



**DOVER BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**

**MAY 2020**

Dear Members

With isolation restricting our movements there is very little of interest to report, however with the Regiments formation day falling this month the 26<sup>th</sup> to be exact, it will be the first time for 34 years that the Branch will not attend a Church service at St Mary De Castro and a Memorial service at the Anglo/American Artillery Memorial on Langdon Cliffs,

So to that end I've put together a brief reminder of the event with items gleamed from the records that were held by Col (Rtd) Mike Cross. RA

**LANGDON CLIFFS ANGLO AMERICAN ARTILLERY MEMORIAL**



**75 HAA REGIMENT RA**

**540 COASTAL REGIMENT RA**



**127 AAA BN US ARMY**



The Memorial was Dedicated on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1986 with representatives from all three Regiments and at the time it was, and I believe still is the only Anglo/American Artillery Memorial in the UK

Dover Branch RAA was represented by Mike Cross and Eric "Pip" Piper. no doubt there were many more from the Branch there, but their names are not recorded.

The Regiments = 75 HAA Regt RA = 540 Coastal Artillery RA = 127 AAA Bn USA

75 (Cinque Ports) HAA Regt was in action on the coast from 1939 to 45 their first actions were to fight off the attacks of the Luftwaffe in the early years of the war then the V 2 rockets near the end, they also came under fire from the German Coastal guns in France. Their defence barrage over Dover Docks was such that the Luftwaffe had very little effect on its working.

540 Coastal Regiment RA (South Foreland Battery) their work was to return fire to the German Coastal Batteries and to fire on German war ships in the channel. There is very little recorded about this unit, but their action against German shipping and keeping the Chanel clear was noted by Sir Winston Churchill

127 American Anti –Aircraft Artillery Battalion Langdon Cliffs Battalion they came in support of the British Artillery against the V2 rockets they claimed 89 hits on buzz bombs

I was not able to find the Casualty list of the British Gunners but the Americans had 4 killed 1 died later of wounds received and 10 wounded,

The bond between the Brit =G.I Gunners was very strong, reports from the Americans of how the Brit Gunners helped them adjust to life in Hell Fire Corner was second to none, also their admiration for the people of Dover , one GI said I was proud to have served with the Brits and helped the Folks of Dover.

We may not be on the cliffs in body this year but let's be there in spirit

LEST WE FORGET

