

I would like to introduce Commando Gunner Regroup (CGR) to the Federation. CGR has been up and running for 15 years, it initially started as a way of the old boys of 29 & 95 Cdo Regt RA of contacting each other. As we all know once you walk out of the gates at the end of your service we usually lose touch with friends we have spent half of our lives with. So a web site was set up where we could swap contact details. Due to the amount of interest it became apparent that we could move on from being just web base. Therefore a meeting was arranged in a local pub, The Fishermans Arms. The first meeting saw a grand total of four people attend, we persevered though and set up a sort of agenda on that first meeting, one of the items we came up with was promotion to be looked into so we could get more attendees. We then agreed we would meet on the first Friday of every month at this location. The following couple of months didn't see a dramatic increase in our numbers, but the word was slowly filtering out and a couple more joined us as the months went by. I then contacted the Herald who kindly published a piece for me, from then we didn't really look back. The subsequent meeting about twenty turned up and contributed. Since those early days we have now grown into an international organisation, with meetings in Spain, Australia, the USA and other areas where there are concentrations of ex 29/95.

Due to pub closures etc. we have moved quite a few times but I'm pleased to say this hasn't put our members of, they tend to come along wherever we meet. Currently we meet in the bar above the Noah's Ark pub in the centre of town which is ideally situated. We support a different charity each year, this year being Prostrate Cancer. Over the years we have raised around £30,000 for several different charities. We have quite a few different fund raising events throughout the year, including fishing, dragon boat racing, games night an annual black tie dinner and what has become a diary event now a yomp across the whole of Dartmoor starting at Oakhampton and finishing at Mayflower steps, this is always over the Saturday & Sunday of the August bank holiday. We are never short of willing volunteers desperate to swap blister stories over a curry and a beer at the end! We are lining up something special to launch next year but it's under wraps at the moment, I will pass full details over once we have the finished article.

We have now our own standard, something the Regiment has never had in the past, you will all have probably seen it on parade by now. Something that I personally extremely proud of is that we were invited to Belgium last year for the WW1 service at the Menin Gate in Ypres. To be front and centre at such a prestigious event was truly humbling and an honour to be part of, our standard bearer Glynn Rendell said it was one of the proudest days of his life. Around 18 months ago we were approached by the Devon & Dorset old boys due to them being asked to move on from their old venue they needed somewhere to meet up. So they join us at our meetings and have integrated very well I'm pleased to say. If any federation members would like to pop along to our meetings we would be more than happy to see them and give them a warm welcome. If you can't make the meeting why not come along and join us on one of our fund raising events, not all are physical tests of endurance! Meeting Noah's Ark upstairs, first Friday of every month except January.

All the best Neil Randall Chairman Commando Gunner Regroup 07454 668848