## The Late Captain (Redt) Victor T Zimmer, Royal Signals 19<sup>th</sup> April 1943 – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013







Vic joined Junior Leaders in 1958, served in 216 Para Sig Sqn 1962-69, was promoted WO1 (RSM) for 2 Div Sigs at Bünde in 1979, and eventually retired as Capt (QM) in 1986.

Following reports of Vic's brave battle with cancer, and upon notification of his death, the following **223** tributes were copied from posts on <a href="https://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a>. and <a href="https://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a>.

**Terry Brown**, Whitely Bay - Sorry to learn of Vic Zimmer's passing. RIP Vic **Derek Scott**, UK - I had the good fortune to spend my last 2 yrs of service in 2 Div Sigs where Vic was R.S.M. It was a hilarious experience, whether it was patrolling the camp and Squadrons in the morning or in the mess in the evening. He was a great man and a natural comic. When I eventually get to the great Airborne RV in the sky I will make sure I'm sitting at Vic's table. God bless you my friend.

**Archie Arbuckle**, Lincoln - Also served under Vic at 2 Div. A brilliant RSM, who was respected and admired by all who knew him, and as previously said by someone, even though we knew the end was near it still hurts when someone who inspired you passes away far too early. My deepest condolences to Tricia and all the Zimmer family.

lan and Sue Campbell, Scotland - So sad to hear that after putting up a tremendous fight, as everyone who knew him knew he would do, that even Vic had sadly to go down fighting. I was proud to have known Vic when I joined the elite brotherhood in 1967 and learned so much from him. He also kept me right when I came back as RSM 5 Airborne, and he was Admin Officer. Thank you Vic for the memories and our sincere condolences to his close family, our thoughts are with you.

**Alex Wilson**, Leicester - Sad news about Vic, he took me under his wing as a young 18-year-old and gave me all the confidence I needed to become a proud Airborne soldier. Thanks Vic, rest in peace mate, and my condolences to all his family.

**Keith Chamberlain**, Copenhagen - I never met Vic Zimmer during my time in Aldershot but served under him at 2 Div in Bünde. The finest RSM I ever served under. A true gentleman, I am genuinely proud to have known him and I am deeply saddened by his passing. My condolences to his family.

**Cam Fleming**, Bristol - I served at 2 Div when Vic Zimmer was RSM. I am proud to say that I knew and served with him. He was a man that you could talk to and great leader. RIP Sir, you may be gone but not forgotten, my condolences to Vic's Family.

Chris Miller, New Zealand - I am saddened to hear from Tom Morell of Vic's passing, and would like to add my voice to the many voices wishing his family well during this sad time. **Bob Mills**, UK - I returned from a few days away and read all the tributes to Vic from far and wide. His wife, daughter and family must be very proud in their time of loss. I have been friends with Vic from the age of 7 when at junior school. Joined the Junior leaders with him, and he followed me into 216, following a leave when I pointed out to him that he was a crap hat, and could do better. We were promoted to WO1 (RSM) on the same board, and attended the same commissioning course, as well as the same QM's course. I will remember the great

times we had together, the scrapes and scraps we had, and the times he covered for me. A really good bloke, who I will really miss. Apart from that, who else will send me daft birthday cards? He was 70 on April the 19th.

**Paul Hudson**, Bristol - I too served at 2 Div. RSM Vic Zimmer was a fantastic, fair, very respected, and very human being. My heartfelt condolences to all his family.

**Sid James**, Turkey - Very sad to hear of Vic's passing. Most of the comments on our website echo the feelings of the loss of a really good bloke. I personally have good memories of Vic on my first squadron summer camp in '66. My condolences to Vic's family.

**Saki Finer**, Hartlepool - So very sad to hear about Vic's passing. I remember Vic when I joined 216 in 1966, as a sprog of 17 years. A happy friendly father figure, always ready with a word of encouragement. Having been brought up in Croydon myself, it must have been his accent that I noticed as well. He was one of the good guys. Life is so

unfair sometimes. My thoughts and prayers are with Vic's family at this time. You are greatly missed by all of us. Rest in peace, Mate.

**Ivor Richards**, England - I was a sprog at 2 Div when VIC was RSM, and in my 12 years I never served under a greater man. He was a great leader and a legend in our Corps.

**Pete Pritchard**, Malta - Another great character departed from the Elles Bks era. Gone but never forgotten Vic. R.I.P.

**Dave Jackson**, Aldershot - Very sad at Vic's passing. I served with Vic as a young sproggy tech in the squadron, then again in the early 80's when 216 was reforming. A really nice guy and privilege to have known you. R.I.P Airborne brother.

**Rex Crouch**, UK - Great memories of Vic in Aldershot in the 60s. RIP Vic. Ann and I send our condolences to his family.

**Chris+Deb White**, Llanelly Hill - So sorry to hear of the passing of yet another Airborne Brother. Many good memories both at Ellis Bks, when I joined the Sqn as a young sprog, and later at Arnhem Bks. RIP, MATE.

Ron Hart - Very sad news R.I.P. Vic

Wee Mac and Linda, Scotland - Really sorry to hear of Vic's passing. I served with him in 216 and 32 (Scottish) Signal Regt (V), and have great memories of our get together in both. I was sorry to have missed him on our last visit to Brisbane, but did catch up with him there two years ago. Both Linda and I send our condolences to Vic's family. Cheerio, Mate.

**Noddy Irwin**, Southport - Although we all expected Vic's passing it isn't any easier when it happens. Vic was a proper bloke and a real nice man. Midge and I send our sincere condolences to Vic's family. R.I.P. Airborne brother. Had a chat with Ivor Wells and passed on the very sad news regarding our old mate Vic. He was very upset as we all are and he couldn't speak highly enough of him.

Brian Earl - Had Vic on my det. with 3 Para in Bahrain 1964/65. RIP Vic.

**Jim Flockhart**, Indonesia - We have fond memories of Vic, RIP airborne brother; you will always be remembered with great fondness

**Mick Tait**, E Sussex - Much sadness across the Corps tonight as our RSM, Vic Zimmer passed away. His 2 Div boys saw how a somewhat demoralised regiment could be brought back to life by a soldier of our Corps, who brought his parachute signals experience to bear in a practical and sympathetic way. He will be much missed by all his 2 Div lads, but I suspect that his old mates from 216 will feel it all the more. CERTA CITO

**Alan Hogg** - Very sad to hear about Vic, great days in Kenya in 1967. I remember him being full of life, energy in abundance, cheerful, optimistic always.

**Anon** - RIP Vic, never forgotten, you scared me, but in a good and respectful way. See you in the FRV. Sleep Well. AIRBORNE

Sean Morgan - RIP Vic, fond memories, Airborne.

Spike Haynes - RIP Vic, it was a pleasure to have known you, Airborne.

Martin J Stringer - Very saddened to hear of his demise. God Bless and God Rest Vic. ARTD

Tom Owen - RIP Vic, condolences to all his family and friends.

Paul Goddard - RIP Vic, sounds like he went out fighting.

**Chris Brown** - RIP Vic, a great man. My deepest sympathies Tricia, to you and your family. **Carl Walker** - RIP Vic, I didn't have the pleasure of knowing or meeting you. My deepest sympathies to you and your family.

Nigel 'Jonah' Jones - RIP Vic.

Billy Haslam - Another empty chair. RIP, Sir.

**Dominic Anderson** - RIP Vic, we will all see you at the RV one day. Thoughts and condolences to the family. Airborne.

**Dave Wilson** - Tricia, we've never met, but your Dad was a great friend to me. My deepest sympathies to you and your family. God bless Vic - he'll be missed and remembered fondly **Stan Martin** - RIP, Vic, A Truly Sad loss. Deepest Sympathies to all of the family. AIRBORNE.

Chris McGinley - Tricia, I first met your dad in Bünde in '79 and he raised the moral of the Regt, which had been so low it was called 2 Div Penal Regt by the lads, as we felt like we were doing time. He had a presence that inspired us and he raised our moral so much so soldiers put in to extend their tour. I met him many years later after I'd joined 216, and he still remembered me, which was his way and why we respected him. He always knew his soldiers, the sign of a truly dedicated and caring man. Gone but never forgotten, I'm sure we'll say a prayer and raise a toast at Caythorpe in September.

**Chris Wood** - Before my time, but sad to hear of an airborne brother passing away. My thoughts go out to his family. RIP

**lan Little** - Very sad to hear of Vic's passing a great man's man respected by all who had the pleasure. RIP Vic and sincere condolences to the family.

Spence Cave - RIP Vic. Sympathy to all your family. Soft landing in the FRV.

**Dougie Porter** - Airborne!

**Chris Coates** - our thoughts go out to Tricia Zimmer & family for all their support throughout this difficult time - RIP Vic & may your next beer be refreshing after your long journey - Airborne

**Peter Leyman** - Airborne. Vic was the first person I saw after coming back from FI in 1982 and squared me away. Armoury open, weapons in, showered and on my way home in less than 30 mins. RIP mate

**John Williams** - So sad, he was a cracking gentleman, a real character and a huge influence on the early part of my career - RIP you Airborne warrior - thoughts go out to Tricia Zimmer family and friends

David Pollock - Airborne, will have a drink with tonight, Vic

Jamie Campbell - Airborne and soft landings

**Brian Hayward** - Vic, man mountain, now at rest after the pain, RIP and condolences to your family Tricia, our thoughts are with you.

Bruce Knobel - So sorry to hear this. RIP, Vic, RIP.

Jolyon Walker - RIP, Sir

**Colin Challice** - Sincere condolences to all the Zimmer family, RIP, Boss. AIRBORNE! **Julian Brammer** - RIP, Vic, condolences to all his family and friends. AIRBORNE!!

**Richard Hamilton** - R.I.P. Vic Zimmer, Airborne Brother-In-Arms, 'til we meet at the final DZ RV, you're in good company now, and I bet the beers flow in Valhalla tonight. Sincere condolences to Tricia and all Vic's family.

**Paul Cheshire** - RIP Vic. Another Airborne Warrior gone but Never Forgotten, Thoughts and condolences to the family

Lee Ford - RIP, sir

Robert Walker-Scott - Pay Correct, Sir.

Jack Frost - RIP, Vic.

Alan Hammond - R.I.P., Sir.

**Hugh Smith** - The end of an era passes with Vic - the very epitome of the Airborne Soldier. RIP Vic - we all owe you so much.

Andrew Dunn - R.I.P, Sir.

lan Little - Very sad to hear of Vic's passing, a great man's man, respected by all who had the pleasure. RIP Vic

Chris Whitehead - A genuine nice guy, who had time for everyone, RIP.

Senga Palmer - RIP, you may stand down now, we will remember you xx

Gary Clifford - Sad day, RIP, Vic

Mark Sala - RIP, Vic

Pat and Bob Bruce - RIP, Sir

Leonard Smith - RIP, Sir. Certa Cito.

Mick Scull - RIP, Certa Cito

lan Hugill - RIP, Sir

Andy Woodhouse - RIP, god bless

Angus Galashan - Great Bloke.

Tony 'Frank' Branson - Rest in Peace.

Brian Hall - RIP, Vic

Lesley Bradshaw - RIP

Peter Jones-Ward - Served with Vic at 2 div, great guy, R.I.P

Ron Galpin - heard of him but didn't have pleasure of meeting him. RIP

Chris Andrews - RIP Geoff Hodgson - RIP Paul Sixsmith - Senior Rip

Russ Parker - Stand down Sir! Certa Cito

Alan Bolton - RIP.

Jean Hill - R.I.P. So sorry to hear this sad news, Tricia xxxx

**Brian Rawlings** - RIP, Sir **Tony Swift** - RIP, Vic

**Gill Humphrey** - Sorry for your loss. R.I.P., Sir. **Nick Turner** - RIP, Certa Cito - ex Royal Signals

**Graham March** - R.I.P., Sir. Condolences to all family and friends.

Billy Holmes - RIP, Certa Cito

**Michelle Smith** - RIP, so sorry for your loss, Tricia, I too have an officer/soldier daddy up in heaven xxx

Ollie Longhurst - R.I.P., Sir, thoughts and prayers with you, Tricia xxxx

Dave Kennedy - R.I.P

**lan Millar** - I remember this fine man. RIP, Sir, Certa Cito, on your journey to the Summerland.

Karl Lockwood - RIP, Certa Cito.

Andy Jenkins - RIP John Pole - R.I.P.

**Bob Hildreth** - RIP, Sir, an honour to have served with you and & sincere condolences to all your family, but all who knew him will have fond memories to cherish

Graham Oldfield - Stand Easy, RIP, Certa Cito

**Stuart Cooper** - RIP, Sir! I never met you, but heard of you. Sincere condolences to your family. God Bless

**Sid Holderness** - RIP, sir, an honour and privilege to have served with you, condolences to your family

**Tony Scotty Reynolds** - So sad to hear that your Dad has passed away. He was a great guy, who was respected and liked (us squaddies don't like to use the 'L' word) by many. Real star!!

Neil Mounsey - R.I.P. Thoughts with you and family

Helen Warwick - RIP x

David Coverley - R.I.P., Certa Cito.

Mark Chimiczewski - R.I.P X

Kevin Taff Roberts - RIP

Bruce Chadwick - A sad loss

**Kevin McGready** - great bloke, RIP, and thoughts with family **David Groves** - My thoughts are with you and your family!

**Peter Haywood** - R I. P, soldier, our thoughts with you and your family, no more pain fella **Graham Johnson** - R I P, called to the great parade square in the sky. God be with you all. my thoughts are with you all.

Les Collins - RIP

**Alan Houghton** - RIP, the only man who got 'Yes Sir' without question. Our thoughts are with all your family.

Claire Eddy - R.I.P, Captain Zimmer. My thoughts are with your family xxx

Helen Dixon - Sending a hug.

Ashy Ashworth - Saluting you now, sir!

**Steve Birch** - Thoughts with family, friends and especially to you Tricia Zimmer. The pain will hurt, but will fade with time, unlike the memories of such a great man and father. RIP, Vic. Do not mourn his death, rejoice his life.

Brian Chinn - R.I.P., Sir, it was an honour to have served with you. Sincere condolences to all your family.

Simon Wright - Stand down, sir ..... Your duty is done - Certa Cito

John Fisher - Loss of a truly great man, R.I.P., sir.

Martin Richards - Yes I remember him well, nice guy. God bless all the family, Rest In Peace Vic

**Dave Easter** - one of the few men you could call Sir and mean it, a good friend and a man to look up to and inspire you to better things, Rest in peace, Boss, love and prayers to Trish and family xx

**Nige Allen** - R.I.P., Vic you were a legend, it was an honour to have served with you even though you scared the hell out of me at times, my prayers and thoughts go out to you and your family, Certa Cito

Lorcan Kelly - Sorry news indeed. A good man and a first class soldier. RIP Vic!

Martin Heap - RIP brother

David Bell - A man we could truly look up to. A soldiers' soldier. RIP, Vic

Peter Sugden - RIP, Certa Cito.

Steve Wall - God bless, Sir! Stand at ease, stand easy!

**Andrea McCulloch** - Grief is the price we pay for love and respect. Rest in peace, Vic, your brave fight is over.

Peter Fitzmaurice - A great man and a pleasure to serve with, RIP

Dave Toulson - R.I.P., last parade done

**Steve Rook** - Did not know him, but as an ex-RSM and Corps member - god bless him and RIP.

Stephen McKechnie - RIP, Vic, and thoughts are with the family at this sad time.

**Mike Weatherley** - Thoughts are with you and the family, Tricia, proud to have served with your dad. RIP

**Paul Craddock** - RIP, SIR, true soldier and gent, honoured to have served with you, thoughts with the family

Marshall Jennings - RIP

Linda Leighton - RIP, Certa Cito

Barbara Cottington - Condolences x

**Bryan Lambe** - The best soldier I ever served under in the 70's, great leader, stern, compassionate but above all fair. RIP, Sir, you are a hard act to follow.

John Hunt - Sorry for your loss, you will meet him again someday I hope.

**Kev Twigger** - I did not know Vic, but my thoughts are with his family at this sad time. Certa Cito, Sir.

Paul Unsworth - RIP Certa Cito

Rick Licence - My sincere condolences to the family. A true soldier and gent. RIP Vic.

Sandy Adams - Rip Davie Bell - RIP, Sir

Colin McIntosh - so sorry, RIP

Jason Farrow - Certa Cito

John Sennett - R.I.P, Brother. x

**lan Durrant** - You've not lost him Tricia, he is in your heart and all your lovely memories of him.

Jim McEwan - Certa Cito, R.I.P

Jack Thorpe - RIP, Vic

Michael Woods - RIP

Michael O'Crowley - Sad news. RIP.

Wullie Gray - RIP

James Yeardley - Certa Cito

Louise Hilborne - Much respect. RIP, Sir.

John Terrett - respect, sir.

**Tom Dooley** - RIP - glad you were on our side. CC. Sincere condolences.

Karl Britton - R.I.P., Sir

Terry McHugh - RIP, a true gent and soldier

**Tom McGreevy** - R.I.P, Vic. The best Officer I ever served under.

Waseem Ahmed - RIP. Thoughts and well wishes to all the family and friends

Chris Sheepwash - Stand easy, Vic, You were there when I needed you.

Chris Stuart - RIP, Vic. Darren Almey - R.I.P, Sir

Craig Crockart - RIP, Vic

Beth Williams-Heffernan - RIP. Our thoughts are with you, Tricia and your family

Paul Youd - RIP

Mark David Marsden - RIP, Sir, thoughts with your family

Graham Easton - RIP, Vic.....A true character from the old school

**Heff Lgm** - FB seems to have lost my original post, so I'll say it again. Tricia: You have been very brave throughout the long saga that has been your Father's illness. Vic was liked and admired by all that knew him, but he is now at rest. His loss is felt by the entire Corps, ex and serving. My thoughts are with you. Certa Cito.

Peter M Thomas - A much admired man RIP.

Les Potter - Rest in Peace, Vic

Michael Winning - RIP, sir, it was great knowing and serving with you.

Keir Kitt - RIP, Sir. Certa Cito, brother

Darren Angel - RIP, Sir. Certa Cito

Kate Ford - RIP

**John Rose** - The passing of a true gentleman, top soldier and good friend. My thoughts are with you Tricia Zimmer and all your family. Whenever I reflect on my past, his influence and friendship will be with me until we are reunited. Then we can laugh at the things we got up to. Rest in peace. Will never forget that mischievous grin.

**Gary Hems** - Truly saddened by the news, my thoughts and deepest sympathy to you Tricia and all of Vic's immediate family, Vic will be remembered by many, many people throughout the Corps, he was a true gentleman and an aspiration to countless young guys, who served with him. Rest in peace Vic, it is an honour to have known you.

**Derek Saul** - Although I didn't know Vic, the passing of a Corps member is extremely saddening, bless you and your family at this sad time

**Stuart Herrington** - Tricia, To you and All your Family, we send deepest regrets for your loss, I knew Vic very well, met him in a couple of units, He was a wonderful Man & Friend. RIP, Vic, Me owd Soier. Certa Cito.

Nigel Jeffrey Harris - RIP, Vic, Certa Cito

**Mervyn Finch** - RIP, Vic. I knew you, I served with you, I liked you and respected you, and I would like to meet you again so you can tell me that joke about the clown at the circus once more. Certa Cito, on your way to RV with the Big Yin.

Mal Howard - RIP,

**David Cunliffe - RIP** 

**Peter Jones-Ward** - So sorry to hear this news served with Vic, great guy, R.I.P, Certa Cito, condolences to Tricia and the family

Michael Woods - RIP

**Dawn Tylee** - Thoughts are with the family x

Chris Harvey - RIP, Sir....I have fond memories of a soldiers' soldier.

**Gerard Reynolds** - rest in peace, sir, a good soldier and nicer human being, Certa Cito **Bill Butler** - Legend!!!

Mick Willoughby - RIP, Vic. Many happy memories.

Sandy Reid - How I remember Vic will stay with me, Respect.

Paul Charlton - The very best. RIP

Dave Woodward - rest in peace Vic, a good bloke proud to have served with you

**Chris Hatchard** - Never served with him but a fellow soldier, RIP, my thoughts are with you! **Mark Hardy** - RIP, Vic

**Patrick Breslin** - I knew him as a staff sergeant - a much respected man - my condolences to his family and friends.

Thomas Brand - Sad news... RIP, Vic

Andy Dick - Didn't know him at all but RIP, matey

Gordon Rigg - Peace at last, never to be forgotten

Derek L Hawkins - R.I.P.

**Shaun Dandy** - served with him twice, one of the best men I have ever met, RIP **Jim Smart** - RIP, my old friend

**Mark Tivey** - Tricia, I am the Assistant Regimental Secretary in RHQ Royal Signals. Please accept our deepest condolences for the loss of your Father. Please do not hesitate to contact RHQ Royal Signals should you need our assistance in any way - 01258 482161

**Allison Stretton-Byrne** - What a fantastic man, both hubby and I served with him, so sorry to hear this, R.I.P

Bill Ballard - A man to be missed. Stand Down. Duty concluded. RIP.

**Linda Yeubrey Blake** - A great QM, a great man, so sorry to hear the sad news. RIP, Sir **Rob Capron** - A man loved and respected by all who knew him. My dad " Don Capron" passes on his wishes too

**Philip Budden** - RIP, Vic, proud to have served with you.

**Stephen James Cooper** - How many can make you feel like he is your best friend, but also be your Officer in charge, only Vic could, respect for the man, one I will muse over on my death bed and hope he is there in Valhalla to welcome me.

Craig Bird - RIP

**Andy Cee** - I didn't know you, but one of our own has gone to rest. R.I.P., mate, Certa Cito. **Rick Stacey** - I had the pleasure of knowing him, and I am not paying lip service when I say I had the utmost respect for him, and there are very few officers that I served under that I can say that about. Not just a good officer, but a great human being. Top bloke, and will be missed by many. RIP, Vic. Certa Cito.

Alan Deane - Another Gentleman of the Corps has fallen out, RIP, Sir

Glen Cavanagh - RIP, Sir

Michelle Smith - What lovely words on here, I am sure the family will find some comfort in knowing what a lovely man he was x

Chalky Meek - Vic you were a top man, RIP, a true gent

Stuart Herrington - Another Owd Friend of Mine and Vic's is Paddy Crabtree, who Himself is not too well, but when I told Him the sad news, He asked me to pass on His Sincere Condolences to Vic's Family, and to Us of the Corps who Knew and Served with Him. RIP, Vic. Gone but not Forgotten!!!

Ross Darbyshire - RIP

Sean Turner - Certa Cito, sir, RIP Phil Lewis - Absolute top bloke. RIP. Paul Landregan - Certa Cito. RIP, brother

Alan Bolton - I never met him but RIP, fellow Scaley.

Pat Gallagher - I just wanted to express my deep sorrow at the passing of Vic Zimmer - he was a 'One-Off'. I first met Vic in 1965 when him and Mick Mandy were attending their B1 Radio Op course and I was on my A2 Tg Ops Course - he was a Cpl then and as large as life. In 1978 I was posted to Task Force Delta which was an Armoured Bde Sig Sqn. part of 2 Div. and I soon found out that Vic was the RSM - luckily TFD was in Osnabruck and 2 Div was 30Kms up the Autobahn! However, fate soon intervened and 1 year later I was promoted SSM and sent to the Regiment in Bunde. Vic as usual was outstanding and we were all under his spell. One morning as was usual I walked around the Sqn lines to the garages (we had 432's) to see how the boy's were doing, and my OC asked if I would take his dog along. So far so good, unfortunately just as I turned into the garage area I walked slap bang into Vic and the CO! Vic then proceeded to give me the biggest bollocking of my life because the dog was out of step with me! All the Sqn boys were in stitches, he then ordered me to place the dog under arrest, and proceed to the guardroom! The CO was having a hard time to keep a straight face while all this was going on. Needless to say I had the devil of a job trying to explain what had happened to my OC, when I turned up in the Sqn Office without his dog! He will be missed by all who knew him.



"Our brave P company man and paratrooper fought his last painful fight with dignity strength & courage. His sharp wit intact always."







Floral tributes



"Whatever he did wherever he went Vic gave 100% and shared his good humour and fun loving nature to those he came in contact with"

Rest in Peace, Vic Zimmer - sadly missed & never forgotten, Brother-In-Arms.