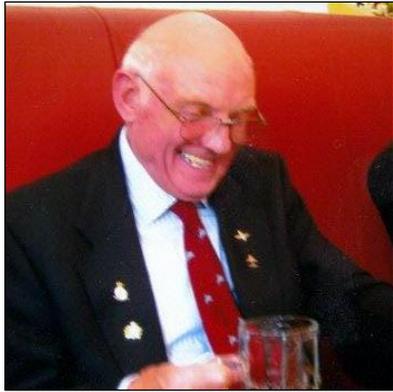


Eric Rose (Rosie) February 1942 – July 2015



Eric was born in Sunderland during the Second World War on the 20th February 1942 to be exact; he was the youngest of eight children born to a shipyard and boiler maker Fred Rose and his wife Jane. The military aspect of Eric's life ran deep in his family – his brothers were all Royal Marines.

Eric was a bright child and went to St Bed's Grammar school – he began his working life in the coal mines which he hated, a difficult hard job. Eric then moved to the shipyards, that job was not for him. He found his vocation when he joined the British Army as a Signaller in the Royal Corp of Signals.

After initial training as a Radio Operator in 1963 he was posted to 32 Regt RA, after a year he volunteered for Airborne Forces and on successful completion of "P" Company and "jump" training at RAF Abingdon he was posted to 216 Parachute Signal Squadron in Farnborough. He soon became a well respected detachment commander, always willing to pass on his knowledge to the new boys of the Squadron. Eric saw service with the Parachute Battalions in Borneo and the Middle East and the occasional exercise in the UK and Germany.

I remember Eric well from my first exercise with him on Hankley Common when he instructed me on the use of a 62 set, establishing comms back to our base in Aldershot on quarter of a watt – no cell phones in those days. He was always cheerful with a very dry sense of humour and always had a joke to tell. More recently Eric attended the 216 Old Comrades Association reunions where he met up with his many friends in particular Brian Earl.

Eric spent five years with 216 and was subsequently posted and served in other Royal Signals units in Germany and in particular the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst where he was an instructor and helped to train many cadet officers from around the world but mainly the Middle East. Whilst in Germany he awarded a civilian medal for bravery which he received from the Queen Mother. Eric was also a recipient of GSM (1962) with clasp Borneo, LS&GC, Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM).

It was while he was in Hong Kong that he met his future wife Jenny, she was also a serving soldier, they met at the Airport, and it appears Jenny needed an escort due to the local unrest. Eric offered and asked her out, Jenny subsequently told her friend she had met a man who was full of himself and that she was going out with him to pull him down a peg – well love prevailed and they married in Aldershot in 1969 and Eric got two days leave from the very generous British Army for the occasion.

Eric and Jenny were blessed with two children Sarah & David and Eric has five grand children whom he adored. Eric & Jenny were "cross over" foster parents, a role that forms the link between care and adoption

On completion of 28 years service Eric retired from the Territorial Army as a Captain and began his second career in Civvy Street. He had many job opportunities but settled for home life with a job at Lang's – before joining the Probation Service. Eric enjoyed his relaxation and spent holidays in Portugal and cruising, there are many happy memories of these occasions, Eric was a very keen gardener and had the same allotment for over 25 years. He was also chairman of the allotment association. Eric was a volunteer driver at DMH – and made many friends through that redoubtable enterprise.

Eric fought a long brave battle with cancer and died at home in peace, knowing he had left everything in order for the loved ones he sadly left behind. He will stay in the hearts of his family with love and affection for the lovely loving husband and father and grandfather he was. His funeral took place at Darlington Crematorium and was attended by his many friends. 216 Parachute Signals Squadron being well represented.

He is survived by his wife, Jenny, daughter, Sarah and son, David and six very much loved grandchildren Amber, Lana, Marina, Anya, little Eric and new grandson born on 7th March 2016, Alexander.

RIP, Eric Rose - Airborne Comrade and Friend

KW. 1st April 2016