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**PRELIMINARY CALLING NOTICE**  
**ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION GIBRALTAR WEEKEND 2021**  
**FRIDAY 14 – MONDAY 17 MAY 2021**

1. **Introduction.** Sadly, due to the Global Pandemic, our 2020 Gibraltar event was cancelled. We are pleased to confirm that socially-distanced planning has now started in earnest for next year's event. Whilst we all hope and pray that travel restrictions and Public Health requirements will be fully removed by May next year, all travellers should ensure that they have appropriate and valid personal insurance and financial measures in place to deal with any unforeseen cancellations.

Whilst we hope for an even stronger attendance in 2021, the current Global situation requires us to remain fluid during these initial planning stages. We would like to surpass the record numbers experienced in 2019, however we must also recognise that we may be obliged to implement local social distancing restrictions if the pandemic remains. We have no visibility of how this may affect us (if indeed at all at this stage), but potentially, attendance at some events may need to be limited as necessary.

Although we are progressing fully with the planning for REAW21, we will continue to monitor the ongoing COVID status closely and will publish any updates and amendments as soon as they are received. **We have identified Mon 15 Feb 21 as a Decision Point for REAW21 Cancellation.** We hope that by this date, there will be sufficient guidance and visibility available for a final decision to be made if the Weekend has to be cancelled, in line with any UK/Gibraltar Government or Headquarters British Forces Gibraltar restrictions applicable at that time.

You are therefore cordially invited to celebrate the strong and resilient ties that we maintain with our birthplace, the Rock of Gibraltar, and its wonderful people in 2021. The **Royal Engineers Association Gibraltar Weekend 2021 (REAW21)** will be held in Gibraltar between **Fri 14 and Mon 17 May 21**. The event will be organised by the members of the Gibraltar REA Branch.

We are currently sourcing venues; entertainment and finalising the detailed programme for next year's event but have provided some preliminary information below.

2. **Location.** The scheduled events will take place in various locations throughout Gibraltar.

3. **Event Format.** A full and varied programme is anticipated and is likely to include the following events and outline format. At this stage, venue and function details are still to be finalised, dependant on attendance numbers and so these activities are subject to change. Where venues have been annotated below, these locations have already been secured.

- a. **Powerboat Trip.** Prior to the Meet and Greet function on Fri 14 May, we hope to arrange several powerboat trips within the Bay of Gibraltar and surrounding area – this is likely to start mid to late morning. Personal equipment will be supplied, and dress will be casual. Please note that new guidance prevents us from opening the Gun Wharf bar facility until all boat rides are complete. Once final numbers are received, we will publish timings for the rides. All guests are requested to note that during this period, only soft drinks and tea/coffee will be available.
- b. **Meet and Greet.** A Meet and Greet function will be held during the afternoon of Fri 14 May. This will be in the JPDU in Gun Wharf and will include hot food; entertainment and the REA Gibraltar Branch raffle/auction. This is likely to run into the early evening. It is an informal function to welcome our friends, both old and new. Dress will be casual.
- c. **Pre-Parade Breakfast Brunch.** On Sat 15 May, we are hoping to arrange a pre-parade gathering during which a breakfast brunch will be provided – further details to follow.
- d. **Corps and Veterans Presentation.** We are hoping to present an update on the Corp and Veterans matters, delivered by one of our visiting VIP guests. This will be coordinated with the pre-march breakfast – further details to follow.
- e. **Parade and March Past.** On Sat 15 May, there will be a March through Main Street from Grand Casemates Square up to Bomb House Lane. We will be supported by a military band and hope that the Mayor of Gibraltar will be available to take the salute. REA Branch Standards are most welcome, and it would be fantastic if we could improve further on the 7 Standards that were on parade in 2019. Dress will be REA/Corps Blazer, tie, beret and medals for the REA attendees and Service Dress for serving members. Dependent on the availability of visiting Troops, we hope to include a military marching contingent.
- f. **REA/Corps Photograph.** After the march, we will hold a REA/RE photograph for all members and Standards. We will congregate by the Sapper Statue in Main Street for the photograph.
- g. **Mayoral Reception.** We hope that this year, the marching contingent will be invited to a Mayoral Reception in City Hall – details are still to be finalised. The reception will occur directly following the Sapper photograph.
- h. **Gala Dinner Dance.** A formal Dinner Dance is scheduled for the evening of Sat 15 May in the Khaima Suite of the Rock Hotel, nestled within the hotel gardens. The evening will include a seated 3-4 course waiter-served meal; open-bar; entertainment; disco; and raffle/auction. We hope this event will be attended by local VIPs, although the guest list is still to be confirmed. Dress will be lounge suit or blazer for gentlemen and appropriate dress for the ladies. We will hopefully have a special surprize for our 2021 Dinner Dance.
- i. **Church Service.** A Church Service will be held on Sun 16 May in Kings Chapel. The Command Padre will lead a multi-denomination service of thanksgiving for the Corps. REA Branch Standards are most welcome. Dress will be as per the parade. After the service, guests will be invited for tea, coffee and home-made cakes by the Padre.
- j. **Farewell Function.** There will be an informal social gathering to bid farewell to friends on Sun 16 May. This will run through the afternoon with a casual dress code and will include food; REA Gibraltar raffle (to get rid of your loose change!) and maybe a few games. Location to be confirmed but we are exploring the possibility of being hosted by the Gibraltar Officers' Mess in Devils Tower Camp.

4. **Tours.** We will provide at least two discrete stand-alone tour options on Mon 17 May – details will be published in due course but could include tours of the Gibraltar tunnels; the Northern Defences, the Waterworks; Upper Sandy Armaments Depot or the Old Town.

5. **Cost.** We will continue to source local sponsorship and are very pleased to confirm that REA HQ has kindly agreed to provide further financial support to the event, having recently been identified as a REA National Event. This will help us to ensure the cost of the Weekend is kept as economical as possible for those travelling to the 2021 event. Costs will be published in due course once we have a better understanding of attendance numbers, but we hope the attendance cost will be comparable to previous years, at approximately £75-85 per head. We will be requesting payment via cheque or bank transfer prior to your arrival for REAW21 – this is because we are now required to pay significant deposits for venues; entertainment etc as the event has grown to such a size. We also hope to negotiate some reduced rates with local restaurants; bars and shops specifically for those attending the Weekend – details to follow.

6. **Travel from UK and Overseas.** Guests are to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Gibraltar. Currently, British Airways and Easyjet fly into Gibraltar from Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Manchester, Bristol and Edinburgh, although at the time of writing, a reduced service is being offered from these locations due to the pandemic. Within one and a half hours drive of Gibraltar, are the international airports of Jerez or Malaga, served from most UK airports. Guests should ensure they are fully aware of any local restrictions for travelling to, or transiting through, Spain. Both have car hire facilities, although we can arrange taxi/coach collections from these locations to Gibraltar if required – this will attract a cost to those travelling payable at the time of the journey.

Regular updates for travelling to Gibraltar can be found at: [Gibraltar Entry Requirements](#). Further frequently asked travel questions can be found at: [Visit Gibraltar FAQs](#)

7. **Accommodation.** Unfortunately, there is no military accommodation available for REAW21, therefore use of local hotels or staying with friends is recommended. Further details are provided at Annex A to allow you to plan your trip.

8. **Medical.** Guests are to ensure they have appropriate Medical Insurance arranged before travelling – **this should be in accordance with any requirements or impacts that may result from the UK's departure from the EU.** Currently, UK Citizens are able to use the services at St Bernard's Hospital when in possession of an E111 European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) – unfortunately, access to medical services will be denied otherwise. An EHIC can be obtained online at <https://www.e111.org.uk/> or <https://www.gov.uk/european-health-insurance-card> or by calling 0845 6062030. Please ensure adequate personal arrangements are in place for family notification. If applicable and dependant on the Brexit situation at the time of travel, suitable arrangements may also be required to obtain medical cover in Spain, if you are planning to enter the country.

9. **Finance.** Gibraltar's currency is Pounds Sterling. It also has its own Gibraltar notes and coins – please note that these cannot be used or exchanged in the UK upon your return so please feel free to get rid of any remaining 'Gibraltar' currency during the raffles! Euros are also acceptable in most local outlets. There has been a reduction in banking operations in Gibraltar over recent years, but NatWest still operates along with the Gibraltar International Bank. Cashpoints will accept most UK debit cards; certain NatWest cashpoints will issue UK Pounds Sterling with others issuing Gibraltar currency only. Most retail outlets and hotels will accept credit and debit cards, and cash (UK Pounds Sterling; Gibraltar Pounds or Euros). Please note that Euros are required for Spain.

10. **Welfare.** The event organisers will be able to offer advice on welfare matters but guests must treat REAW21 as you would when travelling abroad anywhere else in the world and make the necessary arrangements for any known welfare matters.

11. **Additional Information.** Additional information and a more detailed Admin Instruction will be published in the New Year:

- on the REA HQ website;
- on the REA Gibraltar Facebook page;
- via REA Branch Secretaries, and
- via personal email (in accordance with the Gibraltar mailing list).

For any other pressing queries at this early stage, please contact the following:

Contact	Name	Email	Landline	Mobile
Secretary	Mr Jack Noble	jacknoble40@hotmail.com	+350 200 51987	+350 58008085
Treasurer	Mr Richard Tomlinson	rdtomlinson@hotmail.com	+350 200 51987	+350 54028355
Chairman	WO1 Nick Edmeades RE	nicholas.edmeades153@mod.gov.uk	+350 200 55353	+350 54073449

Please note that all contact emails have been updated since previous publications.

Our last event received tremendous support with approximately 200 guests in attendance, along with 7 Standards and representation from over 30 branches. On behalf of all 'Sappers on the Rock', we very much look forward to your company and hope that we can safely welcome even more of our Sapper Family to join us in 2021 to celebrate our ever-lasting heritage with Gibraltar and its people.




Warmest REgards



**Jack Noble**  
Secretary  
REA Gibraltar Branch  
for Chairman

Distribution:

External:

REA HQ – Controller REA   
REA HQ – Assistant Controller REA   
REA Branch Secretaries   
REA HQ Website  
REA Gibraltar Facebook Page

Internal:

DIO Gibraltar – Maj Josh Wardman RE   
HQBF Gibraltar – Maj James Ekberg RE   
DIO Gibraltar – WO1 Nick Edmeades RE   
DIO Gibraltar – WO2 Pete Weightman RE   
DIO Gibraltar – SSgt Obi Kwesi Obiri-Yeboah RE   
REA Gibraltar – Branch Members 

## **ANNEX A - ACCOMMODATION**

You have several accommodation options to consider:

- a. MYGIBRALTAR
- b. AIRBNB
- c. Self-catering Holiday Lettings
- d. Hotels
- e. Hostels
- f. Britannia House (Naval Trust)

### **MYGIBRALTAR**

A very useful and economic approach to arranging your visit (both flight and/or hotel) is MYGIBRALTAR at <http://www.mygibraltar.co.uk> – we would recommend trying this initially.

### **AIRBNB**

Another useful mechanism for sourcing private accommodation (rather than a hotel) is via AIRBNB at <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/>. There are many Airbnb properties available on the Rock.

### **SELF-CATERING**

Private self-catering accommodation can also be sourced via Holiday Lettings at <https://www.holidaylettings.co.uk/gibraltar/>.

### **HOTEL**

If you prefer a hotel stay, local hotels include:

Hotel	Telephone	Web
Bristol Hotel ( <b>Gibraltar</b> )	+350 20076800	<a href="http://www.bristolhotel.gi">www.bristolhotel.gi</a>
Caleta Hotel ( <b>Gibraltar</b> )	+350 20076501	<a href="http://www.caletahotel.com">www.caletahotel.com</a>
Holiday Inn Express ( <b>Gibraltar</b> )	+350 20067890	<a href="http://www.hiexpress.com">www.hiexpress.com</a>
O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel ( <b>Gibraltar</b> )	+350 20070500	<a href="http://www.eliotthotel.com">www.eliotthotel.com</a>
Rock Hotel ( <b>Gibraltar</b> )	+350 20073000	<a href="http://www.rockhotelgibraltar.com">www.rockhotelgibraltar.com</a>
Sunborn Hotel ( <b>Gibraltar</b> )	+350 20016000	<a href="http://www.sunborngibraltar.com">www.sunborngibraltar.com</a>
Ohtels Campo de Gibraltar ( <b>Spain</b> )	+34 956 178213	<a href="http://www.ohtelscampodegibraltar.es">www.ohtelscampodegibraltar.es</a>

Hotels are constantly busy, and spaces are generally in demand; we suggest that you identify and book accommodation as early as possible. Please note that the Cannon Hotel is currently under refurbishment and unlikely to be available for May 2021, although we will publish updates as they are available.

### **HOSTEL**

If you prefer a more basic and economical stay, local **Spanish** hostels include:

Hotel	Telephone	Web
Hostal Carlos 1 (Spain)	+34 956 762135	<a href="http://www.hostalcarlos.es">www.hostalcarlos.es</a>
Hostal Carlos 2 (Spain)	+34 956 761303	<a href="http://www.hostalcarlos.es">www.hostalcarlos.es</a>
La Campana Hostal (Spain)	+34 956 173058	<a href="http://www.hostalcampana.es">www.hostalcampana.es</a>

Please consider any Brexit/COVID requirements that may be in place for crossing into Spain before booking.

### **BRITANNIA HOUSE**

Britannia House provides accommodation to eligible personnel and is managed and administered by the Gibraltar Naval Trust, a charitable organisation. Veterans are welcome, but you may require a 'serving sponsor' to support your booking.

Further details can be found at:

Telephone	Web	Email
+350 200 77847	<a href="https://www.britanniahousegib.com/">https://www.britanniahousegib.com/</a>	<a href="mailto:bhbybookings@gibtelecom.net">bhbybookings@gibtelecom.net</a>