



## 21 GROUP ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS -

### COMMEMORATES 30 YEARS SINCE STAND DOWN WITH A PLAQUE

In November 2019, 21 Group ROCA Committee proposed a special event for 30th Anniversary of 30.09.1991 Stand-Down. After some debate and a number of options it was decided to place a **Blue Plaque** at our old Bunker in Goosnargh Preston. COVID-19 played havoc with planning, meetings, sourcing the plaque and setting a date to unveil it. We contacted the owner of the Bunker, **Mr Miller**; who has supported 21 Group ROCA for many years, and he confirmed we could place a plaque on the guardhouse and would be able to attend the bunker for an outdoor event.

We received lots of help and encouragement from **National Heritage Officer Edwina Holden** and **Lawrence Holmes of 10 Group**, who was a mine of information. Thanks to the examples and guidance we were able to avoid lots of pitfalls come up with the right design. 7 versions of style and wording were considered before the final draft was approved. We obtained quotes from suppliers and placed the order.

65 members and guests expressed an interest in attending; 48 tickets were sold and 40 arrived on the day to witness the unveiling ceremony, with guests from Preston, Isle of Man, Edinburgh, Durham and Warrington. Everyone was gathered around the Guardhouse listening to **Group President John Gedge's** welcome speech and **Treasurer Mike Smalley** took groups shots of the crowd.

Our **Vice President** and longest serving member **Fred Morris** stepped up to unveil the plaque with a flourish.

**Secretary Sandra Riches** announced a speech by our visiting **Area Rep** from Durham, **Dave Arnott**, who read out a citation and then presented **Chairman Elaine Norris** and her husband **Mike** with **ROCA President's Commendation**. They were thrilled to be honoured in this way.



## How to find 21 Group ROCA's Blue Plaque



21 Group ROC former  
Group Control, Langley  
Lane, Goosnargh,  
Preston PR3 2BD  
NGR **SD 539 366**

This is what you would see from the country lane. As you drive from Whittingham Lane, turn left into Langley Lane and travel approx. 2 miles and then pull in to the right and on to the apron. At the far left is

the Bunker's neighbour Oakhill Vets occupying what was in 1991 the above ground Admin block where the full time staff were based. Here you are off the carriageway and can stop safely to view the plaque.(Beware; when the vet is open the locals charge in at speed).

The front of the guardhouse has 3 windows and a door, the plaque is fixed between the left and centre windows.

The plaque can be seen from the road,



Material -	Cast Aluminium
Made by	PROCAST at
Cleckheaton	
Shape	Circular
Size	12" diameter / 30cm
Thickness	approx. 10mm
Style	2 colour blue / white, white border
Detail	ROC CREST Wording

**ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS  
WESTERN SECTOR  
21 GROUP PRESTON  
operated on this site  
from  
1962 until 1991**

Fixing: Attached to Guardhouse  
(2 screw holes)

Cost: £444 including VAT and  
carriage

**21 GROUP ROCA PRESTON - PLAQUE**

