

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



THE SAPPER CHARITY

NEWSLETTER #2 FEB ISSUE

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN VETERAN LT COL HUMPHREYS DROPS IN TO HQ REA



The REA, Royal Hospital Chelsea, Corps Museum and 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment had a chat and decided it was time for In Pensioner John Humphreys to revisit the Corps Museum. As it happened, John had just turned 102 so as a treat he had a private tour, inspected his issued Fairbairn Sykes fighting knife from Operation Market Garden and received a new CRIII beret and cap badge as well as a Regimental jumper from 23 Para Engr Regt. Thanks to all involved and happy birthday John!

MONTE CASSINO 80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS



Over the years a plucky band of former Sappers ([predominantly 7 Sqn](#)) have created something rather special in Monte Cassino. The band led by George Cowie have managed to build, on their own volition (with REA financial support), a poignant [memorial](#) centered on a Bailey Panel (Pictured). Thus, the "Shiny 7 Boys" have created a lasting legacy to the blood, sweat and toil of the men that fought, built and died constructing the bridge which had to be "built at all costs". The REA are supporting the 80th anniversary of the crossing with 2 days of events taking place in Monte Cassino 12 – 13th May to find out more go to [Link](#).

REA

BENEVOLENCE SITREP

1 JANUARY 2023 - 1 JANUARY 2024

AMOUNT GRANTED: **£244,487.48**

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS: 550

NUMBER OF CASES APPROVED: 324

NUMBER OF CASES DECLINED: 226

EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HAS PROVIDED:



EPV



House Repairs



Funeral Costs



Essential Clothing



White & Brown Goods



The SAPPER CHARITY 2023 BENEVOLENCE REPORT

I'll be honest in my 18 years of service with the Corps I didn't really know what the purpose of the REA was / is. For me the REA took my weekends away (supporting events) and its members appeared in Sapper Magazine. Now, having been in the job for 10 months and with the benefit of hindsight, I confess my opinions were flawed and incorrect (I am booked in with the Padre for confession). I now know that the primary purpose / function of the REA is the Benevolence of the Sapper Family. So, in an attempt to prevent ignorance of a similar ilk we (HQ REA) have taken the decision to publish and make accessible the [2023 Benevolence Report](#). Take a look.

Nick Gunnell REA Operations Director

Founders Day



Founder's Day will take place at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 6th June 2024. The event has taken place almost every year since the Royal Hospital opened in 1692. The day involves the In pensioners being inspected by a member or representative of the Royal Family, followed by a garden party in the grounds of the Hospital. Individuals wishing to attend the event should apply for tickets by completing this [form](#) no later than 1st March 2024. In the event of over subscription names will be drawn from a hat.



Sappercom.com is the online password protected REA community platform. Details of events, forums and news updates are all available on the platform. Sign up by going to:

<http://www.sappercom.com>

Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs



If for whatever reason you're unable to make a [branch meeting](#) or Sapper get together have a look to find your nearest Breakfast Club. Put simply; you turn up, have breakfast, chat to likeminded veterans or servicemen and women and go home. You are very likely to bump into a Sapper or two. To find your closest Breakfast Club go to - [AFVBC](#).

Useful Links and PoC

REA Email address - info@reahq.org.uk
REA Website - <https://www.reahq.org.uk/>
Sapper Mag' articles - info@reahq.org.uk
Sappers Network - [Sappers Network](#)
RE Museum Website - <https://www.re-museum.co.uk/>
Veterans Railcard - <https://www.veterans-railcard.co.uk/>
Royal Engineers Historical Society - [REHS](#)

If you would like to unsubscribe or subscribe to the newsletter please contact info@reahq.org.uk.

February Prize Draw Army v RAF 2 x Tickets (1 pair)



11th May 2024

Kingsholm Stadium, Gloucester
£2 to enter!

To be in with a chance go to
[In it to Win it!](#)

All proceeds go to the benevolence of the
Sapper Family

REA EVENTS

80th Anniversary Monte Cassino, Italy
12 -13th May 2024 – [Information](#) & [Apply here](#)

Sapper Sunday, Royal Hospital Chelsea
19th May 2024 – [Apply here](#)

Founders Day Royal Hospital Chelsea
6th June 2024 – [Apply here](#)

Gibraltar Weekend
24-26th May 2024 - [Apply here](#).

Edinburgh Marathon
email: info@reahq.org.uk

80th Anniversary of the Armd Engrs, Ijzenidijke,
Holland 18th-21st Oct 2024 – Contact:
jim.speckman@btinternet.com

MEMBERS INFO

Sapper Social Branches. If you and a group of Sappers regularly meet up but would like a bit more contact with the Corps and REA activities. Get in touch. We've created the option of social branches. These are groups of bands of Sappers who meet informally and are kept abreast with info about the REA and Corps by an appointed Lead. The Lead is the HQ REA point of contact. The meeting time and place is advertised by HQ REA as are events and REA News. There is no other admin. info@reahq.org.uk

Coffin Drapes. The REA holds a number of coffin drapes which are available on request. Priority is given to active branch members. If a coffin drape is requested for a non-active branch member a contribution of £50 (plus p&p) will be requested to ensure (depending on availability) a coffin drape is made available. This excludes serving personnel (regular and reserve). For further details go to – [bereavement](#).