

FOURTH AND SEVENTH ROYAL TANK REGIMENT REUNION WEEKEND

Between the 15th and 17th of April 1983.4 RTR had the privilege of acting as hosts for almost 450 members and wives of members of the 4th/7th RTR and Rhine Staff Band Reunion Association.

The Commanding Officer appointed the OM, Major Tom Horne, as overall co-ordinator of the weekend and he immediately set to arranging accommodation for members, their wives and the senior guests of the association. The main highlights of the weekend apart from equipment displays, vehicle rides, the museum and the NAAFI (which did record business) were the Reunion Dinner on Saturday night and the Drumhead Church Service on Sunday morning. The greatest organisational problem of all was the dinner on Saturday; it was a great credit to the OM. D Squadron and the Master Chef. Mr Croft, and his team that just over 500 were able to sit down in civilised conditions and eat a well prepared hot meal.

It is very easy when writing an account of a weekend such as this to lose sight of the true purpose of the weekend. Occasions such as these are not designed to test our organisational ability (which should not need testing anyway!), but because we owe it to those who have gone before us and have set such a fine example to today's soldiers. The 4th/7th Association is a wonderfully strong and vibrant family of comrades from all periods of both Regiment's history. In addition to the great pleasure of their company we, the soldiers of today, discovered that a lot can be learnt from them. It is highly beneficial for us of today's Army to meet and talk to our predecessors and by so doing we can learn that there is really nothing new under the sun and that most problems and difficulties have been met and overcome before.

Every officer and soldier who met and talked to the Old Comrades was deeply struck by their warmth and friendliness, and it can only be said that we enjoyed the honour of hosting the weekend very much. No occasion such as the Reunion would be possible without the hard work of the organisers in liaison with us the providers of the facilities; thus it is only right that in conclusion the Reunion Association Committee led by Major Ted Newsam should be thanked by us for their detailed planning, flexibility and understanding.