there is no mention of the shelling of the headquarters in the battalion war diary.

The Assistant Director of Medical Services (ADMS) makes reference to Maling in his War Diary of 26th September.

“Lieutenant GA Maling RAMC in medical charge of 12th Bn (Service) Rifle Brigade stated to have done excellent work. He has been reported as having been somewhat hurt though the blowing up of his aid post. (12)”

This is followed up by an entry for 28th September, ‘Interviewed Lt. GA Maling RAMC Medical Officer in charge of the 12th Rifle Brigade. He will be recommended in my despatches’. (13)

Maling was indeed recommended; as the London Gazette dated 18 November 1915 announced the award of the Victoria Cross:

“George Allan Malling MB Temporary Lieutenant, Royal Army Medical Corps.
Date of act of bravery: 25th Sept 1915.
For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the heavy fighting near Fauquessart on 25th Sept. 1915 Lt Maling worked incessantly with untiring energy from 6.25am on 25th Sept till 8am on the 26th collecting and treating in the open, under heavy shell fire, more than 300 men.

At about 11am on the 25th, he was flung down and temporarily stunned by the bursting of a large high explosive shell, which wounded his only assistant and killed several of his patients. A second shell soon after covered him and his instruments with debris, but his high courage and zeal never failed him and he continued his gallant work single handed.”

Maling received his Victoria Cross from the King at Buckingham palace on 15th January 1916. 1916 also brought promotion to Captain and a further Mention in despatches and then a posting to the military hospital at Grantham, Lincolnshire. On 5th May 1917 he married Daisy Mabel Wollmer, of Winnipeg and on 31st July joined 34 Field Ambulance. Maling served with 34 Field Ambulance until 29th March 1919 when he was transferred to ‘No 1 Area’.

After the war he became the resident medical officer to the Victoria Hospital for Children at Chelsea and then went into practice in Lee, during which time he also held an appointment at St John’s Hospital Lewisham.

George Maling died, aged 40, on 9th July 1929 at his home in Lee, South East London. He was buried in Chislehurst Cemetery, Beaverwood Road, Chislehurst, Kent, Section A, Plot 2017. (14)

References
1. 1911 Census for England and Wales
2. The Medical Victoria Crosses, RHQ RAMC 1988
3. The National Archives, WO95/2121, War Diary 12th Bn Rifle Brigade
4. War Diary 12th Bn Rifle Brigade.
5. War Diary 12th Bn Rifle Brigade dated 14th September 1915
7. Brigade Operation Order No. 23
8. War Diary 12th Bn Rifle Brigade
9. War Diary 12th Bn Rifle Brigade
10. The National Archives. WO 95/2121/1 Note from O.C 12 Bn to Base dated 22 Oct. 1915
12. The National Archives, War Diary ADMS 20th Division, WO95/2103/1
13. War Diary ADMS 20th Division.
14. The Medical Victoria Crosses

RAMC REUNITED 2016 REUNION – ADELPHI HOTEL LIVERPOOL

Just a reminder for those members who intend attending the 2016 RAMC Reunited Reunion 5th-8th February 2016, should consider booking a room sooner than later. I have enclosed the literature on the event, which includes the booking form and the list of members who have already booked for the weekend as at 1st November 2015. Also included is the programme of entertainment that Nobby Garbutt has arranged.

This is an ideal opportunity to meet up with friends and former colleagues that you may have been meaning to contact, but have never got round to it. Look through your address book and get in touch with them, let them know about the Liverpool Reunion. This is the 8th gathering of RAMC Reunited. Please don’t be disappointed when all the places have been taken up….

RAMC REUNITED 2016 REUNION – GOLF COMPETITION

Rab Aitken has kindly agreed to arrange a Stableford Handicap Competition during the weekend of the RAMC Reunited Reunion. The Competition will be played on Saturday 6th February 2016 at Bowering Park Golf Club and, Rab will book 5 tees (20). The first tee will be 0800 hours. Cost £20.00. Trophies will be presented to:

- The Winner
- Runner-Up
- Par 3 nearest the Pin (2)
- Longest Drive

After the game a quick pint at my local club (which is not too far away from the course)

Those who wish to participate in the Competition are requested to contact me sooner than later at rmailken999@yahoo.com

Alan Morton who is travelling over from Cyprus and wishes to participate in the Competition has requested the loan of a set of clubs. If there is anyone who can loan Alan a set of clubs please contact him at alanmorton7960@hotmail.com

BOYCE BARRACKS CROOKHAM

In 1938 a large barracks complex named Boyce Barracks was built for the purpose of being the Depot for the Royal Army Medical Corps, who used it until 1962. From 1965 until 1970 it was used by Training Regiments of the Royal Corps of Transport and, from 1970 until 2000 it was used by the Gurkha Regiments.
Wooden huddled camp, with single storey barrack blocks arranged as ‘spiders’, the camp could accommodate 2,500 men in peace time. This camp also included a number of stores and administration buildings, as well as a large parade square, gymnasium and cinema.

During the Golden Jubilee year of the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1948, the Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth (the wife of King George VI and late mother of our present Queen Elizabeth II), visited the depot and met with the recruits based there. It was on this occasion that the barracks were permanently renamed from Boyce to Queen Elizabeth Barracks in her honour. I believe the picture sent in by Bernard Allen was taken during the Parade held as a part of the celebration of the renaming of the Barracks.

If you were on this parade, we would like to hear from you and publish what you recall of this special celebration.
One day Monty came and told us he had met a cousin (Monty had relatives everywhere), who had said she would like all the Jewish lads in the unit to come to her home for Friday night supper. It was her sister, in fact, who had previously approached the unit and requested from the officer that she had met, presumably the company officer, that he let us know she would like us to come to her home on Friday nights while we were in Leeds. Her request had been ignored.

When Friday evening arrived we all went to Monty’s cousin’s home, on the other side of Leeds. The street was Spencer Place, off Roundhay Road, and we all arrived at Nº 69. We found quite a gathering and it was there that I met my wife to be, Rochelle, for the first time. I forget exactly who was present, but do remember it was there that I also met cousin Esther, who was present, the hostess, cousins Sophie, Teddy, Fay, Carrie and Carrie’s daughter, May. It was very pleasant and enjoyable. Rochelle sat almost opposite me, but not much was said. I remember her offering me a banana, an already rare item in England, which I politely refused. We all got on very well together and at the end of the evening we soldier lads were invited to come again. We said our goodbyes and thanks, then left.

The next day, Saturday, I went to synagogue along with the other Jewish lads and in the afternoon, as it was raining, we decided to go to the cinema in town. The cinema was situated near Lewis’s, the famous store in Leeds. We arrived early and joined the queue. Shortly afterwards, one of the young ladies who had been present at supper the previous evening happened to come along. She was on her way to catch a bus home. It was Rochelle. She stopped to talk to us and we invited her to see the film. She accepted, but when the queue moved and we were about to buy our tickets, the others queried as to who would pay for our guest. This annoyed me and I took Rochelle aside, went to the kiosk and bought two tickets. We sat apart from the others and enjoyed the film together. As far as I can recollect it was “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” with Charles Laughton. When the film show ended, Rochelle thanked me and prepared to leave. She was anxious to get home before dark. I asked if I might see her again and she said, “Perhaps.” and told me that she was going to a dance at the Jubilee club the next evening, which was Sunday. I had never learned to dance. As a teenager, I had had all sorts of other interests and had not had time or perhaps the inclination, but something was drawing me to my future wife and so on the Sunday evening I went to the club. I saw Rochelle there and she seemed to be dancing to everything that was being played, but eventually the music stopped for a time and she came over to me. I bought some coffee from the canteen and we were able to talk, while having the refreshments. This made the evening enjoyable and I explained that I could not dance, but had come so that I could see her again. She seemed a little surprised, but pleased, and invited me to come to her cousin’s house during the week.

I, of course, went to the house. Rochelle was working on alterations to dresses. Her cousin, Esther, owned a ladies dress shop in King Street, jointly with Cousin Harry. In return for being housed in Esther’s home, Rochelle was obliged to do alterations required by customers, during her spare time. She worked for another manufacturing fashion house during the day.
I learned that, although Esther would not allow Rochelle to work on a Saturday because it was the Sabbath, she nevertheless opened her shop on Saturdays. I also learned that Rochelle had come to England the previous year in July, only five weeks before war began, probably on the same day that I joined the army. She came from Poland and, of course, was unable to return. When we first met, her English was limited, but we got on fine.

After that we met often and usually went to Potter Newton Park or Roundhay Park, where I would hire a boat and row around the lake. Then, in early September, I was given seven days’ leave and I asked Rochelle if she would accompany me to London and meet my parents and family. I think she would have done so, but the night before, the first great air raid on London had taken place and so it was prudent not to go. Of course, it was my family and so I went on my own.

People in London seemed somewhat bewildered and of course, very apprehensive. Who could blame them? German aircraft had caused a terrible amount of damage and air raid warnings were sounding several times a day and actual air raids lasted most of the night. Under army orders I had to carry my gas mask and steel helmet at all times while in London. Fortunately, the gas mask never had to be used, but I was always self-conscious when wearing the steel helmet among civilians. One day I was in Houndsditch when the warning sounded. Immediately everyone began running for shelter. I was only three or four hundred yards from the shelter my parents would use and so I wanted to get there. I found policeman and air raid wardens trying to order me into nearer shelters and so I tried to look official by putting on my helmet. I was left alone after that and got to the shelter to find my mother and Aunt Julie there. My father, elder brother and sister were on duty with the fire brigade. My eldest brother, Lionel, was a scientist and was at work in Hammersmith. There were frequent raids during the remainder of my seven days leave, but we were all OK when I returned to Leeds.

I continued to see Rochelle and was made very welcome by Esther, but in September came the news that we were to move and be equipped to go overseas. I said, what was a heart-breaking goodbye to Rochelle, but we promised to keep in touch with each other and to meet again sometime in the future.

My unit left Leeds and went to Luton in Bedfordshire. We were billeted in empty houses in Halfway Avenue, so called because it was half way between Luton and Dunstable. I do believe that the M1 motorway now runs through what used to be Halfway Avenue. I missed Rochelle terribly and even though I was now much closer to my own home I felt very lonely.

Anti-Semitism, by those who held power in the unit, continued and we Jewish lads frequently called in the help of Father Thomas, the Roman Catholic padre. Of course, on Sundays we and the so called atheists were detailed to peel potatoes. I tried to persuade the local fish and chip shop proprietor to loan us his potato peeling machine, but he refused. However, we had a certain freedom. The sooner we could get the potatoes peeled, the sooner the sergeant cook would dismiss us and that meant that Londoners could get home for a few hours. I frequently took advantage of this and managed to go and see my
parents. I took the green line bus to Baker Street and then the tube or sometimes managed to hitch-hike a lift on a London bound lorry. We were allowed to go anywhere around Luton or Dunstable when off duty, but we were supposed to apply for a pass to go elsewhere; London for example. We Jewish lads were most unlikely to be granted a pass and so we did not ask for one.

One weekend just as I reached Aldgate to get a bus to Baker Street, the air raid warning sounded. The bus nevertheless took me to Baker Street where I got the green line bus to Luton. It was a close thing as no more buses ran that night. It was the night of the great fire raid on London.

Soon we were being kitted out for service in a warmer clime. We were issued with tropical uniforms, shorts and toupees. These are a kind of pith helmet and with these were issued puckerees. A puckeree is a length of material about 2" wide and several yards in length. It was to be wound round the toupee just above the brim in spiker stile and without pinning. This was easier said than done, but old timers showed us greeners to hot countries, how to do it.

We all guessed that we would be going to the Middle East to join the Eighth Army and thinking things over I came to the conclusion that Rochelle and I loved each other and that if we survived the war we would, in all probability marry, so why not get married right away. Like that Rochelle would get an allowance from the army and if I did not survive she would then get a pension. I wrote to her proposing that we get married when I got embarkation leave. She replied accepting me and somehow I did not feel lonely after that.

I was told that I would be going on leave on Friday, 15th November and that I would be due back on Saturday 23rd, so I wrote to Rochelle and she made the arrangements for us to get married by special soldiers licence at the Spencer Place Chassidisher Synagogue, on Sunday November 17th 1940. Of course, I had informed my parents of all this and they were also busy making arrangements.

I had never been given any sex instruction, so to speak, and my knowledge of such things was only the crude knowledge young people pick up from those around them. I had never heard of such things as Durex, nor had I ever heard the term condom. To me they were “French letters” and I had only seen them when some filthy lout had discarded one in a public place. However, I had now been in the medical corps for well over a year and certainly knew how babies were made, so I knew it was necessary to obtain contraceptives. One afternoon, with great embarrassment, I went into a pharmacy, where fortunately a man came to serve me. I was at first lost for words, but remember that Jewish boys sometimes referred to condoms as briefs; in my ignorance of Yiddish I did not know that a brief is a letter. I asked the pharmacist if he had any briefs. He stared at me, perhaps thinking, “I have a right nutter here, he comes into a pharmacy when he probably requires a solicitor”.

I soon realised that the pharmacist did not know what I wanted and so I asked for “French letters”. He looked askance at me and handed over a packet of three Durex and said, “Half a crown please.” I gave him the money and hurriedly left.

When I collected my leave pass on the Friday, along with about a dozen
others going on leave, the company officer hinted that we were due to return at a weekend so it would not matter if we came back on Sunday. I went into Luton and took the train to Leeds.

I had asked my mother to buy a wedding ring for me, to present to Rochelle and that I would repay her when we met. She did more than that, she also had bought an engagement ring and so that evening, a day and a half before our wedding, Rochelle and I were engaged.

On the Saturday night I was taken out of 69 Spencer Place to stay the night at the house of Leslie and Millie, cousins of Rochelle, as the family wanted to keep up with the tradition of the bridegroom not seeing the bride on the Wedding Day, until the ceremony was due to take place.

There was melting snow on the ground next day, 17th November, our Wedding Day. I went to the synagogue in uniform and there I recognised the minister. He belonged to an acting group that also had Rochelle as a member. I had watched a play that they had put on. I do not remember the name of the play or much about it, as it was in Yiddish and I could not understand a word that was said. I did not know at the time, that this same minister had a crush on Rochelle and now he was going to marry us. When Rochelle came down the aisle and stood by my side I could see a peculiar look on the minister’s face and indeed, before getting on with the marriage service, he asked me if I loved Rochelle. I was a bit taken aback by this and answered, “Of course I do.”

After the wedding, we all went back to 69 Spencer Place, where Esther had set up a reception party. Rochelle went upstairs to change out of the costume she had been wearing and when she returned she took my breath away. She looked gorgeous. She was wearing a dress of many coloured stripes and she looked a treat in it. She kept that dress for many years afterwards and I always liked it.

After the reception, we took a taxi to the Metropole Hotel in the centre of Leeds, where we had booked a room for the night. The week went by very quickly and all too soon I had to return to my unit.

Rochelle and I parted on the Sunday and I returned to Luton. On arrival I was told by the night orderly sergeant (I will describe what NOS is later) that I was on a charge for overstaying my leave and that I should report to the orderly room at 9 am the next morning. This I did and was met by the RSM and the orderly sergeant. They told me to remove my cap, a tradition in the Army from the days when a prisoner threw his cap at an officer trying him. An escort was put on either side of me, and then we were told to left turn and were marched into the room where the orderly officer sat. I should mention here, that there were some half dozen others on a similar charge, having like me responded to the orderly officer’s hint, but meanwhile the anti-Semites had me. The charge was read out and I was asked what I had to say. What I said was completely ignored including the fact that I was newly married. The orderly officer completely denied having hinted that we could return on Sunday and I was awarded four days confined to barracks.

I, of course, could only remember how those on CB were treated when I was at the depot and so I dreaded the coming four days. I had been told to report to a corporal, whose name I
have forgotten, but on doing so he told me to make myself scarce and not be seen in town. That was that.

I was in constant contact by letter with Rochelle and I used the four days that I was unable to go into town, to find a place where we could stay, if Rochelle came to Luton to be with me until the unit moved off. I managed to find a place just around the corner from Halfway Avenue, but if I wanted to sleep there I would have to obtain permission from the RSM. Needless to say, when I applied, he refused permission. When Rochelle came, I ignored the refusal, got some of the chaps to cover up for me and I slept out, taking great care during that period not to get caught.

Monty Miller had been married in February of 1940, when on leave from France, and his wife, Milly, was with him in Luton. So we often made a foursome and the wives had companionship when Monty and I were playing soldiers.

The next few weeks were idyllic until, at Christmas-time, Rochelle had to return to Leeds. We both knew that we would not see each other again for a long time. It was heart-breaking, but we were to experience such partings many times before the war would end. After Christmas word got round, that we would move off at any time and were going to Egypt to join the Eighth Army. We were given lectures by the medical officers, all about diseases in tropical countries and I am sure no one expected to return alive; not because of enemy action, but because of disease. We were also warned about venereal disease and told the old pun about “one night with Venus and a lifetime with mercury.”

As Christmas fever was still around, we had few parades and so, after roll call on Thursday, which was the 27th December, I took a chance and went to London to see my parents and say goodbye. Remembering my previous experience on the night of the fire raid, I left early next morning. I arrived back at the unit before midday and was told that the orderly sergeant was looking for me. I went straight to the orderly room looking very innocent. They had not found out that I had gone to London, but I was told that I and Monty Miller would not be travelling with the unit; we would be going on another ship and would be working in the 60 bed hospital section on board. I suppose they thought they were doing us a bad turn, but as things turned out it was by and large a good one. The unit would have a three month voyage doing nothing or playing soldiers and would sleep in the hold of an old ship, in hammocks, packed like sardines.

While in Leeds I had taken my first nursing examinations and was now graded as a nurse third class, as was Monty, although he had been a medical student. (To be continued)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR ALFRED KEOGH GCB, GCVO, CH

Fred Pope a former member of the Corps, whilst working during the period March 2004 to August 2005 for
his son Gareth at his ski lodge in Sonthofen within the Oberallgäu Region of the Bavarian Alps, had the privilege of meeting a descendant of Lieutenant General Sir Alfred Keogh GCB, GCVO, CH, Major Peter May.

Peter was the OC of the RDG Ski Hut in Sonthofen and allowed Fred to read the Family Manuscript on Sir Alfred Keogh, which was written by his father Ralph, who unfortunately is deceased. The contents have never been published.

Fred was allowed to extract contents from the manuscript which he felt would give a true picture of this remarkable man and his accomplishments as Director General Army Medical Services. There were items that Fred did not publish i.e. letters which he felt were personal to the family. I have liaised with Peter May and asked him how much the bridged version that Fred copied differs from the original manuscript. He informed me not too much.

Fred, like me and, I am sure a number of you out there had no idea why the Depot at Ash Vale was named Keogh Barracks and, the history behind Keogh.

Fred after reading the short Biography by Ralph May “his Grand Son”, tried to visualise the valuable contribution Keogh gave/developed for medicine, science and hygiene in the early part of the twentieth century and especially the development of the RAMC and the RAMC Territorial Services.

I have been in touch with Peter May who is now retired and working for the Ministry of Defence in Germany. He has granted me permission to publish the manuscript and give it the widest publicity within the Corps. I would like to thank him for allowing me to share this with you all.

On the publication of the final article, individuals may if they so wish contact me for the PDF version of the article.

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR ALFRED KEOGH GCB, GCVO, CH**

**INTRODUCTION**

This attempt to write about the achievements of Sir Alfred Keogh is primarily for his Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. It seems that he did not want to be remembered. He destroyed his personal files when he left the War Office and what he did not destroy, he ordered his widow, Camilla (Nini to her Grandchildren), to burn.

She did ask J.A. Spender if he could write a biography of Keogh, but the reply was that there was not enough to go on. Spender did write a short biography in his book ‘Men & Things’ (Cassell 1936), but this does not add much to our knowledge.

I think he would be surprised to find that the RAMC Depot and Training Centre is in ‘Keogh Barracks’ at Ash Vale, where he originally set up the Army School of Hygiene. When he died in 1936, the then Director-General, Hartigan, named the new Barracks after him. One wonders if his name would be remembered at all if that had not occurred.

In the 1960’s I was given, by my Aunt Celia Broadbent, his younger daughter, a trunk full of papers and letters. These consist of various reports of Committees and Enquiries of which Alfred Keogh was a member. The letters are mainly congratulatory, but one or two reflect the opinion of the
time. There are also newspaper cuttings, which not only give the news of him, but also give some idea of his great achievements.

In addition I have studied various Military History Books of the period. The remarkable thing is that Medical support for the Army is seldom mentioned, either in the histories or in the Memoirs of Army Commanders. This has always struck me as odd. As Lord Esher wrote in The Times in 1916, "that to keep a Force in the field is at least as important a necessity as to recruit it".

The only fully researched book which has been of immense help is 'Doctors in the Great War' by Ian. R. Whitehead (Leo Cooper 1999).

Keogh achieved what he did by being a leader. He had immense charm, which made him popular. He had patience. He was a marvellous judge of men. Keogh picked a team around him who were efficient and experienced with whom he could trust, delegate with confidence, and let them get on with their specialty without interference. He gave unstinting praise where it was due and was the last to take the credit for the achievements of the Medical Services. He took advice, and acted upon it. His door was always open. He showed great sympathy to those who had been injured, and to parents whose sons had been killed, writing letters in his own hand, he was a very hard worker.

He did not, however, suffer fools gladly and made enemies, who tried to unseat him in 1916/17. There were also those who never forgave him for his meteoric promotion above them from 1901 to 1905. But his many admirers and friends saw these people off and supported him through thick and thin.

His ambition was to be a scientist and so his appointment as Rector of the Imperial College pleased him immensely. Although the appointment was mainly administrative, his association with the leading professors of the time gave him a great interest.

He was the right man at the right time. What would have happened if he had not been Director-General to prepare the Medical Services for the Great War, or had not been recalled in 1914 does not bear thinking about. But when it was all over, he just faded away.

Ralph May

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR ALFRED KEOGH GCB, GCVO, CH**

**RECORD OF SERVICE**

Commissioned Surgeon Army Medical Service - 6th March 1880
Surgeon Major - 6th March 1892
Lieutenant Colonel - 6th March 1900
Brigade Surgeon - 29th November 1900
Colonel – 2nd December 1900
Surgeon General – 31st December 1904
Lieutenant General - 1st January 1905
Honorary Physician to HM the King - 24th July 1907
Retired – 6th March 1910
Recalled as Director General AMS - 8th October 1914
Retired - January 1918
Rector Imperial College of Science & Technology - March 1910 to June 1922

Served South African War 1899 - 1901
Officer Commanding General Hospital Orange Free State March to May 1900
On Operations Cape Colony South of Orange River 1899 - 1901
Orange River Colony May to June 1900 Transvaal June to November 1900. Again in Transvaal November 1990 to February 1901 Mention in Dispatches London Gazette 16th April 1901 Queen's South Africa Medal (4 Clasps)
Commander of the Order of the Bath 1901
Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath 1906 Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath 1917 Knight Grand Cross of the Victorian Order 1918
Companion of Honour 1918
Grand Officer Legion of Honour (France) 1917
Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown of Belgium 1917 Knight of Grace of the Order of St John of Jerusalem 1903
Grand Officer of the Crown of the White Eagle (Serbia) 1918

CHAPTER ONE
Family Early Days

Henry was the fourth of six sons of William Michas Keogh. Henry entered the Middle Temple on 2nd April 1857 and was nine terms at King's Inns Dublin 1851 to 1855.

He was commissioned into the Army as a Comet in the Land Transport Corps on 23rd November 1855. He remained in the Land Transport Corps, which became The Military Train until he retired as a Captain in 1869. He was called to the bar in 1871 and became a member of the Irish Bar and was appointed Resident Magistrate in Londonderry in 1871 and later in 1872 in County Louth. One of the qualifications of a Resident Magistrate was that he had to have Military Service. Whom he married is something of a mystery, but they had two children, Marie Clare and Alfred, who was born on 3rd July 1857 and the subject of this biography. Their mother died when the children were quite small, and they were brought up mainly by their Grandparents, William Michas and Mary nee French.

It is said that Alfred Keogh never got on with his father, who appeared to spend a lot of his time in Paris, and largely neglected his children. Henry wanted Alfred to become a Priest and sent him to school at Cotton College, near Cheadle in Staffordshire. This was a Seminary for the older boys, and indeed, many of the boys were later ordained. However, for Alfred, it had the opposite effect, and the experience of Cotton College did not endear him to the Clergy. Failing the Church, Henry tried to persuade Alfred to join the Services, preferably the Royal Navy. However, Alfred wanted to be a scientist. They eventually compromised and he agreed to read medicine at University, initially at Queen's College, Galway, and graduating M.D., and M.Ch. from the Royal University of Ireland in 1878, at the unusually early age of 21 years. He also sat the Diploma in Obstetrics in the same year.

To increase his medical knowledge, Alfred moved to London and studied at Guy's Hospital. This was followed by appointments as House Physician at the Brompton Hospital for diseases of the chest and as Clinical Assistant at the Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.

Whilst in London, he lodged with Colonel (Retired) Williams IMS, who had a daughter, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1880, at the early age of 23. In the same year, he joined the Army
Medical Service. One can only speculate that he joined in order to have a regular income now he was married, or perhaps he genuinely thought that Military Medicine would be an interesting career. The Country can be thankful that he chose the AMS, in view of his future achievements.

CHAPTER TWO
The Army - Early Years

The Army was not an attractive career for a young doctor in 1881. True, the extensive Cardwell Reforms through which the Army was passing at the time were making some improvements from the previous organisation of the Medical Services. Prior to the 1870's, each Regiment had a Surgeon and Assistant. These had a very low status in the Regiments. Indeed, some Regiments would not allow the doctors to join the Officer's Mess. There was then the Army Medical Department, with officer Surgeons distributed to Garrisons around the World. Then, finally, there was the Army Hospital Corps, which had no officers but consisted of Stretcher-Bearers, Orderlies and those with nursing duties. Regimental Medical Officers had no authority over the A.H.C. The Army Medical Department was administrative and separate from the executive branch of the Medical Service. All this bred Inefficiency. The Cardwell Reforms brought all doctors into the Army Medical Department, and in 1878, the pay of Army Doctors was raised. But their status was still low. In 1884, the Army Medical Department was renamed the Army Medical Staff and Medical Officers were given command over the Army Hospital Corps. However, there was great resistance to granting Medical Officers full military rank, and it was not until the formation of the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1898, that this was granted. However, even after the formation of the RAMC, there were still many grievances and Medical Schools were continuing to boycott the Army. The problem was to come to a head in the South African War.

As a result of these reforms, the A.M.S. went through many changes during Keogh's early years in the Army. Every doctor on joining the Army went through the Army Medical College at Netley, founded in 1860. Alfred Keogh distinguished himself at the College by taking the Herbert Prize for passing out top, and the Martin Memorial Gold Medal in Medicine. On graduation he was posted to Bermuda, where he remained for three years. In 1883, he was posted to Madras, India. The couple returned home in 1889, when Alfred was posted as Surgeon to the Woolwich Arsenal. They returned to India in 1894. Their eldest daughter, Camilla Margery, was born in Calcutta in 1897. They returned home in 1899. In February 1902, their second daughter, Cecilia de Mestre was born.

Throughout this time, Keogh "devoted himself to acquiring sound professional ground work, taking clinical appointments in general and special hospitals and losing no opportunity to adding to his store of knowledge. This professional keenness he kept up through his working life." When on leave in Switzerland, he visited clinics and questioned the professors on their expertise. He immersed himself in the problems of Military Medicine, going through the various Commissions that had sat to examine the problems with the Army Medical Staff, which exposed the faults in the system. Indeed in
India, he saw diseases, which could be prevented by proper training in hygiene discipline. He was appalled by the ignorance and disinterest of the Regimental Officers in the prevention of disease amongst the soldiers. "Without losing his grasp on his purely profession work, Keogh immersed himself in the study of military medical problems.

CHAPTER THREE
November 1899 - May 1900
South African War
No 3 General Hospital, Rondesbosch

The history of the British Army is littered with horror stories of the breakdown of the Medical Services. Yet, when they are mentioned, which is rare, the work of the Surgeons is praised. It was the lack of facilities provided by Governments and the Higher Command, which were to blame. History and the reminiscences of Generals seldom mention the Medical Services, although frequently describing the problems of supply and maintenance. This is strange. The most valuable asset an Army has is its men. The quicker the sick and wounded are treated and cured, the sooner they return to their units. Lord Esher, in the 1914-18 war, said, "to keep a force in the field is at least as vital a necessity as to recruit it."

It seemed that at the beginning of any war, this lesson had to be re-learned. In addition, the lessons of service in the tropics, and the prevention of disease, were still being learned, and the Army Medical Service was often in the van of research into the causes and prevention of diseases, but their advice was not always taken.

The Army in South Africa was to pay heavily for the lack of trained personnel and medical stores. In spite of recent reforms, the Medical Service was still the poor relation of the Army as a whole. The lessons, painfully learned in previous wars, had been forgotten. Many lessons had to be learnt all over again at the expense of the sick and wounded.

"The Times" in February 1900, put the problem in a nutshell: "A single Army Corps of 50,000 sent to South Africa, exhausted the whole available Army Medical Department in England. The number of men in South Africa was shortly to be raised to 194,000. This left a balance of 144,000 for whose medical service Parliament has made no organised provision". The estimate of wounded for an Army at war at the time, was 6%. Leaving 44,000 men for base and Line of Communication, the estimate of wounded would be 6% of 150,000, which is 9,000.

The provision for the sick in South Africa was 8%, or about 15,500. Therefore, the total provision for sick and wounded should have been equal to 24,000 men. However, this was modified and a figure of 10% of the whole force under arms, or 19,400 beds, should have been provided. Putting aside 'Field Hospitals' which were only temporary and from which casualties were evacuated as soon as they were filled, the utmost capacity for the sick and wounded in February 1900 was 5,000 beds. Luckily, up to February 1900, the fighting force had been broken up into four isolated columns of attack, and three besieged towns. These had fought actions, which, in the main, were small and insignificant. Had the whole strength of the enemy fought as a concentrated
Army, the Medical Services could not have coped.

As it was, the shortage of trained RAMC personnel and medical stores were to cause unnecessary suffering and deaths.

Major Keogh sailed to South Africa with No 3 General Hospital. This was under Command of Colonel R.O.G. Wood RAMC. Keogh was Secretary and Registrar of the Hospital. Colonel Wood came from an Army Medical family, his father having been a Surgeon in the Crimean War. He and his wife, who joined him in South Africa as a nurse, were to die of Enteric Fever at Kroonstadt in 1901. The personnel of No 3 General Hospital arrived in Cape Town on 24th November 1899, and their equipment arrived two weeks later. The Unit comprised of 5 RAMC Officers, 12 Civil Surgeons, 1 Warrant Officer, and 106 NCO’s and men. Attached to the hospital was the Portland Hospital. No 3 initially had 520 beds under canvas, and this was later increased to 620, whilst the Portland Hospital had 124 beds, later increased to 200. The hospital opened for patients on 8th December 1899, and in six months, 3,577 patients were to pass through it.

Keogh, in his evidence to the Royal Commission in to the Care of the Sick and Wounded in South Africa, was to say that he never really had any problem in getting stores, but the hospital was short of Nursing Orderlies and of nurses. Indeed the question of nurses at the outset of the war was a difficult one. The employment of nurses was "but slightly recognised in the Army". As the war progressed, however, the few nurses were initially in supervisory roll…

The British Medical Journal remarks on the "Open Air Treatment of Enteric Fever", and mentions that at No 3 General Hospital only 3 deaths had occurred in 124 cases. In a stinging attack on the Hospitals in South Africa, Mrs Chamberlain, in a letter to Lord Justice Romer, President of the Royal Commission dated August 1900, she states, "my evidence with regard to No 3 General Hospital Rondebosch, will be limited to the information gained in a single visit of inspection. I am of the opinion that while this hospital suffered in common with the others from the faults of the army medical system, these were to a greater extent neutralised by the greater activity and the more liberal and enlightened view of Major Keogh RAMC."

In a piece in The Times datelined April 1900, entitled "Our War and Our Wounded", part of a series of articles by Mr Burdett-Coutts MP, he describes a visit to No 3 General Hospital at Rondebosch. It ought to be said that Burdett-Coutts was most critical of the Army Medical Department in South Africa, but his one exception was No 3. "In the green roads and alleys formed by the regular rows of marquees in which No 3 General Hospital is laid out, many an interesting hour may be passed, wandering in and out of the tents, chatting with soldier-patients who love to fight their battles over again, observing the comfort and regularity of all the arrangements, the central table for common use, the neat little beds with a chest of shelves at the head of each, the temperature charts and diet sheets affixed to every sick case, the many little luxuries which Lady visitors have added: the orderlies moving about methodically amongst the patients, and here and there a nursing sister looking in to see if her instructions have been properly carried out. Except in the special
surgical and medical marquees, of which there are two in each of those divisions reserved for serious cases, many of the patients are up and sitting about, some on beds, some in the entrance to the tent, and some outside under distant awnings. A large proportion of these, as previously mentioned, seem fitter subjects for a convalescent home than for a hospital fully equipped and manned for grave cases.

At the entrance to the broad central avenue some of the patients are making two large flower beds neatly bordered with white stones, and bedded out with plants brought by neighbours. As dinner-time is near we will walk down the whole length of the avenue to the kitchen at the end. Within all is neatness, order and precision. Seven cooks, consisting of a sergeant and six privates, are busy preparing the chief meal for some 500 patients. The head cook is a very smart and intelligent man, trained at Aldershot, and no mean artist. The seven "diets" - "roast", "varied", Convalescent", "chicken", "beef tea", "milk", and "plain milk" - have each its measured component parts, solids, liquids, and condiments, set down in the manual. No praise can be too high for the excellent cooking in this hospital, which of course depends on the individual attention given to the matter here. Even the Cape Town meat is made more than palatable, while the roast chops and cabbage, stewed chicken, soups, vegetable, and potatoes are most savoury. The rice and sago puddings and custards are delicious: the beef tea and chicken broth would tempt the feeblest appetite: the barley water almost converts us from a deadly and life-long hatred of that particular beverage.

The disinfecting process is carefully examined and found as thorough as a department of such vital importance should be. All soiled linen is soaked in iron tubs in a solution of formalin and then whether passed through Threshers's disinfecter or boiled and dried in the sun, while the refuse of the camp is carried every evening to a distant spot and there burnt.

The church, peculiar to No 3, is made out of a marquee 50ft long by 30ft wide. It has a frame altar covered with a red-embroidered altar-cloth on which stand a cross and a vase of flowers; the lectern is draped in a Union Jack, and there is a harmonium; the church is partly seated and there is space for a congregation of 200. A long dining-tent for convalescents, seating some 150, is also used as a reading-room. An additional recreation marquee is being erected. A novel feature is a large pen of live chickens given by the neighbours for consumption as they are wanted. They are a nuisance and anticipate their fate by eating each other. After this lighter interlude we visit the enteric marquees, which, as previously stated have been wisely isolated from the rest of the hospital and have a special ward master, orderlies, and nurses assigned to them. There are three marquees, 45ft by 18ft, with 15 patients in each. In the daytime there is a nursing sister with three orderlies in each tent; at night an orderly in each, but only one nursing sister for all three" No 3 General Hospital with Colonel Wood and Major Keogh, was a shining example of what a General Hospital could achieve, given energy and common sense and a dedication by the Medical Staff.

Mr Burdett-Coutts goes on to argue about the use of female nurses in the General Hospital. There were some opponents to this, but No 3 General
Hospital welcomed them and would have liked to have more. They were also popular amongst the patients. Mr Anthony Bowlby FRCS, Senior Surgeon of the Portland Hospital, was critical of the many of the General Hospitals he visited. However, in his evidence to the Royal Commission, he had this to say about No 3, to which his hospital was attached. "It always seemed to me to be exceedingly well managed. Everything was done methodically and well. The tents and camps were clean and tidy, fever cases were isolated, typhoid stools disinfected, drains carefully cleaned, food properly protected from contamination, and the patients well nursed and cared for. There was no overcrowding and the convalescents had abundant freedom." (to be continued…)

POEM "THE RAMC"

During my research in relation to information on Field Ambulances in the Great War I came across the following website which I am sure members will find very interesting [http://www.ramc-ww1.com/index.html](http://www.ramc-ww1.com/index.html) and whilst perusing the site, I came across the following poem titled "THE RAMC" which was written by Corporal W.H. Atkins (Late of A Coy 1/8th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment)

THE RAMC

We carry no rifle, bayonet nor bomb, But follow behind in rear Of the steel fringed line that surges along With the ringing British cheer.

Through the tangled wire of the blown-in trench, Spite of shrapnel or bursting shell, We make for the spots - khaki-clad helpless blots -

That mark where our front rank fell. We are the men who carry them back, The wounded, the dying and dead.

It's "Halt!" "Dressing here" - "Come buck up, old dear." You're all right for "Blighty." so be of good cheer - Turn him gently, now bandage his head" The "stretcher-bearers" doing their bit. Of V.C.'s not many they score, Yet are earned every day in a quiet sort of way By the "Royal Army Medical Corps."

Oh! it's weary work in the white-washed ward. Or the blood-stained Hospital base. To number the kit of the man who was hit And cover the pale, cold face. Or hand out fags to the brave boy in rags. Who'll stick it and cheerfully grin, As the Deftly used knife cheats grim death of a life While the grey of the dawn creeps in. To hold the hot hand of the man who talks wild And blabs of his wife and his kids. Who dreams he is back in the old home again. Till the morphia bites and he loses his pain As sleep settles down on his lids. The "Hospital Orderly" doing his bit, Of V.C.'s not many they score Yet are earned every day in a quiet sort of way By the "Royal Army Medical Corps"

The bearers creep out in the dead of the night, "Oh! Bring 'em along this way. Four in one hole! Good God, what a sight! Keep down your head from the glare of the light. We're 'spotted' as clear as day."
Overhead flares a star-shell pale,
Follows a crash and a roar.
The helpless are mingled with the
dying and dead,
A splintered stretcher lies close to the head Of one of the Medical Corps.

Just a name and a number published at home today,
"Pte Blank, R.A.M.C, Killed in Action" (God bless him, say we in his grave of Flanders' clay).
Such is the work of the Red Cross Knights,
Of V.C.'s not many they score.
Yet are earned every day in a quiet sort of way
By the "Royal Army Medical Corps"

ON LOCATION WITH THE STARS

Douglas Robertson a former Hygiene Assistant within the Corps has taken up the gauntlet and, submitted an article whilst he served in Benghazi No.2 Hygiene Wing, Tripoli.

Service History:

19039330 Douglas John Robertson – served 1947 to 1959
Enlisted in 1947- completed 6 weeks basic training with Gordon Highlanders.
Moved to RAMC Depot at Boyce Barracks, Crookham further 4 weeks training.
Then onto Army School of Health as a trainee Hygiene Assistant. There were 2 other regulars with me at the time, Jimmy Hosking and Ken Wise.

1948- 1951 Sergeant - FARELF - Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, Colombo.
1951-1953 Staff Sergeant - UK Military Hospital Chester, and Fulwood Barracks, Preston.
1953-1956 WO2 – MELF - 4 weeks Egypt Canal Zone, then Benghazi and Tripoli in Libya
1956- 1957 WO2 - Army School of Health
1957- 1959 WO2 - Lagos Nigeria (West African Frontier Force) and Millbank College London.

My story relates to my time in Tripoli.
For over 2 years I was in Benghazi No.2 Hygiene Wing (C O Captain 'Ted' Wyre) when it was decided that a hygiene presence was required in Tripoli, so off I went, and so the story unfolds-

In 1955 J Arthur Rank was on location in Azizzia, a village south of Tripoli, filming a war epic "The Black Tent" starring Anthony Steel, Donald Sinden, Donald Pleasence and Anna Maria Sandri.

Within a very short time most of the stars, and crew, were struck by an 'epidemic' of D and V with film activity virtually at a standstill. Apparently there were numerous frantic calls to the British Embassy for help, and eventually I was asked to 'look around, and make some positive suggestions'.

So off I went. My transport was an ex-German Army BMW R10 motorcycle with sidecar recovered from the desert in 1952 and purchased by me in 1953.
Upon arriving at Azizzia (Reputed to have recorded the highest temperature ever !) I found a temporary camp of absolute luxury, with the most miserable bunch of humans in various stages of extreme distress!

It soon became apparent that their camp was a virtual text book on how not to live in a desert climate. The
drinking water, locally sourced, was untreated, the kitchen was staffed by local labour who had not been checked, the refuse was being dumped locally, and the less said about toilets and fly control the better.

However, I found great support for change, and most issues were resolved fairly quickly.

Watching a film being made was absolutely fascinating, with little relevance in the sequel of shots and storyline. Everything seemed to depend on weather, sun, shade and time. Actors are a race apart! They demand the best of everything with one actor (unnamed!) being, as far as I could judge, universally disliked because of his arrogance. The leading lady did not speak a word of English, and was having daily coaching lessons, but having seen her in various stages of undress, she may not have been chosen for her linguistic expertise!

I spent 4 days on location, and only once had a serious problem. At the end of one particularly arduous day I came out of their office with only one thought in mind - a cold beer, and found, to my absolute horror, a filthy Arab sprawled in the sidecar of MY motorcycle!! In my best market Arabic I left him in no doubt that his actions were not acceptable, and the origin and virtues of his parents were, to say the least, dubious. During this tirade he only made things worse by smiling at me .When I had finished, there was a pause, then he said, in the most impeccable Oxford English "I say, old boy, that sounded a bit rough!". It was Donald Pleasence in costume!!!

The highlight, for me, was the total destruction of the pass leading from the village to Tripoli. Huge explosions, lots of action, and the road reopened one day later as most of the explosions were dummies. That news disappointed me as I had become fond of these weird, but hard working, members of the film industry, and would have enjoyed a few more cold beers with them.

The film was released in the UK in 1956. I haven't seen it.

Thank you Douglas for sharing the above with us.

ABSENT BRETHREN

Steve Quinn

RIP Steve
Dear Friend,

RAMC REUNITED 2016

The seventh gathering of RAMC Reunited took place at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool during the weekend 7th to 10th February 2014. The feedback from a large number of those who attended have commented that it was the best reunion to date and, this was down to the high level of entertainment that Nobby Garbutt provided on the Saturday and Sunday evenings, which was excellent and very much appreciated.

A number of members travelled from America, Canada, Cyprus, Malta, and Spain, their continued attendance and support is very much appreciated by the Committee. For those members for whom it was their first time attending, we hope that you enjoyed the weekend and hopefully will see you in 2016.

VENUE FOR NEXT FUNCTION
5th to 8th FEBRUARY 2016

RAMC Reunited 2016 will be from 5th to 8th February 2016 and will take place at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

BOOKING
I have liaised with the Hotel with a view to preventing the fiasco of the long queues that were endured by those of you who attended on the Friday afternoon. The hotel have advised me that members can pay a deposit in order to secure accommodation, but will need to make payment in full, which should include the £12.00 parking charge for those requiring to use the car parking facilities (vehicle registration is to be disclosed at the time of making the booking) Payment should be settled with the use of debit/credit card by no later than 5th January 2016 which is 28 days prior to the Reunion. The Britannia Hotel chain, like most outlets are being charged a levy by Credit Card Companies and this is being passed onto the customer. The hotel will charge £2.00 for credit card transactions and £0.50 for debit card transactions. Those members adopting this method would on arrival not have to report to the main reception desk, but report to the desk staffed by a member of the Adelphi Hotel staff which would be located close to the RAMC Reunited meet and greet desk in the foyer and collect an envelope which will contain their room key. Members not using this method will be processed through the hotel reception desk.

Any member wishing to have credit with the hotel during their stay, can attend the desk at any time and give the reception staff their credit/debit card details to open credit for them.
Act now and complete the booking form and send it of today with your deposit - the hotel will take telephone bookings. To secure a booking a deposit of £35.00 per person is required and this can be done by credit card guarantee or a cheque. If you intend to make a booking by telephone, please phone 0151 709 7200 during normal working hours Monday to Friday (0900 -1630 hours). You will initially get a member of the reception staff. Ask to be put through to Marie Hall or Anna O’Brien and make the booking. Please do not phone outside these timings as you will be put through to Britannia Hotels Central Reservations and, they will book you into the hotel as a normal guest and not as a member of the RAMC Reunited Group.

The hotel will allow one weeks’ notice of cancellation for a full refund and after this time, members will be charged for one night’s stay and refund the remainder.

The hotel is offering an Early Bird Booking at a cost of £70.00 per twin/double room or £45.00 per single rate which includes dinner, bed and breakfast, for those members who wish to book in on Thursday night 4th February 2016 and stay over an extra night on Monday night 8th February 2016.

**WEEKEND ITINERARY**

The Adelphi Hotel will provide a 2 and 3 night package, and also Saturday Reunion Dinner only, details of which are shown below. The booking proforma, which is attached, will need to be completed and forwarded directly to the hotel with your deposit. You are advised to reserve your accommodation as soon as possible and not leave it to the last moment. Do not be disappointed and miss out on what has now become a popular gathering. Act now and complete the booking form and send it of today with your deposit - the hotel will take telephone bookings. To secure a booking a deposit of £35.00 per person is required and this can be done by credit card guarantee or a cheque.

The weekend has been planned as follows:

**Friday 5th February**

Check in from 1400 hours until 1700 hours
Dinner - 1830 -2230 hours – Venue Banqueting Hall
Cabaret – Olivia Leigh – Female Vocalist
Overnight En Suite Accommodation

**Saturday 6th February**

0730 - 1000 hours - Full English Breakfast – Pearce Room  
1045 hours - General Meeting – Derby Room  
1900 for 1930 hours - Reunion Dinner - 3 Course Set Menu – Banqueting Hall  
2100 hours - Raffle  
2130 – Entertainment/Disco TBC  
Overnight En Suite Accommodation

**Sunday 7th February**

0700 - 1000 hours - Full English Breakfast – Pearce Room
1830 hours - Beef/Chicken Curry and Cold Meat Buffet – Banqueting Hall
2100 - Cabaret – Jimmy Jermain – Cliff Richard Tribute Act
Overnight En Suite Accommodation

**Monday 8th February**

0700 - 0930 hours - Full English Breakfast – Pearce Room
Guests depart by 1100 hours.
COST
Cost for a three night package (Friday to Monday morning) is £164.00 per person
Cost for a two night package (Friday to Sunday/Saturday to Monday morning) is £144.00 per person.
Anyone living locally and wish to attend the dinner on the Saturday night will be charged £27.00 per person for the meal.

ACCOMMODATION
The Britannia Adelphi Hotel has 402 bedrooms with ensuites and all feature direct dial telephone, colour television/radio, hair dryer, trouser press and complimentary tea and coffee tray. 200 rooms (150 Twin/Double and 50 Single rooms) have been reserved for RAMC Reunited and hopefully these will be used.
The Adelphi Hotel will on the 30th December 2015 release any rooms that have not been booked to other parties. So therefore, book early and don’t be disappointed.

DISABLED FACILITIES
There are 4 bedrooms within the hotel which have disabled facilities. Wheelchair users have access to all the function rooms within the hotel.

DRESS
Dress for the Saturday evening will be Lounge Suit.

CAR PARKING FACILITIES
The hotel has ample car parking facilities. The Committee have negotiated with the hotel that members attending our Reunion will be charged £12.00 for the whole duration of their stay.
Members will be required to pay the £12.00 when making the full payment by credit/debit card.
Please ensure that you disclose your vehicle registration when making your full payment.

GENERAL MEETING
Minutes of the General Meeting which took place on Saturday 8th February 2014 are attached.

ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND RAMC REUNITED
The event is aimed at all ranks of former members of the RAMC whether they served as National Servicemen, Regular Army, Army Reserve and widow (ers) of late RAMC. It is an occasion whereby individuals along with their spouses/ partners meet up with friends and former colleagues of yesteryear.

(Note: When a regular member of the RAMC retires from the service and enlists into the TA or takes up a Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) appointment within the RAMC or another Corps/Regiment he/she is also eligible to attend. Individuals who enlist into the TA (RAMC) who have had no former regular service will become eligible to attend on retirement from the TA).

DONATIONS
RAMC Reunited is a self-sufficient run event and relies on monies raised over the weekend. If members would like to make a donation to RAMC Reunited, they can send a cheque to me made payable to “RAMC Reunion”. In order not to incur additional postage costs, I will not send out an acknowledgement of receipt of donations unless specified on the donation proforma.
RAMC Reunited has a PayPal Account and Andy Sumpner has inserted a PayPal button on the Donation Form on the RAMC Reunited website. If you wish to make a donation to RAMC Reunited using this facility, all you need to do is go to ramcreunited.co.uk, under the Reunions & Events button click on Liverpool 2014, click on the donation form and then click on the PayPal button to make your donation.

PUBLICIZE RAMC REUNITED
RAMC Reunited is publicized through the Corps Magazine, Soldier Magazine, British Legion Magazine, and various web sites. I would like to ask if you are in contact with former members of the Corps that you please get in touch with them and let them know about RAMC Reunited. They can either contact me on my e-mail address or phone me and I will forward them a copy of this letter. Look forward to seeing you in Liverpool.

“In Arduis Fidelis”

Mick McCran

Enclosures:
Booking Form
Minutes of General Meeting
Donation Proforma
Database Update Proforma
Weekend Programme of Entertainment
List of Attendees as at 01112015
## ACCOMMODATION BOOKING FORM

**Dinner Only (Sat 6th February)** @ £27.00 per person

**1 Night B & B (Sat 6th Feb) + Dinner**
- Twin/Double @ £75.00 per person
- Single @ £100.00 per person

**2 Nights B & B (Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun) + Dinner** @ £144.00 per person

**3 Nights B & B (Fri/Sat/Sun) + Dinner** @ £164.00 per person

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**Dietary Requirements:**

**Address Details:**

**Address:**

Daytime Tel:

Mobile:

**Postcode:**

**Email address:**

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**THE FOLLOWING SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED**

A credit/debit card or cheque is needed to guarantee your booking. A non-refundable deposit of £35.00 per person will be taken from your card at this stage. All accounts must be settled before arrival or on departure (see notes overleaf).

Payment enclosed by (please tick box)

- Credit/Debit Card [ ]
- Cheque [ ]

Credit/Debit Card Type

Name on the card

Credit/Debit Card Number

Expiry date:

Cheque enclosed

Valued @£35.00 per person

Signature ___________________________ Date ____________________

If you require written confirmation, please tick [ ]

If you require email confirmation, please tick [ ]

---

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:**

Marie Hall, Accommodation Sales, Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Ranelagh Place
Liverpool L3 5UL

(PTO)
NOTE:

I have liaised with the Hotel with a view to preventing the fiasco of the long queues that were endured by those of you who attended on the Friday afternoon. The hotel have advised me that members can pay a deposit in order to secure accommodation, but will need to make payment in full, which should include the £12.00 parking charge for those requiring to use the car parking facilities (vehicle registration is to be disclosed at the time of making the booking). Payment should be settled with the use of debit/credit card by no later than 5th January 2016 which is 28 days prior to the Reunion. The Britannia Hotel chain, like most outlets are being charged a levy by Credit Card Companies and this is being passed onto the customer. The hotel will charge £2.00 for credit card transactions and £0.50 for debit card transactions. Those members adopting this method would on arrival not have to report to the main reception desk, but report to the desk staffed by a member of the Adelphi Hotel staff which would be located close to the RAMC Reunited meet and greet desk in the foyer and collect an envelope which will contain their room key. Members not using this method will be processed through the reception desk.

Any member wishing to have credit with the hotel during their stay, can attend the desk at any time and give the reception staff their credit/debit card details to open credit for them.

The hotel will allow one weeks’ notice of cancellation for a full refund and after this time, members will be charged for one night’s stay and refund the remainder.

The hotel is offering an Early Bird Booking at a cost of £70.00 per twin/double room or £45.00 per single rate which includes dinner, bed and breakfast, for those members who wish to book in on Thursday night 4th February 2016 and stay over an extra night on Monday night 8th February 2016.

If you are making a booking by telephone, then please phone 0151 709 7200 during normal working hours Monday to Friday (0900 -1630 hours). You will initially get a member of the reception staff. Ask to be put through to Marie Hall or Anna O’Brien and make the booking. Please do not phone outside these timings as you will be put through to Britannia Hotels Central Reservations and, they will book you into the hotel as a normal guest and not as a member of the RAMC Reunited Group.
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING – ADELPHI HOTEL
SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2014

Meeting opened at: 1045hrs
Number present: 92
Chairman: Mac McHale
Secretary: Mick McCran
Entertainment: Nobby Garbutt
Raffle Organiser: Bryan Hair
Note Taker: Brian Wilson

1. WELCOME ADDRESS
The Chairman opened the 7th Reunion General Meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance noting that our reunions are getting more and more popular with approximately 350 people attending this reunion he was aware of the number of difficulties and hiccups experienced with the rooms but hoped that they were being sorted and, that they would not let this spoil the occasion.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and accepted as a true record.

Proposed by: Tome Meade
Seconded by: George Poole

3. APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from:
Jim Bridges, Peter Cheesley, Roy Kibblewhite, Gerald ‘Taff’ Edwards, Dave and Lyn Naylor, Colin Lynn, Harry Holder, Phil Basford, Bryan Wilkinson, Frank Halliday, Jack Payne, Brian Whittaker, Derek and Mary North, Mick Wylie, Paul Crosthwaite, Maurice Keagle, Peter Gillon, John Green, Jim Bruce.

4. RAMC REUNITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT
Mick McCran read out the transactions of the account as at 05/02/201
Income Balance: £3,063.57
Expenditure: £3,002.77
Balance of Account at 05/02/2014 £60.80

A full breakdown of the income and expenditure is listed in Annex A

The statement of account was approved as a true record.

Proposed by: Trevor Cooper
Seconded by: Ken Roberts

The Chairman addressed the meeting raising the issue of donations and requested that those amongst us who were self-employed would consider making a donation to the RAMC Reunited Funds. He also urged those who were employed to approach their employers with a view to sponsoring us.
5. **ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the present committee have been managing the reunions since the inaugural meeting and appealed for volunteers to take over. There being no volunteers, it was proposed that the Committee remain unchanged.

**Proposer:** Dave Gargett  
**Seconder:** Graham Mottley

A vote of thanks was proposed by Ted Yeates for the Committee’s hard work and met with unanimous approval.

6. **VENUE FOR RAMC REUNITED 2016**

The Chairman encouraged a healthy discussion regarding choice of venue and handed over to the Secretary who has been researching venues.

The Secretary (Mick) reminded the meeting of the criteria in choosing a venue:

- It should have at least 300 guest rooms and be able to cater for 350 plus
- Have banqueting rooms of sufficient size to accommodate all attendees
- Appropriate facilities, e.g. gym, restaurants
- Be accessible with adequate rooms to cater for the disabled
- Have adequate parking spaces
- Interesting places to visit
- Be affordable and represent good value.
- Has good communication i.e. rail, bus etc
- Must be at least a three star AA rating

Mick told the meeting that he has had discussions with the main hotel chains, and that the main competitors to the Britannia group were Warner Leisure Hotels and De Vere Hotels. Warner Leisure needed a guaranteed 400 guests for each of the nights, which ruled us out. Having checked the De Vere Hotel chain, The Grand Hotel in Brighton could meet all our requirements, but the prices were rather extravagant for the majority of our group.

The Royal Court has been visited too many times and is suitable only for members who have their own transport.

Nobby Garbutt then spoke of the problems securing entertainment, synchronising the dates with appropriate artistes and felt that the Adelphi Hotel was the best solution.

The Chairman announced that the Adelphi hotel are willing to accept a booking for RAMC Reunited 2016 Reunion at a slight increase on 2014 prices.

**Proposed by:** Ken Taylor that we book the Adelphi immediately for our 2016 Reunion  
**Seconded by:** David Johnson

Carried
7.  INTRODUCTION OF RAMC ASSOCIATION CENTRAL BRANCH TO FACEBOOK
The Secretary spoke on the recent introduction of the RAMC Association Central Branch to Facebook.
He went onto to say that Tony Johnson with a lot of hard work achieved in starting the Essex Branch of the RAMC Association and the Branch receive their Standard at Corps Weekend. Since being involved with the Association, Tony felt that the Association was not reaching out to ex members of the Corps and passing on information in relation to Corps matters. Although there is an RAMC Association web site it was felt that its capability was limited. He approached the RAMC Association Committee about using Facebook as an outlet and having messaged Tony on Tuesday night he informed me that the results have been excellent and, since opening the RAMC Association Central Branch on 25th December there are now some 587 members liking the page. Requests have been received from ex members of the Corps from Germany, Australia, Malta and other countries requesting to join the Association. On request Tony forwards application forms to individuals.
The benefit of the RAMC Association Central Branch is that it is a virtual branch, it has no bricks and mortar, so members worldwide can simply pop in and see what is going on within the association. It’s not a chat forum like Facebook RAMC Reunited or AMS Veterans Group. It is simply an information portal to visit and find out what is going on. It has a rumour control page, where people hear rumours can record their concerns and get a response directly from the RAMC Association. There is also a Corps RSM page which is quiet busy with questions being directed at him to which he does respond directly. Also included is a Branch Page whereby local Branches can add their updates and events. Also information is disseminated from the RAMC Association.
Bryan Hair had reservations about this and advised us to proceed with caution. A discussion then arose about the merits with one member advising the meeting that Facebook can now be as secure as needed.
One can access the RAMC Association Central Branch by going to the following link at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/RAMC-Association-Central-Branch/616146658453101

8.  ANY OTHER BUSINESS
The Chairman advised the members of a service which will officiated by Padre Mike Newman at the Noel Chavasse Memorial Statue in Abercromby Square, Liverpool after which members attending were invited to 208 Gen Hospital for a curry lunch.

8.1 AUCTION - PAINTING – CAPTAIN NOEL CHAVASSE VC & Bar, MC
The Chairman then showed the members a painting of Noel Chavasse VC & Bar, MC which was painted and donated by a local Artist Colin Langeveld. He regretted that we had no place to hang this, but after discussion with the artist and with his approval it was agreed to auction it, with the proceeds going to support RAMC Reunited.

8.2 BOOK OF RAMC LIFE
Mrs Meade (Wendy) was invited to address the meeting to speak about her forthcoming book on RAMC life. Wendy has been researching material for her book, which based on experiences within the corps as a wife and, having been to a number of events and heard hilarious stories, thought that this would be the perfect opportunity to get the stories down on paper. She hoped that members would be willing to share their own stories and have them included in her book. The proceeds will go to the RAMC Association, she recounted several she had heard in the short time that she had been here and encouraged those who would like to have their story included to fill in a form with their details.
8.3 **HOTEL BOOKINGS**

The Chairman having noticed the extended queues when booking in on Friday suggested that in future it might be a good idea to pay for the hotel outright when booking rather than leaving a deposit, the fee could be reimbursed if the booking was cancelled before attending the event, this would prevent a recurrence of this fiasco.

**Note:** Mick McCran contacted the hotel on this matter after the reunion. In order to prevent the large queues which were experienced by members on the Friday afternoon, payment should be made in full by either debit/credit card, including parking charges, prior to attending the event. Those members that adopt this method would on arrival not report to the main reception desk but report to the desk staffed by a member of staff from the Adelphi Hotel and collect an envelope with the room key appertaining to the member. This desk would be located close to the RAMC Reunited meet and greet desk in the foyer. Any member who wishes to have credit with the hotel during their stay, can attend the desk at any time and give the reception staff their credit card details to open the credit for them.

9. **CLOSING REMARK**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, wishing them a most enjoyable weekend and reminded them to be seated at their tables by 1925hrs

10. The Committee were then requested to leave the room!
ANNEX A TO MINUTE 4
OF THE GENERAL MEETING

RAMC REUNITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/02/2012</td>
<td>Balance as at 02/02/2012:</td>
<td>£ 447.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/02/2012</td>
<td>Proceeds from weekend:</td>
<td>£1,650.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/02/2012</td>
<td>Cheque from ISS for coach hire</td>
<td>£ 315.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/05/2012</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£ 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/05/2012</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£  30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/09/2012</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£ 160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/01/2013</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£  50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/03/2013</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£  85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/05/2013</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£ 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/07/2013</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£  20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/07/2013</td>
<td>Paypal donation</td>
<td>£  40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/11/2013</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£  35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/01/2014</td>
<td>Cheque donation</td>
<td>£  30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Income:** £3,063.57

EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14/02/2012</td>
<td>Sale of RAMC Reunited Car Stickers - Cheque No 000044 - Horseback UK</td>
<td>£  90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/02/2012</td>
<td>Lycester Hospital Tour - Cheque No 000045</td>
<td>£201.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/05/2012</td>
<td>Refund money loaned to account by M &amp; GR McCran for coach trip and insurance payment for equipment from Sound City - Cheque No 000046</td>
<td>£483.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/08/2012</td>
<td>Refund M &amp; GR McCran cost for 320 2nd class stamps - Cheque No 000047</td>
<td>£160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/09/2012</td>
<td>Lincs Police Authority £190.17 - Printing of letters for 2014 event - Cheque No 000048</td>
<td>£190.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/01/2014</td>
<td>JE Sills &amp; Son Ltd - Public Liability Insurance - Cheque No 000049</td>
<td>£278.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/02/2014</td>
<td>Cheque No 000050 cash for entertainment - £250 - Exclusive Race Nights £850 - Jimmy Jermain £500 - Olivia Leigh</td>
<td>£1,600.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditure:** £3,002.77

**Balance as at 05/02/2014:** £ 60.80
RAMC REUNITED DATABASE

(COMplete only if you have not submitted this proforma before or your details have changed)

In order that I can keep the "RAMC Reunited" Database up to date, I ask if your contact details have changed, would you kindly complete this proforma and return it to me at the address shown below.

PLEASE PRINT

From:

Please remove me from your database YES/NO

Please update my details:

Address:

Tel No:

E-mail:

Please return this proforma to:

Mick McCran
132 Nightingale Crescent,
Lincoln LN6 0JZ
DONATION TO RAMC REUNITED

From:

_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________

I wish to make a £ : donation to RAMC Reunited.

Please send me a receipt for this donation YES/NO

Please make cheques payable to: RAMC Reunion

_______________________________________
(Signature)

Please forward your donation to:

Mick McCran
132 Nightingale Crescent
Lincoln LN6 0JZ
Friday 5th February 2016
Introducing Olivia Leigh

Olivia Leigh has firmly established herself within the RAMC Reunited Group, having performed in front of us in 2010 at Coventry and 2014 in Liverpool and is one of the UK’s leading solo artiste performers over the last decade. Winner of best Adele tribute in the National Tribute Awards 2013, Olivia Leigh like Adele can command and take the stage by storm and given such ability, talent and sound that her tribute to Adele is unique. Olivia’s uncanny resemblance and singing voice guarantees an Adele Tribute Night of the highest quality.

Saturday 6th February 2016
Introducing Tim Shaw & Band

A local to Liverpool, Tim Shaw has been a resident solo artist at The Cavern for over ten years. As a musician has toured the world with many bands and is performing with his band this evening.

Sunday 7th February 2016
Introducing Jimmy Jemain

Jimmy is now firmly established as the Number 1 Cliff Richard Look and Sound-alike and having performed before RAMC Reunited in 2014, he is back again at the Adelphi Hotel, this time without the Knight Shadows.

Ben Lake

Ben Lake, Opera Singer and Professional Vocalist, has an outstanding voice and, we are pleased that he has come along to the Adelphi Hotel to perform for us. When he appeared on the Voice, Sir Tom Jones said “You really have a strong voice. Do what you do and keep doing it.”
RAMC REUNITED 2016 LIST OF ATTENDEES AS AT 01/11/2015

NAME
Michael Airey
Anne Aldred
Harry Anders
John Askins
Don Bartlett
John Beecher
Chris Best
Fred Boland
Steve Bradley
Bill Brogan
Jim Bruce
Alec Burton
Jim Carter
Jim Carroll
Pete Cheesley
Melvin Christopher
Harry Cooper
Mike Craven
Steve Dawkins
Dixie Dean
Joe Dolan
Jim Duff
Chris Edgar
John Farrar-Hockley
Jeffrey Fisher
James Fletcher
R Foster
Dave Garbutt
Dave Gargett
Joan Gaskin
Joe Good
Tom Goss
Bryan Hair
Alan Harbour
A Hardy
Laurie Harmer
Harry Harris
P Harrison
Walter Hart
S Holmes
George Irving
Dave Johns
Robert Jordan
Ronnie Kell
Paul Kinlan
Tony Lawrence
Dai Leek
David Lowe
Jake Marlee
Brian Martin
Mick McCran
Mac McHale
Tom Meade
Trevor Miller
Lance Milo
Alan Morton
Graham Mottley
James Muir
Kieran Mulhall
Noel Nash
David Natolie
Michael Naya
Dave Naylor
Bob Newell
R Page
Jeff Pearson
N Price
Sheridan Price
Derek Proudfoot
Geoff Randall
Alan Rees
Graham Russell
C Salter
Mike Scully
B Shave
John Shave
Bryan Smith
Tony Smith
Bernie Steele
Peter Stobart
Robin Stockwell
Ed Sutton
Charles Taliana
Ken Taylor
Brian Tennuci
C Thresh
Richard Turner
Phil Vanderberg
Henry Walker
John Wall
Malcolm Wallace
Bill Watt
Des Welsh
P Whittick
Roger Wild
Ged Wilkinson
Brian Williams
Brian Wilson
B Wilson/M Buffery
Peter Wormall
Ted Yeates