



RMA City of London Branch Christmas Message 2017

***and though
we are not now that strength which in old days
moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;
one equal temper of heroic hearts,
made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.***

Last year, I offered John Donne as a counterpoint to Jingle Bells; this year it is Lord Tennyson's turn. Then I reflected on the importance of our sense of belonging to something larger than ourselves: the Corps while we were serving, the RMA and the Branch since we left. Here we can reflect that our individual physical strength may not match that which we had when we passed out of training but our personal will and determination remain as strong as ever. Just as importantly however, it is our collective strength, our '*equal temper of heroic hearts*' that will ensure that life does not get the better of us, that we do not yield. Can we crack it? Yes, we can.

We remain very fortunate that we have the Branch to help to give us that collective strength. Branch meetings, the RM Family Weekend at CTCRM, the Tower for the Corps Birthday and Zeebrugge bring us together sometimes, and yet we also know that the spirit of comradeship is alive and well all the time. The Branch remains a very strong supporter of the Not Forgotten Association; I hope that that wonderful Charity will not mind if I borrow their words to remind ourselves that everyone in our Branch 'association' is not forgotten.

Our Chairman never forgets the Branch, our Committee never forget the Branch Members and our Branch Members never forget each other. With my thanks to each and every Member of the Branch for all that you do, individually and collectively, I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a heroic 2018.

Lt Gen Sir Rob Fulton RM (rtd) KBE

