



Website: www.newtonabbot-rea.co.uk

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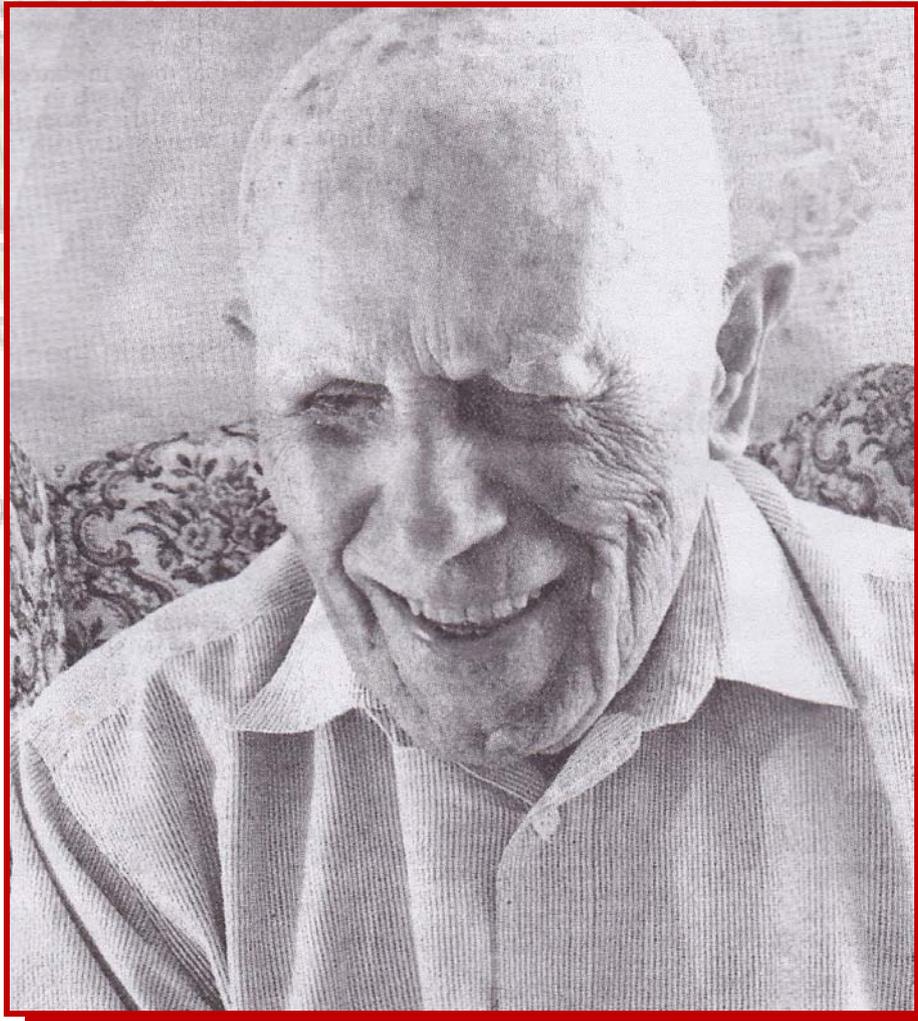
Newsletter Jan / Feb 2014.

Our monthly meetings are normally held on the 4th Sunday of the month, at Newton Abbot RBL Club, Marsh Road.

Parking is available at the Cricketfield car park opposite The RBL Club (Park and Display, pay on exit including Sundays) There is free on street parking in the surrounding streets (Sundays only)

Our next 2 meetings will be held on: **Sunday 23 Feb 2014**
Sunday 23 Mar 2014

Members should be seated ready to start at 11: 30hrs. In the upstairs function room



[Ex Cpl Leslie Yelland RE age 98](#)

[Read his memories of Dunkirk inside this issue](#)

May I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2014

***Please support you local branch of the Royal Engineers Association,
we need your support to survive.***

BRANCH OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2014

Following the Branch AGM which was held on 19 January 2014, the following members were duly elected to serve as your Branch Officials & Committee for the next twelve months.

President	Mr Brian Cocker
Chairman	Mr Tony Franklin
Secretary	Mr Roger Andrews [Webmaster; Newsletter Editor]
Treasurer	Mr Keith Tapp
Committee	Mr Dave Cairns [Welfare] Mr Martin Jones Mr Jason Downey

If any member has any ideas or suggestions to benefit the branch please feel free to contact any one of the committee to discuss it.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

Tony Franklin	07 January
Brian Cocker	17 January
Sue Peters	02 February
Gerry Lakey	24 February
Mike Tribble	25 February

If we have missed your birthday we apologise, if you would like your date mentioned here let me know your details so the records can be updated and your name included in the future.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The date for South West Group REA Annual BBQ has be set for Sunday 27th July 2014 to be held at the WO's & Sgts Mess 22 Engr Regt RE, Swinton Bks Tidworth.

Once again it is hoped that some of the branch members will wish to attend. If enough of you show an interest in attending a mini bus could be arranged. We will need to know numbers attending, so please inform the Branch secretary at your earliest convenience whether you and your partner/wife wish to attend and if you require transport, numbers will be limited to one minibus (max 16 including driver).

The date of the Branch Spring Buffet will be discussed at the forthcoming branch meeting.

Leslie's 'little ship' couldn't cope with load

(Memories of Dunkirk, from an old Sapper)

THE first 'little ship' that Dunkirk veteran Leslie Yelland boarded was so overloaded with troops that it got stuck on the seabed.

Ordinarily, it was a passenger barge used on the River Thames for sightseeing trips.

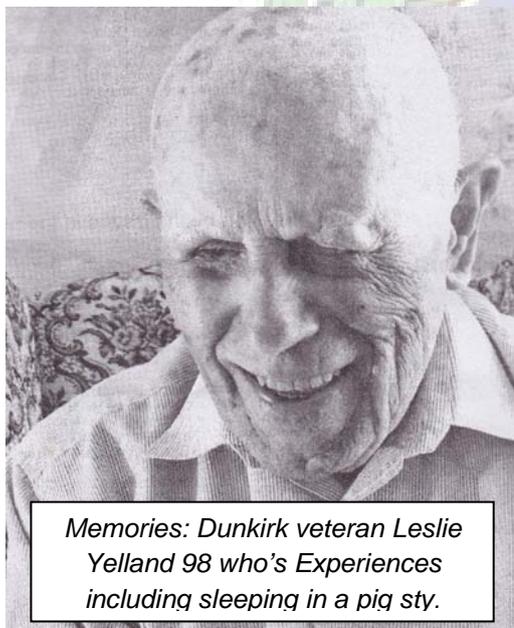
Leslie, now 98 and living at the Pippins Residential Home in Paignton, recalls the scrum to leave French soil as the German army advanced on the cornered allied troops.

Now completely blind, Leslie says the one regret he has, is not being able to see his old regiment group photograph and the majority of the men who served with him at Dunkirk.

He said: "We all had to jump off and swim back to the beach. We were soaking wet and had to sleep in our wet clothes.

"The next day we tried again, but there was shelling out at sea, we could see the explosions and then they stopped bringing any more boats in."

They moved four miles down the coast to Dunkirk harbour but they were met with just as many Soldiers walking in the opposite direction. Finally he managed to board a small Navy boat at Dunkirk harbour.



Memories: Dunkirk veteran Leslie Yelland 98 who's Experiences including sleeping in a pig sty.

They moved four miles down the coast to Dunkirk harbour but they were met with just as many Soldiers walking in the opposite direction. Finally he managed to board a small Navy boat at Dunkirk harbour "I remember seeing in the water the masts of other boats that had been hit," he recalled, "I don't remember coming back to Dover. I must have slept all the way."

Leslie, then a corporal with the Royal Engineers, the 641-ers', said the evacuation was shrouded in secrecy.

Leslie...at the time was working on building an aerodrome near Arras "We had almost finished, too. But for weeks we had seen flashes in the sky so knew that some areas were coming in for heavy fire".

"We finally got notice to move, but we didn't know what was going on."

The unit was among thousands that travelled by night and hid by day. "One morning I had to go back to collect six men who had stayed behind with some equipment. "The Sergeant major said to me that someone was going to go in my place.

"That car with the six men and two drivers was captured. It was a lucky escape for me. I will never forget that."

The men tried to find shelter where they could, in woodlands or on farms. "One night we slept in a pig sty," Leslie said "My mate shone a torch in and I said "there's a pig there", and he said: 'chase the blighter out' and we did.

"It was all thick straw and we laid in there fully clothed and fell asleep. I still don't know to this day what happened to the pig."

ROGER'S WORDSEARCH 14-01

C A M C I O L A B E E P S J
I U T O L L A B S S I A N P
T S N N O I T I L A O C O R
M N E S U C B E L E N T I A
A E M T P O Y P V O C L T S
N S D E L E C T I O N A O N
I P N G U O E S R Y T R M T
F C E D T N S C C A E E R B
E L M U A E E I H D P B S Y
S F A B S R L V R I T I U D
T X D G E O S O E S C L S E
O P D E P A T D E R A C N R
S O Y T R P C P R E M I E R
T L H A N S A R D E R A C E

- ACTS
- AMENDMENT
- BALLOT
- BUDGET
- CENSUS
- COALITION
- COUNT
- ELECTION
- HANSARD
- LIBERAL
- MACE
- MANIFESTO
- MOTION
- ORDER
- PARTY
- POLICY
- PREMIER
- REDTAPE
- REVENUE
- SESSION
- SPEECH
- VOTES

ANSWER TO WORDSEARCH #13-06

E E R N I I S R E K C A R C
N O T I G H E O E L T S I
S Y H P M S T O C K I N G
L L K O E L S I N G I N G
G A N D I E S I N D E E Y
E R N T A N Y B I L V E R
S E S T I Y Y D I L I R D A
N I N E H U R E T G O N T
M N S T A R G L O M H B B I
E D L P O I N S T T I A C
R E O E T T U R R E S N U
Y E R Y E K R U T G I A B S
O R A R L Y G H H R T D L E
B E C A E P I T T I N S E I

Royal Engineers Museum

The Royal Engineers Museum and Library tell the story of the Corps of Royal Engineers and military engineering. It is a story about courage, creativity and innovation. The Museum and Library hold over 500,000 objects relating to the history of the Royal Engineers and the development of military engineering.

The Museum is open Tuesday – Sunday, as well as bank holiday Mondays. A number of special events are held throughout the year.

To find out more about the Royal Engineers Museum, including opening times, admission prices, and details of special events, please visit: www.remuseum.org.uk.

Royal Engineers Hit Somerset Floods to Save Stranded Residents

- January 30, 2014



Maj Al Robinson of the Royal Engineers near Muchelney, a village which has been cut off for weeks

Troops have arrived to help rescue attempts in parts of Somerset which have been cut off by flooding for weeks.

The Royal Engineers were deployed to the Somerset Levels where some communities have been underwater for four weeks. Military intervention came after the government admitted that more should have been done sooner for residents hit by rising water levels.



British army Royal Engineers are shown flooded areas by a local official near Muchelney village on the Somerset Levels

The troops spent the day scoping areas where water levels remained high – just like local anger about the slow response by government.

"It's relatively early on. We've only been on the ground for a couple hours so we're just focusing on understanding what the situation is and identifying the key areas which are at risk," Maj Al Robinson said.



A felled tree brought down by floods outside Muchelney on the Somerset Levels

Environment secretary Owen Paterson took a verbal dousing from householders furious about the length of time they have spent waiting for help when he went to see the situation for himself.

High on the priority list for the engineers was the village of Muchelney, which has been surrounded by water a month and was only accessible by boat.

Paterson said ahead of the deployment: "The Ministry of Defence is working with the Department for Communities and Local Government to identify what immediate support they can give to the local residents."

Abbot & District Branch

Newton Abbot and District Branch - Royal Engineers Association Officers

Branch President	Brian Cocker
Branch Chairman	Tony Franklin – [Standard Bearer]
Branch /Secretary	Roger Andrews – [Webmaster/Newsletter Editor]
Branch Treasurer	Keith Tapp
Committee	Dave Cairns – [Welfare Advisor] Martin Jones Jason Downey

Branch Correspondence address

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Mobile No	07722 900699	(08:00 -16:00)
E-Mail	Secretary@newtonabbot-rea.co.uk	
Website	www.newtonabbot-rea.co.uk	

Current Membership

Life Members.....	68
Active Members.....	31
Associate Members.....	3
Friends of Branch.....	5