



### Welcome to this edition of the newsletter!

As the summer draws to a close for another year, we find ourselves in a reflective mood. Which makes this the perfect time to share your story. **Sapper Stories** is an REA project which aims to make sure your voice is heard, and your experiences are recorded for future generations.

We are collecting memories, anecdotes, and reflections from across the Corps - from those still serving, as well as veterans - to capture the richness of Sapper life during and after service.

# SAPPER STORIES

## A Sapper Centenary: Celebrating Bernard “Benny” Kierns

This August, the Royal Engineers family proudly celebrates the 100th birthday of Sapper Bernard “Benny” Kierns.

Born in Scotland in 1925, Bernard volunteered for National Service aged 20, choosing the Royal Engineers. He trained at Lanark and Merebrook before serving overseas in Palestine and Kenya with 1253 RE Works. He quickly earned respect for his skills, resourcefulness, and leadership - at one point leading his own Kenyan work crew and truck, a point of great pride.

Fondly recalling his service, Bernard often speaks of the camaraderie, humour, and lessons learned in the RE. Whether winning boxing tournaments, running cross-country for beer he gave away, or working on vital water projects in Kenya, Bernard embodied the spirit of the Sapper: practical, resilient, and always looking out for his mates.

Though offered three stripes to stay on, family duty called him back to Scotland. Later, in 1959, he emigrated to Australia, where he built his own home, raised a family, and kept the pipes playing - his favourite tune still being Wings, the quick march of the Royal Engineers.

Now, as Bernard celebrates his centenary, the Corps salutes him for a lifetime of service, devotion to family, and Sapper spirit.

### Happy 100th Birthday, Bernard.

Once a Sapper, always a Sapper!



### Now it's your opportunity to add your voice to our shared history

Whether it's a tale of camaraderie, a moment of challenge, or simply a memory that has stayed with you, your contribution helps preserve the unique spirit of the Royal Engineers. **Get in Touch**

#### Read more about Bernard's service life

Bernard's daughter Sheilagh has captured more of his story as well as some great photos too - you can read the full story by following this link: **Bernard's Story**

#### Keep up to date with the latest events

Sign up by going to:

<https://www.sappercom.com>



## Field of Remembrance 2025



Every year around a small patch of grass outside of Westminster Abbey is loaned to the Corps to remember those who've passed on operations. Many other Regimental Associations take part in the same commemoration resulting in the Field of Remembrance.

For 2025's Field of Remembrance the Sapper Charity invites you as members of the Sapper Family to remember your mates and comrades who passed whilst in the service of the Corps at the Field of Remembrance.

The Sapper Charity will then inscribe a cross with the details and place it in the Field of Remembrance.

To have a sapper remembered please submit details here: [Apply for Field of Remembrance](#)



## Share Your Story - Inspire Others

Have you received support from the Sapper Charity? Your story could inspire others to seek help and help raise awareness of the life-changing impact the Sapper Charity has. Whether it eased financial stress, supported your wellbeing, or helped you through a difficult time, we'd like to share your story.

Every story matters, and yours could be the reason someone finds the courage to seek help. To help others get the courage to get help contact: [info@reahq.org.uk](mailto:info@reahq.org.uk)

## Vehicle Painting at RAF Wittering!

Vehicle Painting at RAF Wittering! A band of Sappers is descending on RAF Wittering (Home to 20 Wks Gp) to restore a couple of bits of ADR kit. It's more than painting - it's camaraderie, belonging, and preserving history. Open to all REA members, serving and veterans. Book your place go to: [Sign-Up](#)

Pictures next month

## Ride to the Wall



Every year bikers, veterans and all sorts take part in Ride to the Wall. This year the event (4th October) will see people from all over the country converge on the National Memorial Arboretum. There's always a strong Sapper contingent who make the Corps Memorial their Engineer RV.

To find out more and get involved go to: [Ride to the Wall](#)

## Visit to 'The House'

Organised by the REA, a lucky group of members enjoyed a fascinating tour of the Parliamentary estate on the 26th of August.



## Upcoming Events

5th – 6th September 2025  
**Grave Restoration Workshop, Fort Pitt**

19th - 21st September 2025  
**Corps Memorial Weekend, Brompton Barracks**

2nd October 2025  
**Royal Hospital Chelsea Tour**

9th November 2025  
**Remembrance Sunday - Cenotaph March Past**

Keep up to date with all events on [SapperCom](#)

**Newsletter direct to your inbox**

Use the QR code or this [link](#) to sign-up.

