

# The Dhoo

*Anniversary Year*



*Journal of the  
Aden Veterans Association*

*March 2017*



## Chairman's Chat

I cannot believe its time to write another chat column again time flies past. Tony and I enjoyed our visit to Halifax on December the 17th for the Christmas Social of the West Yorkshire Branch, they had a few setbacks but all was sorted very quickly and an enjoyable time was had by all.

You will see Clive has put an update for York in the Journal, those of you that haven't applied for tickets yet do so as they are going fast. As we go to print I haven't heard from HRH the Duke of York as to his attendance, on the subject of the parade we confirm again that Standard Bearers will have their travel expenses refunded.

Our AGM in Blackpool will go ahead as usual the only difference being there will be no Drum Head Service on the Sunday morning. Instead we will be going to Bispham Chapel for a Service, coaches will be provided.

Branches, we have not forgotten inviting you to our committee meetings, this year we decided to invite you all to our June meeting as the weather should be better for traveling. Would Branches please let us know the dates of their AGMs so I can arrange for a member of the National Committee to attend?

Don't forget Stephen Weall (National Secretary) is still looking for any details of episodes in Aden 1960-1964 so we can carry on the Medal appeal



*Judith*

## RENEWAL DATE FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS PASSED

### 31st JANUARY 2017

IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN TO RENEW AND STILL WISH TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION, THEN CONTACT JOHN LUNN **NOW** OTHERWISE YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL BE CANCELLED, WHICH MEANS THAT YOU WILL NOT BE SENT ANY MORE "DHOW" JOURNALS. JOHN' DETAIL'S **TEL; 01463 2329932 - ADDRESS 36 FIRTHVIEW AVENUE SCORGUE,**

**INVERNESS**

mail:

**RENEW NOW !!!**

**IV3 8NT. E-**

## Contents

P-4-5	Letters		P-14-17	ATC Pictures	Gordon Cowx
P-6-8	South Arabia 1965-1966	Shaun Levey OBE	P-18-19	Cenotaph 2016	Alex Taylor
P-9	50 years On	Tony Holland	P 20-21	Field of Remembrance	Dennis Gimes
P-10	Swinging the Old Lamp	Graham Mottley	P- 22-23	Updates Invitations	Various
P-11	Spiders Baboon's and Goats	Editor	P-24-25	Appeal Branches & Notice Board	Various
P-12-13	National Arboretum	Various	P- 26-27	Last post	

**Front Page:** A picture of the Association wreaths laid at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday November the 13th 2016. Photo was taken by a Member who attended the parade, and the special effects were created by Brian Whitehead

# Letters



From the Director General  
**Janice Murray BA AMA FRSA**

Mr Stephen Weall  
National Secretary  
Aden Veterans Association  
4 Glenthorne Close  
Stonehouse  
Gloucestershire  
GL10 2EF

5 December 2016

Dear Mr Weall

On behalf of the National Army Museum, I would like to thank the Aden Veterans Association for its recent donation of £1,000. The National Army Museum will complete its landmark £23.75 million redevelopment in March 2017.

The brand new galleries *Army, Battle, Insight, Society and Soldier* will provide visitors with dynamic and interactive experiences. In preparation, the Museum's experts have worked hard to restore thousands of objects for display.

Redeveloped archives, a study centre and a research area will allow unparalleled access to the Collection.

A new cafe, shop and the *Play Base* children's facility will make the National Army Museum an important community hub.


When it reopens in 2017, the National Army Museum will attract 400,000 visitors each year. This will continue its legacy of preserving 600 years of history.

Aden Veterans Association will be added to our circle of donors, acknowledged in the new Museum, listed on our website and featured in our annual report.

Thank you again for your support

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janice Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

 [www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk)

Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT

Tel: 020 7881 2402 Fax: 020 7823 6573

Email: [jmurray@nam.ac.uk](mailto:jmurray@nam.ac.uk)

Registered Charity No. 237902 ACE Registered Museum No.1815

Open Daily 10.00am to 5.30pm (Closed: 1 January, 24-26 December)

# Letters Can't

## A Reply from the new Editor

Dear Brian

We attended the remembrance parade on Sunday which as usual was very moving, and we would like to pass our thanks to the National Committee for enabling us to take part. Could you also pass on our thanks to Geoff Giles for looking after us so well at lunch time. The venue was easy to get to from Whitehall and the food was delicious.

I should also mention that when I left Aden in Sept 1967 Tim stayed behind. We wrote to each other every day and I have been typing out extracts from his letters which also maybe of interest to some. Once I have completed this task I will let you know.

All the best

**Linda Robertson (ex SACW)**

It has annoyed me that after my first attempt at producing a Dhow one person who found fault with it could not have the common courtesy to get in touch with me to express his/her complaints or comments. Instead they had to send a photocopied page from the said Dhow showing mistakes that I had made to the National Secretary! True there were mistakes, but once the document has been proof read and altered accordingly on disc its out of my hands, when that happens I don't see it again until it drops through my letterbox. So why could you not get intouch with me to point out the faults or better still help me out to make it a better Dhow, the one thing I would like to say is that when the position was posted if you are so good why did you not apply? But then again you are probably the sort of person who feels it is below you to take on such a task. All I can say to you my friend is I have the backing of my colleagues on the National Committee especially Alex Taylor my very good friend who recommended me for the post. If you have it in you get in touch with me on a one to one, you have my number and we can have a chat, if you can't well all I can say is I'll let others form their opinions on your actions.

*Brian W*

Dear Editor

I was pleased to see on the BBC tv on Sunday at the Cenotaph in London behind some Gulf veterans Judith Holland in her chair holding the AVA wreath just showing the dhow on it.

I don't know how many AVA persons were on the Parade as David Dimbelby did not mention them, in fact a few others were missing including the Malaya and Borneo Veterans too.

Good for Judith and the others who participated, I'm also a Masirah and Salalah Veteran and they with there fawn coloured berets were missing as well.

See you all at York next year God willing

Yours Aye

*Charlie Cameron Carruthers*

Dear Brian

Congratulations on taking on the role of editor of "the Dhow" magazine, I will look forward to receiving it as much as in the past. I recently came across an Aden Veteran, a few hundred miles from where I live in South Australia for a short time. I informed him about the association of which he knew nothing, I am hoping to try and recontact him in early in the new year. It is not often that I come across anyone who served in Aden living here in South Australia.

By the way, on Monday and Tuesday this week it felt like being back in Aden with 42c only to have 18c and 20c today.

**Bill Redford Whyalla S. Australia**

*Hi Bill. You still need a couple of Tennent's tinnies and a few .....*

*Hawks to get that feeling! Brian*



**This picture is for you Charlie showing some of the guys in full flow**



## *South Arabia 1965/66 and subsequent visits: Shaun Leavey OBE*

I went to South Arabia with the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards as part of the regiments deployment on a



***The Author at Habilayn***

twelve month unaccompanied Middle East tour. Throughout my time there I commanded a troop of Saladin and Mk II Ferret armoured cars, and was extremely fortunate that the soldiers who served with me were remarkably tolerant of my many inadequacies as a troop leader. It was suggested to me that I should write about this tour because of making two subsequent visits to South Arabia (now the Yemen).



***Saladin up country***

On the day in 1965 that the constitution was suspended in Aden we flew into RAF Khormakser, and the following day

were up country at Habilayn. Escorting convoys between Lahej and Dhala was our main task interspersed with guarding the construction work on the Dhala road. It was hot but not insufferably so and for all of us it was a revelation to see the dramatic Arabian landscape (disconcertingly populated by baboons as well as the local inhabitants) and the squalid roadside villages where conditions could change little in a millennium. After Habilayn our troop was increasingly detached on its own to companies of the Federal Regular Army (FRA) which were by then almost entirely Arab officered.

For me a particularly memorable time was the month or so we spent at Dhala. This large village was ruled over by a despotic Emir from his palace (overlooking the whole of the area) which he visited in between time allegedly spent in London and Beirut. With the FRA and a company of Royal Marines we took part in an operation into the nearby jebels, I celebrated my twenty first birthday and Christmas there, and got to know one of the English speaking Arab officers quite well which was not normally the case elsewhere. Little did I ever think I would return there many years later.

At one of the other FRA camps near Dhala I arranged for two members of the troop to fly back to Aden in the AAC Beaver that delivered our mail only to see it fail to take off from the dirt strip, disappear out of sight into the wadi at the end of the runway and then hit the far bank one wing

coming off in the process. I was astonished to find that no one was seriously injured although in extracting themselves from the wrecked aircraft one trooper stood heavily on the other's and the swearing that this prompted was still going on by the time I got there. The real downside was that we had to guard the wreck through every night until it was eventually taken away (and those nights could be surprisingly cold). That like Dhala was a camp where we did come under fire from dissidents.



***Manawa Camp***

Next came Beihan, and from there onto the most memorable of all the FRA camps I experienced Manawa. The camp (see photo) was very close to the border with Yemen, and just across from the ancient Yemeni town of Harib. Our troops were again the only British contingent attached to the resident FRA company. Very occasionally an Egyptian MiG would scream down the line of the border before disappearing back into Yemen.

In such a situation the location of the camp could not have been more inappropriate as it was entirely overlooked by a jebel range which separated it from the bottom end of the Empty Quarter where hundreds of miles of sand stretched away to the Persian Gulf. A single sniper up on those hills could have picked us off one by one as we busied ourselves with weapon cleaning, refuelling, and vehicle maintenance. The fact that such an

**This is just  
a sample.**

**To receive your  
copy of the Dhow  
please contact  
us to see about  
becoming a  
member.**