



Dorset Redcaps



Newsletter 002

February 2010

Welcome to the second edition of "Dorset Redcaps" your very own Dorset RMPA newsletter. Having survived my first year as Elected Chairman of the branch I should like to express sincere gratitude to our branch members, associates, family and friends as well as the current committee for your continued and valued support. It can be difficult to know what if any trips and activities you might support and to date we seem to have struggled with support. It is with this in mind that we

turn to you with a small but vital questionnaire to ascertain how we can make the branch work for you and your needs. Whilst we do have an active committee, the success of the Branch is down to you. Your voice will always be heard so don't be afraid to speak out if you have any ideas. Please take the time to tell us what we might be doing right, what you think we could improve on and any ideas to improve the branch. We ask because we care so please be honest with us.



Chairman - Steve Pugh

Email; Chairman@RMPADorset.com

Forthcoming Events - Possible Visit to Army Museum & Chelsea Hospital

Subject to your support, we are hoping to organise a trip to the Royal Chelsea Hospital and the Army Museum, (both located on the same site) in the summer. This is highly recommended and our guide at the Hospital would be a resident RMPA member!

There is a special National Service Exhibition at the Army Museum which is now a major attraction. Admission to both is free. Please let your Secretary know if you are interested and if the numbers are sufficient to hire a coach, we can negotiate

a suitable date and ascertain costings etc.

Please contact our Secretary Royston Scott on 01202 738936. I feel sure this will be a very enjoyable day out.

Aspects of The Great War

The Western Front Association, Dorset & Wilts Branch have organised their Regional Seminar at The Tank Museum, Bovington on Saturday, 12th June 2010 between 0900 & 1630 hours entitled "Aspects of the Great War." The Speakers will be Martin Middlebrook, Prof. Peter Simpkin, MBE. David Fletcher and Taff Gillingham. The cost is £27.50 for the day. This includes membership of the Tank Museum Bovington for a year. Day entry to the Seminar, and Refreshments and Lunch. Tickets available from Dorset WFA Events, 3, Bestwall Road, Wareham. BH20 4HY. Telephone 01929 553060

Please enclose an SAE

Or Email cambrai@eastcote.go-plus.net

Annual Reunion of RMPA

The 64th RMPA Annual Reunion Weekend and Dinner will be held on 14-16th May at The Royal Beach Hotel Portsmouth. Tickets are going fast so please let Royston know of your intentions if you wish to attend ASAP so he can book your place and supply you with the details of local accommodation and the events of the weekend.

Bryan Melvin of our Branch attended the last Reunion which was held in North Wales and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Branch Secretary - Royston Scott

E Mail ; Secretary@RMPADorset.com

Tel ; 01202 738936

Next Branch Meeting - Miramar Hotel - Bournemouth

Our next Branch Meeting will be at the Miramar Hotel, East Overcliff Drive, Bournemouth Meet at 1900 for 1915hrs sit



down meal followed by the Branch Meeting at 2030hrs on Thursday, 11th March 2010. (Members not able to or not wishing to dine are invited to attend the hotel about 2015hrs (for 2030hrs start.)

We are hoping for the usual good attendance and as we will be discussing future plans and activities, welfare issues and any other business

Please inform the Secretary if you have a subject to raise so that we can ensure it is included in the agenda and not missed. Please remember this is your Branch and all your opinions count. It is our desire to flourish as a branch so don't be shy. We can't put things right if we don't know they are wrong, plus happy members make for a happy secretary.

Welfare Matters!

If you are able to visit any of our ill members in your area please speak to the Welfare Coordinator Brian Samways or your Secretary Royston Scott for the address.

Both Bryan Melvin and Brian Samways have been to see Ron Nappin. You may recall he broke his neck as a result of a fall. He is not well enough to come to meetings, but he does welcome visits and lives in the Parkstone area.

Let us know if you know of a member or RMPA widow who is sick;
welfare@
RMPADorset.com

Your Welfare Coordinator is Brian Samways
Contact via Email or 01202 385819

Situation Vacant

A vacancy exists within the branch for a **Social Secretary**.

The postholder will be required to organise and co-ordinate social activities for Branch members. To facilitate participation across all elements of the Branch and target events appropriately.

You will receive full support and assistance from the committee to organise fundraising and social events for the benefit and enjoyment of all our membership and friends.

Please contact Secretary, Royston

Remembrance Day Parade 2009



Dorset RMPA Members on parade

Following an invitation from Bournemouth Borough Council to attend the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph opposite the Town Hall, 8 hardy branch members & Mrs Marsh braved the chilly wind to fly the flag for the Corps.

Christmas Lunch 2009

52 Members and Associate Members enjoyed a lunch together at the Miramar Hotel, Bournemouth on 3rd December 2009, after which we were all entertained to a high standard by Lt Col. Malcolm Torrent, (Retired), formerly Director of Music for the Life Guards. We learned of his interesting career and he demonstrated his many musical instruments to everyone's enjoyment.

A draw, consisting of prizes donated by members was organised by Ray and Hazel Jenkins (Thank You) and raised £140.

Branch Treasurer; Gerrard Needham

E Mail; Treasurer@RMPADorset.com

RMPA Dorset Branch Fundraising

You may recall that at the AGM you all voted to support fund raising for the local charity "Julia's House" - based locally in Broadstone, and the Army's Casualty needs, Members are invited to make suggestions as



to any forms of fund raising they feel able to either help organise or to support, Perhaps coffee mornings, BBQs or other events.

Please let your secretary know so we can publicise the event to maximise Branch support for the event.



2009/10

Julia's House Pyjama Appeal is to raise funds to open Julia's House, Dorset's Children's Hospice for night time care. Currently Julia's

House offers day care at the hospice and home care for nearly 100 children with life-limited conditions in Dorset

Annual Church Parade

On Sunday, 7th February 2010, Hon Treasurer Gerry Needham represented the Dorset Branch of the association at the annual Church Parade and Service of the RMPA held within the Tower Of London on what was a very bitterly cold day. There were about 45 members of the RMP Association present, most were accompanied by members of their families, (Gerry was duly accompanied by one of his granddaughters), About 33 members marched

from the south east corner of the tower grounds to the Royal Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula where the service was held. This is the oldest Royal Chapel in Britain.

About 16 members of the Royal Air Force Police Association also paraded and following the service the parade reformed and marched back to the East drawbridge where they were dismissed. All adjourned to the Wardens Mess where they enjoyed a buffet lunch and a

couple of hours of fellowship. Although most members present were of the London Branch of the association other branches were represented including two or three who had travelled from Lincolnshire and two or three from elsewhere together with three veterans of the corps now resident in the Royal Chelsea Hospital. Following the lunch we were free to tour the Tower and the whole day proved a most enjoyable experience.'

RMP Certificate of Service



Our very own Ted Thurston has designed and has produced the above certificates of service, They are available for purchase at £5 from which a donation will be made to Branch Charity Funds. Ted, who is clearly talented, but a self confessed technophobe is only available on 01425 273818 The certificate is about A3 size and comes without the Copyright symbol ©

Get on Parade !!



Church Parade march led by RMP Chelsea Pensioners Gerry Needham can be seen behind the flag bearers on the right hand side of the photograph

Welfare Coordinator ; Brian Samways

E Mail; Welfare@RMPADorset.com

RMPA Dorset Branch Questionnaire

The branch has been active for about 17 months now and during that period we have tried to organise a few events we think are of interest to you. To date we have only had to cancel 2 events due to lack of support despite there being a high volume of interest when first fielded. In order for us, as a committee, to ensure the branch remains in a healthy state we need some feedback as to what you think we are doing right and where we could improve.

The Questionnaire will remain anonymous unless you wish to put your name to any comments. If you have any particular grievance it would be useful but not essential to know who you are so that we can try and work with you to resolve the situation.

Please return to The Chairman or The Secretary as soon as you can

Many Thanks

Dorset Branch Chairman ; Steve Pugh

E Mail; chairman@RMPADorset.com