

# THE JOURNAL

OF THE  
SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES  
ASSOCIATION



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# THE JOURNAL

OF THE SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES ASSOCIATION



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# ASSOCIATION NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

As shown in this edition **Nigel** is handing over as Chairman of the Association to **Mike Lobb** on 8 June 2017. He will, however, continue to edit the Journal.

## MEDALS

People sometimes ask for replacements, or medals to which they are, or think they are entitled. It is no use applying to either the Omani authorities or the Association for them as there is now no workable system to provide them. However, the simple and effective way to get medals to which you are entitled is to go on-line to GOOGLE and put in Omani Medals. There are a number of companies that have them for sale at reasonable prices. This works well.

## ORDERS AND MEDALS OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

There are still copies of the above book originally composed by **Ashley Tinson** and updated by **Ian Buttenshaw**. If you want a copy, apply to **Nigel Knocker**. Approximate cost including p&p is £15.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change your postal address please remember to inform Neil Fawcett at [neil.fawcett@btinternet.com](mailto:neil.fawcett@btinternet.com)

If you change your email address please inform Mike Lobb at [safassn@outlook.com](mailto:safassn@outlook.com)

## ASSOCIATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY JULY 2018

Because the Journal is an annual publication and because not all members manage e-mail, we wish to bring to members' attention that July 2018 will be the Association's 50th Anniversary. It is intended to celebrate the occasion accordingly. The Committee has yet to deliberate on how it will be commemorated, possibly a visit to UK by a number of our Omani friends and colleagues. Members will be updated by e-mail and checking the website nearer the time once a programme has been decided.

## PROPOSED SAF ASSOCIATION PRIVATE TOUR TO OMAN IN MAY 2018

Ian Buttenshaw is prepared to run, in early May 2018, a Private Tour (with wives), on the same lines as those in 2014 and 2016. Proposed dates are Friday 4 May to Sunday 13 May. The Tour would consist of 5 nights based in the Hilton Hotel Salalah and 3 Nights in the Crowne Plaza Muscat.

We would need 14 people to make the tour viable. If you are interested in taking part and would like more details please email **Mike Lobb** and **Ian Buttenshaw** by 1 November 2017.

Ian's email addresses are: [buttens@omantel.net.om](mailto:buttens@omantel.net.om) and [ianbuttenshaw@gmail.com](mailto:ianbuttenshaw@gmail.com) (use both to ensure receipt)

Mike's email address is: [mikelobb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikelobb@hotmail.co.uk)

## INTERVIEWS WITH THE MEDIA

Recently members have been approached to give interviews on record about their experiences in Oman, in particular the Dhofar War. However, the Association has had unambiguous direction from Oman that there are some topics which draw unwarranted focus. It is for individuals to decide whether they participate or not. It is important to remember, as with any journalist enterprise, that the context in which the interview is given may not be reflected in the final product. We would draw members' attention not to do or say anything that would jeopardise the relationship we have enjoyed with our friends and colleagues and, in particular, in Oman over a long period of time.

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## 2017 SAF ASSOCIATION DINNER

will take place in the  
ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, PALL MALL, LONDON

**FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2017**

PLEASE APPLY BY 10 NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE LATEST

To: Neil Fawcett  
Two Oaks, Mayfield Fold, Burnley BB11 2RN.

## 2017 SAF ASSOCIATION CURRY LUNCH

will take place in the  
ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, PALL MALL, LONDON

**THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2017**

PLEASE APPLY BY 5 MAY 2017 AT THE LATEST

To: Neil Fawcett  
Two Oaks, Mayfield Fold, Burnley BB11 2RN.

## ASSOCIATION TIES

Green Ties and a few Red ones are currently available from the Membership Secretary, address on page 3. Cost is £25. Cheques should be made payable to the SAF Association or by BACS transfer to SAF Association. Sort Code 40-15-17. Account No: 72019116.

## SALALAH/DHOFAR LADIES DINNER NIGHT

**FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER, 2017**

The next Salalah/Dhofar Reunion Dinner will be held at the Army & Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London. on Friday 8 September 2017.

If you wish to attend and are not on George Correa's database, please contact him on: [georgecorrea@btinternet.com](mailto:georgecorrea@btinternet.com) or 01722 742835.

*Salaams and shukran*  
**George**

## THE JOURNAL ONLINE

Visit the SAF Association website and see 'The Journal of the Sultan's Armed Forces Association' online using the latest page turning technology. Pass the link to this year's issue on to colleagues and friends.

**[www.oman.org.uk](http://www.oman.org.uk)**

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## THE 32ND ANNUAL SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES (SAF) ASSOCIATION SCOTTISH DINNER

will take place at

DOUNESIDE HOUSE, THE MACROBERT TRUST  
TARLAND, ABOYNE, ABERDEENSHIRE AB34 4UL

TEL: 01339 881230 • FAX: 01339 881255

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*You are warmly invited to attend on*

**SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017**

*Pre-dinner drinks and canapes from 7:30pm. Dinner 8:15pm.*

**THE 32nd SCOTTISH SAF ASSOCIATION DINNER WILL TAKE  
PLACE ON SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017 AT DOUNESIDE HOUSE.**

If you wish to reserve accommodation, please contact the Manager at Douneside House and indicate that you will be attending the SAF Dinner on Saturday 13 May. Most of those attending spend at least two nights, including Friday and those having Dinner on that evening usually sit together as a group. Alternatively, please contact the Manager to reserve the Dinner only. [manager@dounesidehouse.co.uk](mailto:manager@dounesidehouse.co.uk) Please copy [jonathan\\_forbes@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathan_forbes@hotmail.com) into your communications with Douneside House.

For further information regarding the Scottish Dinner please contact: **Jonathan Forbes**: [jonathan\\_forbes@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathan_forbes@hotmail.com)

## 2017 WESSEX LUNCH

The Wessex Lunch will once again take the form of a curry lunch at the **Sherborne Golf Club, Higher Clatford, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4RN**. [www.sherbornegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.sherbornegolfclub.co.uk) at **1200 hours, Sunday 30 July 2017**. The price remains at £25 per head, which will include curry, choice of four, the usual accompaniments, choice of desserts, coffee, wines, beers and soft drinks. Other drinks may be purchased from the bar for cash. Booking requests should be made to **John Kirkham, The Old Rectory, Oake, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1AR**, together with a cheque made payable to Wessex Lunch. Also please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements or need a table with easy access for those with physical disabilities. If a receipt or acknowledgement is required please provide an e-mail address or SAE. Early booking is advised as places are limited.

## COST OF OVERSEAS POSTAGE FOR THE JOURNAL

As you will be well aware the cost of posting the Journal overseas is expensive. There are 112 overseas members and the committee is considering requesting that overseas members read the online version which is on the SAF website. A hard copy would be posted to those who requested it. To help planning, would any overseas member who would not be content with this proposal please let the Hon Sec know at [neil.fawcett@btinternet.com](mailto:neil.fawcett@btinternet.com)

**THIS WILL APPLY WITH THIS ISSUE.**

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# ADIEU AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SAF ASSOCIATION

After 22 years in the job, the time has come for me to hand over as Chairman of the Association.

It has been a great pleasure and honour to steer the Association for this length of time, and to see it grow into the organisation it has become. It is due to the enthusiasm of the members who want to keep in touch with each other and the country; and they also see the fruits of their labours over many years in the development of the modern country which the Sultanate has become. (**General Tim Creasey** said in 1975 that he saw the Association lasting five years! He would be surprised and pleased to see it as it is now.)

**Mike Lobb**, whom we all know, has agreed to succeed me as Chairman. Mike is eminently qualified and hugely experienced having served in Oman for 15 years in a variety of appointments starting with BATT in 1971. He has many friends both in the UK and Oman and I am delighted that he will take on the job from 8 June 2017.

Finally, my thanks to all the members of the committee, both past and present, who have served with me during my time, kept us on the straight and narrow and continue to do so.

**Nigel**

## ...AND INTRODUCING THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE SAF ASSOCIATION

To take over from Nigel as Chairman of the Association is not only challenging but impossible, apart from which I have no intention of being in the post for 22 years. Fortunately, I will be supported by the same experienced committee members who have supported Nigel. Nevertheless, we do not have the monopoly on good ideas so suggestions on how our service to members can be improved will always be welcomed. The website and e-mail service are working well and have advanced communication between members and committee and vice versa. I am conscious that the average age of our members is increasing and we will be reviewing our social activities to provide a balance between regional and central (London) with informal lunchtime events and formal dinners. However, a gentle reminder that events planned can only be as good as events attended!

The purpose of the Association is as relevant today as it was 49 years ago. We are fortunate to continue to enjoy the support of our Omani friends and colleagues and to see how they and Oman have progressed.

I look forward to my time in the chair which hopefully will give me the opportunity to meet more of you. ■



Presentation to Nigel of a silver coaster  
from members of the committee.

# ‘AN ENDURING RELATIONSHIP’

## RAF MUSEUM – OMAN EXHIBITION



Spanning three years, an exhibition at RAF Museum London has been charting the bonds linking the air forces of Oman and Britain. Following a glittering launch on Tuesday 15 July 2014 it was originally scheduled for one year but this was extended to 31 December 2016. Positioned in the ‘Milestone of Flight Gallery’, a few yards in from the main visitor entrance, it has commanded attention and has featured prominently on the Museum website: [www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/whats-going-on/enduring-relationship-a-history-of-the-royal-air/](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/whats-going-on/enduring-relationship-a-history-of-the-royal-air/) The walk through display was for a period augmented with aircraft alongside. Leaflets and publicity have supported the exhibition along with the Museum’s lecture and archive display programmes.

‘An Enduring Relationship – A History of Friendship between the Royal Air Force and the Royal Air Force of Oman’ was formally opened by Commander RAFO **AVM Matar Al Obaidani** with Chief of the Air Staff **ACM Sir Andy Pulford**. The Museum attracts around 350,000 visitors each year. At the first anniversary on Tuesday 14 July 2015 exhibition visitors reflected a typical cross section of interested parties including serving and former service personnel, local school parties and young family groups. Running for 900 days the exhibition has proved testament to its title.

The Journal 2015 (pages 8 and 9) showcased the exhibition launch. Since then there have been references elsewhere including the Spring 2016 edition of the RAF Museum’s magazine RADAR. The Anglo-Omani Society’s AGM in July 2016, at the exhibition’s second anniversary, presented an opportunity for an informal update to Society Chairman, **Robert Alston**.

Lectures and presentations have included ‘The RAF and Counterinsurgency warfare in Oman during the Cold War’, a lunchtime scheduling 19 August 2016 at the RAF Museum’s Cosford site. **Dr Ross Mahoney** gave the presentation. He is the Museum’s Aviation Historian and curated ‘An Enduring Relationship’. He kindly agreed to give a talk to the Anglo-Omani Society in London on Thursday 24 November 2016. Personal contributions and recollections

to augment the growing archive and record have been invited and may be sent to [ross.mahoney@rafmuseum.org](mailto:ross.mahoney@rafmuseum.org)

The RAF Museum and the Hendon site have themselves contributed to the bonds celebrated. Catching the eye as you sweep in through the gates is a Hawker Hunter FR10. Donated in 2003 by **His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said**, it was unveiled in its present location in 2011 in the presence of **AVM Yahya bin Rasheed Al Juma**, the then Commander RAF Oman. Looking back still further, **Sultan Taimur bin Faisal** attended the RAF air pageant at Hendon in 1928 as a guest of the British

Government. The Museum (Hendon site London NW9 5QW, nearest tube Northern Line Colindale) is open daily with free entry from 10am – 6pm, tel 0208 205 2266. ■

**Lester Hillman**

*The author served in Oman HQ SOLF (Ops Br) for a period in 1986, teaching and supporting air photo interpretation training, within a programme that extended over several years.*



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# OMAN – THEN AND NOW

*by Peter Sichel*



HEDGEHOG DELTA, SALALAH PLAIN 1971



OLD MIDWAY ROAD



KHASAB 1978



KHASAB 2015



KHASAB SUQ 1980



KHASAB SUQ 2015



KHASAB MOSQUE 1980



KHASAB MOSQUE 2015



---

# BUILDING THE FORT AT HABRUT

(NOVEMBER 1967 TO JANUARY 1968)

*by Ewen Southby-Tailyour*



Mortar pit being dug. Enemy fort in the background.

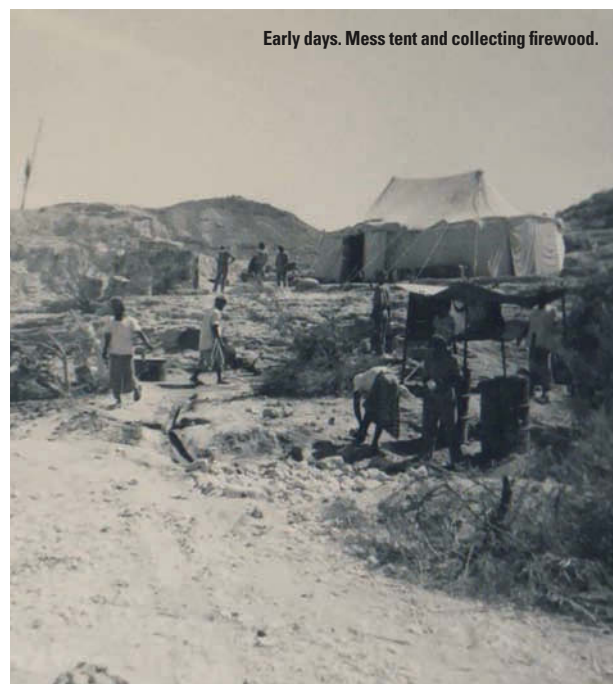
The Northern Frontier Regiment was due to relieve the Desert Regiment in Dhofar during the spring of 1968. However, in late 1967 it was accepted that Oman's border with the Hadramaut needed strengthening when Britain brought forward the date for its departure from the colony. A physical presence had not been considered necessary but with the impending loss of a friendly neighbour it was now urgent. An augmented A Company NFR, which I was then commanding, was ordered south from Ibri with **Major John Edward-Collins** leading this enlarged 'task force'.

Following a night at the deserted oil rig of Saih Rawl and a second at the non-existent village of Mugshin, the bone-jarring ride ended when we entered the 'war zone' at Midway. While glad of the mountain coolness we dared any *adoo* to get between us and the cold beers on the coast.

After two evenings of duck 'flighting' on the *khors* and augmented by a civilian workforce – mostly *khadim* under the direction of a British engineer – A Company headed back to Midway before turning west through the foothills, then south down the wadi that divided Oman from the Hadramaut.

At Habrut a white-painted, castellated fort stood on the western edge of the low escarpment that forms the wadi edge. On the Oman side nothing marked the frontier where our prime aim was now to protect the building of a fort that had, by royal decree, to be a little taller, wider and whiter than the one opposite. Wadi Habrut was one of many routes for arms entering the Oman via the desert,

as the small boulders offered fair going for camels and four-wheel-drive vehicles. Not only did the border need defining but it was a supply route that had to be blocked.



Early days. Mess tent and collecting firewood.

## BUILDING THE FORT AT HABRUT

Time was short as the PDRY was expected to occupy the opposing citadel at any moment, so the first priority was to establish an all-round defensive position beyond which the *adoo* would be kept at 'arms length' while we dug wells for potable water and cement.

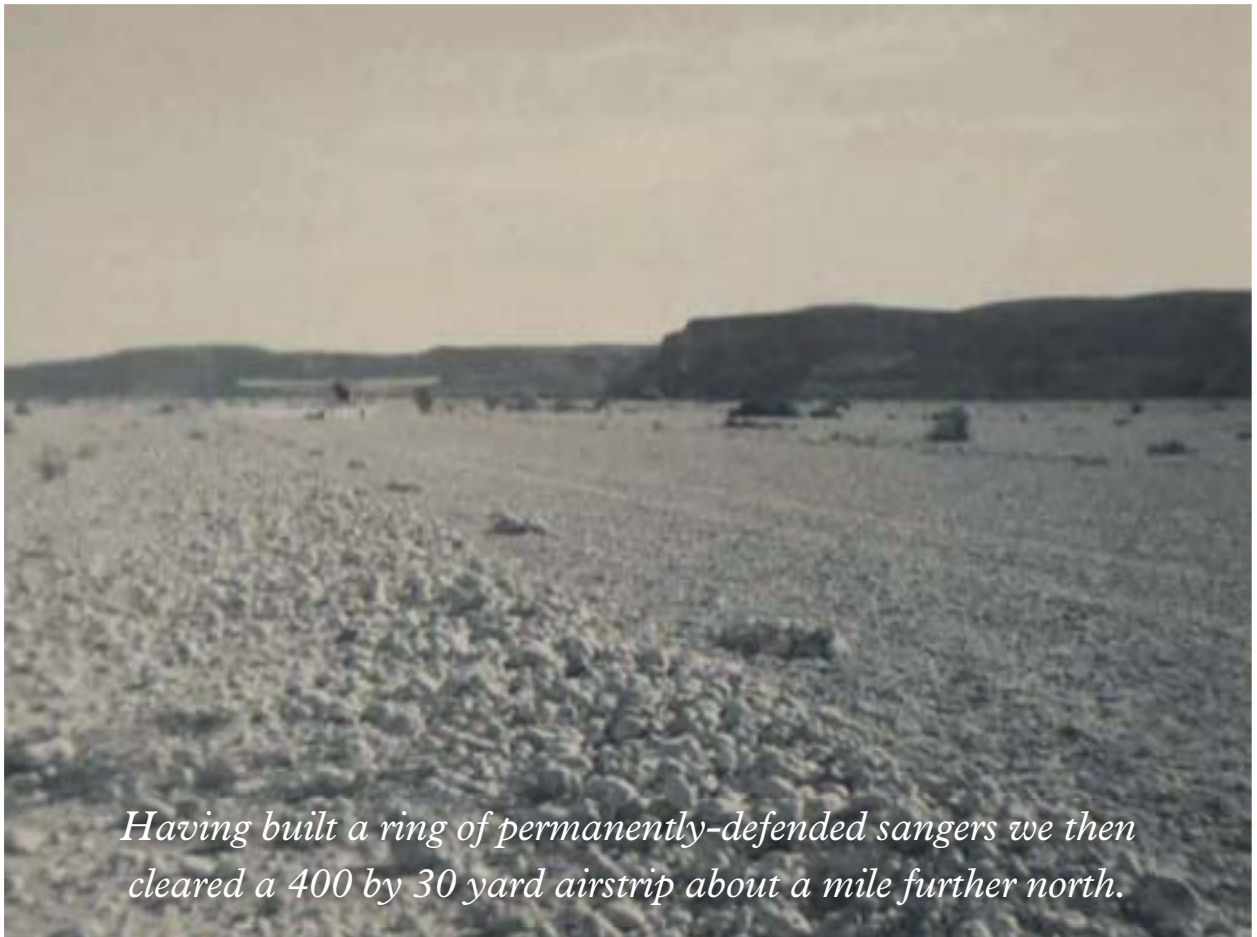


Early days. Using explosives to dig the wells. Enemy fort in background, base for ours at top left.

Having built a ring of permanently-defended sangers we then cleared a 400 by 30 yard airstrip about a mile further north. [Not visible on Google Earth!] This was arduous work but vital if we were to have any link with the outside world. For ten days we hand-lifted every stone larger than a girl's fist to form a defined edge to the now-smooth runway.



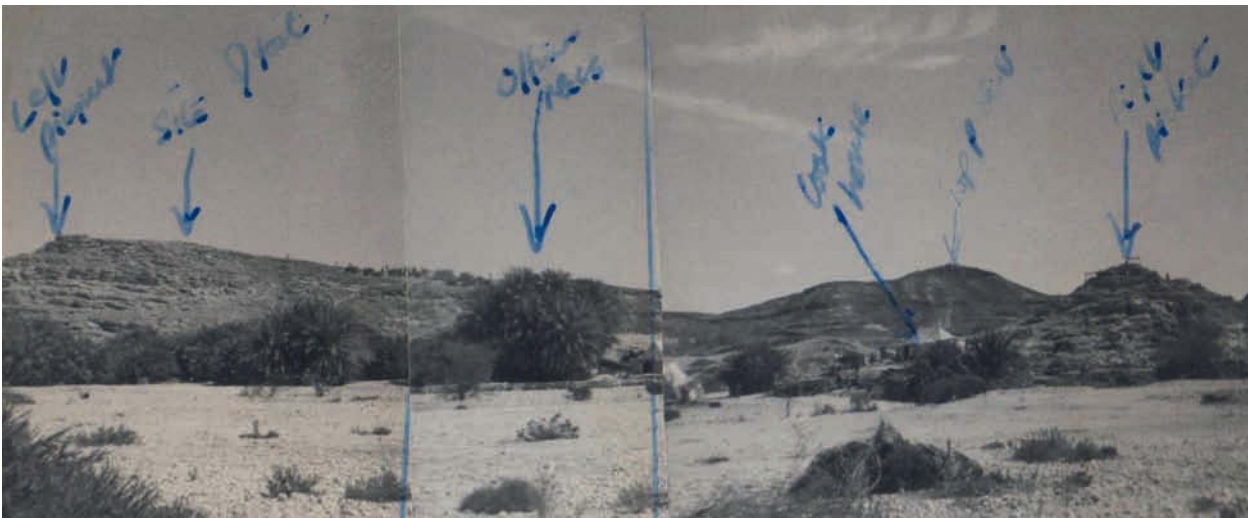
First Beaver on Aqaba airstrip. Late November or early December 1967.



*Having built a ring of permanently-defended sangers we then cleared a 400 by 30 yard airstrip about a mile further north.*

Beaver landing. Note beautiful airstrip surface! All made by hand.





Rough panorama of Aqaba camp.

*Apart from the worry of a seriously-coordinated attack, against which we were defenceless, those three months of isolation were spent hunting gazelle, playing darts...*



Habrut Camp – named by the soldiers as Aqaba camp.

DATE	PLACE	GUNS	GRAB	PHASANTS	PARTIDES	BLACK GAME	WOODCOCK	SNIPES	WILD FOWL	STAMP	YOUNG	TOTAL
1942												
6 Nov	East Hill - S.W.	6							3		1	5
7 Nov	East Hill - S.W.	5							2	1		7
14 Nov	Hilltop 17°N 83°E	2	1									2
16 Nov	Hilltop	2	8									10
17 Nov	Hilltop	2	3									5
19 Nov	Hilltop	2	1						1?			4
19 Nov	Hilltop	2	8									9
20 Nov	Hilltop	2	1									3

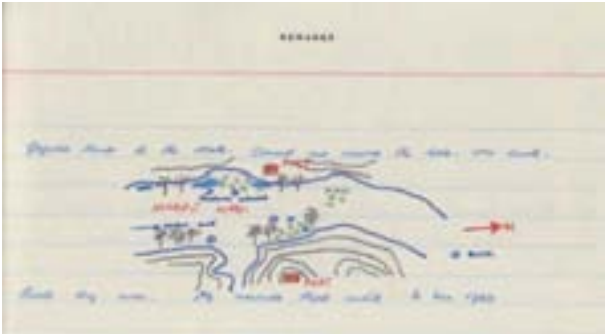
Game book sample 1

DATE	PLACE	GUNS	GRAB	PHASANTS	PARTIDES	BLACK GAME	WOODCOCK	SNIPES	WILD FOWL	STAMP	YOUNG	TOTAL
22 Nov	Hilltop	2	2									4
23 Nov	Hilltop	2	2									4
24 Nov	Hilltop	2	6									8
25 Nov	Hilltop	1										1
26 Nov	Hilltop	2										2
27 Nov	Hilltop	2										2
28 Nov	Hilltop	2										2
29 Nov	Hilltop	2										2
30 Nov	Hilltop	2										2

Game book sample 2

DATE	PLACE	GUNS	GRAB	PHASANTS	PARTIDES	BLACK GAME	WOODCOCK	SNIPES	WILD FOWL	STAMP	YOUNG	TOTAL
1 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
2 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
3 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
4 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
5 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
6 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
7 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
8 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
9 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4
10 Dec	Hilltop	2	2									4

Game book sample 3

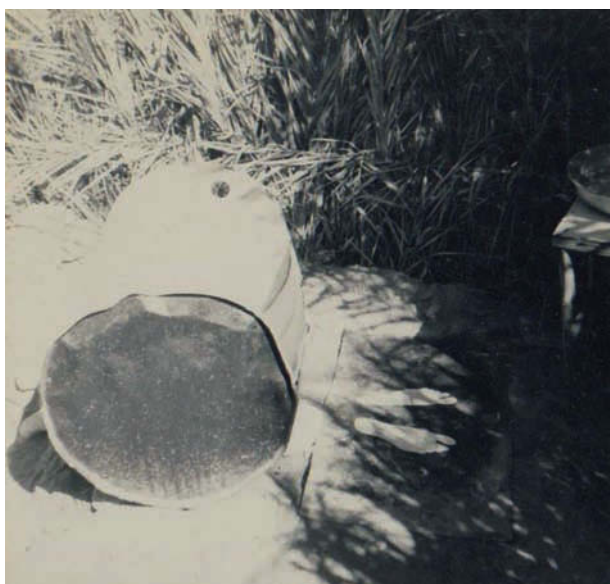


Game book. Map of Habrut.

## BUILDING THE FORT AT HABRUT

In camp we were kept alert by spasmodic fire at some point throughout every day despite patrolling the hinterland and inviting SOAF's piston-Provosts to mount fire-power demonstrations onto the local peaks overlooking our position.

Apart from the worry of a seriously-coordinated attack, against which we were defenceless, those three months of isolation were spent hunting gazelle, playing darts and even building a bath room – with bath – in the reeds. We changed for dinner every evening (!) before eating sand grouse baked in an ammunition tin, complemented by a limitless supply of smoked oysters, Balkan Sobranie tobacco, whisky and Playboy magazine; thanks to my mother's foresight – and the airstrip!



**Officers' bathroom. Note bath mat I made and gave to John E-C as his Christmas present!**



**Officers' Mess with wall and slit trench.**

*We changed for dinner every evening (!) before eating sand grouse baked in an ammunition tin...*



**Officers' Mess.**

The only surface-water was on the *adoo's* side of the wadi but this did not put us off ambushing the evening flight beneath the 'enemy's' white-washed walls. A further example of the incongruity of it all was the method by which we ranged-in the 3" mortars: during our first night the mortar sergeant paced out the distance from the baseplates to the enemy's stronghold then returned to dial 440 yards on his sights!



**John E-C typing daily Sitrep.**

We left Habrut in January 1968 feeling that the completed fort was a fine testimony to our staunch defence of a rather eccentric project – but sadly it was razed to the ground in a viciously successful attack a few months later. ■



---

# SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES GOLF MATCH 2016

## TWENTY FIRST AND FINAL ANNIVERSARY MATCH

*Monday 13 June 2016 at  
Dorset Golf and Country Club – Near Wareham, Dorset*

Fortunately the weather held and although there were heavy rain showers to the North and East of us there was no rain on our game. We were very lucky and everyone took full advantage of it and greatly enjoyed the occasion which was particularly sad as it will be the last. Anno Domini has caught up with us and we have lost many players but also people don't want to travel, especially driving long distances these days. Once again, the match was topped with another excellent meal provided by very attentive staff. We had a smoked fish starter then exceptional prime topside of West Country beef and for afters profiteroles stuffed with cream.

This fixture was for those who have served in a military or civilian capacity in or have a strong affection for the Sultanate of Oman or adjacent countries in the Middle East, and private guests with a military/police background. Ladies were most welcome to attend either as players or for the lunch only. This year we had 21 players with three extra for lunch and we were pleased to see six Lady players. This was a lower than average turn out but everyone had an excellent time as one can ascertain from the several *thank yous* received.





## SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES GOLF MATCH 2016



Players ventured out from 0915 in six groups of three or four players. The match was followed by lunch where **Captain John De Winton** Royal Navy (Ex Chief of Staff, the Sultan of Oman's Navy) kindly presented the prizes.

It was nice to see some new faces attending our gathering for the first time. They were TWO newcomers to the day and they were **Lindsey Howell** and **Paul Wainwright** (Royal Navy).

We had some very good scores and the winner was Paul Wainwright (Royal Navy) on 36 points on count back. Second was **Martin Waterhouse** (Royal Navy) on 36 points. Third was **Robin Snaith** (Military Insurance Broker) on 32 points. Third with 31

points were **Mark Whitley** (Royal Navy) and **Sammy Stubbs** (Royal Navy/SON). Longest drive was achieved by Sammy Stubbs (Royal Navy/SON) and the nearest the pin was Robin Snaith. Ladies winner was **Martha Tucker** on 31 points with **Honor Brown** second on 28 points.

The competitors were: **Tom Bremridge** (British Army/SOLF), **Rob Brigen** (Guest), **Ted Brown** (Guest), **Honor Brown** (Guest), **Richard Evans** (SON Salalah/Royal Navy), **Robin Gainsford** (Royal Navy/SON/Ministry of Environment), **John Gunning** (Commander SON), **Lindsay Howell** (Guest), **Mike Pilley** (Royal Navy), **Anne Quarrie** (Guest), **Robin Snaith**, **Frank Stanton** (Royal Navy/SON),





**Marian Stanton** (lived in Oman), Sammy Stubbs, Martha Tucker (Guest), **Paul Wainwright**, Martin Waterhouse (Royal Navy/ Submariner), **Jenny Waterhouse** (wife of Martin Waterhouse), Mark Whitley (Royal Navy/Gulf LCTs), **Brian Whittingham** (Royal Navy), John De Winton.

*It has been a most worthwhile and enjoyable event to organise for 21 years. We have had such fun but we have lost so many faces over the last few years that it was becoming increasingly obvious that it was time to draw stumps and we finished on a real high note. We had a good dry match and an excellent lunch with many prizes being distributed by Heads and Tails. **Kate** and I were extremely grateful for the Bottle of Glenmorangie and flowers presented by Captain John De Winton closing the day and the event. ■*



**Robin Gainsford** – 01929 - 471419 – [robinalgainsford@hotmail.com](mailto:robinalgainsford@hotmail.com)



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# 46TH NATIONAL DAY



**His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said**, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, presided over the military parade, which was staged at the military parade ground in Muaskar Al Somoud of the Sultan's Special Force (SSF) on the occasion of the Sultanate's celebrations marking the 46th Glorious National Day. Symbolic units representing the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO), the Sultan's Special Force (SSF) and the Royal Oman Police (ROP) took part in the military parade.



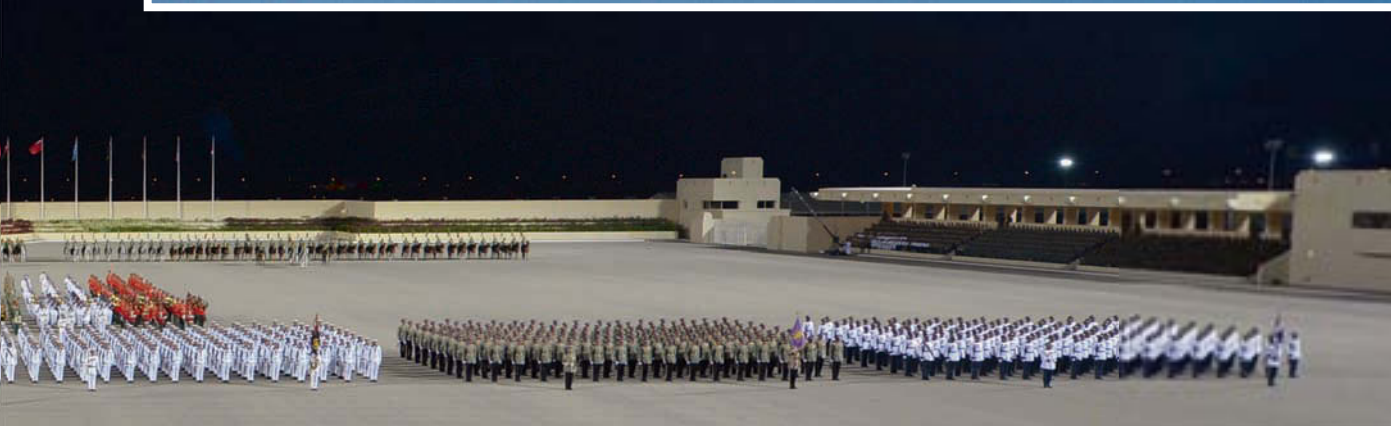
*The Sultanate's celebrations marking the 46th Glorious National Day at the military parade ground in Muaskar Al Somoud.*







*Red Arrows team of British Royal Air Force performs air manoeuvres on the occasion of the 46th National Day under the auspices of HE Sayyid Bader bin Saud bin Harib al Busaidi, Minister Responsible for Defence Affairs on 20 November.*



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# CISM WORLD FOOTBALL CUP 2017

*(The CISM is the French acronym for the Council for International Sports Militaire)*



Oman launched the second edition of CISM World Football Cup 2017 at a spectacular ceremony in Muscat. The tournament trophy and mascot were unveiled. The event was held under the auspices of **Lieutenant General Ahmed bin Harith al Nabhani**, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces. The tournament was held between January 15th and 28th, 2017.

*The Sultan's Armed Forces celebrated  
the official inauguration of the  
2nd CISM World Football Cup  
on 15 February, 2017.*

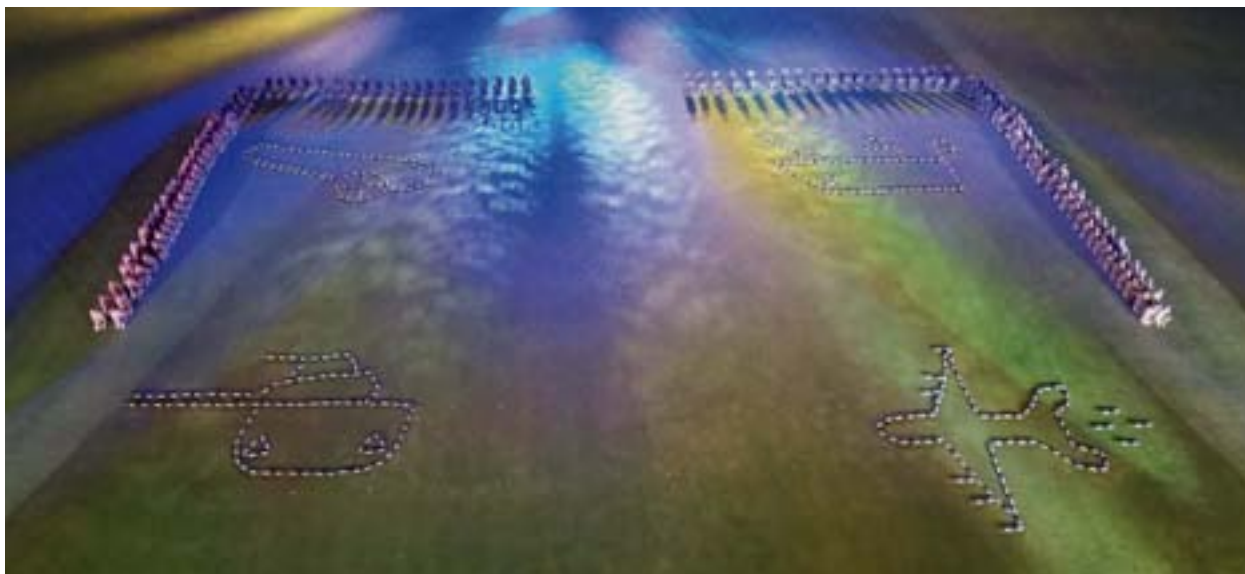






Under the patronage of **His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Saeed**, Advisor to His Majesty, the opening of the 2nd CISM World Football Military Cup was held on 15 January, 2017 at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat. The ceremony began with the playing of the National Anthem, followed by a welcoming show. Groups representing all the participating teams in the tournament, led by their National flags, passed in front of the main podium.





### Four Groups

The Championship consisted of four groups of which the Oman Military Football Team was placed at the top of the first group with Guinea, Bahrain and France. The second group included Algeria, Iran, North Korea and Germany. Teams of Qatar, Ireland, USA and Mali were in the third group, and Egypt, Syria, Poland and Canada were in the fourth group.







With a huge attendance of spectators, the Minister of the Royal Office, **HE General Sultan bin Mohammed Al Numani**, inaugurated the closing ceremony of the 2nd CISM World Football Cup 2017 on 28 January, 2017 at Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bawsher.



*The Omani Military Team won the final match against Qatar Military Team after a draw in the real play time, which led to extra time and finally to the deciding penalties. The Omani Military team won the Cup and Gold medals.*





*His Excellency Minister of the Royal Office Honours  
Oman Military Football Team*



HE General Sultan bin Mohammed Al Numani, honoured in his office on 29 January, the players, the coaching team and the administrative staff of the Oman Military Football Team in appreciation of their great achievement after winning the 2nd CISM World Cup Football Championships.

HE Gen Al Numani valued the effort by the players, the coaching team and the administrative staff, as well as the organising committee of the Championship.

**The Championship was sponsored by many governmental and private establishments.**



The Championship Logo of the 2nd CISM World Football Cup 2017



The CISM Logo  
Physical education among the armed forces in the World as a means to strengthen global peace that is reflected via its logo 'Friendship Via Peace'.



Championship Mascot "Lynx"  
Several options had been proposed. The Lynx had been selected as a mascot of the tournament due to its symbolic values.



The Championship Cup  
The Military World Cup trophy is designed with a unified golden colour with a football on the form of the Earth on top, depicting the world map. The ball is held by the Omani Khanjer handgrip known locally as "head or horn" fixed on the Omani censer "Mabkhara" which emits incense frankincense. The censer is fixed on a base "sprayer" which is a glass used to hold perfumes, especially rose water to welcome guests at different events.



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# ROYAL OFFICE



On 15 March, The Sultan's Special Force (SSF) celebrated its Annual Day. Marking this occasion, **HE Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani**, Minister of the Royal Office, attended the ceremony and the graduation of new recruits.



On 30 March, **HE Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani**, Minister of Royal Office received The **Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon** MP, British Defence Secretary.

On 4 May, **HE Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani** received **General Sir Nick Carter**, Chief of General Staff of the British Army.





On 31 May, **HE Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani** received **Philip Hammond**, British Foreign Secretary.

On 31 May, **HE Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani** received **General Sir Nicholas Houghton**, Chief of the British Defence Staff.



## NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

On 20 July, National Defence College celebrated the graduation of the third intake of the national defence under the auspices of **HE Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani**, Minister of the Royal Office.







On 1 February, National Defence College hosted **HE Ban Ki-Moon**, Secretary General of the United Nations. He presented a lecture "The United Nations and Conflict Prevention in a Changing World".



On 3 May, National Defence College received **Gen Sir Nicholas Carter**, Chief of General Staff of the British Army. He presented a lecture titled "Strategic Leadership Applications".

## TECHNICAL MILITARY COLLEGE

On 10 January, the Technical Military College received a certificate (CAR 147) for official adoption of the first college training for aircraft maintenance under the auspices of **Mohammed bin Nasser Al Zaabi**, CEO of Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA).



On 20 February, the Technical Military College organised a second English Language Conference aiming to enhance and develop English language curriculums.



A number of technical military college students visited Portsmouth University which has links with the technical military college.

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# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

*In all notes of the meetings that **HE Sayyid Bader bin Saud bin Harib Al Busaidi** has held with visiting dignitaries, to save repetition he is shown as MRDA.*



On 3 March, **MRDA** received **Lord Astor**, British Defence Minister Adviser and exchanged points of view on matters of common interest.



On 30 March, **MRDA** had talks with **Sir Michael Fallon**, British Secretary of State for Defence, to discuss bilateral relations and the military cooperation between the two friendly countries.



On 9-11 March, **MRDA** and his accompanying military delegation, left for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to attend the conclusion of the military exercise "North Thunder".

On 20 April, **MRDA** presided over the Sultanate delegation to the Ministerial Meeting of the Strategic Defence Dialogue for GCC countries and US in Saudi Arabia.







On 17 May, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the field of military cooperation was signed in 1994 relating to the cooperation between the Omani and the British government. It was re-signed in the British Defence Ministry.



On 5 December, the official opening took place of Anantara Al Jabal Akhdar Resort in El Daklyeh governorate under the auspices of **MRDA**.





On 21-22 December, **His Majesty, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**, authorised **MRDA**, to present Long Service Medals to members of SAF, MOD and the Royal Guard.



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# OFFICE OF SECRETARY GENERAL AT MOD

*On 28 September, **HE Mohammed bin Nassir Al Rasbi**, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence, received a delegation of parliamentarians of NATO, headed by **Arvind Harker**, Chairman of the Subcommittee.*



*On 25-26 October, **HE Mohammed bin Nassir Al Rasbi**, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence chaired the Sultanate delegation at the 14th meeting of the joint Omani Military Committee in Washington.*



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# OFFICE OF COSSAF

*In all notes of the meetings that **Lt Gen Ahmed bin Harith Al Nabhani** has held with visiting dignitaries, to save repetition he is shown as COSSAF. Similarly, except where shown, meetings reviewed military cooperation between the countries concerned and matters of common interest were discussed.*



On 10 January, **COSSAF** received **Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton**, Chief of the British Defence Staff.



On 4 February, **COSSAF** participated in the Official Opening of the Centre of Marine Unified Operations of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Bahrain.



On 1 February, **COSSAF** received **Lt Gen Thomas Anthony Beckett CBE**, Senior British Adviser Middle East.



On 2 May, **COSSAF** received **Gen Sir Nicholas Carter**, Chief of General Staff of the British Army.



On 1 June, on behalf of **COSSAF**, **CRAO** received **Gen Sir Nicholas Houghton**, Chief of the British Defence Staff.





On 26 October, **COSSAF** received **Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach**, the British Commander of the Joint Force.



On 6 November, **COSSAF** received **Lt Gen Thomas Anthony Beckett**, Special Adviser for the Middle East in the British Ministry of Defence.

## MILITARY SPORTS TEAMS



***His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said***  
*Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, ordered to honour the Armed Forces shooting team and military sports teams which represented the Sultanate in several regional and international competitions in 2015.*





## MILITARY SPORTS TEAMS



On 24 March - 4 April, the National Shooting Team won 15 different medals and achieved 2nd place in the Second Championship for Shooting in Egypt.



On 19-29 July, the National Free Fall Team achieved a world record which added to its achievements in the Military World Championship in Russia.



On 4-24 October, the National Free Fall Team participated in the Locarno International Championship in Switzerland.





# ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN

*On 6 December, RAO celebrated the graduation of the university officers and the cadet officers course in the Sultan Military College.*



## ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN



Between 28 May and 1 July the SAF Shooting Team took part in the Military Championships at Bisley. The Omani team won most of the top individual and group events.



On 26 October, **CRAO** received **Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach**, the British commander of the Joint Force.

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# ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN

*On 24 January, RAFO celebrated the graduation of its pilots and officer cadets in a ceremony at the military parade ground at the Sultan Qaboos Air Academy, under the patronage of **Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi**, Minister of the Diwan of the Royal Court.*



Between 19-24 March, RAFO hosted the Omani exercise 'Al Gazeera' Falcon Helicopters and the participation of GCC countries.

## ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN



Sultan's Armed Forces represented by RAFO participated in detecting the shipwrecks of the India Portuguese route which was part of Vasco de Gama fleet 1502-1503.

From the youngest child to the oldest veteran, the RAF Benevolent Fund supports the RAF family with everything from disability, injury, financial hardship and youth support to living independently and providing dignity in retirement.

Please donate today at [www.rafbf.org/donate](http://www.rafbf.org/donate) to help us continue supporting RAF veterans, serving personnel and their families in need.

If you or a family member need our support call us on 0800 169 2942 or visit [www.rafbf.org/help](http://www.rafbf.org/help)

 Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

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**CRAFO** visited the UK for three days at the invitation of **Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford**, Chief of Staff of the British Royal Air Force.



On 12 July, **CRAFO** received **Sir Michael Fallon**, Secretary of State for Defence, at the International Air Exhibition at Fairford Air Base in UK.





# ROYAL NAVY OF OMAN

*RNO celebrating the reception of 3rd vessel of  
Ofoq Project and inauguration of the 4th vessel  
of Khasab Project.*





Between 28 February - 3 March, RNO executed the naval exercise 'Sharb Dagger' with vessels of friendly countries and RAFO.



**Sub Lt-1, Abdullah bin Sulaiman Al Rashidi**, received the honorary Admiral Award, Queen Telescope, due to his excellence in training at the British Royal Naval College under the auspice of **HRH Princess Anne**.



On 6 April, RNO celebrated the graduation of the university officer cadets course and the new batch recruits under the auspices of CRAO.



On 15 April, RNO celebrated the naming of its two vessels 'Al Mubasher' and 'Al Naser' under the auspices of **Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, CRNO**.





On 12 May, **CRNO** received **Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE**, the British Naval Fleet Commander.



On 22-26 May, RNO executed the naval exercise 'Asad Al Bahr' in Said bin Sultan Naval Base.



On 19 October, RNO celebrated the arrival of its vessel 'Al Mubasher' in Perth City in Australia – the first vessel in Bahr Oman Project.



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## ROYAL NAVY OF OMAN

On 24 June, RNO celebrated the arrival of its vessel '*Al Mubasher*' to its fleet under the auspices of **Major General Salim bin Musallam Qattan**, Commandant of National Defence College.



On 3 August, RNO celebrated the arrival of its vessel '*Khasab*' to its fleet under the auspices of **CRAFO**.

This was the 4th vessel in the Ofoq Project and was built by The Singaporean Company.



On 19 October, RNO celebrated the arrival of its vessel '*Al Naser*' to its fleet under the auspices of **Brigadier General A'mir bin Salim bin Mubarak Al Amri**, Commander of Sultan Special Force.



On 27 November, RNO celebrated the ceremony to hand over the Sultan Qaboos Prize seaworthy sailboat in Sweden.



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# SAF DINNER

## 25 NOVEMBER 2016

The Annual SAF Association Dinner took place at the Army and Navy Club on Friday 25 November. Eighty-four members and their guests attended and we welcomed **Lt Gen Ahmed Harith Al Nabhani**, our President, who had come from Oman especially for the occasion. It was also very good to welcome **Janet** and **Rebecca Witting**. Janet is the sister and Rebecca the niece of

**Roger Boyce** who was sadly killed in Helicopter 713 by a Sam7 missile on 31 October 1975 together with the co pilot **John Heathcote** and the crewman **Mohd Jaber**. Janet and Rebecca have just returned from a memorable visit to Oman. ■

*A separate article about the visit is included in the Journal.*

Lt Gen Ahmed Harith Al Nabhani with Col Nigel Knocker.



Keith Ryde

L-R: Mike Smith, Alastair Laurie Walker and Ian Gardiner.



Shirley Akehurst with David Houlton.



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# WESSEX LUNCH 2016

The annual Wessex Lunch was held in the Sherborne Golf Club on Sunday 31 July 2016. Seventy-five members from various parts of the country and their guests attended. The Golf Club proved to be an excellent and popular venue, and our thanks go to **Nick Holbrook** and **Johnnie Kirkham** for making all the arrangements. (We are not sure what the regular golfers in the club made of all the usual noise! We will see if we are welcome in 2017!) ■



## WESSEX LUNCH 2017

The Wessex Lunch will once again take the form of a curry lunch at the **Sherborne Golf Club, Higher Clatford, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4RN**. [www.sherbornegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.sherbornegolfclub.co.uk) at **1200 hours, Sunday 30 July 2017**. The price remains at £25 per head, which will include curry, choice of four, the usual accompaniments, choice of desserts, coffee, wines, beers and soft drinks. Other drinks may be purchased from the bar for cash. Booking requests should be made to **John Kirkham, The Old Rectory, Oake, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1AR**, together with a cheque made payable to Wessex Lunch. Also please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements or need a table with easy access for those with physical disabilities. If a receipt or acknowledgement is required please provide an e-mail address or SAE. Early booking is advised as places are limited.



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# SALALAH/DHOFAR LADIES DINNER NIGHT



The 15th Salalah/ Dhofar Ladies dinner night was held at the Army & Navy Club on Friday 9 September 2016 and 18 of us sat down to dinner. First timers were **General Sir Charles** and **Lady Mary Huxtable**, **Tim Jones** and **John** and **Mavis Warner**.

The next Salalah/Dhofar Ladies Dinner Night will again be held at the Army & Navy Club on Friday 8 September 2017. Anyone who is not on George's database and would like to attend should email him on: [georgecorrea@btinternet.com](mailto:georgecorrea@btinternet.com) ■



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## SCOTTISH DINNER 2016

The 31st Annual Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) Association Scottish Dinner took place at Douneside House, Tarland, Aboyne on Saturday 4 June. 18 Guests attended.

**Alan & Christine Palmer**  
**Geoff & Carol Brindle**  
**Reg & Gae Millard**  
**Jim & Margaret Clarke**  
**Fiona Warton**

**Sandy & Lesley Dawson**  
**Robin & Seònaid Hastie Smith**  
**Nicol & Vi Cameron**  
**Andrew & Juliet Vivers**  
**Margaret Spencer**

Our Dinner was once again held in stunning rural Aberdeenshire and was eagerly anticipated following a break of two years, due to the extensive refurbishment carried out to Douneside House throughout 2016. We gathered on the re-opening weekend and were made very welcome by the new General Manager, **Marcel**

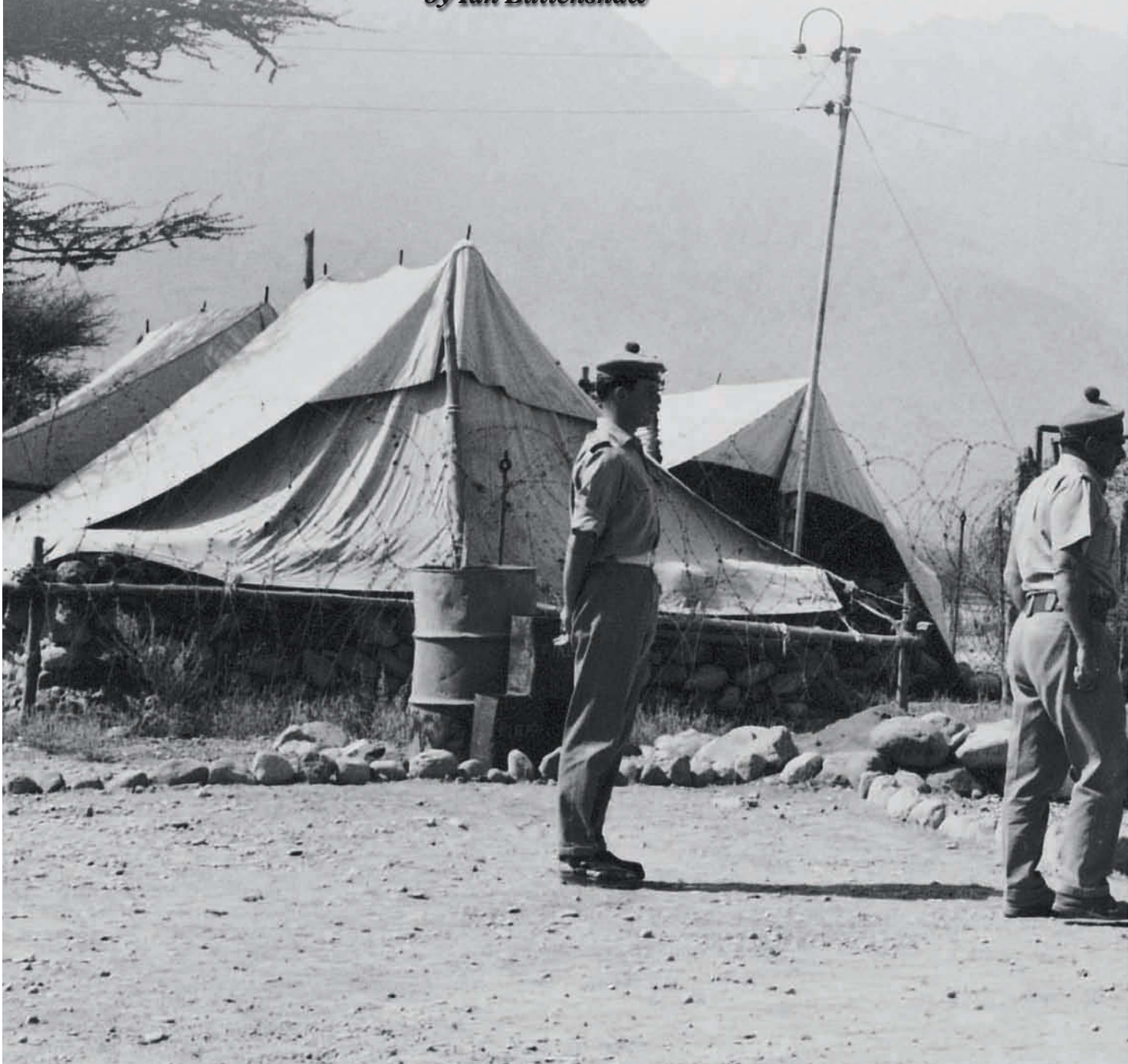
**Wasser** and his team; new faces and some 'well kent'! The Head Chef, **David Butters**, deserves a special mention. Every morsel served was exceptional!

Due to a delayed re-opening we had to reschedule our weekend by one month. The downside of this was that the new date did not suit everyone who had been hoping to come. The upside was that we still managed a very decent turnout, including some first timers, and the weather was the best we have had in 31 years, with stunning blue skies and high temperatures. Most of us opted to spend two nights and met up on the Friday evening for drinks and dinner together. After a gloriously sunny Saturday we enjoyed the Reunion Dinner that evening. Robin and Seònaid Hastie Smith 'retired' as coordinators after the dinner and Jonathan and Nicky Forbes have taken up the reins. ■

# REORGANISATION AND EXPANSION – PART II

SAF DEVELOPMENT FROM 1958 TO 1970

*by Ian Buttenshaw*



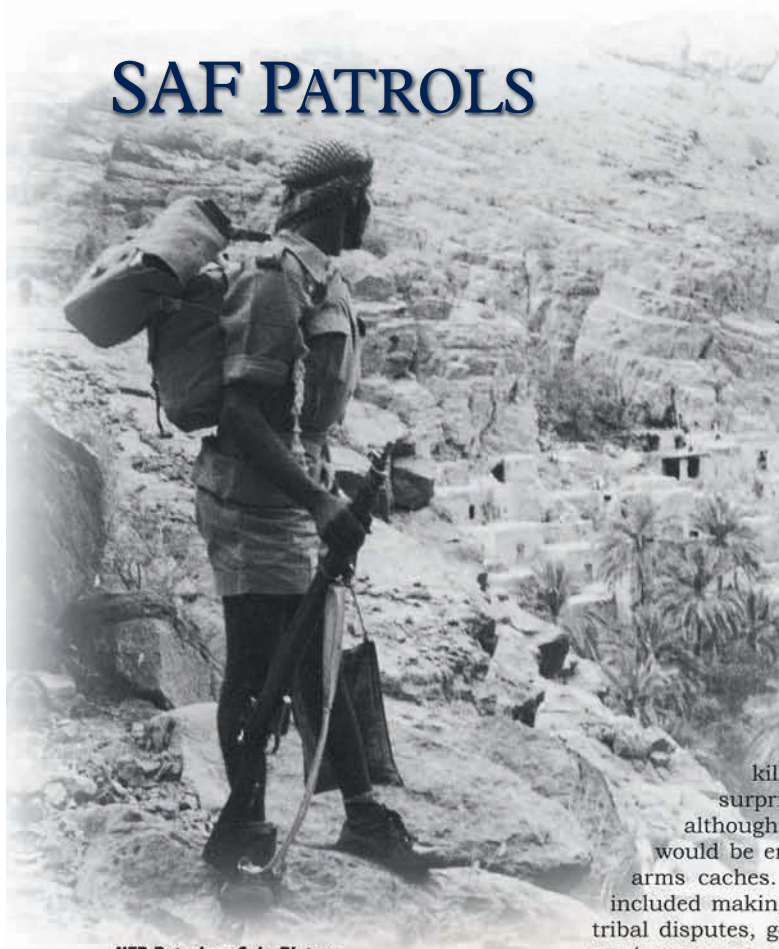


*CO MR inspects the quarter guard  
at their camp at Rustaq*





# SAF PATROLS



*NFR Patrol on Saiq Plateau*

The two infantry battalions continued intensive patrols throughout their operational areas, in order to stop gun-running, mining of tracks and to round up the last active dissidents still operating, as well as to display the Sultan's authority over the whole country.

Occasionally patrols would see action. A Company of NFR intercepted an enemy arms camel caravan in January 1960 and two dissidents were killed. Army detachments were sent to Duqm in March 1960 after two British employees of the Oil Company were wounded and the safe was rifled by disgruntled employees.

An OG sergeant was wounded as the OG captured a vehicle near Barka on the Batinah in October 1960 containing plastic mines and explosives. A few days later MR captured another vehicle at Suwaiq, which was also carrying arms. In July 1962, a mine-layer who had escaped captivity in 1959, was found by an NFR patrol in the mountains and killed. A month later, another NFR patrol in Wadi Mistal surprised a well-known dissident leader and shot him dead, although his three companions escaped. More frequently, patrols would be engaged in successfully uncovering mines and discovering arms caches. Other important duties of the Army during the 1960s included making arrests on behalf of civil authorities and intervening in tribal disputes, generally 'showing the flag' throughout the Sultanate and opening up routes to isolated locations.

## Dominating the Jebel

### Saiq Fort

Immediately after the capture of the Jebel, work on building the Saiq Fort commenced, and until this day the area around it has remained a military camp. In the 1960s it was to show that SAF were on the Jebel to stay and also provide a base for patrols, a centre for Jebel re-development and an ideal base for training during the hotter months. It was totally reliant on air re-supply, and until the road was built up in the early 1980s all troops walked up the Wadi Muaydin to get there. Apart from a stripped down Landrover used for transporting stores from the airstrip to the camp, all other movement of stores was done by donkey.



*The new Fort and camp at Saiq*



*Saiq Fort*

*Below Left: CO NFR driving 'The Beast', a stripped down Landrover flown to Saiq on the Jebel Akhdar for use moving stores between the airstrip and camp*  
*Below: Water re-supply at Saiq*







### OPERATION AMLAH

Additional to normal patrolling, often Cordon and Search Operations had to be mounted, to search for caches or to round up suspected rebel sympathisers and mine layers. One such large operation was Operation Amlah, mounted by NFR and OG Elements simultaneously in the Ibri and Nizwa areas in 1965.



The tea tin



Guarding prisoners



NFR Liaison with OG

### Donkey Transport

Transport was limited within SAF in the 1960s, and it was difficult anyway to get into the jebel with vehicles. Thus, to enable patrols to carry enough rations and water, as well as the very heavy No 19 Radio Set, all units employed donkeys extensively, and all military camps had their donkey lines and donkey handlers.



Above left: Donkey lines at Rustaq, and left, at Nizwa

Above: A Patrol in the Nizwa area with a donkey carrying the No. 19 Radio Set

Right: Establishing communications using the No.19 Radio Set





## REORGANISATION AND EXPANSION 1958-1970



*Above and right: NFR Patrols in the high jebel*



*NFR in the entrance to the Ghubrah Bowl*



*Right: A patrol in the Wadi Muaydin*

*Below: MR trying to get through a wadi*





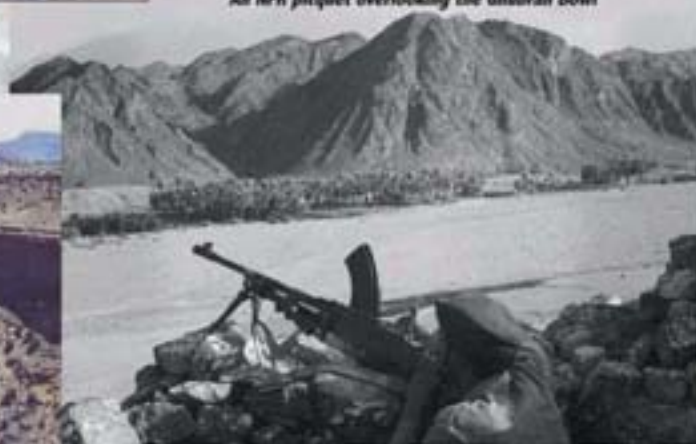


*Above and below: MR Patrols on the Saiq Plateau*



*Interviewing a local whilst on patrol*

*An NFR picquet overlooking the Ghubrah Bowl*



*Below: NFR soldiers at Ibrri*





# BY VEHICLE FAR AND WIDE

## ESTABLISHING THE ARMY PRESENCE



NFR Patrol - Midday break for a swim at Dhank





*A refuelling stop in the Sharqiyah*



*OG Patrol meeting the locals in the northern border area*



*In the sands north of Buraimi*



*A halt at Jalan, Sharqiyah*



*Passing through Bahla*

*Left: A Ferret at Qabil al Harth, Sharqiyah, from the British Army in support of SAF*

*Below: Opening the Sur-Ras Al Hadd road, 29 August 1962 - A Coy and the Recce Platoon NFR*

## First SAF Troops in Dhofar

In July 1964 C Company MR based in Izki were told to carry out a 'flag march' into the Jiddat al Harrissis lasting 10 days. They became slightly lost and ended up at Marmul. Surprisingly, HH The Sultan was pleased, as he did not like SAF in the Dhofar Province, and ordered a repeat of this and a desert route marked. OC C Company was given the task and C Company (-2 Platoons) plus the Recce Platoon were given the task and set out in mid October 1964. They left a Radio Relay Party at Haima and marked the route to Marmul with burmails.

A troop of British Army 10th Hussars in Ferret Scout Cars from Salalah met the patrol at 'Midway' (Thumrait) and escorted the MR troops over the Jebel to Salalah, where after three days of courtesy calls on the Wali, RAF Base and Dhofar Force, they began their return via Mughsin, which was a base manned by a detachment from the Muscat Garrison Guard Company. This route pioneered by MR was later used by NFR on their first official SAF operational deployment to Dhofar.



## GENERAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE 1960S

Although in the main it was the Infantry Battalions and OG who underwent the greatest expansion during the period 1958 to 1970, especially with the formation of a third battalion (DR) during 1966/67, all other aspects of the Force underwent changes; the artillery expanded, logistical services were improved, other units were formed for specific roles, and the general well-being of the force was enhanced. Capital construction scheduled under the Review of 1965-1968 included reconstruction of barrack blocks, originally built in 1913, and complete new camps at Rustaq and Sur, as well as other miscellaneous construction and improvements to all existing army locations.



*The Artillery Troop undergoing training on one of the newly arrived 25 pounders*

### Expansion of The Artillery

The first Artillery Troop was formed at Bait al Falaj in 1942 as part of MI, when three 3.7-inch guns were acquired, in addition to the two 2.75-inch screw guns already held by MI since the late 1920s. In the 1950s, the troop also made use of 75mm mountain guns and was headed by a Pakistani officer. With the flight of the rebel leaders to the top of the Jebel Akhdar in 1957, heavier firepower was needed to reach the mountain plateau. Accordingly, in February 1958 two 5.5-inch guns were brought in on loan from the British Army, along with a Forward Observation Officer (FOO) and two sergeants. The guns, however, were serviced by SAF gunners. From then on a regular daily shelling of the Jebel was carried out. Evidence of the nuisance value of the shelling was provided by regular enemy reprisals by sniping and mortaring. On one such occasion, the enemy drew near enough to force the troop to screw the guns down so far that a shell inadvertently hit the protective sangar, killing several soldiers.

The Artillery troop was expanded to battery size in 1960 and re-equipped with 25-pounder guns in the following years. Two troops equipped with these guns were deployed for use in Dhofar in 1966. In December 1970 the artillery training centre was moved to Suwaiq, although the headquarters remained in Bait al Falaj. Further expansion occurred in early 1971 and the name Oman Artillery was assumed in April 1971.



*Training on the 75mm Guns which had been in service since the late 1950s. With the introduction of the 25 pounder from 1961 onwards these guns were phased out. In September 1971 however, they were recommissioned and saw service throughout the last four years of the Dhofar War.*



## Medical Services

A small Medical Unit was formed at Bait al Falaj in 1958, although many services had to be provided through the medical facilities of visiting British units. Even before that, an Indian doctor had been recruited and a doctor arrived from Pakistan as the first Medical Officer with MOFF at about the same time. There followed a number of Pakistani deputationists until 1966 when the Government of Pakistan withdrew them, causing the Sultan to turn to India for deputationist doctors. All medical elements operated independently, so in 1967 the RMO was brought from MR to Bait al Falaj as Force Medical Officer to sort out the hospital and centralise training. This was effectively the start of the Force Medical Services, although it was only officially designated the Force Medical Unit (FMU) in 1969. Personnel then consisted of doctors at Bait al Falaj and Umm al Ghawarif Hospitals, a dentist, and a medical officer in each battalion. The FMU became Force Medical Services (FMS) in 1973.



*Above: A vehicle recovery, 1960*



*Artillery Troop being paid by the Force Paymaster at Bait Al Falaj in 1961. The pay in those days was in Rupees and Maria Theresa dollars*



*BAF workshops, 1961*

## Technical Support

Originally this was controlled by individual units, but by 1957 a Bait al Falaj Workshop was established to carry out major vehicle repairs, and with the expansion of the artillery in 1959, provided gun fitters as well. This gradually expanded as the number of vehicles expanded with the first Force Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (FEME) being appointed in 1962. Not only was the workshop responsible for repairs, but also for training fitters for units as well. EME was finally put on a more formal footing in 1972 with the establishment of a Directorate to control all aspects of EME within SAF.



*Right: EME Fitter at Bait Al Falaj checking the recoil system on a 5.5 Gun*

## Supply

An Ordnance Section dates from 1961 and a small supply depot was established at Bait al Falaj in 1964 and became known as the Force Ordnance Depot (FOD) in 1969. With the emergence of hostilities in Dhofar, a Thumrait ('Midway') supply point was established, in the late 1960s, known as the Ordnance Maintenance Park (OMP). This was followed in November 1971 by a Salalah OMP (known as 2 OMP) and the Thumrait one was renamed 1 OMP.



# CONTINUING CHANGES

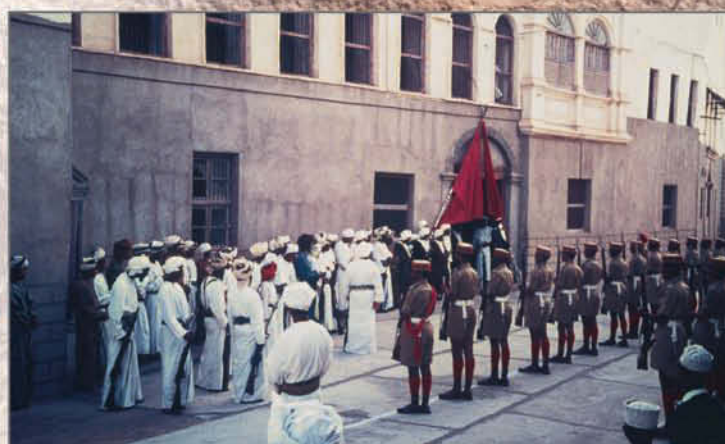
## Muscat Garrison

As outlined previously, MI throughout its existence served as little more than the garrison for the Muscat area and provided guards for vital points around the capital. As MI was transformed into a proper infantry battalion, many of its previous duties were taken up by the Independent Guard Unit, established in 1960, which became, as Headquarters Troops SAF, the fifth self-accounting unit in SAF in 1961. In the late 1960s, by then known as Muscat Garrison (MUSGAR), the unit provided a garrison force of two platoons in Muscat itself, based at Fort Mirani and supplying guards for Fort Mirani, the Palace, Bait al Barza next to the Palace, and the British Consulate General, while another detachment guarded the prisoners in Fort Jalali. A number of its officers were drawn from the older (and first local) officers in SAF, most of whom had originally joined MI in the 1940s. In 1968, the MUSGAR dismounted the guard on the British Consulate General for the last time after 56 years of duty begun by first the Indian Army troops stationed in Muscat and then MLC and MI. With the beginning of SAF's move to bigger quarters near Rusayl in 1973, this unit became the Muaskar al Murtafa'a (MAM) Garrison. During the early 1960s, a small detachment of the Garrison was sent to man the desert outpost of Mughsin in the Dhofari Nejd taking over from the Dhofar Force.

With the war in Dhofar and the SAF build-up there, a parallel requirement for garrison forces in Salalah and Thumrait (Midway) emerged. The all-Baluch Z (Independent) Company of MUSGAR was stationed in Salalah from late 1969. As a vehicle-borne, plains only, Browning-equipped force, it acquired such roles as daily mine-clearing of routes in the Salalah area, providing escorts, and patrolling and carrying out reconnaissances in Landrovers equipped with medium machine guns. In addition, Thumrait Garrison (THUMGAR) was formed in 1972 as the camp was taken over from the Oil Company and built up to control operations on the north side of Jebel Dhofar. This had been known as MIDWAY since the mid 1960s and manned by troops from Muscat Garrison since 1968, for use as a staging/re-supply point by troops moving north south and also operating in the Nejd.



*Muscat Garrison Guard providing Guard of Honour in The Mall, outside Bait Al Barza, on the occasion of Eid Al Adha, 22 March 1967. Sayyid Shihab bin Taimour accepts the Royal Salute on behalf of HH Sultan Said bin Taimour*





## Other Duties of MUSGAR

In the absence of a proper Customs Service or even a Police Force, the Garrison helped in searching suspect vessels arriving in Muscat and Muttrah harbours.



*Muscat Bay, 27 January 1967. Guard Company soldiers searching the Kuwaiti Boat 'Al Forat'*



*Bait Al Falaj, 6 June 1968. The Muscat Garrison Commander after a Commissioning Parade for the three new ZLts (left to right; Abdul Kareem of Force MT Company, Salim Saif of Force Signals and MAK Niazi of Force MT Company)*

*Muscat, HBM Consulate-General, 1 June 1968.*

*The British Consul-General inspects the last SAF Guard Company guard on the British Consulate-General building. Guards had been provided at the British Consulate since the first Indian troops arrived in 1913. The MLC inherited these duties, which were subsequently handed over to MUSGAR Guard Company when MR moved out of the Capital Area*



*Below: Bait Al Falaj, 19 February 1968, Rifle Ranges. OC Guard Company with MMG Platoon soldiers under initial Vickers MMG training. Sufficient Vickers MMG were available in SAF to form only one MMG Platoon, so this was manned by Guard Company, Muscat Garrison personnel, who then loaned detachments to whichever regiment was down on active service in Dhofar. The MMG down in Dhofar were mostly used in a defensive role. OC Guard Company supervised this MMG training*





## CEREMONIAL AND MEDAL PRESENTATIONS AT BAIT AL FALAJ



*CSAF presenting GSM Dhofar Medals to members of the Guard Company, 2 November 1968*



*CSAF admiring the medals of Captain Azir-ur-Rahman, SB, OBI, MBE, the OC of MUSGAR Guard Company*



*Bait Al Falaj Fort, 21 July 1970. The Bugler and Guard Commander Sgt (Bugler) Saif Rashid and Quarter Guard Commander SSgt Khamis Abdullah*



*Bait Al Falaj Fort, 21 July 1970. The Quarter Guard gives a General Salute to a visiting RAF Air Commodore. This was the last Guard Company Quarter Guard paraded in the 'Qumma' pill box type cap, as it was abolished at the Accession of Sultan Qaboos*





## Oil Installation Police

Following the disbandment of The Oman Regiment, other SAF units had to assist providing protection to the Oil Company, which stretched their resources. Thus, in the early 1960s an Oil Installation Police (OIP) was formed, which was later renamed the Oil Installation Guard. This was administered by OG and paid by PDO, the Oil Company. OIP was trained first as infantrymen at SAF Training Centre Ghallah. Once oil was discovered this involved not only guarding the wells and camps in the desert but the HQ at Mina al Fahal and the Main PDO Camp at Azaiba. OIP wore the same uniform as OG. They were eventually transferred to the ROP in 1974.

## MORE EXPANSION

## Formation of the Police

For many years a form of Police existed in the Muscat/Muttrah area but beyond traffic control at Muscat's main gate they were not in great evidence. So, following the murder of a Doctor at the American Mission and other civil disturbances, the Military Secretary decided to restart the Omani Police from scratch and for this he requested SAF's assistance.

SAF had to provide the initial batch of recruits from the SAF Training Centre and also provided the 2IC of OG, as the first Police Commissioner. He assumed command in January 1969, and designed the police training syllabus which the new constables had to undergo after passing out from recruit training at SAFTC.

*MR escort a PDO explosives truck*

## UNIFORMS OF SAF IN THE LATE 1960s

(Picture taken at HQ OG Seeb, November 1967)

Uniforms (from left to right):

Front Row: Coastal Patrol, SOAF, any soldier when in general use shamag (the green/brown shamag was NFR only, later adopted for service in Dhofar).

Rear Row: Oman Gendarmerie, Guard Company of Muscat Garrison, Desert Regt, S/Sgt Khudadad of FMT Company, SNCO Oman Gendarmerie, Lt Khalfan Salim of Muscat Regt., S/Sgt Nassib Hamed Salim Al Ruwahi of NFR, Oil Installation Police Oman Gendarmerie (OIPOG), Sgt Saif Rashid Sgt Bugler of Guard Company





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# VICTORY SERVICES CLUB, LONDON



It is very nice to be able to record that an initiative taken up by the SAF Association has borne fruit. With great goodwill on all sides – and some patient endeavours by **Nobby Grey, Tony Nicholson** and **Nigel Knocker** – the Victory Services Club was able to confirm all serving Omani military officers and soldiers as being eligible. This has been very well received in Oman and has been enthusiastically supported by 60 membership applications so far.

For those who don't already know, Victory Services Club (VSC) is situated by Marble Arch and the Edgware Road. It is two minutes' walk to Oxford Street.

The VSC is a Military Members' Club for retired and serving members of the Armed Forces. The club was founded in 1907 to promote 'esprit de corps' among retired Armed Forces of all ranks by providing accommodation and support to servicemen and their families. Sir Winston Churchill said, "This Victory Club for ex-service

men, given by the Nation as a memorial to fallen comrades and as a tribute to those who returned, stands guardian of the common treasures and memories of friendship and brave deeds." It amended its charter in 1970 to include serving members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The accommodation is deliberately designed to be affordable. This should be particularly attractive option for junior Omani officers and soldiers on military courses in the UK such as BRNC, RMAS and RAFC, when visiting London at the weekends. The Club has restaurants and coffee bars.

Exactly as for their UK counterparts, membership is open to all serving military members of SAF, RGO, SSF and Royal Office free of charge. This includes uniformed military contractors employed by the Omani Armed Forces. Retired Omani Armed Forces members are required to pay an annual subscription fee, as are all spouses should they wish to use Club facilities unaccompanied by a serving member. It is a tribute to the strength of enduring relationships that this excellent facility in the heart of London can be enjoyed in this way.

## *Note from Office of SBLSO (Oman)*

The Office of the SBLSO (Oman), Bait Al Falaj, is being very active in spreading the word about eligibility and arranging the online membership applications. Membership can also be obtained by visiting the Office of the SBLSO (Oman), Bait Al Falaj, Muscat, in person. In addition to the form, which can be completed during the visit, applicants must bring a standard passport photo (which will be retained), military ID card and passport. The Office of the SBLSO (Oman) will process the application online and a membership number will be issued direct to the applicant within a couple of days. ■

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## JR REUNION AT SARFAIT

Jebel Regiment officers met together for a 'JR Sarfait 40 Years On' reunion dinner at the Special Forces Club in London on 4 October 2016. The occasion was to celebrate the anniversary of the deployment of the battalion from Nizwa to Sarfait in early 1976.

The photograph shows **Tim Burls, Jason Carley-Smith, Alan Deed, Gerald Davies** and **Gareth Rayment. Steve Lewis**, together with other serving officers of the time, **Nigel Forrestal** and **Peter Booker**, were in touch but had not been able to attend the event. **Ravi Malhotra**, the MO, who now runs a clinic in the Himalayas, sent a folio of fine photographs taken at the time.

It was a great evening with a chance to reminisce and remember fellow officers who sadly are no longer with us. In particular **Colonel Ted Ashley** and the 2i/c **Robin Montgomery**.

It was agreed to plan a further reunion in five years' time. When hopefully those who missed this reunion will be able to attend. ■





# GUNNERS IN OMAN LUNCH 2016

## AND LAUNCH OF THE BOOK 'GUNNERS IN OMAN 1967 TO 1975'

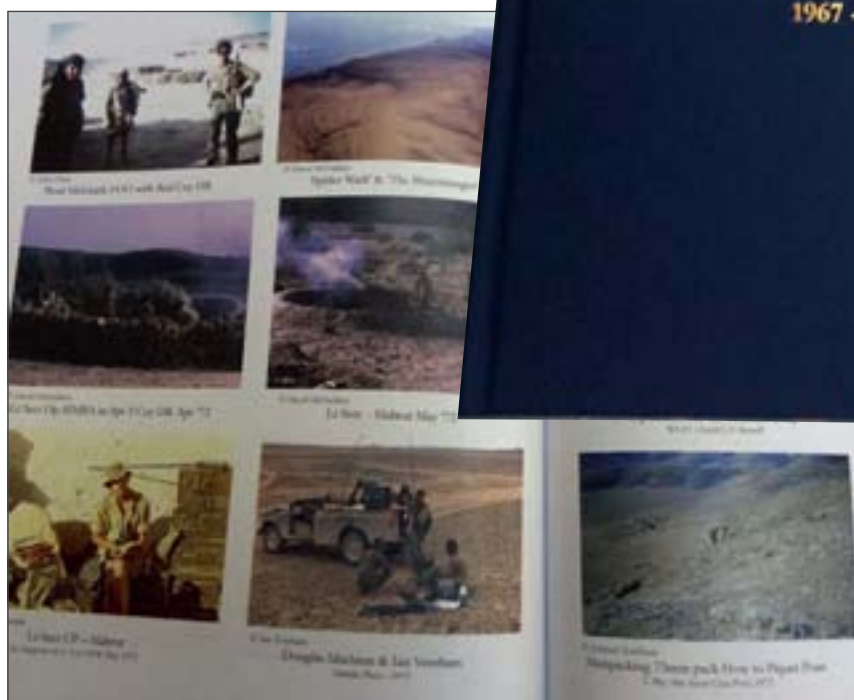
The annual lunch held at HAC Armoury House on 6 September 2016 filled the Medal Room with 17 attending. Unfortunately, **Nigel Knocker** and **Bugs Hughes** were unable to be with us. **Rupert Robson** planned to attend but was seriously ill and sadly he died in late September. Rupert was in 2nd Regt SOA in 1986-7. He was RA Regimental Colonel and keen supporter of SAF Association – his outstanding career is well covered in his obituary in RA Journals. **Hugh Colley** represented the Oman Gunners at his funeral in St Barbara's Church, Larkhill.

Hugh welcomed the large attendance and appreciated the distance that some have to take. He reported that **Rosemary Graham** was now permanently in UK and thanked **John** and **Sue Lewis** for sending a welcome card on our behalf. He thanked and congratulated the work that **Nick** and **Mary Holbrook**, and **Johnnie** and **Jenny Kirkham** take to organise the annual Wessex Lunch for the SAF Association. It is a very popular West Country event and you need to book-in well ahead. Hugh congratulated **Tom Bremridge** for his interesting account of his service in Oman with Desert Regiment which was published in the RA Journal.

Most importantly this lunch hosted the celebration of the Book Launch of 'Gunners in Oman 1967 to 1975' – an Account of the Actions of the Oman Artillery during the Dhofar War edited by **David McFadden** covering 1962-74 and **Miles Thomson** 1975. David and Miles set themselves a challenging and demanding task to include first-hand accounts and illustrations not only from OA members but supporting contributions from SOAF, HQ staff and the infantry battalions. The OA Gun Troops and Batteries in action were under command of infantry battalions and the book focuses on the strong

professional relationships that we enjoyed in SAF. The account successfully demonstrates the team work of British, Omanis and Baluchi and the respect at all ranks that dominated the strongly motivated SAF culture. Nigel Knocker in his foreword to the book 'congratulated all those who have contributed to it, particularly David and Miles who worked so hard to bring it to fruition'. On behalf of all those Gunners who served in OA, other SAF units and Cracker Battery, Hugh thanked David and Miles with **Douglas Maclaine** in support for the outstanding record of Gunners in Oman 1967-5 that they have created.

David and Miles responded by presenting suitably inscribed copies of the book to **John Lewis**, Troop Commander 1967-8 and Hugh Colley, Battery Commander and Commanding Officer 1970-2. Miles subsequently presented an inscribed book to Bugs Hughes, Commanding Officer 1975-6 at his home. Later presentations were made to Nigel Knocker and **Fergus Mackain Bremner**. Finally, during Nigel Knocker's visit to Oman, a copy of the book along with a



covering letter was presented to **Maj Gen Matar Al Buluchi**, CRAO and former Commander of the Sultan of Oman's Artillery.

Hugh thanked **Mike Hardy** for organising another splendid and enjoyable lunch event. We are grateful for all the trouble he takes. ■

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# NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

*by Mike Lobb*

The introduction of the Association e-mail system has meant that many more members are communicating with the Association on a regular basis. In order to share this news more widely, the Journal will include a regular article entitled 'News About People'. I am aware that this is not a new idea and follows in the tracks of Bill Weightman's 'Nimr's Notes'.

It is therefore fitting that I start with an e-mail from **Chris Rodgers** who, like Bill, started his SAF service with OG. In Chris's case ending in the Office of HE.

"My last role was working for **Hassan Ehsan** in the Office of HE the US. My first role was in OG in Sur. I have attached my Flickr link to my photograph collection of my time in Oman:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/chroddgers/albums/72157606237366754>

Should any members want copies of the photographs then I can email the files to them. There is one group photograph of Personnel Branch HQ SOLF in 1979: the photographer never appeared and seeing we were all seated and waiting I took a photograph with my camera. However, nobody saw the photograph until I put it on Flickr about four years ago."

**Gareth Raymont** (JR) had heard from **Nigel Forrestal** (JR) who has left the UN Mine Action Group and is now in Cameroon working on agricultural and irrigation projects. They were organising a JR Dinner for December 2016.

News of **Errol Harries'** sad death (MR/WFR) provoked many comments, this one from **Brian Harrington Spier** (SAF 74-75):

"I first met Errol on the ramshackle graded airstrip at Nizwa. I had only arrived in Oman a week previously to take up an appointment as GSO 3 to **Tim Creasey**. Having deplaned for my 'taxi' a SOAF Skyvan, I crunched across the gravel, past burmails. I was met (exhuberantly) by the 2i/c of MR, a slightly tubby Errol wearing shorts, Omani sandals, a shemagh, sunglasses and wielding a six foot staff rather like an Arabian goat-herder. He introduced himself and we shook hands.

After the initial pleasantries and almost immediately, he announced he was delighted to greet me as he was the father of my first-born son **Warwick** who, at the time, was a year old. I was stunned, dismayed and almost paralysed. Little did I expect to meet such an astounding welcome so far from home. Seeing he had shocked me to the core, Errol quickly explained the circumstances.

His name was HARRIES.

My name is HARRINGTON SPIER.

In the Army List he was just above me.

His army officer's number was 470080.

My officer's army number was 470081.

The Army Pay office had inadvertently ascribed my son Warwick to Errol. Errol later deduced he was receiving allowances for a child of whom he was unaware. Errol sorted it out but it was something of a 'crash-landing' with my first meeting with Errol."

Members with e-mail received an invitation from **Mike Wolfenden** (DR 1974-76) to his wedding to **Nena** on 8 December 2016 on Tristan da Cunha where he is the Director of Public Works Department. His current project is a new hospital. It arrived as 2,000 tons of cargo on the MV Glory to be offloaded on to 20 ton rafts and ferried ashore, skippered by Mike.



The committee is occasionally asked about replacement Omani medals. **Richard Wood** (DR) informs us, "For interest sake certainly up to last year and they are still in their catalogues, some Omani medals, ribbons etc., can be purchased from: The Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd – [www.worcmедals.com](http://www.worcmедals.com) Tel: 01527 835375. They have held the Royal Warrant since 2008.

**Allan Malcolm** (RAF Regt/HQ SOLF/Gar MAM/RNO/Office of HH Sayyid As'ad) writes that he and **Lilian** (QARANC/MAM Hosp/AFH) have made the move from inside the M25 to the more tranquil waters of East Devon where the most noticeable trait of the local inhabitants is that they smile when passing you in the street and bid you good morning. Leaving behind the intrigue of the City, Clubs and Livery, has not proven to be difficult and the refreshing walks by the sea in Sidmouth, Lyme Regis and Exmouth help to keep up spirits and fitness. Allan has kept in touch with **Richard May** (Trg Officer DR) who worked with him in Jordan in a commercial security role and who has settled in Staffordshire. The golf club in Sidmouth uncovered other Sultanate connections in the form of **Geoff Lowry** (REME/SOA Wksp), **Bob Johnston** (Diwan and Muscat RFC) whose wife **Sue** was a teacher at the Sultan's School and **David Bath** (Westland Helicopters) who regularly visited



Oman and was a regular visitor to Royal Flight where he recalls **Kevin Smith** and **Richard Shuttleworth** amongst others. Others with whom brief contact have been made are **Martin McGowan-Scanlon** (FQ) and **Lesley Lintonbon** (MAM Hosp/AFH) who has recently left the British Army and is working with the NHS in Devon.

No point including a 'before' photograph for **Tom** and **Eileen Scarff** (Signals Regiment). They are doing exactly as they did in SAF but now in Phuket, Thailand.



On 9 November 2016 I received the sad news that **Bob Nelson** (CSgt, Irish Guards) has died. He was not a member of the Association but a valued member of SAF nevertheless. He was one of the 18 Loan Service and contract NCOs at SAFTR who were the core teaching staff in the 1970s and 1980s. Bob ran the Drill Instructors' Course with considerable success. When I visited units I could always spot Bob's students because everyone of their drill commands, given in Arabic, was given in a very strong Irish accent! His funeral on 23 November was attended by over 350 people and the eulogy given by **John Pentreath** (HQ S Oman Bde).

**Neville Baker** (founder of 3 Sqn, SOAF), now 92, currently resides in Sussexdown Care Home – but on 4 December went flying once more, albeit more simply in a Robinson R66. A lovely clear day, along the South Coast towards Portsmouth: "piece of cake"! The other residents haven't forgiven him yet...



Lastly, a mention of the Dhofar Campaign Oral History Project, which has included a range of Association members. **Fiona Warton's** husband **Keith** was seconded to SOAF in 1966-68. After Keith died, Fiona completed his unfinished family history project by recording interviews with his former colleagues. This evolved for her into a much more ambitious project to record a history of the Dhofar campaign through the voices of members of SAF who participated, before surviving individuals and their memories fade

away. Many have now contributed; and generous financial support from the Anglo Omani Society, together with COSSAF's sponsorship through the Moral Guidance Unit, have permitted her to extend the scope of her recordings, in Arabic as well as English, to include a number of Omani and Baluch veterans of SAF and the Firqat. The aim is that copies of all interviews will be deposited at the Middle East Centre Archive (MECA) at St Antony's College, Oxford (and some at the Sultan Qaboos University in Oman), richly complementing the considerable collection of papers already lodged by former SAF members.

*(All interviews are now complete as planned and final editing has taken place.)*

The critical aspect on 'News About People' is that it does require news to be provided by members. Not necessarily about members, our gossip ranges wider than that. Please let me have your contributions on [safassn@outlook.com](mailto:safassn@outlook.com) ■

## SAF ASSOCIATION E-MAILS

### “FOSTERING THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP”

In line with the principal objective of the Association, the Committee is always looking for practical ways to tap into and support the maintaining of links among our members. Nothing stands still – circumstances change, interests evolve and a few people even seem to get a bit older...

But experience also shows that it's not very easy to canvass views and ideas among our community! Hence a modest new initiative, aimed at trying to improve our effective communications on two levels.

First, a sharpening up of our ability to get news out to members by email, as well as via the website. About 500 members are currently on the database, and it would be good to be able to get relevant news out more swiftly and better targeted – of course with protections and the ability to opt out.

Second is a move to bring us closer, from the centre (the Committee), to the network of other smaller groups that already exists – some based on cap-badge (eg Gunners, FF, ACS) and others that are regional (Wessex Lunch, Scottish Dinner). We see this as offering mutual benefit, through better channels for practical matters (deconfliction of dates, information and publicity), ideas and views, and the unexpected! If successful and the interest is there, it can obviously be rippled further out in due course.

**Mike Lobb** is coordinating e-mail communication with members and is the current focal point for the overall initiative. If you have not received an e-mail from Mike that would indicate that you are not on the e-mail database. If you would like your e-mail on the database, please contact Mike at [safassn@outlook.com](mailto:safassn@outlook.com) ■

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# A TRIP TO OMAN TO HONOUR SQN LDR ROGER BOYCE

*by Janet and Rebecca Witting (December 2016)*



*On the 31st October 1975, a SOAF Augusta Bell 205 helicopter, number 713, was shot down by a SAM 7b missile south of the position in Dhofar then named as Gunlines. The missile was one of four that were fired and the helicopter, which was flying at a height of some 12,000 feet, fell to the ground. It was being flown by Sqn Ldr Roger*

*Boyce (a newly arrived contract officer, who had previously served as OC RAF Salalah and had recently retired from the RAF), Flt Lt John Heathcote (a loan service officer) and Sgt Mohammed Jabbar (the Omani crewman). None of the crew members survived the impact of the missile and their bodies were recovered shortly afterwards when units of SAF gained access to the area of the crash. Sqn Ldr Roger Boyce and Flt Lt John Heathcote were buried at the Mina al Fahal Christian Cemetery in Muscat and Sgt Mohammed Jabbar was buried at the Muslim burial ground at Umm al Ghwarif.*

*In 2015 – some 40 years after these events – The Association and the British Embassy at Muscat were contacted by Janet and Rebecca Witting (Roger Boyce's sister and niece, respectively) in an attempt to obtain more information on the events at the time. Throughout much of the following year they were helped by Cdr Kevin Broadley, the Naval and Air Attaché at the British Embassy at Muscat, Tony Nicholson and other former members of 3 Sqn, SOAF, Ian Buttenshaw and, also in a most generous and helpful way, by current members of the Sultan's Armed Forces. The year culminated in both of them visiting Oman for a period and attending the SAF Dinner on the 25 November, as guests of the Association.*

*The following touching article by Janet and Rebecca describes their pilgrimage to trace the steps of the brother and uncle who did not return from Oman."*

It was at the beginning of November 1975 that a telegram arrived from Oman for my parents informing them that their son, my brother Roger Boyce, was missing over enemy territory, feared killed. He had been with us the week before and had made no mention of the danger in his new job with the Sultan of Oman's Air Force. He had been the commanding officer at RAF Salalah in 1968 and we assumed that he loved the country and flying, and wanted to return for his own satisfaction. We asked ourselves, "What enemy?" There was no mention of a funeral in the UK, my mother was disabled and could not travel so he was buried in Muscat without any family representation. I was 27 and had just had my second child six weeks earlier. Roger was 38 and my younger brother, Bob, 22. Recently I have felt a strong desire to visit his grave to pay my respects, to learn more about my brother and to try to understand why he would have wanted to leave the RAF to put himself in danger in this way. Over a year ago I mentioned my proposed trip to my daughter, Becky and she offered to accompany me. I was so thankful as I think it would have felt quite bleak without her. At that time I had no idea that the Embassy would offer such support and help.

In the meantime, we visited the RAF Museum in Colindale to see the exhibition about the Dhofar War and by chance met with **Ross Mahoney**, the archivist. He suggested we contact **Kieron Shaw** and Tony Nicholson and we got in touch with Commander Kevin Broadley, Naval and Air Attaché at the British Embassy in Muscat. Ian Buttenshaw also made contact. All these people have been so helpful in answering our questions and putting us in touch with other contacts.

*Kevin met us at the airport in  
Muscat on 10 November, 2016.*

*It was moving to visit Roger's grave  
and to attend the Remembrance  
Day service. It felt like attending  
his funeral all those years later.*







Kevin met us at the airport in Muscat on 10 November, 2016. It was moving to visit Roger's grave and to attend the Remembrance Day service. It felt like attending his funeral all those years later.

I had very helpful conversations with people who explained the background to the Dhofar War in a simpler way than trying to read military books with lots of acronyms. A former pilot helped me to understand what drove people to take risks, to test their skills and fight in such a war. We paid our respects at the grave of **John Heathcote** who also lost his life in the crash. At lunch afterwards, Becky and I met such helpful people who seemed to want to know about "our story". It somehow took their interest and people were only too ready to write up helpful information, take us places and explain matters. For me of course, it isn't my story as such, I am longing to know more about my older brother who left home at the age of 17 to join the RAF and returned from training with NATO in Canada, 18 months later, as a man. His life was lived away from us all, apart from occasional visits to the family home, and much of it was unknown, inevitably, owing to the boundaries of confidentiality.

We were given permission to visit RAFO in Salalah. The officer commanding greeted us very courteously, offering us refreshments. He presented me with a boxed perspex shield with badges of all the different parts of the air base. I was touched by this kindness. We talked a little about life as we understood it for my brother when he was in command in 1968. We had read the station book for that year, now in the National Archive at Kew. **Ahmed**, a search and rescue helicopter pilot, was commissioned to give us a tour of the station, particularly the old buildings which remain. We saw an old Bell Huey helicopter and were able to look inside it.

Seeing the old helipad was somehow significant for me. Once off duty, Ahmed very kindly took us to Brigade HQ to find the grave of **Mohammed Jaber Saloom**, who also died in the crash. He also took us around the souk and negotiated as we acquired frankincense and halva.

Becky and I had no greater expectation than to hire a 4x4 to drive into the Jebel to the general area of the crash site. However, thanks to the collaboration of Ian, Tony, Kieron and others, together with Kevin and other Embassy staff, we were driven by a much better experienced army officer to a specific mapped area, where it is thought the helicopter came down. We looked around in a field wondering about it all. We then drove down another track and met a camel farmer. After patient conversation, and the obligatory exchange of pleasantries, coffee and camel milk with this man, he eventually warmed to us and understood why we were there. We were guided to a location where, as a teenager, he remembered an aircraft coming down. There on the ground we found small pieces of wreckage which it was later established are parts of an aircraft instrumentation panel. It was amazing and beyond any kind of expectation that we had. We are so grateful to all those involved in making this possible. It was deeply moving.

Back in Muscat we enjoyed the Red Arrows display and meeting **Hamed Nasser**. We have been amazed at how this trip worked out and the kindness and friendliness of everyone. Being invited to the Annual Dinner of the Association rounded everything off. It was good to meet Tony and Kieron at long last and we are grateful to all who bought us drinks, spent time talking with us about the war and especially about Roger. Every effort was made to make this a very rich experience for us both and we thank you. ■



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# REMEMBERING...

## **Lieutenant Commander J T G Raybould WB WKHM – 21 March 1938 – 1 June 2016**

**Jeremy Raybould**, Commander of the Sultan's Coastal Patrol and Master Mariner, died in Auckland, New Zealand, after a protracted illness following a stroke. His daughter **Joanne (Jo)** cared for him throughout.

"The Admiral" is remembered as a swashbuckling sailor of fortune. His personal charisma and strength are recalled by **Corran Purdon** (CSAF 1967-1970): "I was extremely sorry to learn of Jeremy's death. I had many brave officers with me during the Dhofar war and amongst the bravest was the golden-bearded, barrel-chested Jeremy Raybould. He was a natural leader, impervious to fear, who seemed to welcome danger. I salute the memory of an outstanding leader and very gallant officer".

Jeremy was born in Sutton Coldfield, the eldest of three children. The lure of the sea took him to *HMS Worcester*, the Thames Nautical Training College, in 1951. He undertook courses at London University and served as a ship's Deck Officer and Master in British flag vessels; he remained a member of the RNR throughout this time. He was married and divorced in his early twenties.

Jeremy took command of the Coastal Patrol as a contract officer with the rank of Captain/Lieutenant-Commander in April 1967. His initial command was the motorised dhow *Nasr Al Bahr*, subsequently reinforced with the *Muntasir*.



**Jeremy Raybould 50 Cal Dhow 1969.**



**Sultan Said Tea Party 1969.**

The long sea flank of the Dhofar jebel exposed the *Adoo* supply lines to amphibious assault and ambush. Jeremy carried out many landings with forces provided by companies of the NFR and subsequently MR. These were dangerous raids which went in through the surf at night in rubber geminis, followed by scaling the jebel and seeking the enemy. Withdrawal by day was often precipitate and "hairy". It was thanks to Jeremy and his crew's skill and courage that SAF achieved so much at minimal cost.



**Roger Brown** recalls MR successfully retaking Sudh in March 1970. "On embarkation many of the soldiers were sea-sick. My lasting memory is of Jeremy manually hoisting each one on board from the geminis, and having his beard decorated for his pains."

After the stop-gap command of the freighter *S.N.V. Dhofar*, Jeremy left SON in 1972. He then worked for the Directorate of Ports and Developments. Jeremy met **Penny** in Oman and they married in February 1973 with a reception at the home of **Sir Hugh Oldman**. They moved to Rasut and left the Sultanate in 1974.

Jeremy was subsequently employed by Continental Seafoods Ltd, running, purchasing, maintaining and provisioning a fleet of shrimping vessels, initially based in Liberia and then the USA. His daughter, Jo, was born in Alabama in 1978 and the family moved to New Zealand in 1979.

Jeremy became the Auckland based managing director of a number of companies as a marine surveyor, advisor and consultant and Jo recalls a host of wonderful holidays meeting up with Jeremy world-wide. He and Penny subsequently divorced and he retired to enjoy a sedentary life.

Jeremy loved the sea. He was a brave and professional sailor and comrade who was a great character, full of fun and bonhomie. He was indeed "wajjid shadeed"! Our belated condolences go to Penny, Jo and grand-daughter Tineka.

**Adrian Wray and Roger Brown**



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# REMEMBERING...

## Lieutenant Colonel Stanley G Edwards QPM



**"Stan the Man"** as his soldiers affectionately called him, was Secretary and Treasurer of the SAF Association for more than 30 years. He died following a sudden heart attack at his home in Spain on 7 September – a home he and his second wife **Chrissie** had moved into only nine days before. He is survived by his two wives, two children

and seven grandchildren.

Born in 1937, Stan was one of four children of a Colonial Policeman and for much of his childhood, was brought up by his grandparents as his parents were living in the Gambia. He read geology at Nottingham University and after a deferred National Service entry, he was gazetted into the Intelligence Corps from Mons Officer Cadet School in 1959.

At the end of his Short Service Commission, Stan applied for a Regular Commission and was accepted by the Corps of Royal Military Police (RMP). Much of Stan's military career was spent in BAOR where he met his first wife **Delia**. In 1966, he was posted to 48 Gurkha Brigade Provost Unit in Hong Kong. His arrival coincided with the beginning of the Cultural Revolution – riots broke out in Kowloon and shooting incidents on the border were frequent.

Further excitement followed in Northern Ireland when in 1969, Stan was posted as 2i/c of 175 Provost Company RMP in Lisburn – just as the "the Troubles" began again.

Promoted to Major in 1971, Stan was posted as OC of 114 Provost Company RMP in Detmold as part of 20th Armoured Brigade. An appointment as Provost Marshal British Forces Cyprus and OC 227 (Cyprus) Provost Company RMP in 1975 didn't suit Stan's temperament and after 18 months, he became bored and applied for a Grade 2 staff job at HQ SAF. He arrived in April 1977. He had explained to Delia that the job was unaccompanied, but she managed frequent visits to Oman during the following two years, Stan served as DAA&QMG during **Major General David O'Morchoe's** tenure as the first CSOLF.

Stan was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1979 and became Commandant of the RMP Training School and Station Commander in Chichester. He declined a return to Northern Ireland at the end of his command and retired from the Army in 1981.

Shortly afterwards, Stan joined the MOD Police as an Assistant Chief Constable. During the following 16 years, Stan had a series of wide ranging responsibilities covering all parts of the UK and in key policy areas including responsibility for a widespread re-organisation of the force at all levels and much responsibility for implementing the findings of **Sir John Blleloch's** MOD Police Report in 1994. He attended the Senior Officers' Command Course at Bramshill in

1991 and in the same year, he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished service to the civil Constabulary in support of Op Granby. Whilst ACC Western Area, Stan was responsible for policing the cruise missile base at RAF Greenham Common and the missile convoys that were always besieged by an "army" of angry women. His responsibilities in Scotland included policing the RN nuclear submarine base at Faslane and the nearby missile storage depot at Coulport

When Stan finally retired in 1997, he and **Chrissie** ran an art gallery in Odiham before moving to Spain in 2000.

The stories about Stan's ways are legion. When Commandant at Chichester he frequently imposed "fines" of "a bottle of Port" for his perception of a myriad of breaches of protocol or mess etiquette and without regard to rank, service, status or seniority – on one occasion this included the officiating civilian RC Chaplain! – his "March the guilty bastard in" uttered as he started an MOD Police disciplinary hearing – the occasion of his waking up on the Circle Line after a heavy lunch without a clue as to his whereabouts. (after a SAFA Committee meeting?).

One of his MOD Police colleagues recalls: "He had the ability to laugh at himself as well as to see the absurd side of life – a rare gift in a senior officer," and, "His intelligence and flexibility of thought combined with his willingness to give his subordinates the freedom and scope was a great and refreshing contrast to most of his contemporaries."

Stan was passionate about sport; any sport, but in particular about Rugby at which he was a very capable player – he turned out for the Army, the Combined Services, his County and for the Harlequins. When he could no longer play he refereed, although in Detmold, he captained the 20th Armoured Brigade "Geriatrics" Team. He also took up skiing and mountaineering and was responsible for converting an old youth hostel into a ski hut for the RMP. Having mastered the art, Stan became a ski instructor. In Cyprus he renovated a dry ski slope and arranged for qualified dry ski instructors from Edinburgh to teach soldiers.

He encouraged sporting and adventurous prowess in others, he talent spotted, cajoled, encouraged and mentored many a successful sportsman and woman during his long service to the Crown. One particular success was in his advocacy for the survival of the Police Rugby Team when financial constraints were difficult to resist. He also championed the Princes Trust within the MOD Police and was successful in obtaining funds to attach MOD Policemen to the organisation for a year at a time to work with young adults from deprived or difficult backgrounds. He was passionate about his involvement in running the Westminster Outward Bound School Association which existed to fund inner city youngsters on Outward Bound courses.

Something of a Gladiator all his life, Stan was outspoken when he knew it was necessary and called a spade a spade when it was required. He always put the interests and wellbeing of the soldiers and policemen under his command first and inspired tremendous loyalty which he returned without reservation. In the words of the RMP Regimental Secretary: "Stan will be remembered for his generosity of spirit, his sheer love of life and as an Officer and gentleman".

**Peter Isaacs**

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# REMEMBERING...

## Colonel HJA Moore OBE WKHM



**Col John Moore** was AA & QMG in HQ SAF during the momentous days of the Renaissance and accession of **HM Sultan Qaboos**, and it fell to him to organise the reception of HM to Muscat on 30 July 1970 – an occasion described at the time as one "I shall remember all my life for its precision, happiness and military excellence... thoroughly well done and of great historical importance to this country."\*

He died in April 2016 in his 90th year, having been well and active until a bad fall three years ago. His memorial service was held at Well, Bedale, in June. **Tim Read** (DR 1968-69 and BATT c 1971-72), **John Knopp** (FF 1974-75) and **John McKeown** (HQ SAF 1975-77) were there. He was a popular and respected man locally – a bon viveur and no abstainer – and the church was full, as was his house afterwards for a very convivial reception. **Col Rex Kane**, President of the Middlesex Regiment Association and John's nephew, **Andrew Cutler**, gave eulogies – and we are grateful for their contributions to this obituary.

John Moore grew up in Sudbury, near Harrow, and was evacuated to Canada, aged 13, on the outbreak of the Second World War. He returned to the UK to join the Army in August 1944 and was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment two years later. After service in Germany and on public duties in London (the Middlesex Regiment found the Kings Guard on the night Prince Charles was born), he served as signals officer of his battalion in the Hong Kong New Territories as part of 40th Infantry Division.

In 1950, after North Korea invaded the South, the Middlesex Regiment and the Argylls were despatched to Korea, where John

commanded the mortar platoon throughout the campaign. He was there for the crossing of the Naktong, the swift defeat of the North Koreans and the move to the Chinese border. China entered the war, leading to a United Nations retreat, and John was at Kunu Ri Pass when the Middlesex Regiment were rearguard for a withdrawing American division. He remained in Korea for the slow advance back to the 38th parallel.

He saw more regimental service in Austria, Germany, Gibraltar and during the EOKA campaign in Cyprus, where he held an intelligence appointment, leading to a tour as GSO3 (Intelligence) with 24 Brigade in Kenya and Bahrain, followed by other staff tours in the UK.

He joined HQ SAF as the senior administrative staff officer during the very busy period of expansion and reorganisation following the accession of HM Sultan Qaboos, and was awarded the WKHM and the OBE, as well as earning the confidence and appreciation of officers on the Dhofar Jebel.

He went from Oman to be the DA in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during the Vietnam War, then served as chief of the organisation and training branch of the NATO HQ in Turkey for Allied Land Forces Southeastern Europe, before retiring in 1978.

In retirement, he lived in Well, North Yorkshire, worked for the Red Cross, was involved in local affairs, enjoyed entertaining and was a generous host. He was a gifted pianist and organist at the church where his funeral and memorial service took place.

*\*David Crawford CMG, Consul-General at Muscat 1969-71*

**John McKeown**

## Robin Michael "Dan" Carter

**Dan Carter** died on 31 December 2015. Born in 1931, his father died of wounds received during the First World War when he was a child. He was raised by his mother, a shepherd's daughter and her parents, was educated at Sutton Valence School and at 19 followed his brother into the Fleet Air Arm. In 1952, flying a Hawker Sea Fury from the carrier *Ocean* during the Korean War, he became only the second pilot of a propeller driven aircraft to shoot down a Soviet-piloted, high performance, MIG-15 jet aircraft. On the same day, after another sortie in which he bombed a bridge to halt the advance of the North Korean army, the arrester wire on *Ocean* malfunctioned when he was landing. The hook was torn off his aircraft and he crashed into the barriers.

In the mid-1960s Dan left the Fleet Air Arm, after his wife **Georgia** had died during a routine operation. He flew with the Royal Saudi Arabian Air Force from 1966 to 1967; the Abu Dhabi Defence Force from 1970 to 1973 and SOAF from 1973 to 1979. Throughout his time with SOAF he flew the Defender and liked nothing more than lengthy and challenging sorties that took him away from the growing bureaucracy at Salalah and Bait al Falaj.

Dan Carter returned to the Fleet Air Arm in 1979 as a civilian pilot, flying the Hunter in a training role for the Fleet. In 1983 the engine of his Hunter failed at low level whilst he was simulating an attack on a destroyer. He ejected from the aircraft, but injured his back and the incident brought an end to his flying career. By this point he had logged nearly 12,000 hours, most of these in



single-seat aircraft. Airwork Services then employed him at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Llanbedr, until he was 72, when he retired. In 1984 he married **Rita**, who survives him and to whom we send our condolences.

### Ian Michie

Along with some 300 people, I attended the 2pm Service of Thanksgiving at Helensburgh Parish Church on Saturday 28 January, 2017 for the life of **Ian Michie**. SAF was also represented by **Nicol Cameron** and **Sandy Dawson**.

The church is lovely. It was an excellent and very poignant service led by **Rev Jonathan Fleming**. Ian was obviously well known and respected in the Helensburgh area and the local (Rhu) sailing community. It was a happy reminiscence and celebration of his life. Ian's daughter, **Jo**, gave a wonderful eulogy for her father. She recalled, among other aspects of Ian's active life, his time in Oman. Ian served with NFR from 1967 to 1969. Much of this time would have been spent down in Dhofar. After Oman, Ian returned to the UK and returned to the wholesale carpet business. This subsequently took him to the United States to open up operations for his company there. He and his family spent several years in California before returning to the UK again. Once back here he joined 21 and then rejoined 23 SAS with whom he had been prior to his time in Oman and spent many years with them. He then continued his association with the military by working with the Sappers close to Helensburgh.

His very young granddaughter, **Tilly**, read a little poem that she had written herself. His son, **Tom**, read the poem "*He is gone*" by **David Harkins**. I had been asked to read a piece, written by Winston Churchill, called "*Let us be Contented*".

Ian's last years were spent at Erskine Park where he was very well cared for, always with the loving support and care from **Joy**, his son, Tom and daughters, Jo and **Katrina**, and their families.

After the service we were all welcomed by Joy and the rest of Ian's family to the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club in Rhu, where we renewed acquaintances and continued our reminiscences of Ian.

**Dick Peters**

### Major Tom House

**Tom House** enlisted into the Rifle Brigade which subsequently became The Royal Green Jackets and is now The Rifles. I first met Tom in a forward Rifle Company position in the jungle in Borneo during "confrontation" when he was a Sergeant. We then lost contact although I heard that as a Warrant Officer, he was selected as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, a great achievement. He was later commissioned but left the Army early in the rank of Captain.

I met Tom again in Oman when he was a contract officer in the rank of Naqeeb in HQ SOLF (Personnel Branch). At this time, a fellow Rifle Brigade contemporary was also serving on contract in Oman as commanding Officer KJ and Tom was very keen to join him in KJ. In my capacity as DAA & QMG of Southern Oman Brigade, and KJ was one of the brigade's units, I kept being pestered by Tom and tried to help but the final permission for Tom to leave HQ SOLF came from Tom's very understanding Omani boss. So Tom became QM of KJ in the rank of Ra'id and finally left Oman in the late '80s.

On his return to the UK, Tom joined the Civil Service as a Retired Officer in a job he did not much enjoy. But a vacancy arose in The Royal British Legion (TRBL) in Pall Mall for somebody to run their War Pensions Department and Tom was the perfect fit. He was instrumental in obtaining War Pensions for a huge number of ex Service people, many of whom did not realise they qualified. Tom finally retired on reaching 65 and was awarded the MBE for the excellent work he did in TRBL War Pensions Department.

Tom met **June Beach** when he returned from Oman and they lived happily in Kent until his untimely departure on 21 November 2016.

**George Correa**

### Captain Harry Mucklow

**Captain Harry Mucklow**, Royal Navy, who died peacefully on 19 March 2016, commanded The Sultan of Oman's Navy (now The Royal Navy of Oman) from 1976 to 1980 as Commodore. Under his command and guidance, SON moved to the fruition of a modernisation plan from its original dhows, Charlie One and Charlie Two to a modern patrol boat navy with Brooke Marine FPBs. The new Naval Base at Khor Muscat was ideal for this and close to His Majesty's Muscat Palace to provide additional seaborne security. The Navy's landing craft were also important for movement in areas such as the Mussandam which had few roads, and the arrival of a landing ship was a welcome addition to SON's fleet.

It was also under Commodore Mucklow, that SON was able to combat the increasing threat to the sea traffic in the Straits of Hormuz and tankers passing through were escorted by SON patrol vessels. This also led to the establishment of a base on Goat Island, and a permanent SON presence in the area. His vision for the future of SON led to the orders for larger 57 metre vessels. By the time Commodore Mucklow left SON in 1980, he had achieved the almost total Omanisation of the Patrol Boat Squadron and Omanis were progressing in Engineering, Diving and Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Staff courses.

However, The Sultanate of Oman was not Commodore Mucklow's first operational involvement in security operations, and as a Lieutenant he had commanded a coastal minesweeper during the Limbang rebellion in Brunei in December 1962, and it was no doubt this early experience helped him in his task in the Sultanate.

**Richard Lowther, Raa'id Bahriya**

### Major (Raa'id) Gareth Davies

**Major (Raa'id) Gareth Davies** served in The Sultan's Armed Forces from 1977-1980, with The Sultan of Oman's Artillery. As Battery Commander HQ Battery, he served both in Northern Oman and Dhofar. A very capable officer, he led his Battery with a mixture of professionalism, charm and his not inconsiderable physical presence. His Arabic, delivered in military staccato with the faintest hint of a Welsh accent, was a wonder to all and occasionally understood! Not content with being a full time soldier, Gareth led Muscat Rugby Football Club to victory in the Gulf Championship in the '79/'80 season. On leaving Oman Gareth joined the Prison Service. His final appointment was Governor Pentonville. During his time with the Prison Service he spent time in the Balkans and Iraq where he was awarded a "very good" OBE. His wife **Margaret** predeceased him. Sadly missed.

## Edward John Ward



**John Ward** was born on the 15 November 1940 in Exeter. He was educated at King Edward VI Grammar School at Bury St Edmunds, and then attended High Wycombe School of Art for two years, followed by St Martin's School of Art in London for a further two years. After art school he worked for the advertising company S H Benson working

on the Guinness advert with the toucan and then joined the Ministry of Public Building and Works on a temporary basis. It was while he was at St Martin's that he came across the Artists Rifles in a recruiting advert for 21 SAS. It was the former that inevitably interested him – NOT the SAS bit. He said that on his first weekend in Brecon he was still wondering whether there might not be an art class as well! After that he was swept along with the history and camaraderie of the Regiment.

He joined 22 SAS in 1965, and after operational tours in Aden and Borneo was posted to Salalah in September 1970 on Operation Storm, where as a Corporal he was responsible for setting up the Psy Ops cell which was a key part of the Regiment's 'hearts and minds' campaign. He took on the job of broadcasting, producing leaflets and bringing out a local newspaper. One of the leaflets he produced had the slogan "Freedom is our aim. Islam is our way". This was so successful that he was assured years later that it was an old Dhofari saying! For this work he was awarded the BEM.

When the Omanis set up their own Dhofar Information Office he transferred as Advisor in March 1974, a position he retained when it became part of the Ministry of Information.

He returned to the UK in 1980 and then spent four years in Saudi Arabia advising on the construction of the new TV station in Riyadh. This was followed by four years with Oceanics at Farnborough working on specialised IT equipment. In 1989 he was employed by the London Borough of Barnet, where he remained until 2005.

John held the position of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Artists Rifles Association and Editor of the Artists section of Mars & Minerva, and until recently was a Trustee of the SAS and Artists Museum. He also worked tirelessly for SSAFA.

A very shrewd, self-effacing, quietly spoken man, John was one of those who gave of himself to serve others. He was an exceptional man of great modesty and intellectual ability, with a keen sense of humour who started and finished in 21 SAS. He has left his mark on our world with a job well done in many fields.

John died on the 13 of May 2016 following an operation in hospital. He is survived by his wife **Sue**, daughter, **Sarah** and son, **Anthony**.

**Peter Sichel**

# DEATHS

The following deaths have also been recorded:

- Oct 15 **John Adie ORD/ISS**
- 31 Dec 15 **Dan Carter SOAF 1973-79** (see obit)
- Nov 16 **Gareth Davies OA 1977-80** (see obit)
- 27 Feb 16 **Peter Bennett MR 1968-70**
- 4 Apr 16 **HJA Moore OBE. HQ SAF 1968-70**
- 17 May 16 **John Ward BATT and Ministry of Information 1979-82** (see obit)
- 1 Jun 2016 **Jeremy Raybould in Auckland, NZ** (see obit)
- 30 Aug 16 **Errol Harries DR, KJ, HQ Dhofar Bde, WFR, '70s and '80s**
- 8 Sep 16 **Stan Edwards QPM HQ SAF '78-79 SAF Association Committee** (see obit)
- 12 Sep 16 **Rupert Robson OA c 1987**
- 17 Oct 16 **Major Mike Allardyce OA c 1980s**
- 27 Oct 16 **Colonel John Head Commander N Oman Bde 1972**
- 2 Nov 16 **Paul Braithwaite 3 Sqn SOAF 1970s**
- 12 Nov 16 **Margaret Brunton. Wife of the late Major David Brunton MBE**
- 16 Nov 16 **Robin Burnett Muttrah Cold Store and TOS**
- 21 Nov 16 **Major Tom House HQ SOLF KJ KSQA mid-70s** (see obit)
- 14 Dec 16 **Ian Michie NFR 1967/68** (see obit)
- 15 Feb 17 **Geoff Begley RTR and ACS Movements Salalah 965/1975**

# JOINED IN 2016

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Bob Townley</b>         | SO3 Manning HQ SOLF 85-89              |
| <b>Brian Petchey</b>       | Air Work 79-88                         |
| <b>Stephen Bennett</b>     | Hydrographer of the Navy 91-97         |
| <b>Richard Fitzsimmons</b> | Loan Service Office 12-15              |
| <b>Robert Anderson</b>     | Air Work, SOAF Thumrait 81-84          |
| <b>Jeff Short</b>          | Directorate of Fleet Maintenance 14-17 |

## COST OF OVERSEAS POSTAGE FOR THE JOURNAL

As you will be well aware the cost of posting the Journal overseas is expensive. There are 112 overseas members and the committee is considering requesting that overseas members read the online version which is on the SAF website. A hard copy would be posted to those who requested it. To help planning, would any overseas member who would not be content with this proposal please let the Hon Sec know at [neil.fawcett@btinternet.com](mailto:neil.fawcett@btinternet.com)

**THIS WILL APPLY WITH THIS ISSUE.**



# 2017 SAF ASSOCIATION DINNER

will take place in the

ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, PALL MALL, LONDON AT 1900 FOR 2000HRS ON  
**FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2017**

**PLEASE APPLY BY FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE LATEST**

To: Neil Fawcett, Two Oaks, Mayfield Fold, Rock Lane, Burnley BB11 2RN. Email: neil.fawcett@btinternet.com

FROM: (BLOCK CAPS) .....

ADDRESS: .....

Service(s)Unit(s) in SAF: .....

Dates of service in SAF: .....

I would like to sit near: .....

THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL ASSIST IN SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

**MEMBERS £40 – GUESTS £50**

I enclose a cheque for £..... (payable to the SAF Association) for the Dinner on **Friday 24 November 2017**.

Or book by email and pay by BACs. SAF Account Sort Code 40-15-17. Account No. 72019116. Ref: SAF Dinner.

Note: We no longer send out tickets.

Names of Guests:

**PLEASE APPLY BY FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE LATEST**



# 2017 SAF ASSOCIATION CURRY LUNCH

will take place in the

ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, PALL MALL, LONDON AT 1200 FOR 1300HRS ON  
**THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2017**

**PLEASE APPLY BY FRIDAY THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017 AT THE LATEST**

To: Neil Fawcett, Two Oaks, Mayfield Fold, Rock Lane, Burnley BB11 2RN. Email: neil.fawcett@btinternet.com

FROM: (BLOCK CAPS) .....

ADDRESS: .....

**COST: £15** (not including wine).

I enclose a cheque for £..... (payable to the SAF Association) for the Curry Lunch on **Thursday 8 June 2017**.

Or book by email and pay by BACs. SAF Account Sort Code 40-15-17. Account No. 72019116. Ref: Buffet Lunch.

Note: We no longer send out tickets.

Names of Guests:

**PLEASE APPLY BY THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017 AT THE LATEST**

# SAF ASSOCIATION TEE, SWEAT AND POLO SHIRTS

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# THE JOURNAL

OF THE  
SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES  
ASSOCIATION



The Journal is the official magazine of the Sultan's Armed Forces Association. It serves a readership which is actively involved in the development of the country. Published each year for the last 48 years, and with a current print run of 4,000 copies, the Sultan's Armed Forces Association Journal is circulated to all individual and company members of the Association as well as:

- Government Departments throughout the Sultanate of Oman
- International Suppliers of Equipment and Services to the Oman Armed Services
- Communications, Ports and Construction Industry
- Non-defence Industrial and Trade Companies and Organisations
- Omani Chamber of Commerce
- UK Foreign Office (Middle East Department)
- Anglo-Omani Society

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<b>Half page</b>	<b>£550 (O.Rials 345)</b>	<b>£400 (O.Rials 250)</b>
<b>Quarter page</b>	<b>£300 (O. Rials 185)</b>	<b>£250 (O.Rials 155)</b>

**Front Inside Cover and Back Outside Cover : £1,500 (O.Rials 945)**  
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# 50 YEARS AGO

by Ian Buttenshaw

## PHASE 1 – CONTAINMENT (1965-1967)

### Operation Rainbow



*The Donkey Truck - 1965*



*The No. 19 radio set mounted on a camel.*



*Air re-supply for patrols at Thint area*



*Animal Support-unloading camels*



### Formation of the Dhofar Liberation Front

The rebels convened their first congress at Wadi Kabir in Central Dhofar on 1 June 1965. This effectively unified all the various groups into the Dhofar Liberation Front (DLF). They elected an 18-man executive and issued a declaration, very Arab Nationalist in tone, condemning the Sultan's regime and calling on all Dhofaris for support. To cement the formation of the DLF, they made three quick strikes. Their first armed action was on 9 June when the driver of an oil company vehicle was murdered by machine gun fire; this was followed on the same day by an attack on the RAF rubbish truck and the Askar Camp at Raysut. The 9 June 1965 attacks marked the official beginning of the Dhofar War as far as DLF (and later PFLOAG) were concerned.

*Right and below:  
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patrol of A Coy  
MR in Thint area*



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