

From: Observer Commander P Jex



Royal Observer Corps
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Your reference

Our reference

Date

18 July 1991

Dear Corps Members and Colleagues,

By now I'm sure that you are all aware that the Corps is to stand down on September 30th and that all sparetime volunteer activity, including mine, will cease from that date.

The exceptions to this are the Nuclear Reporting Cells and Crew 4 at Dundee, which will remain - all working (as they always have) for the Ministry of Defence and not to the Home Office.

I have deliberately waited until now before putting out this letter in the hope that I could glean further information to pass to you, but little is forthcoming to date so I felt I could wait no longer.

The optimism I expressed in my last Christmas Message when I felt we had a challenging future was obviously misguided. The Home Office no longer require our services due to changes in the Warning and Monitoring requirement and the Ministry of Defence faced with 20/25% manpower cuts cannot at this moment support us. There is no option therefore but for the Corps to stand down. Stand down is the watchword however, not disbandment our Royal Warrant is to remain extant.

It is the Commandant ROC's earnest wish that we should stand down with dignity and I fully support this view. There is nothing to be gained from emotive statements to the media, petitions, demonstrations etc. We must not sully our reputation if we are to hope for a future role to be found for us and there is perhaps a faint chink of light showing in this direction, but no more than that at the moment.

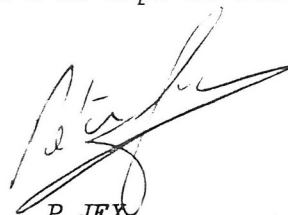
In the meantime we must stay together and surely the best way of doing this is to join and maintain an active ROC Association which I sincerely hope you will all consider.

We must also maintain our image to the end and for this reason our Drill Flight will honour all its commitments up to the end of September including the Battle of Britain Day parades and I look for the best possible support at these events. We shall parade our own group standard whenever possible.

Finally I would like to thank every one of you for the friendship and support that you have given me during my 9 years as your Group Commandant, these have been wonderful years for me and the most fulfilling of my total 33 years in the Corps.

It would not have been possible for me to undertake this role without your support for which I shall be ever grateful.

Good luck to you all in the future in whatever you do and I do hope we shall meet from time to time.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P JEX', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

P JEX

Observer Commander
Group Commandant
HQ No 15 Group
Royal Observer Corps