



Royal Marines Association Costa Blanca Branch (Spain)

October 2010

I have to commence this newsletter with some bad news. Andy Kurek, aged 59, a founder member of the Association here on the Costa Blanca recently died, following a short illness. Some 60 plus members and friends, members from the RNA and other Military Associations attended the funeral. Following the funeral we retired to the Lime Bar and raised our glasses in the usual manner to a passing Royal Marine.

The October meeting of the Branch commenced at 1837. We had 40 Full and Associate Members present with 21 apologies, with two visitors. The meeting being held at Sacko's Bar on El Limonar Urbanisation.

Chairmans Report- Phil Prince welcomed everyone to the meeting and commenced by saying our President Don Churchill was unable to attend the meeting as he had flu and wished him a speedy recovery.

A minutes silence followed to remember old comrades, past members and branch members who were poorly. 40 Commando are now home. Phil recalled that last year we held a memorial service for those Royals from 3 Commando Brigade who fell during the Brigades deployment in Afghanistan.

With this being a busy period, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day in the offing, Phil took the opportunity to ask members to remember those Royal Marines from 40 Commando who fell during the last operational tour. Dave Lawton followed by reading the Role of Honour.

The Strategic Defence Review has now been announced and were perhaps wondering where the Corps figured in the SDR. It would appear that the Corps would lose over a 1000 men but retain its Amphibious capability. Phil then expressed his concern regarding the scrapping of the Harrier jump jet and keeping the Tornados. At the end of the day we wrinklies seemed to have had the best of it by far!

Prior to the Corps Dinner we hosted two serving members of the Corps from the Commando Training Centre. Held in Sacko's Bar, Cpl Graham Smith gave a slick slide presentation of his time in Afghanistan. The buffet afterwards gave the opportunity for members of the Branch to fire questions at the two serving members regarding their tour in Afghanistan.

Quiz Night RMA v RNA We lost the trophy but won the money! Unfortunately Mick Smallwood, a member of the team was off sick. Come back Mick the Branch needs you.

Armistice Day- Once again held at La Siesta Church and owing the wonderful weather was well attended by many Associations. After the service many then went to Los Arcos for refreshments. Previous reports of a jacket potato and a meatball were unfounded, however the costs incurred to the branch are questionable. Possible next year that we do things differently for the buffet after the service.

The RBL Remembrance Service at Mil Pal Merias was attended by our Chairman Phil Prince and our Standard Bearer "Mac" Mackenzie. If we have to believe the local press its possible this event will be held in Orihuela ! Watch this space.

Secretary's Report

Information for members was on the board and in the trays as normal. Pete made a note that the newsletter from the Exeter Branch and Poole Branch was in the relevant file. There is further information regarding the SDR on the board.

Treasurers Report

Little change from last month, details of the accounts on the board. The Brenda Fund now stands at 300euros and the branch has yet to donate. Monies have been drawn down from the account to cover the Corps Birthday.

Welfare Report

Mick Smallwood was unable to attend the Corps Dinner. Don Churchill had the flu jab recently then proceeded to get the flu! We wished him a speedy recovery. Jo Churchill awaits a date for surgery on her head and hopes to be back to normal in a couple of months.

Arthur Richardson now up and about and being mentored by Bill Nixon. Eddie Cowan now back from the UK and at the meeting.

Social Report-Bill Nixon- Rita's Birthday bash at the Bistro went very well and the buffet provided was excellent. For those that attended I can report that the outside area is now covered in! No more Artic survival training.

Eric Edwards- Quiz Night- Eric did a sterling job as compare for the evening and Gerry England from the RNA and acting as floor manager did a difficult job well. Well done to you both!! The buffet provided by Sacko's Bar was its usual excellent standard and enjoyed by all.

PR

Not a great deal this month. The information regarding the branch in the local papers appears to be working. We have been approached by a local restaurant, "Lets Eat", to see if we are interested in their promotion for large parties. Any ideas ? The change of venue has been placed in the papers and the web site has been adjusted.

G & L

Dave sent in the recent article three times to ensure publication! The next article is in hand. The first paragraph will be dedicated to the late Brenda Cowan. Dave is currently in the UK so is not contactable.

Merchandise.

Order form for Christmas cards available, 6.50 pounds for 12 cards and calendars are 13 pounds. Shirts complete with RMA badge are available now for 8 euros. Members can also have their own shirts embroidered if you don't like the style of ours.

Gary & Jos have RMCTF wrist bands available at a cost of 2 euros.. The bands come in two sizes, the smaller size I have been informed are for ladies and PTI's !!

Corps Birthday

Another great dinner and occasion to celebrate the Corps Birthday. The format was a little relaxed from previous years but we still retained the Top Table. Our two guests from CTC Lymstone enjoyed the evening as did the members and guests.

The format worked well and enabled members and guests to socialise.

Jack Freeman and his crew did us proud and the members responded with a deserved round of applause.

AOB

The Charity bucket at the Poco Loco Bar has raised 96 euros to date. This will be sent to the RMCTF along with the money raised on the walk.

Christmas Cards – Joan Prince- Cards made by Joan Prince are available with the proceeds going to charitable funds..

EVENTS SPAIN

Xmas Dinner Sackos' Bar 4th December. There are 500 euros of prizes up for grabs so if you haven't got your tickets yet, they will be available on the night.

EVENTS UK

Graspan Parade - Sunday 15th May 2011 There is a warning order on the notice board but if you can't get to the monthly meetings Pete W has details

EVENTS FRANCE

Be aware of the unveiling ceremony of the Frankton Memorial in Bordeaux France. This is on 29th March 2011. A few members have shown interest to attend so the secretary will keep those members informed.

JOKES

It was a regimental dinner testimonial>

“Today we honour a man who doesn't know the meaning of fear; a man who doesn't know the meaning of defeat, quit or surrender.

So we have all chipped in and bought him a dictionary.

Spinster Brown rang the police to say she had captured a man climbing into her bedroom window so that they could call around for him in the morning

THAT'S IT !!