

## REA Verification of Service (VOS) Criteria.

When considering the eligibility of clients for benevolence we have to verify that the client served in the Corps of Royal Engineers. To this end we need clear and unambiguous VOS. These notes should assist caseworkers in determining the means of VOS required.

- To be eligible for benevolence from the REA the client must have served for at least a day in the Corps of Royal Engineers. This applies to reservists as well as regulars.
- We are aware that many caseworkers have not served in the Forces and there will be an understandable gap in their military knowledge. For instance, there is often confusion between the Royal Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and the Corps of Royal Engineers (RE); these are two separate organisations. We are more than happy for caseworkers to contact us, either by phone or email, to discuss any queries they may have about military units or to discuss eligibility of a particular client.
- Royal Engineer units often have attached personnel on their strength to enable them to carry out their role. In the past this will have included members of the Army Catering Corps (ACC), REME, Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC) and others. More recently this will also include members of the Adjutant Generals Corps (AGC), the Royal Logistics Corps (RLC) and the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS). Unless they have served for at least a day in the Corps of Royal Engineers, attached personnel who have only served on the strength of an RE unit do not qualify for REA benevolence.
- Some members of the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) who served as Postal & Courier Operators with the RE are eligible. On 6 April 1992 WRAC Postal & Courier Operators were re-badged as members of the Corps of Royal Engineers and remained with the Corps until the Postal & Courier Services were transferred to the newly formed Royal Logistics Corps (RLC) on 6 April 1993. WRAC members re-badged RE during this time are eligible for REA benevolence.
- We do not accept medals as VOS. There may be scope for considering inscribed medals for WW2 veterans.
- We do not accept photographs of individuals wearing military uniform as VOS.
- We have a database of over 125,000 REA members or former members that includes service numbers. Unless a copy of a page from a service document is included with the Form 'A' that clearly shows the client as having served with the RE, we will interrogate our membership database to try and match the service number. If there is no match we will request VOS from the caseworker. If VOS cannot be obtained from the client, the caseworker should submit the Cobseo 'Verification of Service' form to MOD Disclosures.
- The response to 'Means of Verification' requested in Section 4 of the Form 'A' is generally 'Service Book' or 'Service Document'; we regard this description as insufficient. The provision of evidence by the client for inclusion in the Form 'A' is the preferred means of VOS by us and other Associations.
- Where there is any doubt about VOS we will require sight of documentary evidence; this does not mean the provision of a detailed copy of the client's service record documents.