GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDRP)

Many of you will have seen through the various media sources that the new data protection regulations (known as GDPR) came into effect from 25th May 2018 and are all about making sure that your data is as protected as possible.

I need to make sure that you do want to continue to receive the monthly RAMC Reunited Newsletters, updates appertaining to events in relation to the Army Medical Services and in particular the RAMC and the notification of the demise of former friends and colleagues of the Corps via email.

If you'd like to stop receiving emails from RAMC Reunited, then please contact michael.mccran@gmail.com requesting that your details be removed from the RAMC REUNITED database.

By not opting out you are giving your consent to receive newsletters, news on events and other matters appertaining to the Royal Army Medical Corps. Your details will be used only for this purpose and never shared with third parties.

A RAMC FAMILY ASSOCIATION THREADING THROUGH A TERRITORIAL TALE

It is my pleasure to receive the following article which Brigadier (Retired) Alistair Macmillan has kindly submitted for publication in this Newsletter and hope the members enjoy reading the article.

This article relates the antecedents of the current 144 Parachute Medical Squadron. It also traces the development and deployment of the Territorial RAMC for over a hundred years. There is family linkage in the story that is explained at the end.

The Volunteer Medical Staff Corps was first established officially in London in 1885 by James Cantlie (father of DGAMS Lt Gen Sir Neil Cantlie). The purpose was to
provide stretcher bearers and first-aiders acting in concert for the battlefield. Early manning was provided very significantly by medical students. The establishment of Bearer Companies had first been authorised in the Regular Army in 1873 but they were only envisaged as being formed for exercises and overseas operations, as required, with the manpower returned to peacetime garrison medical centres and hospitals at the end of the venture. In 1886, a 3rd Division of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps was formed at Woolwich. This division, in common with others around the country, provided volunteers to reinforce the nascent RAMC in the Boer War.

After the Boer War the Volunteers were renamed and 3rd Division Volunteer Medical Staff Corps became the Woolwich Company RAMC Volunteers. In 1905, bearer companies were disbanded and the manpower combined with a number of field hospitals to form a new unit, the field ambulance, borne of experience from the Boer War.

In 1908 the Territorial Force was created from all the existing Yeomanry and Volunteer Units around the country. They were formed into 14 infantry divisions and 14 mounted brigades with the former each having three field ambulances and the latter a smaller mounted field ambulance. There were two infantry divisions formed in London and thus six London field ambulances came into being. The Woolwich Company RAMC Volunteers transformed into 5th London Field Ambulance based at Greenwich and the 4th London Field Ambulance at Woolwich. They were part of the 2nd London Division of the Force.

At the beginning of the Great War, the Territorial Force was mobilized and 2nd London Division, with its three field ambulances, deployed to the Western Front in March 1915 as the 47th (2nd London) Division. It stayed there throughout the rest of the War before returning to UK in early 1919. It took part in the following battles: Aubers Ridge, Festubert and Loos in 1915, Vimy Ridge and the Somme in 1916, Messines, Ypres and Cambrai in 1917 and the Somme again, then into the Final Advance into Artois, in 1918.

The Territorial Force units were required to form duplicates of their selves and a 2nd/5th London Field Ambulance emerged in 1915. It was part of the 60th (2nd/2nd London) Division that went to France in June 1916 just prior to the Somme campaign of that year, then to Macedonia in December 1916, finally redeploying to Egypt in June 1917. The division and its units were broken up there in June 1918.

The Territorial Force was transformed into the Territorial Army in 1920 and the three field ambulances were renumbered to align with the brigades of the 2nd London Division. 5th London became 141 (County of London) Field Ambulance (4th London becoming 140 (County of London) Field Ambulance and 6th London becoming 142 (County of London) Field Ambulance). The 10-Year Rule planning assumptions and severe economic strictures on the Army budget meant that, by 1927, each Territorial Division was reduced to one field ambulance with the other two being placed in suspended animation. 140 (County of London) Field Ambulance, now based at the Duke of Yorks Chelsea, was the senior unit and thus became the lone survivor during the remainder of the interwar years.
With war looming once more, 141 (County of London) Field Ambulance was reformed at Chelsea in 1938 but due to the fact its parent division had been transformed into an Anti-Aircraft Division in 1935 it was available for re-tasking and transferred to the newly formed 5th Infantry Division (13 Infantry Brigade) at Catterick that soon after deployed to France as part of the BEF.

Recovering through Dunkirk back to UK in June 1940, 5th Infantry Division had a subsequently diverse war, being employed in the capture of Madagascar in April 1942 on route to India, then it was part of forces operating in Persia and Iraq from August 1942, before participating in the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 and the subsequent one of Italy that directly followed in September 1943. It was recycled through Palestine in July 1944 returning to Italy in February 1945 before finally reaching Germany in March 1945 in time for the final part of that campaign prior to the German surrender and end of the war in Europe. The division was disbanded in 1946.

Just as in the Great War, Territorial Units created duplicates in 1939 for Second World War duties. 141 (County of London) Field Ambulance bore 189 Field Ambulance destined initially for Corps troops support duties but which soon became 189 Cavalry Field Ambulance and then 189 Light Field Ambulance. It deployed to the Middle East in late 1940 and remained there supporting armoured formations until deployed to Greece in late 1944. It was disbanded in 1945.

The Territorial Army was reformed in 1947 and 141 (County of London) Field Ambulance was handed a brand new role. It was to become a parachute field ambulance, one of three in the new territorial 16 Airborne Division and was named 4 Parachute Field Ambulance based in Chelsea. A novel, for the territorial establishment, departure was the inclusion of two surgical teams within the unit in order for it to discharge its new parachute duties. Detachments were set up in Westminster, Hounslow and Southampton adjacent to the three battalions of the parent brigade. In 1950, the unit was retitled 44 Parachute Field Ambulance and in 1956, when 16 Airborne Division was disbanded, it remained in-role supporting 44 Independent Parachute Brigade. It absorbed detachments in Birmingham and Derby from 45 Parachute Field Ambulance that had been based in Birmingham and 46 Parachute Field Ambulance based in Liverpool when these units were disbanded whilst its own southern detachments folded. Indeed, initially the unit HQ was based in Liverpool but returned to Chelsea in 1959. The Birmingham detachment folded in 1963 and the Derby detachment had moved to Nottingham.

Further Territorial Army reorganization saw the loss of a number of division and brigade formations and the creation of different degrees of readiness, and training liability, within the nascent Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve in 1967 with wholesale renumbering of units. Much of this was due to the burgeoning role of reinforcing the British Army of the Rhine in time of war. Category 1 units were at highest readiness, Category 2 units were next and were independent units with their own TA Centres (eg 220 Field Ambulance) and Category 3 had less of a commitment being sponsored units without their own TA Centre (eg 307 Field Ambulance) and managed by a Central Volunteer Headquarters from each Corps. There were only two RAMC units that joined the highest category and these were
144 Field Ambulance (Volunteers) created by the amalgamation of 44 Parachute Field Ambulance with both 160 (Welsh) Field Ambulance in Swansea and 170 Field Ambulance in Neath, thus creating a detachment in Cardiff; and the other was a hygiene platoon. The new unit headquarters remained at Chelsea with detachments in Nottingham and Cardiff. The parachute role was lost but given that the unit remained within, and collocated with, Headquarters 44 Parachute Brigade, the red beret survived and informal parachuting opportunities persisted. It became the only field ambulance left in the Central London area. The ‘every-ready’ tag of Category 1 lapsed in 1972.

The first Commanding Officer of 144 Field Ambulance (Volunteers) was Lieutenant Colonel Clive Samuel RAMC(V) who sadly died (of a heart attack) whilst parachuting at the Prince of Wales’ Investiture at Caernarvon in 1969. A new detachment in Glasgow was raised in 1972. Wider military re-organization of the Army resulted in the abolishing of all brigade headquarters, as a savings measure, in 1977. Consequently, with the demise of Headquarters 44 Parachute Brigade, the unit moved to under command of a new higher formation and a new role providing support to the Logistic Support Group of the United Kingdom Mobile Force – the only part left of the Army not dedicated to the British Army of the Rhine – with a role within a number of deployment options on NATO’s flanks. The unofficial nature of parachuting by unit members was finally exposed and threatened extinction in 1985; it took a nifty bit of staff work in the Ministry of Defence to authorize a proportion of the unit as official parachuting reserves for Regular shortfalls and as reinforcements.

The end of the Cold War brought new opportunities and challenges to the Territorial Army Medical Services. The unit headquarters moved to Wenlock Street Hoxton in 1990. Wider rationalization of the Army Medical Services recast medical doctrine and it was decided to reconstitute 144 Field Ambulance (Volunteers) as a sub-unit of its Regular partner, 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, in Aldershot. This occurred with due ceremony in 1993 and the unit became 144 Parachute Medical Squadron. This change presaged wider developments in the grouping of second line medical units and with the creation of medical regiments (formed from amalgamations of field ambulances) in 1999 when some of the rest of the volunteer field ambulances became squadrons of Regular Regiments following 144’s example. Others had already been absorbed into field hospitals as detachment locations. In 2007, the remainder was formed into TA Medical Regiments.

Further change to 144 Parachute Medical Squadron’s parentage took place during that 1999 rationalization when 23 Parachute Field Ambulance amalgamated with 19 Airmobile Field Ambulance to form 16 Close Support Medical Regiment, in Colchester, in support of the new 16 Air Assault Brigade. Later the Squadron found a new home for its headquarters in Hornsey, its current base. Further parental rationalization took place in 2009, under ‘Improved Medical Support to the Brigade’, when its name changed to the simpler 16 Medical Regiment. The latest plans of the Army, for 2020, that feature expanding the reserve component, have resulted in an increased size of the squadron.

Finally the family thread. My Great Uncle, John Macmillan, was a Glasgow graduate in medicine and specialist in public health and went to war in 1915 with 5th London
Field Ambulance, he ended up commanding the unit in 1918-19. My Uncle, Donald Macmillan, was also a Glasgow graduate in medicine and academic specialist in public health and health services, commanded 44 Parachute Field Ambulance between 1962-66. I am also a Glasgow graduate in medicine and was a consultant in public health and formed the Glasgow detachment of 144 Field Ambulance (Volunteers), when a medical student, in 1972. I was the nifty staff work operator to secure official parachuting recognition in 1985. I commanded 4 Armoured Field Ambulance in Germany between 1987-90. As Chief of Staff Army Medical Directorate, I engineered the absorption of 144 Field Ambulance within 23 Parachute Field Ambulance and was architect of the overall medical regiment concept. I was appointed Honorary Colonel 144 Parachute Medical Squadron in 2012 and served in that role until last year when I stood down.

I attempted to get the pattern to run through a further generation and worked on my nephew to follow on and study medicine in Glasgow before joining the Army. However he followed another career pathway but his sister has graduated in medicine. There the story does breakdown as she did this at the University of East Anglia and is now a specialist in geriatric medicine. Worse still, she flirted with joining the RAF Medical Services but saw the light before it was too late.

Alistair Macmillan
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YOUR CHANCE TO QUESTION MINISTRY OF DEFENCE MEDALS AND RECORDS EXPERTS AT FAMILY HISTORY SHOWS

Ministry of Defence Medals and Records Offices, part of Defence Business Services, are attending family history show events where you can question the experts.

The MOD Medals and Records Offices, part of DBS are to attend the Family History Show events at York on 23 June and Sandown on 22 September, see https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/. The shows are attended by family historians, societies and genealogical organisations. The MOD stand, supported by TNT UK Ltd, will be staffed by a DBS team, with colleagues from the Air Historical Branch and TNT Navy Record Search Service.

They will offer:

**Live post 1921 service record search facility.**

The MOD continues to hold all service records where the individual had a discharge date of post 1921, these total around 10 million records, with about 500,000 having seen service in World War 1. Using a sophisticated database that supports the MOD’s main archive, an assisted search facility will be offered that will in many cases enable confirmation of whether or not the MOD holds a record for an individual. This information can then be used to apply for the record using the forms on Gov.uk. To assist the search, some or all of the following information is required: surname, initials, date of birth and service number.

**World War 2 RAF casualty packs search facility.**

RAF casualty packs from World War 2 are being transferred from the MOD to The National Archives. Using the MOD’s archive and cataloguing database, an assisted search facility will enable identification of the pack that may relate to an individual. This information can then be used to either access the pack at The National
Archives, or, for those yet to be transferred, apply for details from the pack using the forms on Gov.uk. To assist the search, the following information is required: the name of the individual(s), date of incident and type of aircraft.

**Interpretation of service records**

If you already have a service record, but are unsure what it says or how to interpret it, then DBS experts will be on hand to assist you.

- John Reynolds from the MOD’s record office, a keen army historian and serving reserves officer, John has conducted battlefield tours across the world
- Stuart Hadaway from the Air Historical Branch, Stuart has previously worked at the RAF Museum, Hendon, and is the author of military books, including “Missing believed killed: casualty policy and the missing research and enquiry service 1939 – 1952”
- Sue Pass, team leader of TNT’s navy search service who respond to more than 6000 enquiries a year

The DBS team look forward to seeing you!

**WAR PENSION SCHEME**

Information about compensation schemes for UK serving and former serving personnel injured as a result of their service in the armed forces.

Published 27 November 2015
Last updated 6 April 2018 — see all updates


**AFCS AND WAR PENSIONS SCHEME CLAIM FORM**

Use this form when claiming under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and/or the War Pensions Scheme;

Published 3 December 2015
Last updated 4 April 2018 — see all updates


**Details:**

Once the form is completed please send the form to the address noted on the form.

If you have any other enquiries you can contact the Veterans UK as detailed below.

For help and information please ring the Veterans UK helpline on Freephone: 0808 1914 218 (UK only), Overseas helpline: +44 1253 866 043
Alternatively you can write to us:

Veterans UK
Norcross
Thornton Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 3WP

**Simpler Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures for the AFPS**

New streamlined changes make the Armed Forces Pension Schemes Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures simpler

Published 28 March 2018

MOD’s Veterans UK organisation, part of Defence Business Services, have taken steps to simplify the Armed Forces Pension Schemes complaints process, known as the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures.

Veterans UK have listened to and taken on board the advice from The Pensions Ombudsman that the complaints process should be accessible, simple and streamlined with the aim of achieving the right outcome at the earliest opportunity. Sharing that view Veterans UK have shortened the overall process so that they can provide a decision in a quicker timeframe. This change will come into effect from 01 April 2018.

The Pension Regulator expects that a decision will be made on a dispute within four months of receiving an application. The streamlined single stage IDRIP process will reduce this further, with Veterans UK operating a 60 working days timeline after investigations concluded that this could reduce the time taken to process a complaint by 25%.

Any member of the AFPS has the right to raise a complaint using the IDRIP process if they disagree with a decision or action taken by the scheme administrator. The single stage process will look at all aspects of the complaint along with any additional evidence or information provided. For detailed guidance and Frequently Asked Questions on the process an [Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures factsheet](#) (PDF, 110KB, and 4 pages) is available.

Elizabeth Phelan, Assistant Head of Veterans Pensions at Veterans UK, said:

“At Veterans UK we strive to deliver the best service we can to all our customers so please remember that we will make every effort to resolve any disputes before turning to the IDRIP process. However, we are confident that by moving to a more accessible and streamlined complaints process our commitment to excellent levels of customer service can be maintained and strengthened. Veterans UK are constantly looking at ways to improve the Customer Experience.”

**2018 ARMED FORCES PENSION SCHEME (AFPS) NEWSLETTER**

A copy of the 2018 Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) Newsletter is appended to this newsletter.
USEFUL LINKS FOR THE SERVICE COMMUNITY

The following link is a list of Charities or other organisations that might be able to offer advice and support or practical help to our members.


WW1 HEROS REDEDICATED SERVICE 100 YEARS AFTER THEY WERE KILLED

Honouring the fallen heroes of WW1.

The resting places for two WW1 heroes have been marked 100 years after their deaths. A rededication service took place in at the Commonwealth War Graves Commissions (CWGC) Anneux British Cemetery near Cambrai in North France.

Sergeant John MacKenzie 21 years of age of the 1st/6th Battalion, The Seaforth Highlanders was awarded the Military Medal and French Croix de Guerre. Just prior to his death, Sergeant MacKenzie was awarded a Bar to the Military Medal.

The burial of two unknown soldiers of The Royal Scots and an unknown soldier of an unknown regiment were laid to rest on Wednesday 28 March at St Mary’s ADS (Advanced Dressing Station) Cemetery in France. The burial of an unknown Argyll and Sutherland Highlander took place later in the day at Woburn Abbey Cemetery, also in France.

The services were organised by the MOD’s Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), part of Defence Business Services.


Seven British Army soldiers killed during World War 1 are honoured as they are laid to rest

Captain Henry John Innes Walker and 6 unknown soldiers have finally been laid to rest in Commonwealth War Graves Commission New Irish Farm Cemetery in Leper, Belgium. For further information please go to

**British army officer killed during WW1 is honoured as he is laid to rest**

2nd Lieutenant Eric Henderson has finally been laid to rest at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Oak Dump Cemetery, near Ypres in Belgium.

[link]

**VETERANS’ NHS WALES**

Each Local Health Board (LHB) has appointed an experienced clinician as a Veteran Therapist (VT) with an interest or experience of military (mental) health problems. The VT will accept referrals from health care staff, GPs, veteran charities and self-referrals from ex-service personnel. The appropriate VT can be contacted by going to their LHB page on this website [link] and using one of the contact methods including telephone, email or fax.

Appointments will be arranged as close to the veteran’s home as possible in a suitable venue. **The service is not able to respond to emergency referrals.** Veterans in crisis should contact their GP or the Out of Hours Service. There is a Psychiatrist on-call at all Accident and Emergency Units in District General Hospitals.

Alternatively calls 24/7 help line: CALL - 0800 132 737.

**SOLDIER MAGAZINE – APRIL AND MAY EDITION**

The April edition of the Soldier Magazine can be viewed by going to:

**April edition**

[link]

**May edition**

[link]
MIKE ATHERTON EX RAMC AND AUTHOR

Mike enlisted into the army and joined the RAMC in 1978 and on completion of his basic training at Keogh Barracks went onto undertake nurse training at CMH Aldershot from 1979-81.

During his time in the Corps, Mike played Corps rugby and also for the AMS until he retired. Those members, who played rugby during his era, might recollect him. He was awarded his half and full colours.

In 1993 he rebadged to the QARANC and in total served 26 years which included his time as a commissioned officer in the Army Reserve. Mike was an instructor at Keogh Barracks training CMT's and running the Clinical Placement Team. He states that he was lucky to have served in some fantastic postings such as CMH Aldershot, BMH Munster, BMH Rinteln, QEMH and Musgrave Park. When he went off to the Gulf he met his new wife to be, Di Lister, they returned and married. He finished his time in Otterburn and states that it was a great posting. Mike retired from the services in 2004.

But it wasn't until he had left that he really discovered the real world. Mike was lucky and found a new career in canine hydrotherapy were with Di they opened their own business in 2008 in sunny Donny.

When Mick hit 55 he really wanted a new challenge and everyone seemed to think that he should write a book about service life, not a chance, I'd be locked up by the end of chapter 1. But it lit an idea in his tiny brain, so he sat down and wrote ‘The Long shot’ the first of a trilogy as it turned out it was then that Mike became a World War One Novelist. Set In WW1 it’s a story about 2 enemies who try to change the status quo and become friends. Much to his surprise people not only bought it but LOVED it. Honestly, he was stunned; Jack Adams and Albert Hagerman had a life, and more importantly, a following. People wanted to know what happened to them after the book, so almost reluctantly Mike started work on the sequel, ‘A Shot from the Shadows’ which was launched in March 2016. A different tale of our two characters who had been set a mission to kidnap Hitler before he became all powerful. Well, it went mad! Amazon bestseller within 3 months and now Mike had an idea, the book he had always wanted to write was about to start ‘An Echo in Time’ is the prequel and tells the story of his own family during WW1. Mike was able to tie in the other books and it's been a dream come true, poor as a church mouse but I actually have a whole fan base! Who would have thought it, certainly not I?

Now book 4 is finished and is due for public launch at the National Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield in September this year. For those who remember me, I hope it's fondly and, for those who I never met, I hope to one day.
Mike has stated that he would be happy to do a discount for members of RAMC Reunited and sell the trilogy for £20.00 + postage at £3.00. If you would like to take Mike up on his offer then please go to:
http://www.michaelatherton.info/?_escaped_fragment_=

A VISIT TO TEXAS

At the end of March I flew to San Antonio Texas to present a paper at the US Army Surgeon General’s conference on First World War Medicine. The conference was held on Fort Sam Houston, the home of Joint Base San Antonio and the US Army Medical Department Centre and School (AMEDD) and the museum.

I flew out on the Tuesday to give me time to get over the jet lag and also to have a chance to look at the Alamo. Sadly that did not happen; for a civilian it takes some
doing to get access to the base and for a foreigner even more. I had to get a Foreign Visitor pass via the British Embassy in Washington and with final approval from the Pentagon. This I received a week before I flew, with a copy being sent to the Visitor Centre at Fort Sam but when I arrived at 9pm on the Tuesday evening they knew nothing about me coming or the conference. The base police eventually agreed to give me a temporary pass as I was staying in the base hotel on the understanding I went back the next morning to get a photo ID. I did not obtain the pass until lunch time the next day, so no Alamo.

Part of the First World War display

I did spend the afternoon at the AMEDD Museum. This was my third time at the museum having spent a week on exchange there and also attended a previous First World War conference. It really is a splendid museum and as you would expect very large but suffers from the same problem as our museum in Keogh Barracks, members of the public can wait for an hour to get a visitor pass to enter the base to visit the museum. There are plans to alter this in the future by erecting a separate entrance and fenced walkway from the main gate up to the museum.
A MASH display. This gives some idea of the space available in the museum

The museum itself tells the story of medical support to the US Army from the revolution until the present day. It does this by using exhibits, graphics and many vehicles including horse drawn and motorised, plus helicopters and a hospital train. It also has a library and archive. Although many of the ambulances are inside the museum, several others and the helicopters are outside, all under cover and there are plans to extend this cover to house a Blackhawk helicopter.

One of two First World War ambulances on display

The museum also has a gift shop; roughly the same size as our own museum shop but it does not sell any uniform items, only gifts and a few books.
The conference started with a reception in the museum on the Thursday afternoon and followed with all day sessions Friday and Saturday. My paper was entitled ‘A Special Relationship – Surgical Advances in the British Expeditionary Force and the American Influence’.

The conference itself was held in the AMEDD Centre & School a couple of hundred yards from the museum. There were a total of forty one papers in two parallel sessions each day but I was the only non-American presenter; the other UK presenters had all pulled out of the conference for various reasons. The papers varied on subjects such as surgery, shell shock, the Flue pandemic, the casualty evacuation system, trench fever, and some detailing personal stories. All those I listened to were very interesting and well presented.

Accommodation for many of those attending the conference was in the Candlewood Suites. This is one of three army hotels on base and we really did have a suite. My own comprised a king sized bed, a bathroom, kitchenette with cooker, dishwasher, coffee maker, microwave and large fridge/freezer. There was also a work station with desk and a large screen TV. The hotel provided breakfast and then it was up to you
to feed yourself for the rest of the day. On conference days there was a box lunch provided but no evening meal and as a non-serving military you are not allowed to use the dining facility but there are numerous fast food outlets on the base. There were no bars we could use and the Class VI store (alcohol shop) is out of bounds to non-military but a compassionate soldier took pity on me and bought me some beers for my room.

Despite the long flight it was worth attending the conference and meeting up with medical historians from America who I had met on previous visits.

Pete Starling

A life sized bronze commemorating veterinary medicine

I would like to thank Pete for sharing the above with us. Another excellent read and we look forward to your next article.

SCARLETFINDERS

I believe the historians amongst us will find the website 'Scarletfinders' very interesting and can be accessed by going to: 
http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/index.html
ROYAL FLYING CORPS

The Royal Flying Corps (RFC), the air arm of the British Army, was in existence from 1912 to 1918. On the first April 1918 the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Services (RNAS) combines to become the Royal Air Force.

Since the inception of Army Aviation, members of the Army Medical Services have been involved, and during the First World War some 1410 members of the RAMC and 17 members of the RADC served with the Royal Flying Corps. As well as fulfilling roles as medical and dental officers, many also served in other occupations such as pilots or aerial gunners.

With the formation of the Royal Air Force a significant number of Army Medical Services personnel with the RFC transferred to the new service.

Perhaps one of the most renowned First World War pilots was a former Sergeant in a Field Ambulance Unit by the name of Major Edward Corringham (Mick) Mannock.

Edward Corringham "Mick" Mannock VC, DSO & Two Bars, MC & Bar (24 May 1887 – 26 July 1918) was a British flying ace in the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force during the First World War. Mannock was a pioneer of fighter aircraft tactics in
aerial warfare. At his death he had amassed 61 aerial victories, the fifth highest scoring pilot of the war.

Mannock was born in 1887 to an English father, Edward Mannock, and an Irish mother. Mannock's father served in the British Army and the family moved to India when Mannock was a small child. Mannock was sickly and developed several ailments in his formative years. Upon his return to England he became a fervent supporter of Irish nationalism and the Irish Home Rule movement but became a member of the Independent Labour Party where he satisfied his interest in politics.

In 1914 Mannock was working as a telephone engineer in Turkey. After the Ottoman Empire’s entry into the war on the side of the Central Powers he was interned. Mannock was badly treated and soon fell ill. Turkish authorities repatriated him to Britain believing him to be unfit for war service.

Mannock recovered and joined the Royal Engineers and then Royal Army Medical Corps. He moved services again and in 1916 joined Royal Flying Corps (RFC). After completing his training he was assigned to No. 40 Squadron RFC. Mannock went into combat on the Western Front participating three separate combat tours. After a slow start he began to prove himself as an exceptional pilot, scoring his first victory on 7 May 1917.

By February 1918 Mannock had achieved 16 victories and was appointed Flight Commander of No. 74 Squadron. He amassed 36 more victories from 12 April—17 June 1918. After returning from leave Mannock was appointed commanding officer of No. 85 Squadron in July 1918, and scored nine more victories that month. Days after warning fellow ace George McElroy about the hazards of flying low into ground fire, that fate befell Mannock and he was killed in action dogfighting too close to the ground on 26 July 1918.

Mannock was among the most decorated men in the British Armed Forces. He was honoured with the Military Cross twice, was one of the rare three-time recipients of the Distinguished Service Order, and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

**GLIDER PILOT REGIMENT**

The Glider Pilot Regiment (GPR) was formed in 1942 and was disbanded in 1957. It provided aircrew for military gliders and took part in a number of actions during WW2 in Norway, North Africa, Sicily and Europe. Together with the Parachute and Air Landing Brigades it formed part of the Army Air Corps. The GPR was known as the NCO Regiment, and most glider pilots were Sergeants or Staff Sergeants. Squadron Commanders held the rank of Major and a Squadron was comprised of 4 Flights each Commanded by Lieutenants or Captains. Each Flight had 4 officers and 48
NCO Pilots. At its peak the GPR trained 2,500 pilots, it did however, have a very high casualty rate during the war, particularly at Arnhem where pilots of the GPR lost ninety percent of their number which were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner.

Over 50 members of the RAMC and RADC volunteered to become glider pilots during the war and a number of them were killed on operations.

**ARMY AIR CORPS**

In 1957 The Glider Pilot Regiment and RAF Light Aircraft AOP (Air Observation Post Squadrons, staffed mainly by Royal Artillery pilots, were formed into the newly reconstituted Army Air Corps. It initially operated fixed wing aircraft in AOP, FAC (Forward Air Controller) observation and reconnaissance, and liaison roles. Helicopters were subsequently introduced and now equip most Army Air Corps Squadrons.

RAMC Specialists in Aviation Medicine attend the Army Pilots Course and are awarded the Army Flying Badge (Wings) on graduation.

From 1957 to 1990 twenty members of the RAMC and RADC were trained as pilots and have been awarded the Army Flying Badge. Seven of this number were non-commissioned officers who have served tours as operational helicopter pilots, one of whom was killed during the Indonesian-Malaysian confrontation (1963-1966) flying a Scout Helicopter. From 1990 to 1997 fourteen RAMC, one RADC and two QARANC members of the Army Medical Services have attended Army Pilots Courses and trained as Helicopter Pilots.

Data from 1998 onwards is not available due to Data Protection; however, the first female Helicopter Pilot to qualify was a Medical Officer in the RAMC, and later female pilots came from the QARANC.
MILITARY HOSPITAL WARINGFIELD NORTHERN IRELAND

In the December 2016 Newsletter I published an article on the late Les Viner in which he referred to his first posting;

"My first posting was to 15 Company RAMC, Waringfield, Moria, Northern Ireland.

As you can see it was one of our more modern establishments, built in 1943 as a 900 - bedded recuperation hospital for the American Military. Waringfield closed three years later in 1963. I sat my NO2 there and most of my theatre training was done at Lurgan General Hospital where I sat my OTT 3 & 2. 1960 – 1963 was the heyday of the “B” specials, part of NI Police Force. There activities were part of the pre-troubles which as we all know, blew up, literally into a disastrous terror campaign. It was difficult for a young English soldier to understand the hatred between Catholic and Protestant peoples which still stirs under the surface today."

A couple of months ago I was contacted by David McFarland – by his own admission an amateur historian researching the History of Moira County Down his research is displayed on http://moirahistory.uk  David was the Pastor of the Baptist Church in Moira from 1995 until he had to retire through ill health in 2002. He informed me that Peter Cole a former member of the RAMC had contacted him and who had served in Moira in the 1960s as a Laboratory Technician and who later went on to obtain his wings and served as a helicopter pilot. He shared with David some aerial photographs he took of Waringfield in 1974 and thought the readers of the newsletter might be interested in seeing these. David wondered if any members who served at the Military Hospital Waringfield would like to share information or photos of their time spent in Moira that would be useful on Moira History site.
Peter Cole and Les Viner

Les Viner and another about to row off on the River Lagan at Waringfield
Aerial images 1974

The aerial photographs shown below were taken by Peter Cole in 1974. He has kindly allowed them to be displayed in this month’s newsletter.

He and his wife first met when they were serving at Waringfield Military Hospital in the early 1960’s. Peter was in the Corps and worked in the Pathology Laboratory and his wife was a nurse in the QARANC. They both have many fond memories of Moira and the surrounding area, and regularly went to dances in the village.

Peter later trained as a helicopter pilot and while serving in Northern Ireland he took a look over Moira and photographed the village. These photos were taken with an F95 camera on the 22nd of August 1974 at 1330 hrs from 2000ft and some are shown below and others can be viewed by going to http://moirahistory.uk

Entrance to Military Hospital Waringfield
Waringfield House and Moira Chest Hospital

Derelict Waringfield House and caravan park in 1974
Waringfield House and Moira Chest Hospital and caravan park

Former military hospital at Waringfield, Moira

When the Military Hospital Waringfield in Moira closed down in 1963 it moved to Belfast and became Military Wing, Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast.

Peter has forwarded the article from the Corps Magazine which published the Church Service in the Moira Parish Church to marking the closure of Military Hospital Waringfield..
ON Sunday, 24th November, 1963, during morning service at Moira Parish Church, a small but impressive ceremony took place to mark the closing of Military Hospital, Waringfield.


Colonel Pennefather, formerly the O.C. Waringfield Military Hospital, in the presence of the church wardens and the congregation, presented to the church the last Corps flag to be flown at Waringfield, saying, “We ask you to accept this flag and inscribed plate on behalf of all ranks of the Military Hospital, Waringfield, to commemorate the long association of the hospital and this parish.” The Rector of Moira, the Rev. Canon H. Hughes, accepted the flag, and at a later date it was hung in the church with the plate beneath it.

The Sermon was preached by the D.A. Chaplain-General for Northern Ireland Command, the Rev. J. E. G. Davies, C.F., C.II, who took for his text Matthew VIII, 5.

The congregation included many ex-Servicemen wearing their decorations.

The Old Military Hospital, Waringfield.
RAMC REUNITED 2020

The above Reunion will be taking place from 2nd - 6th April 2020 at the Britannia Palace Hotel, Buxton. For General Information and Accommodation Booking Form please go to the RAMC Reunited website shown below:

http://www.ramcreunited.co.uk/buxton-2020.html

Unfortunately, only 240 personnel can be comfortably seated in the dining room for a formal dinner. The Committee would therefore suggest if you wish to attend, early booking with the Palace Hotel Events Team (see the booking form) is recommended to secure your place, first come first served.

Should you have any questions please email the committee team (Jeff Pearson/Ray Gregson) on ramcreunionbuxton2020@gmail.com  Should you not have email facilities then give Jeff a call on 07809 287363.

THE BRITISH IN WESTPHALIA
EXPERIENCING ANGLO GERMAN HISTORY

My daughter-in-law Lindsay works as a Language Coordinator at 41 Army Education Centre in Sennelager and was involved in helping set up the exhibition “THE BRITISH IN WESTPHALIA” – ENCOUNTERS - RELATIONS – HISTORY 1945 TO 2020 in Paderborn. The exhibition continues as a road show (albeit a much smaller version). The exhibition venues were published in the April edition of the Newsletter.

Lindsay has been in contact and informed that the team are continuing work on the project and on Saturday 23rd June 2018 (does this date ring a bell?) are planning an Anglo-German history project in Church House Lubbecke. Further details on the project can be found in the attached poster.

On the following Saturday 30th June 2018 the last Military Units within Paderborn Garrison will be participating in the Freedom of the City Parade their final Parade in Paderborn before withdrawing from Germany.

Veterans who served in Paderborn and currently living in Germany, or maybe on holiday in Germany, and would be interested in attending either or both of these events, in particular registering for the Church House History Project, then please contact Lindsay at 41AECGp-LanguageCoord@mod.uk asap.

The Church House Poster is appended to this newsletter
RAMC IN WW II

I received the following message from John Broom who is searching for former WWII Veterans in order to gather material for a book that he has been commissioned to produce.

“Hello Michael

I came across your email address when reading an RAMC Reunited newsletter online.

I am an historian and researcher who has just been given a commission to produce a book about the RAMC during the Second World War, to be published in September 2019. Would you be able to assist me by placing my details in your next newsletter, and by giving my address to any veterans of the conflict you may be in contact with?

My own father served with the RAMC between 1940 and 1946, in the 7th LFA and 2nd LFA, and briefly 121st General Hospital

Kind regards

John Broom

12 Park Avenue
Penistone
Sheffield
S36 6DN

johnbroom@aol.com”

If there are any Veterans in a position to assist John then please contact him on the details shown above.

CHRIS HIGHAM ACROSS THE FINISH LINE

I am writing this article whilst sea on my way to Bermuda. My last article saw me up to my neck in repairs in Cape Town following the big wave incident, thankfully that is all behind me now. I managed to get away from Cape Town late on the 2nd Feb 18. However, not on my own!! As I was checking out to leave I met a welsh cyclist who had just spent 17 months cycling from the UK down through Africa to Cape Town. He wanted to get to the Caribbean, so he could be near the start of his next adventure down though South America. We seemed to have a lot in common to chat about, so I took a gamble and invited him along for the trip.
Our first leg to the British Island of St Helena took 13 days to do the 1900 nm. The start of the trip was testing for Andy as the sea was very rough and confused. He had some limited sailing experience 10 years ago, but this was a little different. Our first journey and arrival at the British rock called St Helena was uneventful. The island is very small and interesting garrison town. Due to the high cliff coast line, the roads are very steep and narrow, once in the centre of the island it becomes green and fertile farm land. We spent a very hot 15 min climbing their main tourist attraction Jacobs ladder, a set of 679 steps from the harbour to the main Town. Thank god there were a few shops and a bar near the harbour. Two other notable things about St Helena, Napoleon spent a period of time there in exile and also of more interest, whale sharks regularly feed along the coast line. We spent a few hours on a local yacht with some other visiting sailors and managed to snorkel alongside four different sharks. What an experience, they are huge gentle giants who appear not to be too bothered about our snorkelling and filming antics.

We met some good friends on St Helena and would have liked to stay longer. However, I had promised to join some friends for the Bequia Easter weekend race regatta in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Due to my delays getting away from Cape Town I was on a tight schedule anyway and we made the decision to sail direct from St Helena to Tobago, a distance of 3900nm, my longest trip to date. We planned on it taking at least a month at sea but did it in 27 days which wasn’t bad. It was an uneventful trip other than blowing out our trusty old cruising spinnaker which had been up and untouched for three days at that point. The sail was at least 15 years old and I have certainly used it a great deal over the last 8 years. It certainly didn’t owe anybody anything, but it will be sadly missed.

Andy also put on a show for Neptune as we crossed the equator back in to the northern hemisphere. He wrote and recited a great poem about his adventure so far and made an offering of his favourite chocolate to Neptune and the sea. It was a long period at sea and towards the end, we were certainly getting short of rations. Without a couple of fish offering themselves to us at the latter end of the trip we may have had to pull in to French Guyana for supplies, but we made it and as a bonus we met up with Jonas a single-handed sailor on Alma. He had also just completed his point to point circumnavigation. I first met Jonas in the Dutch ABC islands on our way to Panama. We have met up at times during the circumnavigation, but it was amazing that we could meet up again at that point. We had a celebratory meal and
bottle of champagne with a few other yachties who were also at anchor in Man O War Bay Tobago.

This was now the closest point that I would be to the South American continent and mentioned this to Andy as a possible drop off point. He was keen to stay on and see some of the Caribbean and work out a biking plan later. I agreed but made the point that I wanted a chance for a solo sail the last leg before selling the boat in the US.

Anyone who knows me well will have at sometime been bored listening to my future plan to sail around the world. We'll its now done and dusted !! It's taken 2 years and 6 weeks to sail from Tobago around the world and back. We checked in to 26 different countries along the way, visited 85 separate islands and sailed 29,338 nm doing it. Not bad going when you think we were almost stationary for six months in NZ and three months in Cape Town..

My main achievement though, was getting my wife Laurie to sail halfway round to New Zealand. Especially as our first grandchild was born just before we crossed the Atlantic on our way to the Caribbean. Thanks Skype!!!

Plan A has always been to sell the boat either in the Caribbean or the USA, so as we started to sail up towards Bequia via the Tobago Cays. After a lot of advice from Americans along the way, I put Moonraker on the market through a broker in Chesapeake Bay on the east coast of the USA. My plan was to sail up through the Caribbean and arrive there in late May 18 before the routine hurricane season starts. We stopped off in the Tobago Cays for R&R before getting to Bequia in time for the racing. I met up with Mark and his racing friends not sure of what part I would play. It turned out that it was a new and relatively inexperienced team who had rented a racing boat for the period of the regatta to celebrate the skippers 60th Birthday. I ended up acting as a tactician and skills coach which fitted in well. We did very well given the fact that the boat was heavily handicapped in the class we were entered in to. We certainly looked the part and competed well as a team which was something I haven’t done in a while.
They were a great bunch of lads in the team and the Crew-nies shore support team were wild. I had a great time and was reluctant to leave the beautiful island of Bequia.

Our next stop was the island of Guadalupe before we visited my friends in Antigua. Guadalupe had some lovely bays with crystal clear reefs and bays to anchor. Turtles everywhere!! It was also a real treat to meet up with Charlie who had crewed for me from NZ to Darwin. He has been working as a yacht charter skipper in Antigua and just happened to be in Guadeloupe.

We did the short hop across to Antigua and anchored next to George and Lorna on their new boat. Laurie and I first met George and Lorna in Panama whilst preparing for the Pacific leg of the trip to NZ. We became great friends and met up at the various islands throughout the Pacific. They sold their boat in NZ for a good price and purchased another yacht in the Caribbean which they live on. A slightly easier way of getting back to the start point than I had, but I'll let them off!! It was great to see them again and enjoy the lead up to Antigua’s famous race week which Lorna was heavily involved in from an administrative point of view.

Antigua was Andy’s last stop as he realised that he needed to head south again to get closer to South America. He managed to get a crew position on a Welsh boat returning to Grenada which was a stroke of luck for him. From recent WhatsApp messages I understand they are racers and he has had his work cut out for him compared to cruising with me. Anyway, good luck to him for his next biking adventure.

My friend Carl joined me in Antigua, last minute to sail up to the BVI’s as he thought it would be his last chance of a sail on Moonraker. As it turns out the whole exercise of marketing the boat made me realise what I had and that it would be hard to replace when back in UK. I have decided to keep her and sail her home, better the devil you know and all that!!
Plan B now is to take 10 days sailing with Carl up to the BVI's via Barbuda, Saint Barts and Saint Maarten. All these islands were heavily damaged by hurricane Irma last year. Barbuda had been flattened with everyone evacuated from the island. We anchored off the beautiful Princess Diana's beach at Coco Point on Barbuda to find it destroyed and deserted apart from a few other visiting yachts at anchor.

We had the beach to ourselves and really realised the extreme power of nature plus the need to get out of the area before the season starts again. Apparently, the younger inhabitants of Barbuda who were evacuated with their families are reluctant to return to the simpler life on Barbuda having experienced Antigua’s facilities. Not sure what the future holds for the island.

St Barts and Saint Maarten were also heavily damaged and in parts still looked like a war zone. Saint Maarten was a significant sailing hub in the Caribbean and it was shocking to see literally thousands of boats sunk, washed ashore and damaged whilst hiding in the relatively sheltered main lagoon. Roof and boat repairs will be the order of the day for a good while.

Carl flew back home from the BVI's and I spent the next few days preparing for the trip back home looking for a suitable weather window. My plan was to go back via the Azores but the weather always has the last say and I have ended up stopping of in Bermuda instead. It was first real ocean passage single-handed and I really enjoyed the challenge. Sleep was my main concern, but I ended getting more than expected, it's certainly easier when you are further offshore.
The Azores high pressure system has been very stationary for a while, meaning that you have very light winds on the direct route which may result in a lot of motoring. Not my scene!

While in Bermuda I met up with two other Swedish boats Benny & Pers-erling who are both sailing back to Sweden single-handed. To celebrate the birth of spring, I was invited on board Per-erling's boat for a pickled fish and potato meal. Benny had caught and pickled a Dorado which was good eating. My diet has certainly changed meeting different nationality sailors along the way. But, it was a great night.

I'm currently finishing off this article sitting outside the town hall building in St Georges harbour Bermuda, a world heritage site.

The weather looks good to leave in the morning. I intend to head generally towards the Azores for a possible stop, but if the weather holds out I will head further north and head straight for Cork in Ireland. 2700 miles should take about three or four weeks at sea depending on the winds, so with a bit of luck I should be in UK waters early June to get a full British summer!!!

As usual, you can see where I have been on my blog at www.getjealous.com/highamsafloat

Chris here is wishing you a safe journey back home and thank you for another superb article.
COULD OSWESTRY’S ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL BE THE FIRST VETERANS’ CENTRE?

A Shropshire hospital could become the first in the UK to open a dedicated Forces Veterans Centre, after its board members voiced their support for the plans. For FURTHER information please go to: https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/health/2017/04/28/oswestrys-orthopaedic-hospital-veterans-centre-would-be-first/#zwxVggX2qaa3F7jt.01

I would like to thank Anthony Jackson for bringing the above to the attention of the members of this Newsletter.

Members may also be interested in the following https://www.rjah.nhs.uk/About-Us/News/Legends-line-up-as-patrons-for-ground-breaking-Vet.aspx

JOIN THE RAMC ASSOCIATION

For further information on joining The RAMC Association please go to the following link https://www.ramcassociation.org.uk/membership

THE ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK NEWSLETTER MAY 2018

Appended below is the May edition of the RVCP Newsletter.

THE RAMC ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

On Wednesday 9th May 2018 I had the pleasure along with my wife Gloria of attending the Annual RAMC Service of Remembrance in the RAMC Grove, National Memorial Arboretum.

The Service was conducted by The Reverend Prebendary Tony Wood and the Flag Changing Ceremony was conducted by soldiers of 22 Field Hospital under the direction of the AMS Command Sergeant Major WO1 Mark Duffy RAMC. The Flag that was lowered will be retired, framed and presented to 22 Field Hospital.

I took a video recording of the Ceremony and can be viewed by going to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xgfe0hW2cv0&t=3s

Appended below is the Order of Service of the Ceremony and members may wish to follow the service whilst viewing the video.
PEGASUS BRIDGE MEMORIAL FLIGHT

Phil Basford has kindly sent me the latest photographs of “Pegasus Triptych”

ABSENT BRETHERN AND SISTREN

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Joe Partridge passed away peacefully in the early hours of Monday 2nd April 2018.

Former WO2 Daz Clarke who was initially a CMT and changed trade to Medical Storeman passed away on Wednesday 4th April 2018 aged 46 having lost his battle against cancer.

Ted Richards former Operating Theatre Technician passed away on Saturday 7th April 2018. His Funeral Service took place on 31st May 2018 Co-op Funeral Services 89 Wimpole Road Colchester CO1 2DB. And then Ted's body was taken to the Cemetery at Mersea Road CO2 8RU where he was laid to rest.

George Saxby served in 7 Field Ambulance Osnabruck, 29 Field Ambulance Oberkirchen, and Royal Herbert Hospital Woolwich. When George retired from the services in the early 70's he was employed as the Mess Steward in the Cambridge Military Hospital Sergeants Mess. After a number of years he then moved and became the Sergeants Mess Manager at Keogh Barracks. His Funeral took place on 3rd May 2018 at Sherwood Forest Crematorium.

Dennis Potts passed away on 2nd May 2018 peacefully at home after a long illness (Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis [IPF]). He initially trained as a OTT and like most
Theatre Technicians at the time transferred across to the Regimental Side to seek promotion and finished his career as a Regimental Sergeant Major. Whilst at Colchester he received a commendation for bravery which is believed to have been possibly due to his actions during the theatre fire.

**Mark Draper** passed away on 2nd May 2018 following a long illness. He served at the QEMH in the 80s, was a good, reliable technician and well-liked by his colleagues. He served in GW1 and when he left the Corps was employed as a Senior ODA at the QMC, Nottingham.

**Christine Harper** beloved wife of Brian Harper passed away on 20th May 2018 following a period of illness.

**Beryl Hilton** beloved wife of Gordon Hilton passed away on 9th May 2018 in her sleep after a long illness of dementia.
This is your 2018 AFPS newsletter, which contains information about your pension as well as instructions on how and when to contact Veterans UK and Equiniti (EQ).

Please keep this safe as you may need to refer to it in the future.

How you can contact us for further help or information

Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) queries
If you have a question about your Armed Forces Pension you can call the Veterans UK JPAC Enquiry Centre. We aim to respond fully to your enquiry within ten working days.

Or, you can contact us by email at DBS-PensionsHelp@dbspv.mod.uk or by post at Veterans UK, Pensions Division, Mail Point 480, Kentigern House,

Pension payments, changes to your banking details and P60 information queries

Equiniti (EQ) administers payment of all Armed Forces Pensions on behalf of Veterans UK. Where we refer to EQ in this letter, it means that this is part of the process that they deliver on behalf of Veterans UK.

Lines are very busy on Mondays. If your call is not urgent, you may find it more convenient to contact EQ from Tuesday to Friday.

EQ should respond to your enquiry within five working days although it may take up to ten working days for a reply during busier periods.

If you telephone, fax or email EQ it may be necessary for them to reply by post.

You may want to write to EQ. Their address is: Equiniti, PO Box 1246, Sutherland House, Russell Way, CRAWLEY, RH10 0HZ. Or you can email: Veteransukpensions@equiniti.com.

You must tell EQ
• If you change your name, address, bank or building society details in writing or by telephone. If it's an overseas bank account, changes can only be accepted in writing.
• Of any changes in taxation.
• If a Court of Protection Order or Power of Attorney is obtained, documents should be sent to EQ for registration and return.

You will need to tell us details of all EQ pensions (if you receive more than one) and your National Insurance number or pension reference.

Important - Please do not use email to tell us about changes in personal details.

If we discover that we do not hold up to date details, including address, we will stop your payments. Your money will be held in trust until such time that we can confirm your on-going entitlement.

Annual Pension Increase
You may be entitled to a cost of living increase to your payment if you:
• Are over 55;
• receive a pension for ill-health;
• if you are a widow, widower, civil or eligible partner or in receipt of a child’s pension.

The Government consider an increase to pensions each year. The decision is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in September of the preceding year. As the CPI was 3% as at 30 September 2017 the Government has confirmed there will be an increase of 3%. The increase will be paid from 9 April 2018.

You may be paid a lower or zero percentage if your pension started on or after 25 April 2017. Details of any percentage increase and the new yearly rate will be shown on your EQ advice note or payable order counterfoil. The advice or counterfoil will also give a forecast of your next payment.

JPAC Enquiry Centre
UK 0800 085 3600
+44 1414 224 3600 if calling from abroad.

Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm
Make sure you have your Service and National insurance number ready

Equiniti (EQ) - Communications Centre
UK 0345 121 2514
+44 1903 768625 if calling from abroad.
Fax Number: 01293 604010

Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm
Make sure you have your EQ Reference number, National Insurance number and provide a daytime telephone number if possible.
Your Tax Code and P60

HMRC tells EQ how much tax to take from your pension. If you wish to ask about your tax code or tax liability you should contact HMRC at the following address:

+HM Revenue & Customs, Pay As You Earn, BX9 1AS. Telephone: 0300 200 3300

You must quote your National Insurance number and PAYE reference, which can be found on your pension advice note or form P60. You may also need to quote your EQ reference number. Your P60 will give you details of the pension we have paid you and the tax deducted in your previous tax year. You will not receive a P60 if tax was not deducted. If you paid tax on your pension, you will receive your P60 by mid May each year.

The amount before tax shown on your P60 is usually different from the yearly rate paid for most of the year, this is because:

• The first payment you received in the tax year included one or more days before the last increase;
• Your pension started during the tax year or it was not paid in full for the whole tax year.

Advice of payment

EQ will send you an advice of payment note or counterfoil. This will tell you about changes to the tax code applied to your pension, details of your pension and a forecast of your next payment.

About your Method of Payment

If you are paid by payables order, please consider having your pension paid directly into your bank account. The advantages of this are:

• It’s a more secure method of payment
• You don’t have to go to the post office or your bank or building society every month to cash the order or do anything once the payment method is set up, unless you want to change the account it is paid in to
• Your money is available to you as soon as it is credited to your account

Please contact EQ by telephone or letter with your bank account details. EQ is unable to pay to certain types of accounts, however you will be advised if this affects your account when you contact us.

Lifetime Allowance (LTA) Queries

Any Lifetime Allowance (LTA) questions should be sent in writing to Veterans UK at the address shown on page 1.

Claiming for your Deferred Pension

Members who are not yet in receipt of their deferred pension should be aware that it will not be paid automatically. This also applies to members who are currently in receipt of Early Departure Payment (EDP) which will cease when you reach your Deferred Pension age. You must claim your deferred pension 3 months before it is due for payment. You can do this by contacting Veterans UK for the relevant claim form or by completing and returning the on line claim form which can be found at GOV.UK and searching for Veterans UK pension forms, Form 8. If you are a Former Spouse you should search for Form 8a.

Advice for your next of kin

Notification of your death must be reported to EQ as soon as possible.

The pension payable to you is due up to and including the date of death, any payments after that date must be repaid.

When a death is registered at the Registrar’s office you may have the option to use the “Tell us Once” service. This service is free and will enable EQ to be notified of the death automatically.

Using this service reduces the potential for overpayments and enables quicker payment of Dependents benefits thus, causing less distress to your family.

Pensions for Spouses and Dependents

If you are married, in a civil partnership or are in a substantial relationship, your spouse/partner may be entitled to Adult Dependant Benefits. Eligibility is dependent upon whether you were a member of AFPS 75, AFPS 05, AFPS 15 or Reserve Forces Pension Scheme (RFPS) on the date you left the Armed Forces.

They will need to complete an application form so we can establish entitlement. This form will be sent from Veterans UK Pensions Division. Help and advice is available by contacting the JPAC Enquiry service.

Forecasts

Any requests for a dependants forecast should be made in writing to Veterans UK at the address shown on page 1 (not to EQ). You will need to quote your Service number and National Insurance number and the date of your marriage. Failure to supply this information may delay your forecast of benefits and in particular if you fail to quote your date of marriage we will assume that you married your spouse during service and we will base the forecast on the full widows/ers entitlement. One free forecast of benefits can be supplied within a 12 month period, others can be obtained but a charge will apply.
Survivor Benefits on Re-marriage / Forming a Partnership / Cohabitation

From 1 April 2015 if you receive Adult Dependant Benefits and you re-marry, form a civil partnership or cohabit your pension benefits will not be affected. You should, however, inform EQ of your change in circumstances in order that your records can be updated.

Child Benefits

Children's pensions are payable up to the age of 17 (AFPS 75) or age 18 (AFPS15, AFPS 05/RFPS). Payment may be extended in certain circumstances such as further education or incapacity beyond this age but unless the pension has been extended due to incapacity the pension will cease at the age of 23.

If your payments are extended you must tell us immediately if that child ceases full time education or training or if there are any other changes in circumstances that may affect payment. If your child wishes to take a gap year between secondary school education and returning to pursue a full time course in higher education or training this must be applied for in advance of the commencement of the gap year. Failure to do this can result in the pension not resuming when the child returns to higher education or training.

Armed Forces Bereavement Scholarship Scheme (AFBSS)

This scheme gives children, whose parent has died predominantly due to their service, a head start in life by providing financial support towards further education training and/or a university degree. The scheme is for those bereaved since 1 January 1990 where the parent died whilst serving in HM Armed Forces. The scholarship is paid for a maximum of 5 years for further education and for the first undergraduate course in a UK higher education institution. Further information can be found at GOV.UK and search for AFBSS. Or call the Veterans UK Helpline on 0808 1914 218.

War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Schemes

If you have any enquiries about the War Pension Scheme (WPS) or the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) please visit GOV.UK/Veterans-UK or contact Veterans UK at the following address:

- Veterans UK, Tomlinson House, Norcross, Thornton Cleveleys, LANCASHIRE, FY5 3WP
- Email: Veterans-UK@mod.uk
- Free Veterans UK Helpline (UK only) 0808 1914 218
- Free Veterans UK Helpline (Overseas) 0044 1253 866043
- Text phone 0800 169 34 58

Information for OR8 and OR9 ranks who left service after 1st April 2016

If you left service on or after 1st April 2016 in the rank of OR8 or OR9, and have entitlement to AFPS75 benefits, you will receive a higher rate of pension effective from the day after discharge and a one off arrears payment. The increase is because Pay 16 (Pay16 is a new pay model) restructured the method of Armed Forces Pay.

You do not need to do anything as you will receive a letter before 1st October 2018 telling you about your new pension rates.

National Fraud Initiative

Veterans UK are participating in the National Fraud Initiative to help detect incorrect and fraudulent payments. We have a legislative duty to protect the public funds we administer, and may use the information held in connection with your pension for the prevention and detection of fraud. Pension information will be shared with other Government departments for these purposes only.

The Armed Forces Covenant

The Armed Forces Covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the government and the armed forces. It continues to apply to members of the Armed Forces and their families even after they have left service. Since 2011, the covenant has helped veterans in a number of ways, including:
- giving priority to veterans accessing NHS services for service related conditions,
- delivering improvements in mental health care provision including extending access to mental health care to 6 months after discharge, increasing the number of veterans’ mental health professionals, establishing a 24 hour helpline and a support and advice website,
- providing help for those leaving the Armed Forces to go on to higher/further education: not least through payment of tuition fees, which may be passed on to a spouse or partner in the case of bereavement or extreme injury,
- exempting payments made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the War Pensions Scheme from the assessment for Universal Credit.

If you would like to find out more about what the Covenant means to you visit GOV.UK and search for Armed Forces Covenant.

The Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPCs)

VAPCs work within the local community promoting the Armed Forces Covenant and assisting veterans and their dependents to access local services. To learn more please visit GOV.UK and search for VAPC.
What to do if things go wrong

We make every effort to get things right, however, occasionally things go wrong. We deal with all complaints as quickly as possible and do everything we can to put things right.

Veterans UK - If you have a query about the pension that you have been awarded, please get in touch with us at the Veterans UK Pensions Division at the address shown on page 1. Please telephone or write to us with details of your concern. We will try to respond fully within ten working days; however this is not always possible as we may have to contact another organisation.

If you wish to make a complaint about the service you have received please write to: Veterans UK, JPA Complaints, Mail Point 335, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX

EQ - If you are not satisfied with the way that EQ has handled an enquiry, please write to the Armed Forces Pension Service Manager at EQ at the address on page 1. They will look into the matter urgently and aim to provide you with an answer within ten working days.

Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure

If you have a dispute that you cannot resolve about your pension, you may ask for an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) decision. However, the normal complaints procedures (above) should be exhausted before invoking the IDRP. Details of the IDRP are contained in a MOD brochure called AFPS - Dispute Resolution Procedures which can be found at GOV.UK.

If you disagree with the decision after the IDRP you will have further rights of appeal to the Pensions Ombudsman. You should, however, contact The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) before you write to the Pensions Ombudsman. Their address is:
11 Belgrave Road, LONDON, SW1V 1RB
Telephone: 020 7630 2250

Help, Advice & Support

Veterans Welfare Service

The Veterans Welfare Service offer help and advice about War Disablement Pensions, Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, Armed Forces Pension Scheme, Welfare Issues, State Benefits and ex-Service charities.

Contact them on 0808 1914 218 or 0044 1253 866043 if calling from abroad or visit: GOV.UK/VETERANS-UK

There are a number of associations who provide advice and support

The War Widows' Association
The RAF Widows Association
The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Widows' Association
The Army Widows Association

These and many more can be found by visiting The Confederation of British Service Organisations (COBSEO) at www.cobseo.org.uk and searching the member directory.

You can find useful information on all the Schemes by visiting GOV.UK/Veterans-UK
THE BRITISH IN WESTPHALIA -
EXPERIENCING ANGLO - GERMAN HISTORY

BRITEN IN WESTFALEN –
DEUTSCH-BRITISCHE GESCHICHTE ERLEBEN

SATURDAY 23rd JUNE
1000 – 1800
CHURCH HOUSE LÜBBECKE

- Welcome tea and coffee
- BBQ lunch
- Afternoon tea and coffee
- Farewell drinks
- €10 per person

Come and find out about the fascinating history of Church House and take a guided tour.

Join a panel of historians and people that are part of the Anglo-German history. You will also have the opportunity to share your personal history, experiences and artefacts with museum staff from the

‘Briten in Westfalen’ exhibition.

Make history and be part of this on-going legacy.

Anmeldung erforderlich- Plätze begrenzt!
Booking essential- places limited!
41AECGp-LanguageCoord@mod.uk
Welcome to the May edition of the RVCP Volunteer newsletter. Join us in a 1-minute challenge. Help the Park reach 10,000 followers on Facebook by inviting your family and friends to ‘like’ and ‘follow’ the Park at www.facebook.com/RoyalVictoriaCP. If you would like to continue to receive our Newsletter, you need to let us know because the law is changing. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new law that will come into effect on 25 May 2018, this will replace the current Data Protection Act. You should have received an email request from us. Please respond to keep receiving our volunteer and park news.

What does volunteering look like today! I was recently fortunate enough to attend the annual Heritage Volunteering Conference in London. The day was an inspiring event with a focus on ‘The Future of Heritage Volunteering’ and what volunteering looks like in today’s busy society. There were many discussions on how people volunteer or give back in different ways and engaging with project through diverse medias.

It was interesting to find out that there hasn’t been a decrease in the amount of people who are volunteering. But the way in which people are volunteering is changing.

Afterwards while walking through St Pancreas Station I noticed that there are a number of pianos placed around the station for people to sit down and play. As I made my way through the station each piano had a member of the public playing a favourite piece of music. This was a lovely summation of giving back to others, sharing skills and bringing a moment of enjoyment to other commuters. Today’s volunteering can be bite-sized as well as longer volunteer contributions.

If you have skills you would like to share with others, join us at The Park. We have a huge amount of events and projects coming up this year with the opening of The Chapel this summer. Volunteering opportunities range from storytelling, delivering micro-talks, receptionist, showing objects from our collection, archiving, ushering or conducting an oral history interview. Join us for some bite-sized volunteering and the bonus is, it makes you feel good!

Find out more on our Volunteer Open Days:

Our Chapel is due to open shortly with a fantastic new exhibition. The content of the exhibition has been researched by a very dedicated team of volunteers. Moving forward volunteers will play an enormous role in the future of the Chapel. Our visitors will be keen to visit the Chapel but they will respond to the people in the building not just the heritage! We are looking to work in partnership with our volunteers to offer a top notch heritage experience.

We are pleased to confirm the dates of our Volunteer Open Days in June 2018.

If you have expressed interest in becoming a Chapel volunteer this will be a fantastic opportunity to have a sneak peek around the building now that the exhibition has gone in. We will be running tours showing the new building works and providing information on the volunteer roles.

You can let us know what you would like to get involved with.

- Wednesday 27 June 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Thursday 28 June 1.30pm - 3.30pm

To book a session please email joanne.basham@hants.gov.uk. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the process so far it has been an incredible journey and we are very grateful for your contributions.
How to volunteer
To get involved at the Park email joanne.basham@hants.gov.uk or call 023 9224 4064 for an informal chat.

Storytelling off to a flying start
During the Easter holidays a group of wonderful volunteers learnt three bespoke stories about the heritage of the hospital to tell to children and families.

Our volunteer storyteller Jean aka ‘Stella the Storyteller’ said “I believe we should all challenge ourselves to do something different at least once a year and this was my challenge for this year. Despite the nerves I had the comfort of knowing that we had the support of the very able author nearby. I really enjoyed the experience and amazed myself at how much I learnt; not only about storytelling but also the amazing history of the hospital that existed within the park. My young audience and their parents/guardians enjoyed both the story and the interaction of the built in quiz. It was rewarding to receive their smiley ‘Thank you’s at the end.

If you are hesitating about being a volunteer Storyteller don’t worry; You’ll find lots of support and time to practice. Go on...give it a go; challenge yourself this year! ”

Thank you to our volunteers Jean, Maria, Sue and Maureen that took part. If you would like to learn one of these interactive stories please get in touch with joanne.basham@hants.gov.uk . We will be delivering these stories on an ongoing basis in the Chapel during weekends and holidays and as part of our educational offer to school groups.

Park News
Thank you to The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and the Lottery Fund for the money to replace the feeding platform at Sophie's Pond. The ducks and birds have been enjoying a spot of sunbathing on the decking.

Feeding the Ducks, Geese and Swans
The following items will provide a good mixed diet to keep our birds healthy: Wheat, barley, poultry corn, cooked peas, cooked rice, lettuce & fresh tender grass.

Chapel News
The Chapel garden is currently being landscaped and is starting to come together really nicely – it would be lovely to form a gardening group for the Chapel so if you are interested in being a part of this please let us know!

The final touches are being completed on the inside, and the exhibition installation starts in June. We are aiming to open at the beginning of the school summer holidays – the date will be announced soon so watch this space!

Pollinators
Hampshire County Council’s countryside service is working towards the national strategy to support pollinators. Our pollinators are vital for food production and biodiversity and they face a range of pressures from habitat loss to pests and diseases. Pollinating insects include many different species of bees and other insects such as hoverflies, beetles, flies, butterflies and moths.

5 Simple actions you can do to help Pollinators
1. Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees
2. Let it grow wild
3. Cut grass less often
4. Don’t disturb insect nest and hibernation spots
5. Think carefully about using pesticides

Raise the Roof
Commiserations to the Friends of RVCP who unfortunately didn’t win at The Museum and Heritage Awards last week. It was superb to be shortlisted to the final five projects across the UK. The category was fundraising initiative of the year with some very steep competition.

Congratulations to the category winners Haslemere Educational Museum, who raised one million pounds to keep their museum open.

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How to volunteer
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The RAMC Annual Service of Remembrance

The RAMC Grove
National Memorial Arboretum
Wednesday 9th May 2018

Service Conducted by

The Reverend Prebendary Tony Wood

Bugler: Provided by the Army Medical Services Band
Order of Service

Introduction
The Grace and Peace of The Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
All: And also with you

Bidding
We have come together in the name of Christ to hear and receive his holy word. In particular we gather, to give thanks for the loyal and faithful service of the Royal Army Medical Corps and we ask for God’s blessing on the Corps.

Opening Prayer
Let us pray
Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: Hear our prayers and thanksgiving for all whom we remember this day; fulfill in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord
All: Amen

Response
Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
All: Govern and uphold them now and always.

Day by day, we bless you.
All: We praise your name for ever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
All: Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

We long for your salvation, O Lord:
All: Grant us understanding, that we may live.

Lord, show us your love and mercy,
All: For we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope:
All: Let us not be confounded at the last.
A reading from St John's Gospel (John C14 v 1-14)
Read by Major Marie Ellis Regimental Secretary RAMC

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Act of Remembrance
Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping: those who have died for their country in conflict; especially we recall today those who served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity....

The Last Post will sound during which time the flag will be lowered.

A period of Silence

Reveille will sound during which time the new flag will be raised.

The Flag Changing Ceremony will be conducted by Soldiers of 22 Field Hospital under the direction of the Corps Sgt Maj WO1 Mark Duffy RAMC. The Flag will be retired, framed and presented to 22 Field Hospital.

Intercessory Prayers
Father of all mercies: grant that our remembrance this day may be consecrated for practical service and the world made better for our children's children.

All: Amen

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces: grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen

God of our joy and gladness, hear our prayer for the peace of this world and bring us at last, with all our companions in faith, to the peace of that city where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and to all eternity.

All: Amen
Let us say together the Prayer that Jesus himself taught us

All: Our Father who art in heaven,
    Hallowed be thy name,
    Thy kingdom come,
    Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
    Give us this day our daily bread.
    and forgive us our trespasses
    as we forgive those who trespass against us
    and lead us not into temptation
    but deliver us from evil
    For thine is the kingdom,
    the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen

Act of Re-Dedication

The Regimental Collect of the Royal Army Medical Corps

All: O God, whose blessed Son was made perfect though suffering, give thy grace, we beseech thee, to thy servants of the Royal Army Medical Corps, that by loyalty in hard service after the example of Saint Luke the beloved physician, we may be found faithful in ministering to those who need, for his sake who went about doing good, the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us now look to the future with hope and rededicate ourselves afresh to the service of God and our fellow men and women remembering in particular those who have served and those who will serve in our Corps, in the maintenance of peace and justice among all nations and peoples.

All: Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to seek for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen

Let us pray

Father of all we pray for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let perpetual light shine upon them and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord

All: Amen

The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Let us bless the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace
All: Amen
The Blessing
God grant to the living, grace; to the departed rest; to the Church, the Queen, the
Commonwealth and all mankind, peace and concord; and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
All: Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
All: In the name of Christ Amen

Immediately after the Service please proceed to the Marquee for the Association AGM