Welcome to the second RAVC Newsletter - December 2025

The first RAVC Newsletter went out during the late summer and seemed to be well received, with only one person asking not to receive future editions. Should you wish not to receive email communications from the RAVC please let me know and I will delete your email address from our mailing list.

Chiron Calling

One or two have asked me, "is the RAVC Newsletter replacing the Chiron Calling magazine?", as far as I am concerned, no it is not. But the future of the Corps Magazine relies on input from the RAVC family, whether, serving personnel or veterans or other interested parties.

To date I have only received one article with perhaps another 4-5 promised. The closing date for submissions is Friday 6th March 2026, so plenty of time still to write up interesting narratives of what the two busy RAVC Regiments have been up to since last April. Not forgetting the busy folks in the 'Iso Dets' please keep the Corps informed of what you have been working on. (MAB units no need to write, thank you). Email submissions to: regtsecravc@hotmail.co.uk

Please note email and postal distribution lists have been updated. Please ensure your correct details are held by the Reg Sec.

A link to the RAVC Chiron Book Case is below which allows access to view the last nine Chiron Callings on line:

https://fliphtml5.com/bookcase/jdtrj?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwMKwmRleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHiUIVpVPsJRdkHIq72jdUYjbI5R60RKHGEVEGoeSaYgUak-CNIE3pJflti-Z_aem_kQ_yp7jJC255FAYUcmgk7w

With Remembrance week still fresh in our minds, I have placed a link to Soldier Magazine directly below this para, which some may find interesting, it reflects on those who sadly paid the Ultimate Sacrifice in Afghanistan. We will all remember others that sadly died in all other conflicts.

https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=1a92be17-44b0-4dd4-b740-89057cd9a275

The Cenotaph Parade

Was supported only by Ex WO1 (CRSM) Stu Rowles; who travelled from overseas to attend the prestigious Parade. Next year we already have two overseas RAVC Veterans who wish to attend. I am hoping that from the UK as well we can get a sizeable group of Veterans to attend. Noting in the past there has been free train travel provided by rail companies and London black taxi cabs. Details concerning the application process will be sent out by the Regimental Secretary in the summer of 2026 to apply on line, and confirmation of those selected to attend is provided in early October 2026. Remembrance dates listed further below.

HMG Veterans Strategy

Please see below a link to the recently published HMG Veterans Strategy which may be of specific interest to Veterans:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/veterans-strategy/veterans-strategy

RAVC Stable Belts

Currently the Corps is 'dues out' regarding our Stable Belts, I am awaiting a sample to be delivered and then hopefully our Stable Belts will be then manufactured and delivered ready for the spring of 2026.

Sport Funding

With more and more financial constraints imposed on events organised by military, sometimes it can be difficult to obtain funding to help finance sporting and AT activities. Serving personnel organising or participating in sporting events or AT activity should consider funding sources from the Army Sports Lottery, The Berlin Infantry Brigade Memorial Trust Fund, RAMSSU, PRIs, COPF, ECOPF, as well as the RAVC Association, not forgetting a personal contribution.

Request for Volunteers 31 December 2025 100th Birthday party RAVC Veteran – Kendall

I have received a request for RAVC personnel both serving and veterans to attend and assist in the celebrations of 100th birthday party for an RAVC Veteran who served in WW2. Grateful for volunteers and if you wish to assist please contact the undersigned.

Hearts of Valor

Recently I have been asked to assist with some historical facts regarding a future animation feature film that is being produced called "Hearts of Valor". An interesting link is below, please scroll down and view the short clips depicting animals - an animal's perspective - from World War One.

https://heartsofvalormovie.com/f/hearts-of-valor-trailer

Artefact Donations

If anyone has any artefacts, documents, books, pamphlets etc, that you may wish o donate to the RAVC for future exhibitions in Museums, such as the Carnegie Museum in Melton, The National Army Museum, Museum of Military Medicine at Lichfield please kindly let me know and I will put you in contact with the relevant curators.

Museums are always keen to hear about personal stories or reflections of Veterans and even serving personnel if approved by their chain of command. Again pleased contact the undersigned if you wish to assist.

Forgive me if this newsletter seems to have plenty on historical aspects of the Corps. Please see below a link, which will take you to a YouTube channel which has nine 'videos' of older RAVC Films etc:

RAVC History Media Link

Benevolence Requests

Several people have approached me directly concerning Benevolence Grants, whilst I may be able to offer some guidance; the first point of contact is your local SSAFA or TRBL. Contact details can be found by simply searching SSAFA or TRBL contacts with an internet search engine.

Leaving a Legacy

Recent data has shown 20% of people over 40 years of age, left a legacy gift in their Will, up from 14% in 2010. But, 40% of those surveyed said they would like to do so. If you are one of those yet to act, we hope you may consider the RAVC Benevolent Fund as a beneficiary once you have taken care of family and friends. Any charitable gift in a Will is tax-free and currently, a gift of more than 10% of an estate may reduce inheritance tax down from 40% to 30%. A gift of any size really will make a difference. Further details can be sought from the RAVC Regimental Secretary.

Key RAVC Dairy Dates for 2026

- Fri 6 Mar 2026 – Chiron Calling Submission Deadline
- Sat 9 May 2026 – Liam Tasker Memorial Rugby Match, Melton Mowbray
- Thu 5 Jun 2026 (TBC) – Founder's Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Sat 6 Jun 2026 – 'The Gathering,' to be held in Melton Location TBC. All very welcome to attend
- Fri 19 Jun 2026 (TBC) – Annual RAVC Golf Reunion
- Mon 22 Jun 2026 (TBC) – Fly the Flag Day, Melton Borough Council
- Sat 27 Jun 2026 – Armed Forces Day
- Sun 5 Jul 2026 – RAVC Morning Service, Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Fri 24 Jul 2026 – LCpl Ken Rowe's Family visit to NAM, Shropshire, wider attendance by serving and RAVC Veterans very welcomed by the Rowe Family
- Sep 2026 Weekend date for Corps Reunion at DATR not completely firmed up as yet.
- Thu 6 Nov 2026 – St Margaret's Field Remembrance Service, London (nominated personnel only)
- Fri 7 Nov 2026 – Animals in War Memorial Service, Park Lane, London
- Sun 8 Nov 2026 – Remembrance Sunday Parades
    - Cenotaph (London) – Veterans only (15 RAVC places allocated). (Sadly very limited RAVC attendance during 2025, let's hope for 2026 there will be more of an uptake by our RAVC Veterans, a calling request will be sent out in the early summer of 2026 for Sun 8 Nov 2026)
    - Melton Mowbray Parade

- Mon 11 Nov 2026 – RBL Act of Remembrance, Melton Mowbray

Please note the 'Old and Bold' Meet in Melton for lunch normally on the last Wednesday of each month. Please see the 'RAVC' and also 'Past and Present' Facebook sites for details.

Veterans Breakfast Club – First Saturday of each month, Harboro' Hotel, Melton Mowbray

The RAVC Corps Weekend

Is planned to take place during September 2026, the final date not set as yet, as it has to link with serving personnel commitments. It is at this stage planned to commence late morning on a Saturday at the DATR, and will comprise a series of short briefing's of operational activity etc, Service of Remembrance, early 'supper', retire to relevant messes or NAAFI, members free to leave and gather in town. Sunday morning visit to the new kennel complex at Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore, light refreshments to be provided and return travel to Melton for dispersal.

Non RAVC Events

Non RAVC events but for diary consideration and attendance may be worth noting. The ex RAVC Organiser will offer five free tickets on a first come first served basis for the below event.



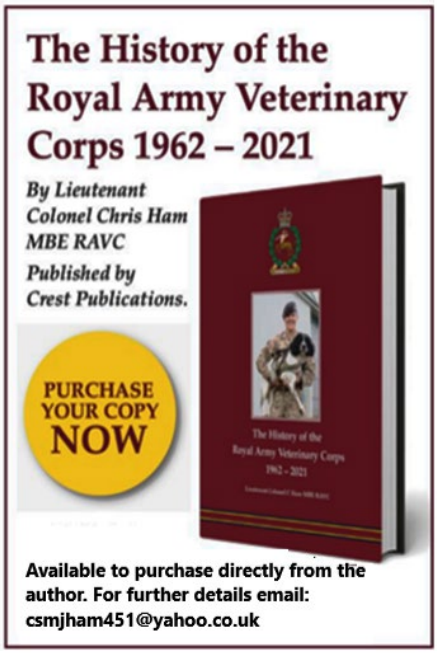


Job Vacancy

An ex RAVC Veterans son who owns and manages a nationwide security business with several hundred staff, is keen to recruit ex RAVC personnel. Anyone interested please contact: E.knight@consortiosecurity.com

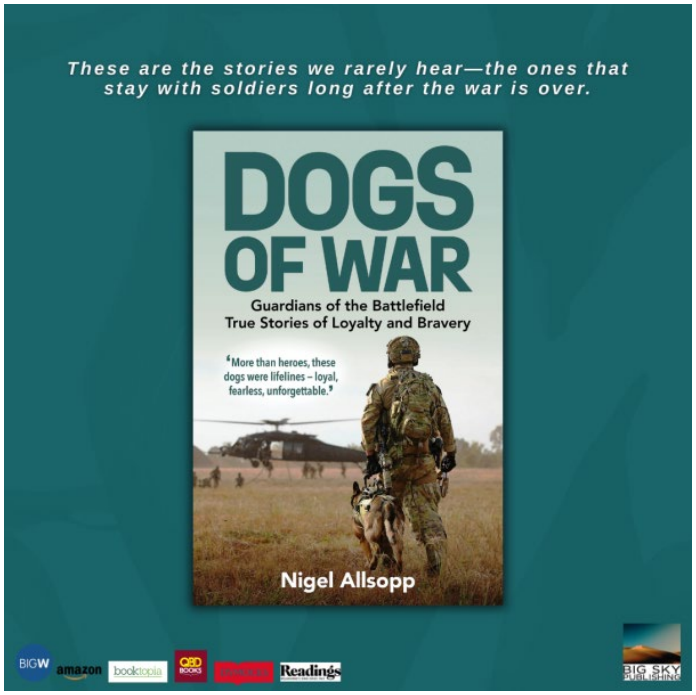
The History of the RAVC 1962 - 2021

The History of the RAVC 1962-2021 is on sale for **£20.00** per copy, kindly subsidised by the RAVC Association and Wagtail UK Ltd. The RAVC book is still available from both RAVC PRIs and also from the undersigned. Copies can be signed on request. Postage is £8 per copy, (Royal Mail postage allows three copies to be posted to the same address for the price of one parcel at £8).



The Australia War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO).

Has a new book, now ready for Christmas, part of funds raised will directly assist AWAMOs animal charity in Ukraine. As you may be aware AWAMO staff have been to Ukraine twice and they work alongside a Ukraine NGO. AWAMO sponsor two animal sanctuaries and conduct K9 first aid training to volunteer animal rescue groups.
https://awamo.org.au/about/about-the-animals/



That's all for now!

Thank you for reading and for your continued support of our Corps and Association. Please feel free to share this newsletter, and as always, comments and suggestions are warmly welcomed.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all readers!!!

With my very best regards,

Chris Ham.
Lt Col (Retd) Chris Ham MBE - RAVC Regimental Secretary (Interim).