



Royal Navy



British Army

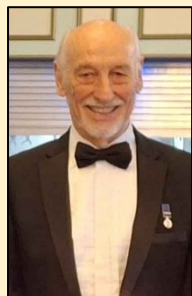


Royal Air Force

Aden Veterans Association Gloucestershire Branch

Volume 3 of 2025

Chairman's Report



At our October Branch meeting, held at the Toby Carvery in Brockworth on Wednesday 1st, I outlined the most recent National Association aspirations for the closure of the Association in 2027 following the Reunion and AGM in Blackpool in September. To summarise:

- The 2027 Reunion and AGM will be held in Blackpool in early September
- It is hoped that there will be a North and South final Service and buffet to formally close the National Association in November 2027. Dates and venues to be confirmed
- There will be no funding for Branch members who wish to attend their regional Service. It was considered that two years notice would provide Branches time to raise funds to provide transport to and from the two regional Services.

Our Branch held a Committee meeting prior to the National AGM. It was unanimously decided that the Gloucestershire Branch would hold their final Service to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Withdrawal from Aden on Monday the 29th November 2027 at the War Memorial in Cheltenham.

We have arranged a contingency plan if other Branches want to attend a Service and buffet lunch in Gloucester which will be held on Sunday 28th November 2027. The proposed venue can accommodate approximately 150 people in the Church and afterwards in the Church Hall. The event will take place in one location with parking and easy accessibility.

Following the closure of the National Association on the 29th November 2027 the Gloucestershire Branch will reopen as an independent Aden Veterans group functioning on a similar basis to our current structure.

All the details for both the National Association and Gloucestershire Branch closures will be discussed at future Branch meetings.

The Branch has been represented at a number of events in the Summer including The Earthcott Green Remembrance Service, Weymouth Weekend and the National Reunion and AGM in Blackpool.

Future Events that are scheduled for the Gloucestershire Branch are as follows:

5th November Wednesday lunch at Miller and Carter Quedgley 12.00 for 12.30



9th November Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade at the War Memorial in Cheltenham 10.30

11th November 11th Armistice Day at the War Memorial in Cheltenham 11.00

29th November The 58th Anniversary of the Withdrawal from Aden at the War Memorial in Cheltenham **PLEASE NOTE** this is a Saturday and the Cheltenham Borough Council will not be able to host the Service. This will be organised by the Branch

3rd December Christmas Lunch at Bowden Hall 12.00 for 12.30

7th January 2025 Branch meeting, with raffle and quiz, at the Toby Carvery in Brockworth 11.00.

I do hope that as many of you who are able will attend some of these events.

Finally my thanks to Dennis Flamson for his excellent work as our Secretary. To David Gearing our treasurer and to Jean Stubley our Social Secretary, who continues to organise our successful Wednesday lunches. Sally Welzel, who has devoted a considerable amount of effort and time planning for the 60th Anniversary. My thanks to our President Chris Price for his outstanding support and commitment to the Branch and to our Standard bearer Robert Parrant who is so reliable. Finally to all our members, especially those of you who give up your time to attend some or all of our events. Without your active support the Branch would not be in such a healthy position.

Rick Rutter Branch Chairman

Branch Secretary's Report

We have had a very interesting time over the past couple of months. Firstly, we had the wonderful weekend at Weymouth with the Gala Dinner at the Rembrandt Hotel followed by a march-past on the Sunday. Unfortunately, we were well down on numbers with only 12 attending the march and only 2 AVA Standards present. There were a few sat in the stands provided. The days were very enjoyable, and all went well. I carried our Branch Standard into the Gala Dinner.

The lunches we enjoyed organised by our very own Jean Stubly, good food followed by the usual great banter.



Then we moved onto the brilliant couple of days at our reunion and AGM at Blackpool's Norbreck Castle Hotel. There was a Delegates meeting from all branches to agree an agender on the closure of the AVA in 2027.

I was elected to carry our Standard at the AGM then also at the Gala Dinner in the evening.

On a personal note due to a skin cancer which formed right on the tip of my nose due to my cat swiping me which drew a lot of blood. After a trip to see the doctor, I was referred to the BRI in Bristol who sent me to Southmead Hospital for surgery to remove the cancer cell. This was successfully removed and was very painful. I now have two black eyes and a very sore nose. I feel and look like I had a round with Mike Tyson.

There are still talks and arrangements on the 2027 events for our closure of the National AVA and our own details for our Branch, work in progress as they say.

I will continue in my role as Secretary to keep you up to date by email and post.

Dennis Flamson Branch Secretary

Treasurer's Report

We are now over halfway through the current financial year, and the first six months are always the quietest in terms of money throughput. In the remaining months, we will have monies coming in for the Christmas lunch, and then being paid out to the Hotel. There will be some administrative expenses, but I do not anticipate any other large payments.

Our financial position based on the latest bank statement (7th October 2025) is:

Income	£596.00
Expenditure	£377.00
Bank Balance	£3,734.97

David Gearing Branch Treasurer

Social Secretary Report

Since our last Quarterly meeting in July, we had a pleasant meal at the Apple Tree Inn, Woodmancote for 19.

The same numbers attended the Anchor Inn at Epney by the river.

The Quarterly meeting at the Toby Inn went ahead on 1/10/25, despite making local TV news, when part of their ceiling collapsed 3 days earlier. Numbers were slightly down at 16. A few attendees did not particularly care for the buffet. For some reason, they

are not able to offer chips with the hot buffet items, only cheesy roast potatoes. Maybe we should have the carvery next time, or, if anyone has any suggestions for a different Quarterly venue please let me know.

Miller & Carter have a lunch deal menu, which is our next venue on Wednesday 5/11/25 at 12 for 12.30pm. £17.95 for 2 courses and £20.95 for 3 courses. If you do not have your name down but wish to go, please let me know asap.

Our final lunch this year is Bowden Hall Hotel, Upton St Leonards, a repeat on last year's Christmas lunch. Cost is £30 pp for 3 courses plus tea/coffee and mince pie are included. Details are on the AVA website. Please let me know your menu choices. but send payments direct to our Treasurer, David Gearing asap. Christmas lunches at local hotels do require full payment well in advance of the date booked. BACS payments can be made.

Jean Stubley Branch Social Secretary

Future Events

WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER. First Wednesday lunch. Miller & Carter, Olympus Park, Quedgeley, GL2 4NF.

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER Remembrance Day. Parade at Cheltenham Long Garden 10.45 for 11.00hrs.

TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER Armistice Day Cheltenham Long Garden.

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 58th Anniversary of the Withdraw of British Troops from Aden Service at Cheltenham Long Garden 11.00hrs

WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER AVA Glos Christmas Dinner Bowden Hall.

2026

20/21 June 2026 Weymouth weekend.

11th September until after the Drumhead Service on Sunday 13th September 2026. The Aden Veterans Association Annual General Meeting and Reunion will take place at the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool. Further details will be provided in the November Issue of the Dhow Journal.

Welfare News

Hi, all Gloucestershire Association Members and everyone else who log in. Welcome to the final Welfare advice bulletin of 2025.

With winter setting in shortly and things may possibly go wrong. So, in order to put things right, I have provided a list of the charities who can help in your hour of need. The charities that deal with all branches of the Military Services are Royal British Legion {RBL} and Soldiers Sailors & Airman's Families Association {SSAFA}.

Individual Service Branches have their own Providers also. Royal Navy and the Marines have Royal Naval Benevolent Trust {RNBT}. The British Army has The Army Benevolent Fund {ABF}. The Royal Air Force has The RAF Benevolent Fund {RAFbf}. The Army is unique, whereby all regiments have their own Regimental Benevolent funds. The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force are covered by their own Benevolent Fund.



We are here to support Armed Forces veterans for life, whatever the need. If you need help: Talk to Our Helpline. We provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. Call 08088028080



Need to talk?

We are here to support you. Serving, Veterans and Families. Contact Forcesline - it's free & confidential. 08002606780.

We are open 09:00 - 17:00, Monday to Thursday, and 09:00 - 16:00 on Friday.



Helpline: Call 02394 216294 (Monday to Friday between 0800-1600) or email help@rnbt.org.uk



Contact us:

Mountbarrow House, 12 Elizabeth Street, London SW1W 9RB

Tel: 0207 901 8900 Email: info@armybenevolentfund.org



For Help Contact us by:-

Telephone 0800 018 2361 {excluding weekends and bank holidays}.

Email: enquiries@rafa.org.uk

Contact us in writing please address us at:

RAF Association Headquarters, Atlas House, 41 Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT

I wish All my readers a very Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New Year

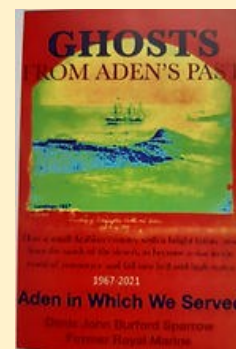
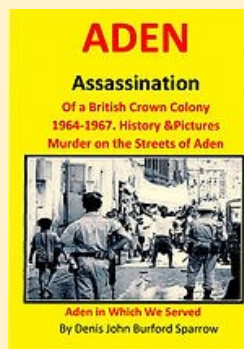
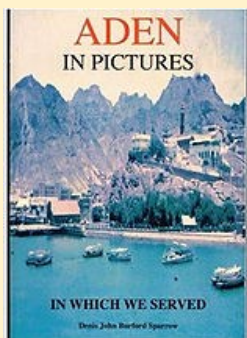
Emlyn Phennah, Welfare Advisor

Editor's Report

You may be aware that the National Association website has now been closed. I have added the Aden Roll of Honour taken from the National website onto our branch website.

Dennis Sparrow shared the following email he received from an Aden veteran who has read his books:

Just to let you know that the books have arrived. I'm normally a very patient man, but I cannot wait to get stuck into them. I've had a quick run through, and from what I've seen and read they look to be absolutely perfect, very well written and very true as to actually what happened. At the time of my posting I hated the place, but looking back now with the benefit of hindsight I'm glad that I went there. I've often wondered what it would be like to go back, but sadly because of ill health that will never happen. Never mind, I've still got my memories.



These publications, written by branch member Denis JB Sparrow are available direct from Denis. If you don't have access to the Internet you can contact Denis on 01453 492638.

Ray Bunnage Branch Newsletter Editor

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