



HEADLINES

Hello and welcome to the 8th edition of our newsletter. Happy new year to you all, I hope you had the very best festive season and enter 2023 fit and healthy?

As a group we haven't had the best start to 2023, we have lost 8 comrades in as many weeks and as I mentioned in our June 22 newsletter this is a trend that doesn't seem to be letting up. The branch continues to support the families the best way we can. When requested we try and provide a standard bearer to attend funerals and we do try and get a member close to the fallen to write a short obituary for us to put into the newsletters. We are currently looking to purchase a coffin drape so we can offer that to families if they so wish. Currently we only have one standard but are looking to purchase a second and maybe a even a third to be strategically placed across the country to reduce the need for shipping over long distances with the risks that entails.

Don't worry I'm not asking for any money or contributions towards the purchase of any of the above. What I am asking for is volunteers to become standard bearers for the branch. As the old adage goes, "You can never have too much of a good thing" so we are looking to grow our group of standard bearers across the country. So, if you think you would be able to spare some time to attend an occasional funeral and help show the trades deep respect, sympathy, and comradeship that we hold for one another then step up. We would provide any training required, currently we are looking into holding a training session at the ARV on the Saturday but that's to be confirmed, don't worry if you can't make this there will be other opportunities, more on that in the near future.

The hope is we can gather a team that gives us surplus capacity and is distributed across the country to allow us to have the best chance to give as much support to grieving families as we possibly can. No one will be pressuring people to do a funeral, if you can and you want too then great, if not we can ask another member of the team. The sad fact is that this will affect us all sooner or later, it's not something that just happens to other people, the committee are doing their level best to support as many as we can but with the numbers seemingly growing, we can't do them all, we need your help. So, please, if you can, volunteer to be a standard bearer for us. If you want to volunteer, then contact the committee via the branch email address.

Finally, I hope you are enjoying the newsletters and find them informative and entertaining; we are always on the lookout for pieces to put into a newsletter so if you have something you think your fellow Recy Mechs would like to hear or if you have any ideas for improving the newsletter, your constructive thoughts are always welcome. Please send them all to the branch email address – recymechbranch@gmail.com

Now read on and enjoy.

John



OBITUARIES – RECOVERY MECHANIC

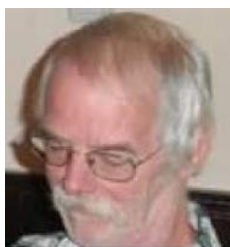


William “Jock” Galloway 1970 – 1922 – by Steve Johnstone

Jock Galloway was born on March 13, 1970. his early years were spent in Lochore Fife. He then moved south to Sevenoaks due to his fathers' work, the family eventually returned to Cowdenbeath. At the age of 18 in 1989 Jock joined the REME as a Recovery Mechanic. He served a full 22-year career with the Corp with most of his postings being in Germany, he served with, 6 Armd. Wksp, 32 Engr. Regt, 7 Regt. RLC, and 3 Bn.

REME, to name a few. He also served many tours throughout his career, the Gulf War, N. Ireland, Kosovo, and OP TELIC. Jock had a passion for Ten Pin Bowling and playing Golf, he also often volunteered to Marshall at major professional competitions. Jock also attended Recovery Camps, assisting with the running of the camps, instructing young Recovery Mechanics and like all of Gods Trade, he was a work hard, play hard kind of guy who fuelled himself on coffee, cigarettes, and alcohol.

At the end of his military career, he remained in Germany working as a HGV Driver, travelling throughout Europe with his faithful companion, Buster. In 2015 he returned to Fife in Scotland where he worked with Amason and Mowl, meeting up again with old friends and making new friends. Sadly in 2019 Jock suffered a stroke which resulted in him being unable to walk and lost the use of his left arm. Physiotherapy did eventually help him to walk again, aided with a stick. He was eventually allowed to drive again and gave his mode of transport the name of “Clown Car”. Even with his disability he was always helping others. He was again dealt another blow, this time a heart attack and again he made light of the situation telling everyone that he had been operated on, by no other than the Queens Surgeon. I met up with Jock at the REME Association Scotland Branch Reunion meal in Stirling, I had not seen him for 12 years and there he was, a fag in one hand and a beer in the other, he had never changed. I asked him if he ever thought about changing his lifestyle? The direct answer was “no chance”, once a party animal always a party animal. In November 2022 he lost his beloved dog Buster, aged 17 years, this was heart-breaking for Jock, sadly on the 4th of December 2022 Jock passed away. In true Jock fashion he had attended a family members birthday party and partied very hard only the night before passing. Jock was laid to rest in Kirkaldy, and the funeral was attended by family, friends, Serving and Veteran Recovery Mechanics, also various trade groups from the units that Jock had served with. Jock, stand down, your duty is done, and your brothers are waiting in the bar for you. RIP.



Steve Taylor – by Bryan Cronie

Steve Taylor passed away on 26 November 2022 in Bulgaria. Steves funeral was held on 27 November 2022 at Granitovo, Bulgaria, attended by family and friends. Below is a small poem posted by Mrs Taylor in remembrance of her late husband. It is called:



Christmas Without You

Although it is sad to reminisce on Christmases we knew.

This year I shall celebrate in memory of you.

I shall put aside sorrow with every unshed tear.

And concentrate on all the love we shared when you were here.

Our time together taught me what Christmas time is for.

And is what I will remember until we meet once more.



Michael Ernest Durow – 6 July 1947 – 8 October 2022 by Peter Borthwick

Michael Ernest Durow was born on 6 July 1947 and sadly passed away on 8 October 2022. Michael was clearly one of the old and bold of Recovery Mechanics. Michael's funeral was held at Porchester/Portsmouth Crematorium on Tuesday 15th of November 2022, attended by family, friends, and colleagues including Peter Borthwick. After the funeral a reception was held at the Whitehart, Denmead. Peter was very proud to see the REME flag adorn Michael's coffin and had a good chat with some of Michael's family. During his conversation with family members, he explained about the Memorial Wall at Lyneham, something that the family were extremely pleased to hear about and thought it would be a great privilege to have Michael's name placed on the wall. Training Wing, Lyneham have already confirmed they will make the arrangements for Michael's name to be added.



Nigel Bisgrove – Passed away on 15 January 2023 - by Roger Weeks.

We are indeed quite a strange bunch us veterans. We can often live quite close and not know it. And may not see each other for 30 / 40 years or so, then it's like we last caught up yesterday!! I knew Bis in Detmold and was there at the start of his recovery mechanic journey. I now have the privilege of putting a few words together to say farewell.

It's a privilege that none of us look forward to. Not least of course as it encourages a wander down memory lane as we look in fondest memory at the passing of one of our own. In the case of Nigel Bisgrove (Bis), it is an absolute honour to be asked.

I hope that where ever you are right now, you are smiling with a small Herfy in your hand.

Bis and I first met at 4 Armd Wksp in Detmold. He arrived as a re-trade and was what I thought at the time quite a mature Cpl (which, by the way is code for old – there was only five years between us, but as I recall, a thousand years in terms of maturity). He immediately did his class 2 on Rock Steady. It can't have been easy in those days to put it



mildly!! I wouldn't normally mention this but as you may recall back in the early 80's the Recovery Mechanic was quite an unforgiving creature. To drop into a section like 4 Armd in such circumstances and to work to become one of its most respected is an achievement that cannot be understated. Those of you who remember will know that we traditionally gave guys in his position quite a hard time back then. I remember as an instructor on Cent that I respected how he dealt with this, working through the good, and the not so good times. Working to earn the respect of us all. Arguably one of the best demonstrations of character I've ever seen and one that left a lasting impression.

In those days I ran the Cent ARV section (Which under Bryan and Phil's close scrutiny, was no small challenge). It was no secret that I thought of them as mine - just lending them out now and then for the other guys to play with. If I had to!! In those days, Bis steered away from the cents if he could. He had one but I think it was a bit too dirty for the old guy, so he only came anywhere near it on crash outs, "stable parades" or photoshoots. Getting him to maintain the thing was near impossible. Looking back, an early sign of a canny operator and quite ironic when considering he was later to run the Recovery Section at 2RTR and became a devoted fan of the CRARRV. At this time of his career, he was mostly found in the B Vehicle line with AECs' and Leyland's' with a preference for days out with the Crusaders with Geordie Jaggs and crew. Though of course, all of our paths crossed in places like the Cpl's mess (often at lunch time in those days), in Pete Mainwaring's store at happy hour, at the Hacks Rose Bowl or in Charlies Bar.

From 4 Armd Wksp, Bis was to move with his family to 14 Fd. Wksp Berlin. Achieving a prestigious posting such as this and with a promotion to Sgt demonstrates how this impressive man made his mark on the Corp in general and our trade in particular. During his time in Berlin, he was to organise and host one of the most memorable SNCO Recovery Mechanic Reunions of its time. He enjoyed a three-and-a-half-year tour of Berlin and successfully closed the position down when British Troops were withdrawn. From 14 Fd Wksp, Bis was to move again, with his family and on promotion to SSGT to 2 RTR in Fallingbostal. Bis had a happy 4 years at 2 RTR, where he had fully embraced the role of leading his section in providing armoured recovery support to a fast-moving front-line regiment. No better accolade can be made than to quote the words of one of his own section: "Bis was fiercely protective over his men. Nobody could touch you unless they went through him. Moral compass never wavered from what he thought was right. Proper decent bloke, a grafter and would do anything for anyone." Words that were only written recently and after over 25 years since last meeting. Most of us would love to be remembered in such a way by one of our own.

That said, there were a few stories. Including a mention of adventures from a trip to Canada where he "invited" a young officer MBT commander to leave his CRARRV. Apparently, they got a little lost while recovering an MBT and strayed into a RED Template area. They were told by Zero to spend the night battened down and stay where they were. Presumably with a sincere hope that they wouldn't be shot at!! It would appear that Bis took it badly when the next morning the young commander of the casualty MBT told him that he had a working GPS with him. For those of us who may have been in a similar position at one time or other, there will be eyes rolling to the heavens in recognition of his frustration that this young "warrior" didn't produce the GPS when it was needed!!



After this memorable posting, Bis was promoted to WO2 and arrived at 118 Recovery Company, Northampton for his final year or so. His next move and arguably the biggest challenge for most of us being adjusting to life in civvy street in 1998. Luckily Bis chose to move back home to his native Somerset with his family, to be near his wider family and friends. He settled back into his community and opened a Florist business in Somerton. He also became a town councillor, once quoting in a local new paper "That he was passionate about making a difference". Well old friend, I think it's fair to say you did make a difference to all of us who had the privilege of knowing you. Both in your service life – and beyond.

Bis was admitted into Yeovil Hospital towards the end of last year. Further to a lengthy stay in hospital with an illness that he fought bravely, he grew tired and had to leave us. He will be laid to rest in his village of South Petherton, Somerset. I know that many of us will be there to say our own farewells. Our hearts go out to his family and friends who are sure to be missing one of their brightest lights.

Rest in peace Bis, you will be remembered.



Mick Taylor – by Mark O'Mahony. It is with great sadness that we hear of the passing of Mick Taylor, formally a member of 115 PI Leicester, Mick fought a brave and long battle with MND. He was a great soldier and colleague with whom I had the great honour to serve alongside when SPSI with 118 Recovery Company in Northampton.

Mick began his military career as an Infantryman in the 70's with the Royal Anglian Regt, completing an Op Banner tour with them. He left the regulars in 81 and joined the Reservists, serving a total of 34 years with 118 Recovery Company and 158 RLC REME LAD. During this time he deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mick finally completed his service days with the Reserves when he reached the maximum permitted age of 55 in 2015.

Mick's funeral took place on the 16th of January 2023 and was attended by lots of past and present serving Reservist Recy Mechs and other members of the extended REME family. Members of his last unit 158 RLC and the REME LAD also attended, forming a well-deserved Guard of Honour.

Mick will be very much missed by family members and all who knew him, he will also be remembered for all his years of service and the various roles in which he excelled throughout his service years. Deepest condolences to the family - Rest in Peace Mick.



Andrew James – passed away on 5 January 2023

Andy's funeral was held on Monday 23rd January 2023 at Counties Crematorium, Towcester Road, Milton Malsor, attended by family and friends. There was a very good turnout from the Branch in attendance. A eulogy to Andy will be published in Edition 9 of the Newsletter.

Rest in Peace Andy.



The Recovery Mechanic community also lost a further two trade colleagues during the month of January 2023 for whom we are still gathering details and hope to include further information in the Edition 9 Newsletter. They are:

Ssgt Maurice Glaholm BEM, a Recovery Mechanic from 124(TEE) Recovery Company Det REME (V) his funeral will be on the 1st February 2023. When further details are known they will be published on the Branch Facebook page. Rest in Peace Maurice.

Brian Willis also a Reservist Recovery Mechanic. Brian's funeral was held on the 13th of January 2023. As previously stated, we are still gathering details and hope to provide additional information in the next edition of the newsletter. Rest in Peace Brian.

If any of our membership knew or knows of someone who knew Maurice or Brian it would be appreciated if they could contact them and see if they may be willing to write a reflection on them, based on their knowledge, for publication in the next edition of the Branch Newsletter.

COMMITTEE NEWS

A committee meeting was held 12 January 2023 to discuss a new proposed meeting schedule of Monthly Meetings. After much debate it was agreed by all that the Branch Meetings would now be held on a monthly basis. This will allow the committee to keep a much closer look at all business, deal with more urgent matters at a faster pace, and monitor more closely the closing out of any required actions. The Branch Rules on Meetings have been changed to reflect the changes made and can be found on the Facebook page under the Files tab.

Membership: Nothing to report.

Secretary: Nothing to report

Veterans:

Happy new year to you all, things have been very quiet from the veterans over Christmas, I still get invites from sporting force and various veterans' agencies for events etc. Did you see my post about the free snowboarding holiday, sadly I couldn't make it this year but it's a fabulous opportunity for a holiday with just beer money needed. I also get quite a few job offers and while I don't post them all if anyone is looking send me a message, either pm on Facebook or Via the branch email, you never know!

The veteran's hub in Newton Aycliffe has moved to Darlington but there is still lots of opportunities to meet up and the new Gym is brilliant.

There are many Veteran Hubs spread across the UK, for anyone who has never taken the opportunity to visit a Hub, try it out, you may well be surprised by the facilities available.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we missed the Veterans parade at Eden camp last year, I propose to arrange to go this year if anyone is interested, I will provide dates and



NEWSLETTER

RECOVERY MECHANIC BRANCH

REME ASSOCIATION



more information when it becomes available, it certainly should be known by the time the next newsletter is printed, and I will also put an event in our events page on Facebook.

Cheers Steve

Serving: Nothing to report

Merchandise: Nothing to report

Reservist: Nothing to report

FORTH COMING EVENTS

ARV 10 – 31 March – 1 April 2023 – venue, Millers Hotel, Sipson
Bow Shackle Ball – 30 September 2023 – venue, Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries.

OTHER DATES FOR THE DIARY

Overseas Visit – War Graves 15 -17 September 2023 (TBC)
Service of Remembrance – 11 November 2023 – Albert Hall
Cenotaph – Remembrance Day Parade 12 November 2023 – Whitehall.

HAS ANYBODY SEEN...

This section within the Newsletter shall be included in each Edition. The idea being that membership who wish to attempt to contact Recovery Mechanics of yesteryear can appeal through the Newsletter for assistance. Just let us know through the pages of our Facebook Account or email the branch email address, recymechbranch@gmail.com who you are trying to trace, and we will include it in the Newsletter and hopefully someone can help you in your search.

MEMBERSHIP SUBMISSIONS

No submissions were received.

USEFUL TELEPHONE & EMAIL CONTACTS

REME Connect Tel: 01249 894507
REME Association Tel: 01249 894524 / 01249894507
Royal British Legion Tel: 0808 802 8080
Service of Remembrance (R Albert Hall) Tel: 02070877929 SSAFA [Tel:0800](tel:08007314880) 731 4880
Combat Stress [Tel:0800](tel:08001381619) 138 1619 PTSD ptsd.org.uk
Help for Heroes helpforheroes.org.uk.
Service of Remembrance (R Albert Hall) festivalofremembrance.seetickets.com
REME Association Recovery Mechanic Branch recymechbranch@gmail.com
Additional numbers and email addresses can be found on our Facebook Page under the tab "Files".



PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

Assistance for the Branch Membership will always be close at hand, we are all in this together, and here to help. In the event of any member experiencing difficult times, they must not hesitate to contact the branch. If we as a group cannot assist with a situation, we certainly know where help may be available.

Anyone wishing to make contact, for whatever reason, please do so by using the branch email address: recymechbranch@gmail.com

Once REME Always REME – No matter if you are a Regular, Reservist or retired you are a member of the REME Family for life., it is therefore important that our membership is aware of the following: many will be aware, particularly those who subscribe to REME Connect, of the new initiative launched with the title “Lifting the Decks”. This initiative could prove to be a life saver. Below is an extract from the most recent update on this venture. It is there for a purpose, and anyone facing difficulties or feel the need should not hesitate to make contact.

In 2020, REME launched the Lifting the Decks initiative, with a focus on the mental wellbeing of serving REME personnel and veterans.

We are in the process of refining Lifting the Decks, increasing accessibility with an added emphasis on reminding our REME Family to speak out about ‘what’s on their mind’ and that, whatever stage in their life, we will always be here to listen to and support them.

If there is something on your mind troubling you, big or small, whatever the cause, we are here to listen and to help. If you wish to get in touch regarding yourself or concern for someone else, please contact: WOYM@REMECharity.org

AND FINALLY

It is good to report that the Branch continues to go from strength to strength, with the Committee Members working very hard on your behalf, giving up their spare time to ensure the advancement of the Branch. Membership continues to grow, and we are now seeing an increase in all three categories of membership, Serving, Reservist and Veteran, having now hit and gone over the 500 mark, this is a testimony to the work efforts of our Membership Member, with the great support provided by the Veterans and Serving Members, equally there are also many of the Branch Membership rounding up “Old & Bold” from yesteryear, whilst we also see a large number of the “Youngsters of Today” signing up, a huge thank you to all concerned. The sharp eyed will also have noticed that the Honorary Membership category is also greatly increasing, it mainly consists of family members of Branch Members and allows them to find and keep in touch with old acquaintances.

With so many new members I would like to remind all that the Branch has its very own unique brand of merchandise available for purchase. They all stand out with the Branch unique logo, many people enquire about the logo and what it means, so don’t be shy, have a look. Should you be interested, you can find the products on the Branch Facebook website.

You will have noticed that the Membership Submissions Section within this Newsletter states “No submissions received”. The Newsletter is not just for or about the Committee, it is your Newsletter, for the Membership, we urge you to consider sending in an article to be included. A request is sent out via the Branch Facebook page to the membership about 4 weeks prior



to putting a newsletter together. Since when were Recy Mechs in the category of being shy, start thinking now what you could submit for Edition 9.

As previously stated, the committee work very hard to try and provide interesting things for the membership, all voluntary and willingly give up their time. Two such items of entertainment being planned and organised at the moment are the Bow Shackle Ball and the overseas trip to visit the War Graves, much interest has been shown in both of these events and we have sufficient numbers that allow both to go ahead. As in any planning and during booking for such events individual details and deposits are required to confirm a booking, unfortunately, at times and in a few cases, the organisers have difficulty in collecting the resources required to secure such bookings, I therefore respectfully request that anyone who stated they wish to attend, and if you haven't yet done so, please provide the organisers with their requests in a timely manner, allowing them to finalise the plans for the events.

On the subject of volunteers we are always on the lookout for individuals to assist in certain areas, one such area is carrying out Standard Bearer Duties. Funerals are the main area for Standard usage, although it does get paraded at lots of events. As we are a National Branch it becomes very difficult at times to attend in all regions of the country. The Branch number 1 priority with the Standard is attending funerals when requested by a family member. Currently the Branch are in the process of purchasing a second Standard which will help us, hopefully allowing us to attend all requests, 1 held in the south and 1 in the north, meaning less postage and reducing risk of losing a Standard in the postal system. Of course, it can only help if we have people willing to step forward, volunteering for such duties and have some training on the drills. Anyone who is attending ARV10 in April can take the opportunity of a little training and become a volunteer in the district they live as it is the intention, subject agreement with ARV organisers, to hold a training session. Please give it a thought, help out the committee that strive to keep your Branch at the forefront of REME Association – volunteer today by sending your name to the branch email address – recymechbranch@gmail.com. The Branch have now also designed and purchased their own Coffin Drape, this can now also be made available to families along with the Standard, at the family's request.

I now refer back to the Branch Presidents opening welcome message and the fact that we have not had the start to 2023 as we would have liked it. The sad loss of 8 of our trade colleagues in such a short period is quite devastating. Within the Branch Rules (Facebook page, under files) there is a document under the title of Bereavement, it lays out what we as a Branch can offer at such distressing times. If you are ever aware of a bereavement situation, and you know the family, please share this document with them, maybe we can help? On behalf of the Branch, I send our deepest condolences to the families of all eight lost colleagues.

BC



NEWSLETTER

RECOVERY MECHANIC BRANCH

REME ASSOCIATION





NEWSLETTER

RECOVERY MECHANIC BRANCH

REME ASSOCIATION

