

# ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



## THE SAPPER CHARITY

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### ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMAZON CROSSING, MONTE CASSINO, ITALY 12-13 MAY 2024.

- General.** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 will mark 80 years since the Amazon Bridge crossing was complete. George Cowie, a former Royal Engineer is leading the Royal Engineers Association's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations at the crossing site. Monte Cassino. The events will take place over the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, centered around the [crossing memorial](#) at Monte Cassino Land.
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024.** From 8pm onwards attendees are invited to meet for an informal social gathering at the Hotel Rocca bar. Dress for this event will be casual, just dress for the weather.
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024.** The Sunday will provide an overview and set the scene for more formal commemorations taking place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May. For those requiring it transport pick up points will collect people from the following locations.
  - [Hotel Rocca](#)
  - [Hotel La Pace in Via Abbruzzi](#)
  - [City Centre by the Sherman Tank](#)

On arrival at Monte Cassino Land a tour of the Amazon crossing point and of the German defensive positions will be given by George. George has spent many years visiting the site and is able to bring to life the challenges which the Sappers faced and why it was the bridge that had to be built "at all cost". Dress for the day's event(s) should be comfortable with suitable footwear to walk on farm tracks.<sup>1</sup> For those wishing to raft a spare change of clothes should be bought.<sup>2</sup> Following Lunch, there is the opportunity for some "light" white-water rafting down the River Rapido and view the assault crossing sites. The transport will return you to the drop off points at 3.30pm.<sup>3</sup>

- Early Service Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.** For the early risers there is the opportunity to attend a short commemorative service at the crossing site, the service starts at 440am.

<sup>1</sup> Flat shoes are recommended due to the terrain.

<sup>2</sup> It is recommended that a spare T-shirt and Shorts are carried, PPE is provided by Monte Cassino Land.

<sup>3</sup> Headwear and sun cream is advised.

The early start is mark the exact time the crossing was open. With the shadow of the Monastery providing a backdrop and the last post playing, those attending will have a sense of what the Sappers would have seen eighty years ago. Attendees will have to make their own way to the crossing site. This event is low key and casual warm / comfortable clothing is advised.

5. **Main Service Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.** For those who would like a later start transport will collect you from the same locations from 815am for a 9am start for the main service. The main service will take place at the crossing site (far bank) with the last post and pipers providing musical accompaniment. The service will then proceed to the Bailey Bridge Panel memorial where all those wishing to lay wreaths will do so. This will be followed by a light breakfast.

6. **Post Service Events 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.** At 1120am transport will depart to the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) cemetery. Once individual's have had an opportunity to take in the cemetery transport will depart to a restaurant approximately half way to the [Polish Cemetery](#). Lunch is at individual's expense. After lunch the transport will move to the Polish Cemetery and the [Monastery](#) before returning to the drop off points at 4pm. It is advised that smart casual clothing should be worn and a water bottle carried<sup>45</sup>.

7. **Event Booking.** Individual's wishing to attend are to go to [Eventbrite](#) and book to book a place for £30.

8. **Travel Insurance.** Travel and medical insurance is not provided by the REA. It is an individual's responsibility to ensure that they have the appropriate level of cover for the activities that they undertake.

9. **Airports.** The nearest airports are as follows:

- a. Naples (NAP) - 77.6 km
- b. Rome Ciampino (CIA) - 108.6km
- c. Rome (FCO) - 135.5km

10. **Points of Contact.**

Contact	Name	Email
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<sup>4</sup> Headwear and sun cream is advised.

<sup>5</sup> Flat shoes are recommended due to the terrain and amount of walking that may be involved.

## DETAILED TIMINGS

Serial	Day	Time	Event	Dress	Location & Remarks
1.	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	8pm	Informal social gathering	Casual	Hotel Rocca Bar
2.	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	Collection from the pickup locations	Footwear should be suitable to work on farm tracks. Casual with a change of clothes for those wishing to go rafting. Water bottle, headwear and sun cream is advised.	Hotel Rocca Hotel La Pace in Via Abbruzzi City Centre – by the Sherman Tank.
3.	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30 – 11.45am	Battlefield walk and briefing on the far bank of the Amazon bridge		Cassino Adventure Land
4.	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	12-1pm	Lunch and drop off non rafters		Non rafters return to hotels but can stay at Cassino Adventure Land
5.	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	1 - 3pm	Rafting		Cassino Adventure Land
6.	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	3.30pm	Rafters returned to drop off locations		
7.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	4.40- 5.45am	Amazon bridge site Last Post ceremony		Casual warm clothing is advised due to the time of day.
8.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	8- 8.30am	Pick up from locations	Suit jackets or REA blazers. Medals may be worn. Flat shoes are recommended due to the terrain and amount of walking that may be involved. Headwear and sun cream is advised.	Hotel Rocca Hotel La Pace in Via Abbruzzi City Centre – by the Sherman Tank.
9.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	9am	Service on Amazon bridge Far bank and piped to the memorial for last Post and wreath laying		Meet on the far bank of the Amazon Crossing (Shown on the previous day)
10.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	10.15- 11.15am	Light breakfast		Provided by Cassino Adventure Land
11.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	11.20am	Depart for the CWGC Cemetery		
12.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	12.15pm	Depart CWGC		
13.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	12.30pm	Lunch Restaurant on Monastery Hill		At individuals expense
14.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	2pm	Depart for the Polish War Cemetery		
15.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	2.45pm	Depart for the Monastery		
16.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	4pm	Return to drop off points		