

BRITISH VETERANS NEWS

SPRING 2012

Leading Article: Our Commitment to Veterans

Nearly 10 years ago we set out to fulfil a requirement for a formal ID card, as the MoD wasn't at the time in the position to make a decision on a formal card. It seems as though the MoD may now have declared that there is no operational requirement for a Veterans ID Card, which we completely agree with, however, that is very different from the desire by many ex-servicemen and women to have formal proof of service.



**BRITISH
VETERANS**
recognition card

We run BVRC as a not-for-profit organisation - no salaries or bonuses - simply to meet the needs of those who want credible proof of service in their pocket. As we are about to celebrate our 5000th member, we will pledge to continue providing this service for as long our community want it.

We are a small team delivering this service in our spare time, and welcome all feedback, suggestions and help in any form.

News

More than 13,500 members of the Armed Forces are set to boost security during this summer's London Olympic Games. Service personnel will take part in a range of duties to help keep the city safe during the games, ranging from crowd control and counter-terrorism work.

The Ministry of Defence Medal Office is the sole authority for the issue of medals authorised by Her Majesty to British Service Personnel and Veterans. The Medal Office, part of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, is based in Imjin Barracks, Innsworth, Gloucester. Many applications are still received from Veterans who did not claim their medals at the time, particularly from WWII. These historic medal claims (next-of-kin of deceased Veterans are entitled to claim too) form a large proportion of the office's work. For more information call 0141 224 3600 or the Veterans Freephone 0800 085 3600

Britain is facing a logistical nightmare in bringing equipment back home when we pull our troops out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014. Now that the preferred route out through Pakistan no longer seems an option, the Government is looking to bring out millions of pounds of vehicles and equipment through former Soviet states, including Kazakhstan. Military commanders are looking to use Russian railways - built 140 years ago by the tsars - to bring the equipment the 3,500 miles home.

The planned pullout of British troops from Germany will prove somewhat less of a logistical nightmare. The British bases in Germany still represent the biggest deployment of UK forces overseas. With civilians, families and children, the British contingent in the country stands at more than 43,000. Under government proposals, all will have returned by 2020 - 15 years earlier than previously planned.

Charitable Achievements

The Great Manx Challenge

Our very own Simon Lamb took part in the raising of £14,000 for the Special Boat Service Association in a bicycle pursuit race around the Isle of Man.

Simon was riding with Team Challenge4Ben who were being pursued by Team Marine around the 37.75 mile course.

The 8 mile uphill section (read mountain!) proved to be a big challenge to

the amateur cyclists and the 3 amputees taking part.

However, they all finished, and the pint at the end soon drew a line underneath the day.



A Close Shave

One of our members, Jock Brodie, who grew his beard for charity was sheared in aid of the Lancashire Air Ambulance and Help for Heroes



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Partners

Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), one of the largest energy companies, are delighted to support BRVC and offer members an 8% discount on a wide range of A rated appliances purchased from their on-line store at www.thesouthernshop.co.uk.

Thomas Cook are still happy to offer a guaranteed 6% discount, in addition to any tour operator savings available when you book. They are offering a guaranteed discount off 1000's of holidays through their Holiday Club, run in conjunction with Thomas Cook. The Foreign Exchange service is offering commission free holiday money and reduced commission on Sterling Travellers Cheques.

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ASDA We are still one of only 2 companies in the UK being offered our 5% discount from all ASDA stores. The system has changed to crediting funds onto a shopping card for use in the store - just present it at the checkout. Once you get into the routine of organising your purchases, great savings can be made over the year.

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Memorial to the Last Deportees

An authentic and restored boxcar forms the memorial to remember the last train of deportees crossing the Seine-et-Marne region to the east of Paris on August 16 1944 en route to Germany. The majority of the 2,400 on the train were members of the French Resistance but there were also several hundred Allied soldiers, including about 57 British.



The train had come to a halt in the countryside because the railway bridge spanning the Marne between the villages of Nanteuil-sur-Marne and Saacy-sur-Marne had been destroyed by the RAF. Under SS guard, the prisoners were made to walk several miles to reach the station at Nanteuil-Staacy where a train took the men to Buckenwald and the women to Ravensbruck. More than 2,000 never returned. On Saturday, June 23 there will be a ceremony to open the memorial which has been placed closed to the station.

Seamill Hydro is proud to support BRVC and to offer our members exclusive discounts across the range of facilities available at the hotel. The hotel is set on the stunning Ayrshire Coastline with views of over 100 square miles of land and sea and the islands of Ailsa Craig and Arran. 40% off rack rate for rooms booked for Sunday - Thursday : 20% off rack rate for rooms booked for Friday & Saturday 20% off food in any of the restaurants (available all week but excluding special events such as Christmas Day)



A Note from the Membership Secretary

I would just like to remind all our Members that we are always looking for new Partners to support BVRC so if you know of any organisation who may be interested, please let me know. We try to develop relationships with companies who cover the entire country, to make sure that all our members can benefit.

Also, a reminder to anyone travelling abroad - particularly the United States - to present your cards at every opportunity. Although we do not have a formal arrangement with companies or attractions, our members indicate that British ex-servicemen and women are offered the same discounts as the US veterans. And our card has always been accepted as this proof.

Some members' comments are below:

"... overall I saved \$120. Just ask if you qualify for an ex armed forces discount and many are happy to oblige."

"Anyone visting USA should try using their card everywhere. I got a 50% discount for 12 months membership of the National Parks"

"On showing my veterans card I received at least 10% discount in the parks, shops and supermarkets. I found that a number of outlets give discounts of between 10% - 20% on production of your card"

Reminder : British Veterans still receives no commission on any of the offers we promote - the entire discount goes to our members.