



**Minutes of the RAMC Association
Executive Committee Meeting
Held via TEAMS on
Thursday 17 October 2024 at 1800 hrs**

Registered No. 1129091

Present	Col (Retd) KNA Millar (KM)	National Chair	Chair
	Brig (Retd) P Gilbert (PG) Maj (Retd) N Bullock (NB) Maj J Brice (JB) Maj (Retd) M J T Ellis (ME) Mr I Hooper (IH) Mr K Roberts (KR) Mr A Geelan (AG) Mr J Wall (JW)	Reg Rep - South & SE England Chair Sheffield Br - Covering NE England & Yorkshire Covering - NI & NW England Reg Regimental Secretary RAMC Reg Rep - London & East Anglia Reg Rep - Midlands Reg Rep - Scotland Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)	
In Attendance	Maj (Retd) I Razzell (IR)	Facebook Page Manager	
Apologies	Col (Retd) C Mason (CM) WO1 (RSM) J Loy (JL) Post Gapped Post Gapped	Reg Rep - NE England & Yorkshire RAMC Rep SM Reg Rep - Wales & SW England Reg Rep - NI & NW England	
Secretary	Lt Col (Retd) J A'Lee (JA)	National Secretary	Teams Host

Item	Minutes	Action / Lead
	The Meeting Opened at 1810 hours	
1.	<p>Chair's Opening Remarks</p> <p>a. After some administrative points, the Chair welcomed all for attending and went on to say that he aims to keep the meeting as short as possible – he asked attendees to do the same and that if they had provided a written report, that they stick to any major points they have.</p> <p>b. The Chair had two major areas which he needed to address. The first was the imminent change within the AMS, how these changes will affect the Association and what the proposed plan of action is for the RAMC Association which he would deal with immediately. The second is to look ahead to next year, our centenary, and how the Association intends to mark this occasion (covered under Item eight (below).</p> <p>Project VICTORIA</p> <p>c. All will be aware that the announcement of the formation of the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS) and disbandment of the RAMC, RADC and QARANC was promulgated on Tuesday 15th October. The Chair needed to make a couple of points about the announcement before he covered the effect of this on the RAMC Association.</p> <p>d. First, he pointed out that there will be more information (on such matters as cap badges, uniform, motto, regimental marches and so forth) forthcoming from the relevant Headquarters. He asked all to note that some of the alleged information appearing on various social media (SM) pages is either inaccurate and / or has been illicitly posted. He emailed the Regimental Secretary (Regtl Sec) about this yesterday morning, expressing his concern that while he and</p>	Chair

<p>the wider Association were obeying the embargo, clearly others were not. The Chair will continue to be obedient both because that is the correct approach and because he does not wish to lose his name with the “powers that be” at this crucial time.</p> <p>e. He asked the forum to encourage their Branches (Brs) to be patient, wait for the announcements and don't pester with questions about these matters. People are busy with all the paraphernalia which accompanies this major change, and in any case are embargoed from communicating further information until given permission to do so.</p> <p>f. Next, there have been queries about attendance at the Formation Parade on 15th November at Camberley by veterans. Attendance is strictly controlled for a variety of very good reasons (incl. Security); The Chair understood that the three Associations will be represented by their three Chairs and one Standard Bearer (SB) each, but there will be no further invitations. Remember that this is a Formation parade, and thus is chiefly for serving personnel who will be directly affected – so don't feel this is a “snub to veterans”. (Chair Afternote: The Aldershot Br SB will fulfil this task.)</p> <p>g. Moving on, what is to happen to the RAMC Association because of this amalgamation? The Chair already covered this in broad detail at the last Executive Committee Meeting (Exc Cttee Mtg), during which he outlined one possible approach, namely the setting up of the RAMC Association as a new Charity in its own right. At the request of the RAMC Charity Trustees, the Chair produced a 30-page paper outlining how this could be achieved, what it would cost and so forth. This paper was presented to the Trustees, and three further (broad outline) options were raised and discussed.</p> <p>h. Two of these new options were dismissed out of hand as unacceptable – and that was accepted by the Trustees. That left one option to be weighed against that already put forward, the new association charity paper, namely that the RAMC Association should move across with all the other RAMC Charity functions to the new RAMS Charity when it is set up, effectively mirroring the current relationship with the RAMC Charity. After analysis and discussion, all the Trustees (Chair included) agreed that this latter option was a better choice because it was simpler, cheaper, allowed minimal alterations in the RAMC Association's <i>modus operandi</i>, required minimal adjustment to our Rules and most importantly maintained the RAMC Association's direct link with and support of the serving Army - which the formation of a new RAMC Association Charity would not.</p> <p>i. As a result of that discussion, the Chair produced a further paper (37 pages this time) outlining what the Association does, how it does it, what it costs and what support it currently receives from RHQ RAMC (functional) and the RAMC Charity (financial). This was necessary to ensure that when and if this suggestion is put to the new Organisation (RAMS), they would know as accurately as possible what they would be taking on. There are certain conditions applicable to both options which must be met by the new RAMS Charity. Unless these conditions are met, the Association will continue as it is today until such time as they are. One of these conditions is that the Association Chair would have a seat on the new Charity's Board of Trustees, should the option to become part of the new RAMS Charity be selected. The Chair had spoken with the Representative Colonel Commandant (and this year's Association President), who had put this outline proposal to the Regimental Board (without the paper itself) and they were positive in their response.</p> <p>j. Much of this work needs to be followed up by the new Organisation, the RAMC Charity and of course by the Association – by which the Chair was referring to himself! The Chair stated that he has made it abundantly clear, throughout the whole process, the absolute right of Association Brs to vote on what would be a major constitutional change to both the RAMC Charity and the RAMC Association, whichever way it chooses.</p>	<p>All</p>
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<p>k. The Chair does not intend to distribute copies of his papers widely within the Association, given that they are quite long and complex, and that they have not yet moved beyond suggestions to the RAMC Charity; thus it is now up to the Charity to move these suggestions to the new Organisation for their acceptance of one or the other (probably following some further explanation). This is not an attempt to bamboozle the Brs, who will, as the Chair already pointed out, have a vote when the decisions are made either to accept or to reject the final proposals.</p> <p>l. Although there is some distance still to be travelled, the Chair said that both the RAMC Charity and the RAMC Association have been beavering away behind the curtain of imposed secrecy for some time now to ensure that we have a comprehensive, well-rehearsed package to run with as the follow-on work resulting from the formation of the new Organisation gets under way.</p> <p>m. As a final note, the Chair reminded all that the RAMC Association, after 15th November, will be the sole organisation continuing to have the RAMC name, RAMC Standards on display and wearing the RAMC cap badge. For as long as ex-members of our Corps are still around, we will maintain that privilege.</p> <p>n. Whilst pressing certain matters were still either embargoed or uncertain, the Chair opened the mtg to any questions:</p> <p>(1) AG asked what the view of the other two Corps (QARANC & RADC) were on the formation of the RAMS? The Chair stated he couldn't speak to what the other Corps views or thoughts were.</p>	
<p>2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <p>a. The National Secretary (Nat Sec) opened the floor for any comments on the previous minutes or any matters arising. The Chair raised the following issues:</p> <p>(1) Welfare Trg – This matter has not been overlooked whilst the individual that was taking it forward, has since stepped down. The Chair is now looking for a volunteer to replace. AG asked how fast a volunteer was required to which the Chair responded with asap. <i>(Chair Afternote: AG has been in contact with the Chair)</i></p> <p>(2) New (Revised) Rules – Their re-write will depend on the outcome of the eventual decision on the future of the Association, but in essence would be a massive change if the Association formed as its own Charity but far easier if the Association moved to the new RAMS Charity.</p> <p>(3) Revised Terms of Reference's (ToRs) – Regional Representatives (Reg Reps) – may want to re-examine this as the spread of reps does not match the spread of Brs, and the Chair said he was less than convinced of the effectiveness of this system as it stands. It was not for discussion at the mtg, as this may also depend on the eventual decision on the future of the Association.</p> <p>(4) RAMC Reunited Dinner – The Chair informed the forum that he had been in touch with Dick Wade and discussed the concept that the Association should “officially” support this biennial function financially.</p> <p>b. With no dissention, the previous minutes were approved.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Reg Reps</p> <p>Chair</p>
<p>3. Financial Matters</p> <p>a. The Chair opened by stating he had little to say on financial matters that he haven't said before! The two papers about the future of the Association he referred to at Item One have a great deal of financial content and he must be prepared to justify both the way we fund the Association and the use of these funds whatever eventual decision is taken about the future of the Association.</p>	

b. In addition, the Chair said, it appears that the new Guidance is beginning to bed in quite well as Brs use it and as the Nat Sec assists in ensuring that their claims are properly set out – and indeed are met. He said there were still some malcontents – but he was not prepared to risk being charged with criminal offences (as a Trustee of the Charity this could happen) because a few individuals consider that they are not getting what they want or are being asked to make their submissions in a way they don't like. He explained that preceding grant applications (*not retrospective*) ensured Brs had financial assurance, could plan and make down-payments especially for those Brs who are not financial prosperous. PG pointed out that there were still some tweaks required in the system.

4. Report from the National Secretary

a. The Nat Sec reported the following:

(1) Brs – That the Association currently has 21 Active Brs, one that has a viability issue, four that have closed and four Standards to be laid-up.

(a) Viability – Aberdeen

(b) Closed – Edinburgh,
Cyprus,
Manchester,
N-Cambridgeshire & S-Lincolnshire.

(c) Standards to be Laid-Up – Norfolk
Maidstone
East Kent
Manchester

Thus far, closures have been attributed to two factors; insufficient Members to maintain viability of the Br or membership not willing to undertake Br Officer (Ofrr) roles to form their Br Cttee where sufficient membership exists.

(2) Recruitment / Online Application Process – Thus far, this year, (as at end Sep 24), some 94 online membership applications have been made. At the same period last year, we had 75, thus a 25% increase in comparison to 2023, despite Br Closures

(3) Website Contacts – Since last Exc Cttee Mtg (Apr-Sep 24 incl.) some **75** Contacts have been made to the website for various reasons:

7 x Artefacts for Pot Donation (Medals, Photos, Letters, Papers).
4 x Association Matters (Various)
2 x Deceased Notifications
2 x History Enquiries.
2 x Medic Magazine Enquiries
13 x RAMC Charity Matters (Mainly Funding) *
4 x Searching Old RAMC Comrades
14 x Searching for Relatives Mil Svc Records *
27 x Seeking Various Other Information.

b. ME stated that the contacts via the Association website would be an crucial area during and after the Associations transition as part of the RAMS formation.

c. The Chair stated that those non-members who state they love the RAMC Association should now join and take the opportunity to remain associated with the RAMC.

*** Represent the top two bespoke areas.**

<p>5. Report from Regional Representatives (Reg Reps)</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec ran through the reports from all Reg Reps in the following order:</p> <p>(1) London & East Anglia – A verbal update was given by IH which is enclosed to these minutes.</p> <p>(2) Midlands – A verbal update was unable to be given by KR (due to TEAMS Gremlins at his end) but is enclosed to these minutes.</p> <p>(3) NE England & Yorkshire – A verbal update was given by NB which is enclosed to these minutes.</p> <p>(4) NI & NW England – A limited verbal update was given by JB.</p> <p>(5) Scotland – A verbal update was given by AG which is enclosed to these minutes.</p> <p>(6) South & SE England – A verbal update was given by PG which is enclosed to these minutes.</p> <p>(7) Wales and SW England – No update was available.</p>	
<p>6. Report from the Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)</p> <p>a. A verbal update was given by the Senior Standard Bearer (SSB) which is enclosed to these minutes. He also added that the Funeral of the late Jason Kitchins (Hull Br) was exceptionally well attended with some 11 SBs in attendance.</p>	
<p>7. Communication</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec opened this item to the forum.</p> <p>(1) The Chair stated that given some poor communication from Brs to Reg Reps, he would write to Brs in this regard.</p> <p>(2) IR stated that due to the recent Project VICTORIA announcement with the creation of the RAMS, there has been many varied comments and feelings posted on the Association Facebook (FB) Site. Some came from a place of genuine ignorance with others needing to communicate better. It was recognised by the Chair that IR was doing sterling work to keep some extreme comments off the FB air. His overall message to posts was that people should remain patient, don't listen to rumours and await official updates.</p> <p>(3) AG asked if the Association should consider other SM platforms to reach a greater audience. This was concurred by PG who said, whilst IR is doing a great job on FB, younger people use other varied SM platforms (TikTok, Instagram, etc.). The suggestion would be considered after the settling of the current turbulence, and it was recognised that every additional platform would need some form of monitoring.</p> <p>b. During the mtg, TEAMS Communication was lost and indeed some individuals had problems activating their microphones. The Nat Sec agreed to investigate this to ensure the next TEAMS forum is not bedevilled with similar issues.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Nat Sec</p>
<p>8. Forthcoming Events</p> <p>a. The Chair started by covering the 2025 Centenary year of the Association. He said Centenary suggestions received have been few and far between. Some are achievable, some (frankly) unachievable and others will require work for which</p>	

<p>(6) 12 Nov – Norfolk Standard Laid-Up.</p> <p>(7) 15 Nov – RAMS Formation Parade.</p> <p>(8) 3 Dec – Col AMS HO/TO.</p> <p>(9) 13 Dec – Christmas Function – Shropshire Br.</p> <p>(10) 23 Dec – 02 Jan 25 – Nat Sec on Lve.</p> <p>(11) 19 Jan 25 – East Kent Standard Laid-Up.</p> <p>(12) 19 Mar 25 – Exc Cttee Mtg.</p> <p>(13) TBC – Association AGM (NMA).</p>	
<p>9. Open Forum</p> <p>a. IR opened by appreciating the thanks from the Chair in his RAMS FB endeavours via a FAQ to cover everyone. He said that whilst there will always be a small minority that will never be pleased the majority are open-minded and would await the authorised promulgation of the new RAMS details.</p> <p>b. IR stated that with the creation of the RAMS, it will hopefully spur a positive desire by former RAMC personnel to join the Association.</p> <p>c. IR raised the ongoing FB enquiries he receives about the Museum of Military Museum (MMM) and whilst he uses a close contact to seek any updates, he recognises the need for discretion. ME thanked IR and stated that the Museum Trustees are doing everything possible to keep the museum open and prevent it being boxed-up.</p>	
<p>10. Closing Remarks</p> <p>a. The Chair thanked all for their patience and input. The minutes will demonstrate what actions have been decided, and by whom! Please keep in touch with your Brs and please keep in touch with either me or the Nat Sec as we approach major upheaval at the same time as we want to celebrate our Centenary. This Exc Ctee should not be – indeed must not be - a “one way street”.</p>	All
<p>11. Date of Next Meeting (DONM)</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec sought consensus and agreed a tenuous date and time from the forum. After proffering a date it was agreed that the next Exc Cttee Mtg would take place on Wed 19 Mar 25 at 1800 hours via TEAMS.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The Meeting Closed at 1916 hours</p>	Exc Cttee

J A'Lee
Lt Col (Retd)
National Secretary RAMC Association

Enclosures: Regional Representatives and Senior Standard Bearer Reports.

Regional Representatives and Senior Standard Bearer Reports.

Region	Branch	Report
London & East Anglia	Reg Rep	<p>I have three brs under my remit London, Essex and North Cambridgeshire & South Lincolnshire.</p> <p>The London Branch I have had no communication from the branch, so I am unable to update you on their activity.</p> <p>The North Cambridgeshire and South Lincolnshire Branch I aware that Brian is hold the branch in mothballs so the standard can be used for funerals and remembrance.</p> <p>I look forward to more engagement with the Branches.</p> <p>Ian Hooper</p>
	City of London	No Report Received
	Essex	<p>The Branch is booked attended Temple at war at temple Cressing Barns Essex, the Colchester Garrison Show on Armed Forces Day followed by Felixstowe armed forces show the following day, the Suffolk Military Show in Ipswich also Echoes of war at Rettenden Essex.</p> <p>We have also attended three funerals. The late Arthur Wiston Med Storeman (Colchester), The Late Brig Malcom Ratcliffe (Braintree) and the Late William Thompson CMT (Colchester).</p> <p>The Norfolk Branch. The Laying up of the Norfolk Standard will take place on the 12th of November at the Evensong service which will be at 17.30Hrs.</p>
	North Cambridgeshire & South Lincolnshire	No Report Received
Midlands	Birmingham	No Report Received
	Coventry	No Report Received
	East Midlands	<p>The branch has 67 members to date. The branch has held 2 x dinner evenings April & October. An average of over 40 diners at each event was well attended. Tradition, Camaraderie and esprit de corps along with the usual banter made the evenings memorable.</p> <p>The branch continues to support all events at City, County and Diocese level. We will attend the festival of remembrance at the DemontFort Hall (19.10.2024) where the secretary will lay a wreath on behalf of the RAMC. Remembrance Sunday will parade the branch standard and veterans will march past the cenotaph at Victoria Park.</p> <p>The branch had 18 members attending the RAMC AGM in June at the NMA.</p> <p>The branch Christmas event 2024 has been reserved at the Naval & Military Club and entertainment and a hot buffet meal will be served during the evening. A Christmas raffle and pound draw are always popular on this occasion. Last year we had 51 attend and this year we hope to increase this figure.</p>

		<p>A burns night will be held at the Navy & Military club in January 2025 and in fine tradition there will be haggis neaps and tatties and the haggis will be piped into the main hall. Cost is a kept to a minimum and this is remarkable value.</p> <p>Members will attend TOP Westminster Abbey 2025.</p> <p>Members will be on parade for the AFD 28 June 2025.</p> <p>News from Project Victoria has been received and disseminated to all members. I await their response.</p> <p>Our branch face book page is policed by our media rep and vice chairman. We currently have 182 face book followers. We have gained membership through this media tool.</p> <p>The branch looks forward to its relatively demanding commitments for 2025.</p> <p>KJ Roberts Branch secretary</p>
	North Midlands	No Report Received
	Shropshire	<p>I am delighted to inform you that Shropshire branch continues to go from strength to strength from a Branch membership perspective. I am happy that we are attracting recent 'ex RAMC people' who have not long left the service. They will undoubtedly be the future of the Branch.</p> <p>The combined Full and Associate Branch membership currently number 80 members. The committee continues to work together for the good and benefit of the Branch membership.</p> <p>The Branch strives to organise social Branch events every 6 to 8 weeks. There is a direct correlation between Branch activity and increased membership. Local adverts continue to be placed on notice boards at local supermarkets and the town market to attract new members.</p> <p>The Armed Forces Covenant Veterans outreach gatherings continue to spread the word via our Branch Welfare Officer Sarah Kerr a Shropshire council employee. We have contact with the Robert Jones Agnes Hunt (RJAH) Orthopedic hospital and have recently purchased as a Branch a new RAMC Corps Flag which will be flown at this site for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Our Branch Treasurer Harry Johnson will hand over his responsibilities in the new year after the completion of our Branch annual return RHQ RAMC to Mr Garry Dean a past RAMP Branch Associate member an ideal fit ; Mr Dean currently 'shadows' Harry so I envisage no issues. All the normal Branch account signatories protocols will take place in the New Year.</p> <p>Harry has recently handed over his Branch Standard Bearer responsibilities to a Mr Nathan Sharkey an ex RAMC soldier who is currently a 3rd year medical student, Nathan will be on parade on Remembrance Sunday in Shropshire's County town Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Branch grant applications have not been without its administrative / frustrating 'issues' and the Regional the Representative (RR) will engage with the National management at the forthcoming RAMC Association Executive meeting with the aim of recommending some 'tweaks' to</p>

		<p>current application procedures.</p> <p>The forthcoming Remembrance Sunday luncheon and annual Branch Christmas luncheon venue have been booked where as normal a Christmas raffle will take place.</p> <p>As a committee we continue to produce a Branch Quarterly Newsletter / Update which is well appreciated since the demise of 'the Medic' Corps magazine.</p> <p>Now that formal announcements concerning the future of the Corps have been promulgated we will eagerly await direction and guidance from the Associations National management and RHQ RAMC going forward. It will be interesting to gauge Branch membership opinion at the next few Branch functions ; I hope that as we move forward the demise of the RAMC as a Corps will lead to an increase in Branch membership as RAMS establishes itself.</p> <p>To conclude all is well at Shropshire with a thriving RAMC Association Branch, as a committee we will work hard to ensure that we reach our 35th anniversary as a Branch in 2028.</p> <p>Original Signed</p> <p>D A JONES Lt Col (Retd) Chairman Shropshire Branch</p>
NE England & Yorkshire	Reg Rep	<p>5 branches, but as reported previously, I still have not been able to establish any contact with branch committee officers from either Durham or Kingston-Upon-Hull (using contact emails provided by the national secretary). So, my report relates to 3 branches, and I have attached their summarised reports below.</p> <p>Common themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership is steady, except for Sheffield Branch who have increased active membership by 75% up to 21. - Northumbria and Grimsby have struggled to convert the initial interest into attendance/ membership. - All active ceremonially and socially to some extent. - All 3 branches are financially secure and Northumbria report satisfaction with the practicalities of requests for funding. - There seems to be generally little knowledge of, or communications to or from our newly formed regional AR unit 214 MMR
	Durham	No Report Received
	Grimsby	<p>Branch membership: No. of active members – change in last year. We have 15 active members.</p> <p>Branch Committee membership changes: No changes in membership.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>a. Ceremonial (incl. Remembrance): Attended Remembrance Sunday and members layer 2 wreaths.</p>

		<p>b. Social: Attended with the RAMC gazebo Cleethorpes Armed Forces weekend in June and East Kirkby Air Show in August.</p> <p>c. Other: as a group some of us went to Whitby to Goth Weekend in April, in July we went to Duxford Air Museum, and in October we are going to the National Arboretum for Ride to the Wall. We also had a group BBQ in August</p> <p>Finances (concerns/ ideas): None (<i>NE Rep: that is, I assume concerns/ ideas!</i>).</p> <p>Branch plans: To continue attending events so veterans and serving personnel are aware of the Grimsby Branch</p> <p>Ideas (Branch/ Association):</p> <p>General comments: At Armed forces weekend we spoke to 5 potential members who were unaware that Grimsby has a RAMC Association. I have emailed 4 of them (who wanted to leave their details) with regards to our next meeting but have heard nothing back from any of them. Even though we are out promoting our association doesn't mean people want to join!</p>
	Kingston upon Hull	No Report Received
	Northumberland	<p>Branch Members: No of active members; change in numbers</p> <p>The 3 new members discussed in the Jan 24 notes sadly came to nothing. All 3 have failed to respond to messages forwarded to them by the Secretary. Equally, they have all failed to attend the meetings during the year. this, despite repeated invitations. On a more positive note, the National Secretary has forwarded the details of a new applicant who has responded in a very positive fashion. We hope to meet him at the next meeting, 7 Sep 24.</p> <p>Branch Committee membership: Changes</p> <p>There have been no changes to the Branch Committee. The Chair, Maj (Retd) Allan Fitzgerald, has been absent from the area a great deal over the course of this year and his Deputy, Maj (Retd) Ron Bell has deputised. Allan will be absent for most of this year and will not be present at the Branch Christmas Function as he will be in New Zealand.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>a. Ceremonial: This has been a relatively quiet period in so far as Ceremonial is concerned. This year, again, will see Branch members parading at various Remembrance Parades around the region and in London. Sadly, due to personal commitments the Branch was absent from Corps Day this year. It is hoped that the Branch will be represented again next year.</p> <p>Our Standard Bearer has provided Corps presence at the funerals of 2 fallen comrades:</p> <p>09/05/2024 - Capt Lillian Osborne (Ex 201 Fd Hosp) 19/07/2024 - Sgt Kieth Lindsay (Ex 201 Fd Hosp)</p> <p>b. Social. This year has been quiet for a variety of reasons. Social activity on the horizon will see Branch members join our friends from the City of Newcastle Branch of the QARANC Association for a High Tea in</p>

		<p>Jesmond to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of their Branch. This will be followed by our annual Christmas Function, this year to be held at the Gosforth Park Hotel in Newcastle. This new venue is a result of the feedback from last year's function.</p> <p>c. Other: Our planned Battlefield Tour for 2024 had to be canceled due to a lack of numbers committing to the trip.</p> <p>Finance: The Branch remains solidly solvent. All fears of the funding issues raised in Jan 24 have proven to be unfounded. All requests for assistance have been met with a favorable response and the funds received in good time. It is hoped that the move of the Christmas Function to a more modern hotel will meet with a good response which will help in the funding of the Branch going forward into 2025.</p> <p>Branch Plans: The Branch is investigating whether there is an appetite to hold a Centenary Celebration for the Association in the New Year. This will be a local event not wishing to detract from any National event being organised by RHQ. We will once again attempt to engage with 201 Hosp Sqn in order that we can go in and speak to Sqn members about the benefits of belonging to the Association.</p>
	Sheffield	<p>Branch membership: No. of active members – change in last year. 21 Active members up from 12 last year</p> <p>Branch Committee membership changes: Chairman: Maj (Retd) Nigel Bullock Secretary: Richard Craven Treasurer: Capt (Retd) Jaqueline Woodhouse</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>a. Ceremonial (incl. Remembrance): Representation in Leeds & Sheffield for Remembrance 2023 and planned for 2024 Representation D-Day at the National Arboretum 2024 and planned 2025. Sheffield's standard bearer attended the recent battlefield study to Normandy with standard enhancing the ceremonial / remembrance element.</p> <p>b. Social: Annual Dinner 2023 and planned for 7 Dec 2024 Potential Burns Night</p> <p>c. Other:</p> <p>Finances (concerns/ ideas): Healthy</p> <p>Branch plans: Continue meetings at the current venue</p> <p>Ideas (Branch/ Association): Market the RAMC Association to obtain additional members Hybrid face to face and MS Teams</p>
NI & NW England	Reg Rep	No Report Received
	Manchester	No Report Received
	Merseyside	No Report Received
	Ulster	No Report Received

Scotland	Reg Rep	<p>Welfare Over the last year there have been several funerals which the branch reps and standard bearers have attended at the request of the family I have not had any reports from the other branches, except the Central Scotland branch welfare officer stays connected.</p> <p>Central Scotland branch – Sam Allan would like to thank to the Association and the charity for the personal support that you have provided to him and his carer.</p> <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central Scotland branch attended the Military Museum of Scotland to hand over the old branch standard. • Dundee branches attend the 80th DD landing events. • Remembrance service - As I have not heard back from all the branches, I can only assume that each branch will be taking part in various services. • Christmas family event – Central Scotland branch will be applying for funding for a family in December. <p>General topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication - I have reached out to the Aberdeen and Dundee branches but have not had any replies to date. • Regional rep role – I have not had any volunteers yet from Dundee or Aberdeen branches. Central Scotland branch Willie Duffy is either happy to do the role himself or split with Andy Geelan. The branch has discussed this, and the branch is happy with either approach. • New Unit 215 – I have reached out to the RSM at the unit and hopefully we will meet up in the next few weeks and see how we can work together.
	Aberdeen	No Report Received
	Central Scotland	See above
	Dundee & Tayside	No Report Received
South & SE England	Aldershot	<p>1. Aldershot</p> <p>a. The branch has lost three members during the period of this report, Colonel Frank Davis, Lt Colonel Gordon Hilton and WO1 Mick Feheely. Sadly, all had been inactive members in their later years. Branch members attended the funeral as did out Standard Bearer.</p> <p>b. The branch Standard Bearer was present at the Corps Day Service and AGM in June and was presented with a well-deserved Certificate of Commendation.</p> <p>c. The Branch held a lunch at Longparish on 8 August where two new members and the regional representative, (Brigadier Peter Gilbert), were welcomed.</p> <p>d. Planning is advanced for the branch AGM and that will be held at the Golden Retriever, Bracknell on 27 November at 1230hrs. The current Chairman will retire at the AGM.</p>

		<p>e. The branch currently has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 active members • 28 inactive members • 12 widows
	Kent	<p>2. Kent</p> <p>a. Over the last 6 months the branch has held two formal meetings at a venue central to our new geographical area of responsibility. These have been well attended by members from the former branches of East Kent and Maidstone in addition there has been good attendance by recently recruited members, from London and East Sussex and well as “Kentish” members. Both events have received a Grant from central funds. While this process is fairly straightforward it does necessitate prior approval for the application before the event as non-approval could incur costs against the members and branch.</p> <p>b. The Branch attended the Corps Day celebrations on 19 June 2024 at the National Memorial Arboretum and was presented with a new standard which was dedicated during the service.</p> <p>c. The Standard was paraded at the funeral of the late Brig (Retd) Malcolm Ratcliffe L/RAMC at the Crematorium in Braintree Essex.</p> <p>d. Approval has been given by National Heritage and the Parochial Church of St Mary in Castro (St Mary's in the Castle) for the Standard from Renamed East Kent Branch to be laid up in the Church in Dover Castle. Arrangement for the service will be notified in due course. The church is the former Garrison Church of Dover Garrison and as such has a strong Military History. Within Dover Castle there is also a former RAMC Hospital/Dressing Station within the tunnel network. The building dates from the 6th Century.</p> <p>e. Arrangements are being made for the laying up of the Maidstone standard in All Saints church, Maidstone, the home church of 220 Medical Squadron and its antecedents.</p> <p>f. It is felt that while the grant funding arrangements appear to be working there is probably room for some tweaking of the system to make event planning and application a smoother process from the ground.</p> <p>g. The branch currently has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67 active members (membership paid) • 1 inactive member
	Reg Rep	<p>3. Regional Rep Summary</p> <p>a. Both branches face the problems common to all membership organisations of increasing age and decreasing numbers and attendance.</p> <p>b. The sad loss of the Maidstone branch has kick started the new Kent branch and the challenge will be to maintain this momentum.</p> <p>PG Brig (Retd) PH Gilbert QVRM TD DL VR Regional Representative, Southeast.</p>
Wales and SW England	Reg Rep	No Report Received

	Bristol	No Report Received
	South Wales	<p>The Branch has held regular meetings up to and including July 2024 with an average of 23 members present.</p> <p>6 members of the Branch including the Branch Standard Bearer attended Corps Day and the National AGM at the Arboretum in June 2024.</p> <p>In August we held our Annual BBQ to which 25 members and guests attended, the day went well with good weather and ended with a quiz. In September 10 of the Branch went to Hut 9, which is the last building left of and old POW camp from WW 2. When first built it was a very large camp near Bridgend in South Wales, it started off as a place for people who lived up the valleys and were working in the largest Ammunition Depot in the UK to stay during the week rather than the two hours each way to get home. Before D Day it was handed over to the American Army for their troops. Later in the war it was used as a POW Camp for Germans it was the only camp in the UK that there was an escape from where 70 got out, but never got off the Island, they were transferred to other camps and at the end of the war it was used to house very senior officers who were due at the Neurenburg Trials. About 7 times a year they open they open up to visitors and have re-enactment Societies where they are in uniforms of the time with all the above personal being represented.</p> <p>Later in September 15 Branch Members went to high tea in a restaurant in Centre of Cardiff.</p> <p>This month we held our meeting and afterwards had our annual Chip night.</p> <p>November we will hold our meeting followed by our annual skittles match.</p> <p>Our Christmas dinner is booked just waiting for numbers.</p> <p>Next May members of the Branch are visiting the Poppy Factory in Richmond then the following day to RAF Hendon.</p> <p>Our Standard bearer has been quite busy with parades organised by the RBL for the 80th Anniversary of D Day in several towns in the area, a few funerals and of course will be attending remembrance parades, Festival of remembrance and garden of remembrance in Cardiff.</p> <p>John Wall Branch Chairman</p>
	South West Region	No Report Received
SSB		<p>Our Standard Bearers have been very busy this year we have had many funerals to attend. It is sad that we have lost so many of our former comrades RIP to them all.</p> <p>Our Corps day went off ok it was dry so that a good start. We only had 12 standards on parade which is very low compared with other years, but some Branches do not have a Standard Bearer. The new Kent Branch (formally East Kent) had their new Standard dedicated they now cover the whole of Kent Area and many members of the closed Maidstone Branch have transferred over.</p> <p>About a month ago we lost a former Standard Bearer and Chairman of Hull Branch Jason Kinchin RIP Jason.</p>

Manchester Branch has closed and are planning to lay up their standard at the Army Reserve Centre Stockport.

Wessex have laid theirs in the Garrison Church Litchfield.

Glasgow Branch (which is now Central Scotland) laid up their old Standard in the Army Museum in Edinburgh

Cyprus Branch have laid theirs up in The Garrison Church Episkopi.

I have also had an email from Ulster Branch they are looking at laying up their old Standard.

John Lockwood of Sheffield Branch took his Standard on the tour of the battlefields.

Due to Branches closing some of our long serving Standard Bearers have now finished, Peter Stobbard and Ron Mallander from Manchester, Fred Knock from Wessex who was a former Senior Standard Bearer and Gordon Bell Cyprus. David Howell from Bristol has also finished due to ill health. We wish them all well and thank them for their years of service to the Association as Standard Bearers.

John R Wall
Senior Standard Bearer