

The Crossed Quills



AC

The Magazine of the
Artillery Clerks' Association

Edition 14
December 2010

Chairman's Foreword and Notes by Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM

This year I find myself having to cover for our new Association President. As most of you know by now, Lt Gen Sir Freddie Vickers suffered a stroke and underwent major surgery in May. His path to recovery so far has been remarkable, but slow. This sudden change in his circumstances reminds me of something my mother, who has experienced first hand a number of life changing episodes in her 99 years, told me recently: What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. General and Lady Viggers are brave, stoic, resolute and determined to get through this chapter in their life.

If there's one thing I've learned over the years, it's that nobody gets better alone. That's why we need to keep both General and Lady Viggers in our prayers and that's why I'm positive that, in time, our President will crack it and make a complete recovery.

Communicating with our members has always been akin to walking a tightrope, with deadlines stealing up fast and original thought to be applied; the latter is not my strongest suite! The task becomes even trickier when we rely so heavily on busy individuals to help us maintain the pivotal roles that our Reunion Weekends in Larkhill and Germany, our website and Crossed Quills play in ensuring that we all keep in touch with each other. Ian Constantine, Ron Holmes, David Stotan and Andy Tibble all need our support and grateful thanks for their enduring work for the good and benefit of the Association.

As far as the website and Crossed Quills are concerned, it is the potential to create a two-way dialogue which makes them such important communications tools. On the website David has created a Message Board designed to run both ways. Please use it as your sounding page where you

can share items of news or general interest and get responses where appropriate.

A milestone for the Association this year has been the parading of our Association Standard at the Royal British Legion Annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 13th November – a televised national event, attended by our Captain General and her family. I know that Andrew Jones, our Standard Bearer, has recorded this unique experience separately elsewhere in this magazine.

I would finally like to congratulate Russ Lee on hitting the Pink List this year. It gives us all great pleasure that his talents and hard work have been recognised so clearly.

I look forward to catching up with you all at our Reunion Weekend in May next year.

With every best wish.



Update - Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL Honorary President

We were all shocked to hear the news in May that our Honorary President, Lieutenant General Sir Freddie Viggers, had suffered a stroke. General Freddie and Lady Jane have both been through a life changing experience anyone of us would dread to have to face and negotiate. Full recovery is still a long way off so we need to keep them both in our thoughts and especially in our prayers.

General Freddie has been through a long and frustrating hospitalisation but he has been recovering from his converted

home for nearly two months now, supported by his family, neighbours, friends and local services.

Lady Jane has found an excellent Neuro-Physiotherapy clinic just outside Winchester, and General Freddie now goes there every day for an hour. The NHS gives him an hour of physio a week. The therapists are fantastic, and are optimistic about General Freddie's long-term prospects – the plan is to reassess his needs over the next six months. He is walking around the house without a stick,

navigates the various inside steps, and even manages to negotiate the gravel driveway. The therapists are concentrating on Freddie's torso to strengthen the muscles there, which will enable him to establish his midline, resulting in better balance, which will in turn make walking easier. (It's all a bit like that song about knee bones being connected to.... etcetera!)

Lots of friends manage to look in to see General Freddie, and he really welcomes seeing people, although he can only manage about an hour before he tires.

Lady Jane intends to resurrect their National Trust membership and make time each week to visit those places that they always said we would do "one day".

Finally, Freddie has taken the very hard decision to relinquish his post as Black Rod and has resigned his office. Some very good friends have been tremendously supportive in helping him come to realise that returning to a highly demanding post would not be feasible, but it has not been easy for him – not only did he love the job, but it has obviously highlighted the limitations that the stroke will place on him in the future. He is, understandably, quite 'down'

about it, and is going through a grieving process, but his usual tenacity, strength of will and spirit will enable him to work through it. It takes a lot of courage and integrity in not trying to cling to office, and putting the interests of family before his own natural wish to carry on. Lady Jane is sure that he will find other interests to engage with once he has finished his rehabilitation, and hopes that he will in time be able to look back with enormous pride and satisfaction on a distinguished military career and a highly successful, albeit short, tenure as the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.



Secretary's Report by Andy Tibble MSM (former WO1(SSM))

This year has just passed by so quickly since the last edition of 'The Crossed Quills' was produced. I now find my self writing my first report as Secretary in which it has been a very busy year for the Association and also producing the next edition of the 'Crossed Quills'

Once again we had a most excellent Reunion Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 24th April 2010 under the auspices of Capt Ian Constantine RA. We were all proud to welcome the Director General Personnel, Major General Andrew Gregory as our Guest of Honour and the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1(RSM) Nicky Gould as our guest. A full report on the Dinner by our Reunion Secretary can be read later in the magazine. On behalf of those members who attended, I would like to say a big thank you to Ian for all of the hard work that he put into this dinner, making this a most memorable evening. Once again, Ian has kindly retained the position of Reunion Secretary until

a replacement is forthcoming. Do we have any volunteers? The Germany Reunion Dinner was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 26th Regt RA in Gutersloh on Saturday 16th October 2010. Once again, as you can see from WO2 Ron Holmes report later in the magazine, a good time was had by all of those members who were able to attend. On behalf of all those who attended, I would also like to say big thank you to Ron for organising such a great weekend. A special thank you also goes to WO1 (RSM) Bernie Burnett, RSM 26 Regt RA for including our Reunion Dinner as part of a Regimental Dinner Night and for also allowing us to use the Sergeant's Mess. A special thank you to Hauke Michelson (our Germany Honorary Member) for supplying photographs from both Reunions.

Congratulations and well done to Major Russ Lee RA on being selected for promotion to Lt Col and also to SSgt Tony Meek on being selected for promotion to WO2 during the FY2010/11. Other than that the Committee has

not been informed of any other promotions or awards or anything else during the past 12 months.

Sadly I have to report of the deaths of five of our Artillery Clerks who have died since the last report.

Former WO2(QMS(AC)) and Chelsea Pensioner Duggie Waterhouse who died on the 9th December 2009 aged 83. Duggie was one of those members who would always turn up for the Reunion Weekends without fail and in most cases would be the last person standing at the bar for which he will be most remembered for. Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon and our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones represented the Association at Duggie's funeral.

Our Secretary, former WO1(SMAC) Mel Charlton who died on the 17th December 2009 aged 63. It came as a great shock for members of the Association to hear that Mel had passed away. Mel was the driving force behind keeping the Association going and ensured that it went from strength to strength. I travelled down to

Larkhill with Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon where we met the Historical Secretary Joe Hoggins Bsc, Des Riley, Mark Testi, Rev Denis Brett, Maj Russ Lee and Standard Bearer Andrew Jones to name a few. Andrew led the coffin both into and out of the church.

Former WO2(QMS(AC)) Ron Cooper who died suddenly on the 10th February 2010 aged 65 came as a sudden shock to us all. Ron was a staunch supporter of the Association and attended most of the Reunion Dinners. The Association was represented at his funeral by Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon, Historical Secretary, Joe Hoggins Bsc and our Standard bearer, Andrew Jones to name a few.

Former SSgt(AC) Brian Garthwaite who died on the 21st May 2010. Unfortunately I was never informed of Brian's death or funeral arrangements and only found out when the AGC Regimental Secretary called me.

Former Sgt(AC) L W (Yogi) Yeowell passed away on Wednesday 17th November 2010 aged 93. Yogi was the oldest members of the Association. Unfortunately, over the past few years Yogi has been unable to attend the Reunions due to illnesses. Yogi served in the French Foreign Legion and was awarded the Croix de Guerre whilst serving with them. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

A special thank you to our outgoing Honorary President, Major General Peter Currie CB. Thank you for all of your support during your tenure and we look forward to seeing you at the Reunion Dinners as an Honorary Member. A warm welcome to Lieutenant General Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL who has replaced General Peter Currie as our Honorary President.

The St Barbara's Day Church Service was held in the Garrison Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Larkhill on Sunday 5th December 2010. Once again, Andrew Jones our Standard Bearer, accompanied the Chairman and Russ Lee to represent the Association at the Service. It is a matter of regret that we remain as an Association unable to muster sufficient numbers for this Regimental event considering the number of members who reside on Salisbury Plain.

The 77th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 6th - 8th May 2011 at Larkhill. General Sir David Richards, Chief of Defence Staff has kindly accepted our invitation to be the guest of honour at this dinner.

Once again 'Crossed Quills' has grown in size! I would like to take this opportunity in thanking those Association members who have contributed to this edition by forwarding articles and photographs for inclusion into this edition. Donations for this year's magazine have been received from Steve Callaghan, Andrew Jones and Steve Seymour. Many thanks for your contribution. Issue 15 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published by the end of November 2011. I would be most grateful if you could all look through your individual archives to see if you have something of interest that you would like to be published in next years' edition. These articles, with photographs should reach me by no later than Monday 5th September 2011. Please remember to forward all articles in typed script where possible, including a CD-ROM with the articles on, along with any original photographs that you may have. The photographs will be returned back to you once they have been scanned onto the system.

Our current membership stands at 202. There are currently 173 Potential New members on the Wanted List who were Artillery Clerks', but have not yet joined the Association. I am sure that there are Potential Members on the Wanted List that you know of their whereabouts. I would ask all Members of the Association to make a consolidated effort this year to try and encourage them to join the Association. Recruiting has currently slowed down and I urge you all to try and motivate either a formerly appointed Artillery Clerk or former Junior Rank Clerk's in the Gunners who has subsequently been promoted to Sgt or above within the AGC. A copy of the Application for Membership is enclosed within this edition of the Crossed Quills. Further copies can be obtained from the Secretary.

Due to membership being spread over the Globe and not having in my possession everyone's e-mail address (or up to date one) may I please ask you all to make a point of reading the Notice Board on the Association Website www.artyclerkassn.org. There is no other way I can get details of promotions, deaths, etc to you in a timely fashion. In return may I please ask you to keep me up to date with any news, promotions, deaths, award of medals, change of address including e-mail, etc, etc.

In the meantime, have a great Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Please remember those members and families who are ill at home and to those members of the Association who are deployed on military operations during the festive season. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

See you at Larkhill, if not sooner. Ubique.



Assistant Secretary's Report by Roy Deal MBE (former WO1(SSM))

Hello fellow Artillery Clerks. As the recently appointed Assistant Secretary, I have been asked to make my main aim one of recruiting, a task I cannot carry out alone. I need information – which is where you can help. Using the evolving technology available (Facebook, e mail, Twitter, to name a few) I ask you to seek out colleagues and friends who have lost touch with our exclusive club. If you could forward to me any details you have for anyone who currently appears on the Wanted for membership List, I will then write to individuals, enclosing previous newsletters etc inviting them back into the fold. Please do not hesitate to use my personal email: roydeal@hotmail.co.uk or find me on Facebook to forward any information you may have about past Artillery Clerks. I look forward to hearing from you.

Membership Recruiting - Eligibility for Membership

Full membership of the Association is open to any former Artillery Clerk in the rank range from Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class 1, either serving or retired. Membership may also be granted, with the recommendation of a former Artillery Clerk or member of the Association, to clerks who served in the Royal Artillery in the rank range from Gunner to Bombardier, and have subsequently been promoted to Sergeant and above in the Adjutant General's Corps.

Association Committee 2010 - 2011

Honorary President	Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL
Chairman	Lt Col(Retd) Joe Falzon BEM
Secretary	Andy Tibble MSM - former WO1(SSM)
Assistant Secretary	Roy Deal MBE - former WO1(SSM)
Reunion Secretary	Capt Ian Constantine RA
Treasurer	Maj Paul Corker AGC(SPS)
Standard Bearer	Andrew Jones - former Sgt(AC))
Association Padre	Rev Dennis Brett - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Welfare Secretary	Dennis Norris - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Webmaster	David Stotan - former WO2(QMS(AC))
Historical Secretary	Joe Hoggins BSc - former WO1(SMAC)

Regional Secretaries

North	Vince Scott – former WO2(QMS(AC))
North West	Dennis Norris – former WO2(QMS(AC))
Midlands	Steve Callaghan – former WO2(QMS(AC))
East	Capt(Retd) Chris Berry BA
South	Graham Brown – former WO1(SMAC)
West	Roy Deal MBE – former WO1(SSM)
London Area	Steve Truslove – former Sgt(AC)
Scotland	Ted Fairbrass – former Sgt(AC)
Wales	No nomination
Northern Ireland	No nomination
Germany	WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes LSL/AGC(SPS)
Rest of the World	The Secretary

Contact with Area Secretaries

The duties of Area Secretaries referred to as Regional Representatives in the Association Charter are as follows:

- The Recruitment of new members.
- Maintaining an area membership list.
- Coordinating travel to Reunions and other Association activities

Area Secretaries should also be keeping an active eye on the health and well being of members

in their area of responsibility and report anything untoward to the Secretary, Andy Tibble.

All members are encouraged to establish contact and 'touch base' with their Area Secretary as follows:

The North West -
Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire.
Contact Dennis Norris at
dn001k3794@blueyonder.co.uk

The North – Durham,
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear,
Cleveland, North, West and
South Yorkshire and Humberside.
Contact Vince Scott at
vincentscott@hotmail.com

The Midlands –
Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire,
Lincolnshire, Shropshire,
Staffordshire, West Midlands,
Leicestershire, Hereford and
Worcestershire and Warwickshire.
Contact Steve Callaghan at [ao@
inracf.demon.co.uk](mailto:ao@inracf.demon.co.uk)

The East – Hertfordshire,
Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire,
Essex, Northamptonshire,
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and
Suffolk. Contact Chris Berry BA at
berry3@tinyworld.co.uk

The South – Oxfordshire,
Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of
Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East
Sussex and Kent. Contact Graham
Brown at lancing@ntlworld.com

The West – Cornwall,
Devon, Somerset, Dorset,
Gloucestershire, Avon and
Wiltshire. Contact Roy Deal MBE
at roydeal@hotmail.com

The London Area.
Contact Steve Truslove at
stevetruslove@aol.com

Scotland. Contact Ted
Fairbrass at [tedfairbrass@
btinternet.com](mailto:tedfairbrass@btinternet.com)

Germany. Contact Ron
Holmes at ronandkadja@aol.com

Rest of the World.
Contact the Association Secretary,
Andy Tibble.

Webmaster's Report by David Stotan (former WO2(QMS(AC)))

This has been a difficult year for me and I expect for many of you to. The passing of some dear friends has been heartfelt and they will be sorely missed but never forgotten. Due to a turbulent 6 Months - involving 3 moves and one pending my Internet availability has been a little light of late, so I do apologise for this. I hope to have a fully fledge broadband connection soon and stay put in one spot long enough to reap the benefits and stop having to pay both sky and BT early termination charges. My last move was into a public house..... oh yes I decided, along with my partner Cath, to take over the tenancy of a pub "The Hark to Dandler" in Walmesley, Bury. Although we made a significant impact by bringing the pub back to the community and making it a relaxing and enjoyable pub to spend time in we decided to call time during our 3 months cooling off period. Living 24/7 in a pub environment is something we could just not get to grips with even though we felt we went into this with our eyes wide open the reality was much harder- we tried and I am glad we did but it is definitely not for us. It was certainly an experience and a massive learning curve, I do actually enjoy running the cellar and preparing the casks of real ale so it's a perfect pint, the late nights and working weekends I don't enjoy them so much. Move number four is on the cards when we leave the pub on the 20th September.

Anyway back to webmaster stuff. There are a lot of viruses out there and then there are some viruses which aren't out there at all! These are very annoying because sometimes they instruct the recipient to check for a certain

files on their computer, if they find it, they are led to believe their PC is infected with a virus and the instructions tell you to delete them to be safe. This course of action will undoubtedly cause your PC to stop working. The other output from the hoax viruses is to generate a torrent of emails which puts pressure on networks by flooding them with unnecessary emails. Fortunately, there are many web sites out there which list all such known virus hoaxes. Avert tracks virus hoaxes as well as genuine viruses so the next time you receive an urgent virus warning message, check it against the list of known virus hoaxes from the avert website . If it's a hoax, chances are you'll discover it listed in the McAfee virus Information library, paste the following link into your browser <http://vil.nai.com/vil/default.aspx> and save it as a favourite, you never know when you may need it. . Don't let your guard down! Remember: Never open an email attachment unless you know what it is--even if it comes from someone you know and trust.

Treasurer's Report by Major Paul Corker AGC(SPS)



The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency - SPVA

General

Although the financial strength of the fund is stable, my main areas of concern are the outstanding subscriptions and the number of members failing to complete the gift aid certificates. Both of these areas result in a loss of much needed cash to the Association. I thank all members for the funds received to date and for their continued support to me as Secretary.

Main Action Areas

The following is highlighted for members:

Outstanding Subscriptions - £1,310:00
Mandate - 66 Members not paying by Direct Mandate
Gift Aid - 56 Members failed to completed declaration form

Statement of Account – 31st August 2010

Assets		Liabilities	
Current Bank Account	£803:11	Function	£373:14
Deposit Account	£2,255:55		
Shop Stock	£247:00		
Total Assets (A)	£3,305:66	Total Liabilities (B)	£373:14
Available Cash (A – B)	£2,932:52		

Summary

I have personally contacted all members who have failed to action those financial areas that would benefit the fund. I am very disappointed with the returns to date. I respectfully ask all those receiving financial instructions to complete them as soon as possible. Your support to the association is much needed.

You will note that the function fund has dropped considerably however; this is due to the fund supporting recent dinners since the switch from Woolwich to Larkhill. Available cash to the fund has risen and this bodes well for the future.

I wish you all well and hope to see you in Larkhill next year.

Paul Corker
Treasurer

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency - SPVA is aimed at improving personnel, pensions, welfare and support services to members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

The (MOD) places great store on the provision of high quality support services to serving military personnel, ex-Servicemen and women and their respective dependents.

There are clear customer and business benefits in merging the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) with the Veterans Agency to form the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA).

The formation of SPVA has led to the provision of a fully integrated set of 'through life' personnel services to our serving and veterans community - where a single contact with the Agency will grant access to customer information and advice on pay, pensions, compensation payments, records of service and medal entitlement.

SPVA is staffed by caring and experienced people, who make it their business to understand and empathise with the serving and veterans' community and are committed to delivering a high quality service.

The responsibility for all pension provision, whether a War pension or an Armed Forces pension falls under the direct control of SPVA,

reducing the risk of omitting or duplicating information and providing for the first time, a truly joined up pension service.

There is a free helpline on 0800 169 2277 and further information is available online at: <http://www.veterans-uk.infor/>



Your RAA On-Line

The Royal Artillery Association is widely publicised on the Internet and is currently undergoing major changes and additions. As well as our own website, theraa.co.uk, we now have a presence on Facebook, the British Army Website (www.army.mod.uk/artillery) and on ArmyNET. It will take a little while for the latter two sites to be fully operational so I kindly ask for your patience. These websites provide you with an informative and fun way of finding out what's going on in the Gunner world and for keeping in touch with Gunner friends and comrades. Many branches now have websites of their own and more and more branch members are able to access the internet. It's a good way to advertise your branch and maybe attract new, younger members and an invaluable method of advertising your reunions and get-togethers.

Artillery Clerks' Association Ties

The Association tie is of a silk/ polyester Gunner zig zag design depicting the crossed quills and the 'AC' in gold. Please send a cheque to the value of £13.00 made payable to The Artillery Clerks' Association to:

Historical Secretary's Report by Joe Hoggins BSc (former WO1(SMAC))

I never thought, even in my wildest dreams, that twenty years after leaving the army that I would still be researching the history of the Artillery Clerk!

They say if you want to find out about anything you just need to Google it. In the case of Artillery Clerk this is definitely not true. Apart from our own AC's Association website there is only one or two other articles directly related to AC's. Not a great source of material.

I have, personally, a large amount of material with a few from other ex-AC, but it would not, in my opinion, be very interesting to publish only a few snippets from a small selection of people. It really does require a large number of small articles, including relevant photographs, from a wide range of AC's.

I have had a number of interesting articles supplied by some of our 'old sweats' but would appreciate a few articles about life as an AC especially during the Northern Ireland troubles where there must be a huge amount of funny and interesting events that AC's have experienced in the province. Having spent seven emergency tours and one two and half year tour in the province I will certainly relate some of them. I was part of 42nd Regiment which was one

of the first regiments to be sent to Belfast in August 1969 with only a few clerks who lived locally having to recall most of the regiment who had departed on leave a few days earlier. I am sure there must be a number of you who can write a few hundred words relating some of your own experiences?

I would also appreciate any small articles relating to the Falklands and Iraq. Any related photographs would also be greatly appreciated.

Ron Holmes has very kindly let me have quite a number of the photographs he has taken at both the Reunion and Germany dinners which is terrific, but anyone else with any photo's, menu's, etc, these would also be gratefully received (if you can't send originals copies of them would fine).

One other event which is, for me, a long lasting memory, is partaking in the 'Gun Runs' in the Mess at Woolwich. Can anyone remember them and would you commit your memories to paper? Any photographs?

Any articles or photographs can always be e-mailed to me at historical_secretary@artyclerkassn.org.

Best regards to you all,
Joe

Mr Roy Deal MBE,
34 Birchwood Drive,
Durrington,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire SP4 8ER.



Artillery Clerks' Association Charter

General

1. The Association, entitled the "Artillery Clerks' Association" was formed at Woolwich on Saturday 7th March 1998. This Charter is being adopted to guide its activities. The Charter may be changed at any time by the Committee to reflect the wishes of the Association members.
2. The Aim and Object of the Artillery Clerks' Association is to promote comradeship amongst its members, both serving and retired and to provide a focal point for all members of the Association. The Association is essentially an old comrades association of former Artillery Clerks, either serving or retired.
3. The Artillery Clerks' Association is affiliated to and is a Branch of the Royal Artillery Association (RAA). All members of the Royal Artillery Association will be granted life membership of the RAA on acceptance.

Eligibility

4. **Full Members.** Full membership of the Association is open to any former Artillery Clerk in the rank range from Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class 1, either serving or retired. Membership may also be granted, with the recommendation of a former Artillery Clerk or member of the Association, to clerks who served in the Royal Artillery in the rank range from Gunner to Bombardier, and have subsequently been promoted to Sergeant in the Adjutant General's Corps.
5. **Honorary Membership.** Honorary Membership of the Association is specially designed to cover the widows and relatives of deceased Artillery Clerks. Other special cases of honorary membership will be considered on merit by the Committee and voted upon by the Committee and voted upon by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Honorary members may not vote on matters voted upon at the AGM.
6. **Authorization.** Membership of the Association may be sought by anyone under these rules. In the event of there being some doubt regarding application, the Artillery Clerks' Association Committee will arbitrate. The Association Committee has the right to refuse any application for membership, or cancel any existing membership, for example, for disciplinary reasons.

Purpose

7. The specific purpose of the Association is to provide:
 - a. A focal point for comradeship, largely through periodic reunion of:
 - (1) A formal Annual Reunion Dinner.
 - (2) An informal Dinner to be held at a frequency and location to be decided by the Committee, to include wives, girlfriends and widows.
 - (3) A very limited welfare service. This essentially means that the Artillery Clerks' Association, in promoting contacts between members, provides a network through which help can be given to any member. The focus for this activity within the Association is the Secretary.

Organisation

8. The affairs of the Artillery Clerks' Association will be overseen by the Artillery Clerks' Association Committee. The Committee will meet at intervals decided upon by the Chairman, and will comprise of:
 - a. President (Honorary).
 - b. Chairman.

c. Secretary. Responsibilities cover:

- (1) Association Membership.
- (2) Correspondence.
- (3) Providing a focus for the Association's welfare work and links to the RAA.
- (4) Production of a periodic newsletter.
- (5) Coordinating the activities of the Area Representatives.

d. Treasurer. Responsibilities cover:

- (1) Maintenance of a bank account entitled the "Artillery Clerks' Association".
- (2) Accounting for all the finances of the Artillery Clerks' Association.
- (3) Presenting a Statement of Account to the Committee (as and when required) and annually at the AGM

e. Regional Representatives. Responsibilities cover:

- (1) The recruitment of new members.
- (2) Maintaining an area membership list.
- (3) Coordinating travel to Reunions and other Association activities.

Areas covered are:

- (1) Northern Ireland.
- (2) Scotland.
- (3) Wales.
- (4) The North West consisting of Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire.
- (5) The North consisting of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside.
- (6) The Midlands consisting of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire.
- (7) The East consisting of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.
- (8) London Area
- (9) The South consisting of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent.
- (10) The West consisting of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire.
- (11) Germany.
- (12) The Rest of the World – covered by the Secretary.

9. Additional members of the Committee may be appointed by the Chairman as required, for example, Reunion Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

Fees

10. Membership fees are to be determined by the Committee. There is to be a fee to join the Association and the annual renewal fee.

11. Fees are to cover the costs of administration, including telephone calls, postage and stationery.

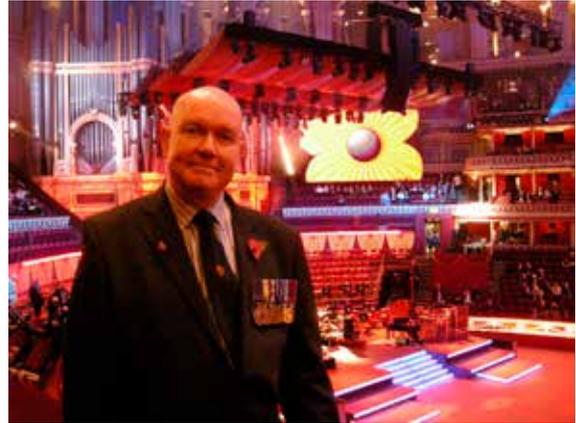
12. Reunions are to be self-financing, that is, those attending are to meet the full cost of all activities of the Reunion.

Festival of Remembrance by Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))

I was very honoured and privileged to be asked to represent the Artillery Clerks' Association at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 13th November 2010.

The Festival of Remembrance takes the form of two parades, one at 1400 hours and the second one at 1900 hours. The second parade was in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal family.

On Friday 12th November 2010, all participants reported to the Royal Albert Hall for rehearsals. This consisted of some good old fashion foot drill from the Garrison Sergeant Major London District, on how to carry a standard up and down a set of stairs without falling over!! Plenty of mistakes, as we all loose the step and some of the other standard bearers drop their standards! After



Maj Russ Lee RA at the Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall

many attempts we finally got it all together and I was selected to walk out of the centre arch of the Royal Albert Hall and walk across the main floor carrying our Association's standard.

Saturday 13th November 2010 was an early start as all the participants had to be at The Royal Albert Hall for 0800 for more rehearsals. We were joined by a full orchestra; band and a drum beat to keep as all in step. However, we did not go undernourished as we tucked into a superb curry lunch provided by the Imperial College London, just opposite the Royal Albert Hall.

The time soon arrived for the first parade. The Royal Albert Hall was full with servicemen and women, and the general public. A re assuring tap on the shoulder from the Garrison Sergeant Major was my cue to enter the Royal Albert Hall

with the Artillery Clerks' Standard. My memory is of lights flashing and music playing and a feeling of proud honour to carry the standard at such a prestigious event. The main parade in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen began at 1900 hours and also was shown on the BBC, a moment of fame albeit fleeting, but everything went well.

If you have never been to the Festival of Remembrance, I would recommend the day for all service personnel or retired personnel as it is a most up-lifting day.

Unfortunately, both the President and Chairman were unable to attend the evening performance of the Festival of Remembrance and therefore The Royal Artillery Clerks' Association was on this occasion represented by Major Russ Lee RA.



Andrew Jones, Artillery Clerks Association Standard Bearer at the Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Central Sgts Mess Larkhill, Saturday 24th April 2010

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and took the opportunity to warmly welcome everyone to Larkhill, especially those who had travelled long distances those who not attended an Association Reunion for some time. He hoped that all the arrangements made by the Committee were satisfactory and that all members were looking forward to a constructive AGM and an enjoyable dinner with the new Honorary President Elect and guests.

The Chairman then invited all members to remember absent friends for a few moments in silence.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were 34 apologies for absence, the majority of which were listed in the Reunion Dinner Menu Card.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th April 2009

The Secretary stated that the Minutes had been circulated to all members via Crossed Quills Issue 13 and it was not intended to read them out again unless a member wished it to be done so. A proposal was taken to ensure that they were a true record:

Proposer: Mr Mick Grenham
Seconder: Mr Dick Jeavons

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th April 2009

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th April 2009.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the past year has been dominated by sad news for the Association. We lost Mel Charlton, Bob Day, Ron (Paddy) Cooper, Paddy Corbett and IP Dougie Waterhouse and IP George McKinnell – all, in their different ways, great stalwarts and supporters of the Association. He also mentioned Alan Seal who passed away in May 2009, who although not an Association member was certainly an Artillery Clerk.

The Chairman added that two Association members, Mike Hutchinson and Bill Morland, had also lost their partners. He welcomed Mike Hutchinson to the meeting and said that Bill Morland was most appreciative of the messages of support he had received.

He also took the opportunity to thank all those members who represented the Association at the funerals, or posted tributes to comrades on the website, or sent letters of condolence to the next-of-kin, or prepared obituaries for the Gunner magazine. He expressed a view that this is what the Association is all about – everybody rallying round and rising to the occasion in the best way they can.

The Chairman said that, having missed the Reunion last year due to personal commitments, he was determined to attend the Germany Reunion organised by Ron Holmes in October. This was a most successful weekend, much enjoyed by all those who attended. He highly recommends the whole package to all members present, adding that it was important to support and keep these reunions going.

The Chairman reminded the members that, subject to their approval later on, the Association will have a new Honorary President in Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers.

Finally, He thanked the Committee once again for their sterling work over the past year, especially Ian Constantine, who has remained available, in spite of his regimental commitments, to put the reunion arrangements together. He also thanked Andy Tibble for stepping up and taking over the work which used to be done by Mel Charlton. His stewardship as the acting secretary, and in producing the Crossed Quills, has been outstanding. Last but not least the Chairman thanked Paul Corker (Treasurer), Dave Stotan (Webmaster) and Andrew Jones (Standard bearer) who have contributed much of their spare time to keep the Association visible and in good financial order. He added that there is always a lot of work that needs to be done to keep the Association vibrant and that he knew that all the Committee members were looking forward to this challenge. He wished everyone an enjoyable evening and a safe journey home in the morning.

6. Secretary's Report

The Assistant Secretary, Mr Andy Tibble MSM made the following comments:

Death of former Sgt(AC) Bob Day who died on 18th May 2009 aged 69. Death of former WO2(QMS(AC)) Paddy Corbett who died on 12th September 2009 age not known.

Death of former Sgt(AC) and IP George McKinnell who died on 19th November 2009 aged 87.

Death of former WO2(QMS(AC)) and IP Duggie Waterhouse who died on 9th December 2009 aged 83.

Death of our Secretary former WO1(SMAC) Mel Charlton who died on 17th December 2009 aged 63.

Death of former WO2(QMS(AC)) Ron Cooper who died on 10th February 2010 aged 65.

We had two new members:
Former WO2(QMS(AC)) Adrian Harrison who joined us on the 10th December 2009. Adrian lives in Saltney, Chester. Former Bdr Robert Worley who joined us on the 12th June 2009. Robert lives in Horsham, West Sussex.

WO2 (SQMS) Will Stirman had been selected for promotion to WO1 during FY2009/2010.

SSgt Tony Meek had been selected for promotion to WO2 during the FY2010/11.

Request volunteer to fill the post of Reunion Secretary to replace Capt Ian Constantine RA. (Serving WO1 if possible)

St Barbara's Day Service will be held at Larkhill in the Church of St Alban the Martyr on Sunday 5th December 2010. The Service will be followed by lunch in the Sgts' Mess. Details will follow in due course.

Ties are on sale this weekend from Roy Deal at a cost of £13.00.

A set of the cuff links and pins are available to order from me at a cost of £20.00 per set. Cheques should be made payable to 'Silver Lady' or cash can be given to me. These will be posted to you once produced.

Reminder to keep the Secretary informed of any changes of rank,

address, telephone numbers, email addresses, awards etc, etc.

7. Assistant Secretary's Report

The Assistant Secretary, Mr Andy Tibble MSM made the following comments:

Items for Crossed Quills Issue 14 are to be with the Secretary by Friday 3rd September 2010.

Recruitment of new members. It was proposed that both senior retired and younger serving members try and recruit new members to the Association.

8. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Major Paul Corker AGC(SPS), the Assistant Secretary read out the Treasurer's Report.

I apologise for my absence but fingers crossed I will be there in 2011. I hope tonight will be a great success.

Liquidity State as at Saturday 24th April 2010

Assets

Current Bank Balance	£2145.28
Deposit Bank Balance	£2255.27
Shop Stock	£273.00

Total Assets (A) **£4673.55**

Liabilities

Function	£1765.68
----------	----------

Available Cash (A-B) **£2907.87**

Subscriptions. Prior to the financial year 2010 there is £1025:00 owed in outstanding subscriptions. For 2010 there remains 62 members outstanding totalling £310:00. This would result in an additional £1335:00 to be credited to the General Purpose Fund.

Mandate. 65 members are not paying by the Standing Order Mandate. Members are

continuously encouraged to subscribe by this method.

Gift Aid. The Treasurer has received a total of £1,239:95 from the Inland Revenue. There are 61 members who are yet to join the gift aid scheme. Annual income is approx £230:00. 2010 income will be actioned soonest by the Treasurer.

Shop. Shop totals £273:00. This equates to 21 ties held.

Insurance. Insurance for the fund is due as at 1st April 2011. £240:00 is the annual cost of cover to 'Towergate Wilsons'. All personnel "classed as on duty" are included in personal accident cover.

RAA Annual Report – As at 31st December 2010. The Secretary has a copy of the report for the reporting year of 2009, which was submitted to the RAA.

Donations. I have the letters from Cancer Research and Dorothy House Hospice Care thanking the association for the £100:00 (each) for the donations made in memory of Mel Charlton.

RAA Draw Tickets. £75:00 was paid by the Association for draw tickets in 2010.

Current and Future Financial Strength. The strength of the fund has not altered over the years and currently stands at £2,907:87 available cash. The function fund has been run down and should be self supporting for future functions however, the money is there should you wish to pay for extras. If the association recovers the outstanding funds (or best effort) the fund will be financially strong for the unforeseeable future.

Mick Hutchinson proposed and Pat Verdon seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. All

members were in favour with this proposal

9. Welfare Secretary's Report.

The Chairman reported that the post of Welfare Secretary has been covered by the Secretary and more recently by the Chairman and Assistant Secretary. The Assistant Secretary has now found someone to fill this appointment which will be ratified by the AGM shortly.

10. Historical Secretary's Report.

The Historical Secretary Joe Hoggins thanked everyone who had sent him information and photographs. He went on to make a further request that if any members of the Association have any photographs from the past, he would be most grateful if they could be sent to him so that copies can be made to be included into the Association's History.

11. Germany Secretary's Report.

The Germany Secretary, WO2 (SQMS) Ron Holmes gave a report on last years Reunion which took place 26 Regt RA, Gutersloh. He went on to say that this years Reunion Dinner will once again take place at the WO's & Sgt's Mess, 26 Regt RA at Gutersloh. A date will be promulgated in due course.

Those members living in Germany sent a donation of £100.00 to the Dorothy House Hospice made in memory of Mel Charlton. A letter of thanks had been received which was passed to the Assistant Secretary.

12. Reunion Secretary's Report

The Reunion Secretary Capt Ian Constantine RA gave a comprehensive briefing on the format of the Reunion Dinner and the evening including the photograph which was to be taken outside at the Mess entrance. He also mentioned about looking after our guests.

13. Election or re-election of Committee

The Chairman stated that the present Committee less the Secretary which is vacant and Assistant Secretary wished to remain in office as follows:

Chairman

Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM

Treasurer

Maj Paul Corker AGC (SPS)

Reunion Secretary

Capt I F Constantine RA

Mr Andrew Jones proposed and Mr Roy Deal MBE seconded this proposal. All members were in favour of this proposal

The Chairman stated that as Maj Gen Peter Currie CB had stood down as our Honorary President that he be replaced by Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL.

Capt (Retd) Dick Jeavons proposed and Mr Joe Phelps seconded this proposal. All members were in favour of this proposal

The Chairman stated that it is custom that our outgoing Honorary President, Maj Gen Peter Currie CB be given Honorary Membership.

Mr Joe Hoggins proposed and Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell seconded this proposal. All members were in favour of this proposal

The Chairman stated that the following members had agreed to take up those appointments below:

Secretary

Mr Andy Tibble MSM

Assistant Secretary

Mr Roy Deal MBE

Welfare Secretary

Mr Dennis Norris

Lt Col (Retd) Tony Mott proposed and Lt Col Richard Horner MBE

seconded this proposal. All members were in favour of this proposal

14. Any other Business

a. The Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to those Association members who had sponsored him on the recent half marathon that he completed in Malta. A sum in the region of £2500 was raised for the Poppy Appeal. The Chairman went on to say that he had noticed that some members were wearing their Veterans Badges. He said that he had a small number of spare Badges which were available to members on request.

b. Mr Andrew Jones made a proposal that the date of the UK Reunion and Dinner be changed so that it didn't clash with the Gunner Sunday that was held at Chelsea Hospital each year. It was agreed that this would be looked at by the Reunion Secretary when deciding on a date for future Reunions.

c. The Reunion Secretary, Capt Ian Constantine RA proposed that in order to make life easier for all those members attending the Reunion & Dinner that rather than charging a fee to attend the dinner and then the Mess produce individual mess bills, that it is all combined, with a fee of £50.00 be charged for those are staying over for one night and £55.00 for those staying over for two nights. This was welcomed by all those members attending the AGM and will be put in place for the next Reunion by the Reunion Secretary.

d. Mr Steve Read made a proposal that the Association draw up a family tree showing all those individual Artillery HQs, Regiments and units where members have served which would include details of Chief Clerks, Assistant Chief Clerks going all the way down to Battery Clerks where possible. All members were asked to produce a

breakdown of those who served in their Regiments, providing dates, Regiments/Battery's, rank and names and what positions they held. This information should be completed as per the attached template to these minutes and forwarded to Steve Read as soon as possible at:

Mr S Read
22 Canada Rise
Market Lavington
Devizes
Wiltshire SN10 4AD

email: acproject@virginmedia.com
It is hoped to have the first draft of this will be displayed at next years Reunion when hopefully we might be able to fill in any gaps that there may be. All those members who attend the AGM where is favour of this proposal.

e. David Stotan, Webmaster asked all those present if they were happy for their email address to appear on the Artillery Clerks' Association website. A lot of the members found this very useful indeed and everyone agreed that they should continue to be published.

15.Date of Next Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will take place at Larkhill on a date to be decided upon.

Andy Tibble
Secretary

Welfare Secretary's Report by Dennis Norris (former WO2 (QMS(AC)))

Since being honoured to be asked and voted in as Welfare Secretary for the Association, I have been thankful that I have not been asked to carry out my duties very often! I can only assume that the majority of our members have not had cause to call on my services and that is a good sign, particularly in light of the deepening national financial crisis and the current squeeze on budgets – especially in the public sector.

I have taken the opportunity to carry out some research into specific help for ex-servicemen (and women) and have added some information with regards to SSAFA for general information, but also as a reminder that, as an ex-serviceman, you have access to welfare support that is not available to the general public who can give help and advice for confidential advice, financial assistance and help and support for those who are disabled in the UK or most ex-service communities. Below is an extract from their website; www.ssafa.org.uk and if any individual needs any help from myself to make contact with SSAFA, or any other Forces Help organisation – please feel free to let me know and I will help as much as I can with complete impartiality and confidentiality.
Regards

Dennis Norris,
Welfare Secretary

SSAFA Forces Help

Who are SSAFA Forces Help?

SSAFA Forces Help is the national charity committed to helping and supporting those who serve in the Armed Forces, those who used to serve, and the families of both. Each year, they provide a reliable, caring and trusted service to more than 50,000 people through a network of professionally trained staff and volunteers.

Who do SSAFA help?

One day's paid service in any of the Armed Forces is all that is needed to qualify for assistance from SSAFA Forces Help. This includes those who serve in our Reserve Forces and anyone who did National Service as well as close relatives, widows and widowers. It is estimated that approximately 10 million people may be eligible for assistance, with more than 200,000 personnel currently serving in the Forces and nearly 7 million ex-Service men and women plus their families.

SSAFA People

700 Professionally trained staff, including health and social work staff – working anywhere in the World that the British Forces are based, including Germany, Cyprus, Nepal, Brunei and BATUS (Canada).

6,200 Branch Volunteers – fully trained and working out of a Branch network in the UK and in some countries abroad, including Ireland, France, Germany and Spain.

800 Service Volunteers – working on British Forces bases in the UK and around the World (usually

servicemen and women and their dependants, co-ordinated through a network of in-Service committees)

Supporting those who serve

A professional health service. 350 health professionals providing the community health service for the serving community in Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Brunei, Nepal and Canada. They are funded through the MoD.

A professional social work service under contract from the MoD to the military community overseas and in part of the UK. This service employs more than 100 social work staff, including more than 70 fully qualified social workers.

A registered adoption agency available to all those in the serving community who are thinking about adopting a child, placing a child for adoption or who are themselves adopted and are looking for advice or support.

Additional Needs & Disability Support, including four holidays each year for children with additional needs and their siblings.

Practical support and confidential befriending to Service personnel and their families experiencing a wide range of problems. We have more than 50 in-Service committees worldwide and 25 community volunteer groups in the UK alone.

Short stay supported accommodation for families visiting injured relatives at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court, and the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak.

Short stay supported accommodation for separated women, with or without children, who are serving, ex-Service or dependants.

A Family Escort Service to assist Service families and their dependants who need assistance travelling to, from and within the UK.

A Confidential Support Line offering support and advice for serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families, who wish to talk, in confidence and outside the military chain of command. The line is available every day of the year.

Family Support Groups for those who have been bereaved and those who are dealing with serious injury to a loved one. The tri-service groups meet regularly offering mutual support, information and advice.

Supporting the Ex-Service Community

Experienced, non-judgemental, friendly and confidential advice.

Financial assistance for a wide range of needs:

- Helping those entitled to apply for state and local benefits and war pensions or to review existing state pensions.

- Seeking monetary support from civilian and Service charities and benevolent funds and making grants from our own resources.

Help in organising and funding home adaptations or special equipment for the disabled which cannot be obtained from statutory sources.

Practical and emotional support for those who are lonely, bereaved or ill.

Housing. A residential care home on the Isle of Wight, purpose-built bungalows for those with disabilities but still capable of independent living and a home in

London for officers' widows and unmarried daughters. A Housing Advisory Service for ex- Service personnel.

Planning for the Future

The UK State Pension has changed



The UK State Pension changed on 6 April 2010. People over 55 or who have recently retired may need to take action now to make sure they don't miss out on money for the future. For more information on how the State Pension is changing, visit the Direct Gov website at: www.direct.gov.uk/pensions and follow Pensions and Retirement Planning, State Pension, Changes to State Pensions from 6 April 2010.



Royal Artillery Museum

A message from Major General R L Barrons CBE - Chairman of RA Museum

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to you as Chairman of Firepower, the Royal Artillery Museum, and I hope to reach every serving and retired Gunner, their families, and as many friends as possible using just e-mail and your help.

You can find more about the Museum at www.firepower.org.uk.

The reason for getting in touch is that we need to record the history of the astonishing work of the Royal Regiment over many years of hard operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Museum holds the Collection and archives that tell the story of the Gunners over hundreds of years and now we must add the latest chapter – including not just the guns, but all the other jobs and technology Gunners have taken on.

We have started already and there is the first stage of a 'Regiment Today' exhibition on display – mostly thanks to the efforts of serving soldiers. But to do the job properly we need to do two things right away.

First, Gunners need to send their own memories and stories to add to the Collection. This means your photographs (with names and places), videos, letters, memorabilia and written recollections etc. The personal story of a young Gunner on his first operational tour matters as much as bigger Regimental records. Everything we get is formally added to the Collection and becomes protected by legislation. Put another way, if you want to be able to take your children or grandchildren to your own Museum and show them the story of your campaigns, you have to submit the material. If you don't do it now the chances are that much will be lost.

So I am appealing to every Gunner of every rank with a story to share to send it in, and for families and friends to encourage and help this. If you want more details contact the Curator, Mr Mark Smith at marks@firepower.org.uk and his address is: Firepower, The Royal Artillery Museum, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, London SE18 6ST.

My second imperative is that keeping the Museum going is an

expensive undertaking. We have a responsibility both to protect and display the history of the Regiment so far and to add to the Collection. The Museum is supported by the Regiment, the Ministry of Defence, the London Development Agency, the London Borough of Greenwich, and the Friends, but there is always a gap to be filled by more private fund raising. The fact is, times are hard and we have to do better at this.

So, in addition to material for the Collection we need your personal financial support. No donation is too small (or too huge) indeed if every Gunner gave just £10 a year it would make a massive difference. I am equally sure that there are lots of parents and friends who are really proud of what the Gunner in their family has accomplished and they too might want to help keep and tell the story for posterity. Donations can be made easily and securely by visiting Firepower's website on the following link and pressing the JustGiving donation button.

http://www.firepower.org.uk/about/make_a_donation.asp

You can leave a message on the JustGiving website to accompany your donation if you would like to dedicate it to – say - an individual, battery or regiment.

In addition, anyone who wants to help the Museum might also consider joining the Friends by emailing Major John Timbers at cattim@tiscali.co.uk and there is a thriving Volunteer team especially suitable for anyone who lives within easy reach of the Royal Arsenal Heritage Quarter at Woolwich and wants to get involved. Above all, if you haven't been to your Museum –including families – it would be great to see you there.

Finally, this call for help needs to find its way to all Gunners and their

families by passing it along. It will start by being sent to Seconds in Command, RSMs, and some others for as wide transmission as possible within the Regimental family from Gunner to Field Marshal. My hope is that if every recipient sends it on to at least 10 friends and relatives we will soon find both the Collection and our resources growing to match the importance of the Museum to past, present and future generations.

Major General RL Barrons CBE
Chairman, Firepower, The Royal Artillery Museum

PS. Did you know that Firepower, The Royal Artillery Museum is on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr?

In 2010 Firepower, The Royal Artillery Museum launched it's first blog, www.firepowerblog.org.uk which is the home of some fantastic articles about the Regiment, military history, the history of Woolwich and upcoming activities and events at the Museum?

You can also 'like us' on [Facebook.com/FirepowerMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/FirepowerMuseum) and follow us on [Twitter.com/FirepowerMuseum](https://twitter.com/FirepowerMuseum), so there's lots of ways that active and retired Gunners and Friends can participate, support and enjoy the work of the Royal Artillery Museum.

We encourage you all to post photos, reminiscences and stories of your experience and share with others the living history of The Royal Artillery using social media and our new online channels, such as [YouTube.com/FirepowerMuseum](https://www.youtube.com/FirepowerMuseum) and [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/firepowermuseum/).

Duggie Waterhouse

Former WO2 (QMS (AC)) and IP Duggie Waterhouse passed away on Wednesday 9th December 2010 aged 83. Duggie was one of those members who would always turn up for the reunion Dinners without fail and in most cases would be the last person standing at the bar for which he will be most remembered for. Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon and Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) represented the Association at Duggie's funeral. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Rest in peace Duggie

Mel Charlton

Former WO1 (SMAC) Mel Charlton (Secretary) passed away on Thursday 17th December 2009 aged 63 after a short but aggressive illness. Mel was the driving force behind keeping the Artillery Clerks' Association going and ensured that it went from strength to strength. The Association is indebted to Mel for everything that he has done for us all. Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon, Major Russ Lee, Andy Tibble (Secretary), Joe Hoggins (Historical Secretary), Rev Denis Brett, Mark Testi and our Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer) to name but a few attended Mel's funeral. Andrew led the coffin both in and out of the church. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Rest in peace Mel

Ron Cooper

Former WO2 (QMS (AC)) Ron Cooper passed away suddenly on Wednesday 10th February 2010 aged 65. This came as a sudden shock to us all. Ron was a staunch supported of the Association and attended most of the Reunion Dinners. The Association was represented at his funeral by Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon, Joe Hoggins (Historical Secretary) and Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer). Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Rest in peace Ron.

Brian Gartwaite

Former SSgt (AC) Brian Garthwaite passed away on Friday 21st May 2010. Unfortunately, the Association was not notified of Brian's death until the Secretary was contacted by the AGC Regimental Secretary. It is with great regret that the Association was not represented at Brian's funeral. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Rest in peace Brian.

Yogi Yeowell

Former Sgt(AC) L W (Yogi) Yeowell passed away on Wednesday 17th November 2010 aged 93. Yogi was the oldest members of the Association. Unfortunately, over the past few years Yogi has been unable to attend the Reunions due to illnesses. Yogi served in the French Foreign Legion and was awarded the Croix de Guerre whilst serving with them. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Rest in peace Yogi.

76th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner

The 76th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner took place in the Central Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill over the weekend 23-25 April 2010. As ever the weekend started with the early arrivals meeting for a drink and the chance to rekindle old friendships on the Friday evening. The night was well supported with over 20 Association members arriving in time to enjoy a pint and the chance to catch up on gossip over the last 12 months. It was pleasing to see so many making the effort to arrive early and enjoy the camaraderie for which the Association is so well known.

The Reunion commenced with the Association Annual General Meeting on the evening of Saturday 24 April. This was followed by the now traditional reunion photograph, coordinated by the Reunion Secretary.

Pre-dinner drinks followed which allowed the Guest of Honour, Major General Andrew Gregory, Director General Personnel the opportunity to meet members of the Committee as well as catch up with his former boss, the newly appointed Association President Lieutenant General Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL.

Accompanied by the Pipes of 19 Regiment Royal Artillery, the Top Tables took their place and the gathered Association Members and guests, numbering over 50 sat down to an excellent meal. Our compliments once again to the Mess Manager

Steve Rowe-Cousins and to all the staff who looked after us so well throughout the evening. Entertainment during the meal was provided by Inspired Brass, a civilian quintet led by former /Staff Sergeant Neil Armstrong, ending with an outstanding rendition of the Post Horn Gallop. After a magnificent bagpipe set from the Pipes of 19th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Highland Gunners) led by Pipe Major John Taylor the Dinner concluded with the speeches. The Honorary President Lieutenant General Viggers read the Loyal Message from Her Majesty The Queen, adding a few words of his own. The Reunion Secretary then spoke, giving the usual thank-yous to those who had made for another excellent evening. The toast to 'absent fiends' was particularly poignant

this year following the sad passing of our Former Secretary Mel Charlton - without who we would not be in the healthy state we are, and other valued members of the Association Ron 'Paddy' Cooper, In-Pensioner Dougie Waterhouse, In-Pensioner George McKinnon, Paddy Corbet and Bob Day. The Reunion Secretary then introduced Major General Andrew Gregory who spoke on Gunner commitments and gave a brief look forward, finishing his speech by asking the assembled Guests to toast the Artillery Clerks'. It was then time to retire to the bar, pull up a sandbag, swing a lantern or two and continue the motion into the night. I'm pleased to say that, in time honoured tradition, there were still plenty of Artillery Clerks at the bar when the shutters came down!

The 77th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner will take place over the weekend 6th - 8th May 2011. Due to the refurbishment of the Central Sergeants', the Dinner will take place in the Horne Barracks Mess, a more than adequate substitute whilst the Central Mess is knocked down and re-built - it will also give us better accommodation than we have been able to get over the last couple of years.

All Association members are encouraged to attend, the more the merrier is definitely true when it comes to reunions! For further details please contact the Reunion Secretary, Capt Ian Constantine, on 01980 6565500 (BK 127(Dragon) Bty, 19 Reg RA, Bhurtpore Bks, TIDWORTH, SP9 7AS). Email: 19RA-127 Bty - BK (Constantine, Ian Capt).



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Falzon, BEM,
Chairman,
The Artillery Clerks' Association.

Please convey my warm thanks to the past and present Members of the Artillery Clerks' Association for their kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their seventy-sixth Annual Reunion and Association Dinner which is being held tonight at the Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' and Sergeant's Mess, Larkhill.

As your Captain-General, I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned for a most memorable and enjoyable event.

ELIZABETH R.

24th April, 2010.

Friday Evening



A



B



C



D



E

F



- A. Brian Morgan and Capt Ian Constantine enjoying a pint
- B. "Don't blink!" – too late for William Wallace
- C. WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes and Leo Lyall
- D. Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon, smoking with the big fella!
- E. Capt Ian Constantine and Andy Tibble MSM (Secretary) smile for the camera
- F. William Wallace, Dennis Norris, Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon, Hauke Michelson and WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes

Saturday Evening

A



B



C



D



E

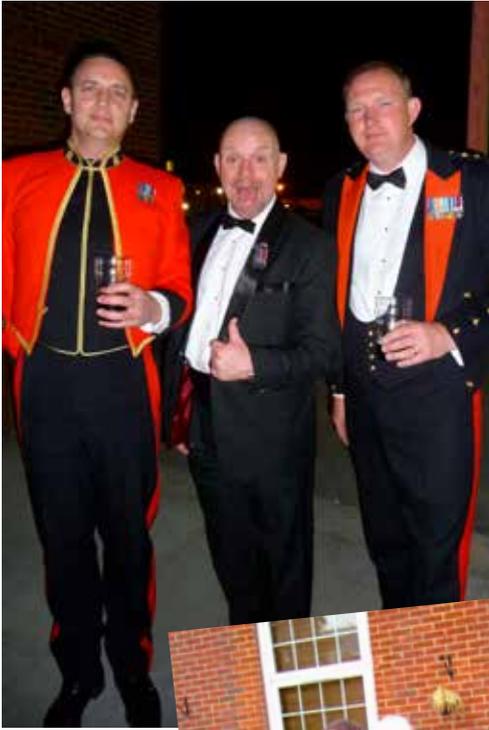


F



G





H



I



J



K



M



L

- A. The Dining Room before Dinner
- B. WO2 Nick Perkovic and WO2 Derek Ralphs – best buddies!
- C. Andy Jones displays the Association Standard with Hauke Michelson as security
- D. James McNamara and Marty Hesty
- E. Dougie Silver, Des Riley and Daz Ward
- F. Lt Col Richard Horner and the Honorary President Lt Gen Freddie Viggers talks tactics.
- G. One of these men promoted the other to LBdr, can you guess which one!
- H. The Three Amigos enjoying a bit of fresh air!
- I. General Freddie Viggers (Honourary President) with Lt Col Richard Horner and Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman)
- J. “Result” says Pat!
- K. “I bet she slaps him”
- L. Andy Jones and Ian Grant waiting for Brian Morgan to stop singing and get the beers in.
- M. Ron Holmes and Simon Charlton (Guest) at the end of a memorable night

Artillery Clerks' Dinner, Mansergh Barracks Gutersloh Saturday 16th October 2010

The Royal Artillery Clerks Germany weekend took place with the kind permission of WO1 (RSM) Burnie Burnett in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess 26th Regiment Royal Artillery Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh on Saturday 16th October 2010. The advance party met up on the Friday evening in the Mess bar and seemingly, seamlessly carried on the motion from last year until the wee hours. We did have a quiet moment to reflect on two missing stalwart ACs who always endeavoured to make the Germany trip; Ron Cooper and Mel Charlton. All those present drank a deep toast to absent friends. May they RIP. We also welcomed and issued Artillery Clerks ties to our two newest members of the AC fraternity; Sgt Gary Harland and Sgt Mark Thorington. As has become the tradition, a few of us went to sample the delights of the local night club before getting poured out the taxi outside the camp gates early on the Saturday morning.

From the experiences of the last three Germany dinners it was decided not to go on an adventure trip on the Saturday as for most, Friday night took its toll and so we decided this year to stay in Barracks. In order to get at least some fresh air, the RSM kindly laid on an equipment display of the new adapted Light Gun which they are re-rolling on for their future mission. Chris Shuter (all the way from Trinidad and Tobago) was amazed to see that the Regiment had females as part of the Gun crew.

During the day the mess staff prepared the table for the evening and laid out all the silver. Whilst the PMC was on his rounds checking

all was in order, Chris Shuter mentioned that there was a piece of silver absent from the table. He remembered contributing to the large FH70 silver centre piece when he was a member of 26 Regt RA many moons ago; the PMC duly made a note of this matter and said that he will ensure that the piece will turn up in time for the dinner. It was found in the Officers' Mess (who were also getting ready for a dinner) and so after a bit of silver swapping the FH70 centre piece took up its rightful place in the WOs and Sgts Mess.

The Dinner

The RSM kept his promise from last year and laid on a full Regimental dinner for us, accompanied by 28 members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The table was laid out to perfection and we sat down to a superb dinner in a warm and congenial atmosphere. The PMC WO2 (BSM) 'Gee' George who masterminded the whole evenings programme is to be congratulated for ensuring we had the most perfect evening. The Mess Manager and his staff did the Regiment proud with their excellent steward service. The Mess Chef is to be given a special mention for a superbly well presented and tasty menu. Sgt Gary Harland our Mr Vice gave the Loyal Toast and our Chairman, Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon read out the 'Loyal Message' from Her Majesty The Queen. The

many apologies and messages received had been carefully filed in a folder for all to read and peruse at their leisure after the dinner. The RSM gave a succinct State of the Union report on the Gunners, mentioning every Gunner unit including the TA units and a most interesting update on the Gunners on Operations. It was a great night, made the more interesting by meeting a new generation of Gunner WOs and SNCOs and sharing our experiences over a few beers.

Sorry to those who could not make this memorable weekend with a particular mention to Tom Webb who had just got himself fighting fit from a hip operation and then at the very last moment could not come and had to cancel his trip due to illness. Ubique

Ron Holmes



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Falzon, BEM,
Chairman,
The Artillery Clerks' Association.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Members of 26th Regiment Royal Artillery and the Members of the Artillery Clerks' Association for their message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their joint Regimental Dinner which is being held tonight at the 26th Regiment Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Gutersloh.

As your Captain-General, I much appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned for a most memorable and enjoyable gathering.

ELIZABETH R.

16th October, 2010.



A: Mick Hutchinson, Hauke Michelson, Chris Shutter holding the 'Artillery Fire' & Sgt Gary Harland
 B: Andy Tibble (Secretary) and Mick Hutchinson enjoying a pint
 C: Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman), Chris Shutter, Andy Tibble MSM (Secretary) watching Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon demonstrating his wonder wig!!!
 D: Members of the Artillery Clerks' Association along with the RSM and members of 26 Regt RA having been given a demonstration how the Light Gun works.
 E: Chris Shutter, Ron Homes (Reunion Secretary Germany) and Hauke Michelson
 F: Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon along with Sgt's Mess members of 26 Regt RA



G



H



I



J



K



L



M

G: Sgt Gary Harland being presented with his Artillery Clerks' Association tie from Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman)
H: Sgt Mark Thorington being presented with his Artillery Clerks' Association tie from Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman)
I: WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes (Reunion Secretary Germany) & Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon
J: Chris Shutter, Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon & Hauke Michelson
K: Steve Seymour & Andy Tibble MSM (Secretary)
L: Mick Hutchinson displaying his new trophy!!
M: WO2(SQMS) Ron Homes (Reunion Secretary Germany), Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon, Mick Hutchinson & Chris Shutter



A



B

A: Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman), WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes (Reunion Secretary Germany), Chris Shutter and Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon
 B: Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman), Hauke Michelson, Andy Tibble MSM (Secretary) and WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes (Reunion Secretary Germany),



C

C: Steve Seymour & Pete Deverall deciding whether or not to open the bottle of special brew from Hauke!



D

D: Sgt Mark Thorington & Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman)



E

E: Chris Shutter, WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes (Reunion Secretary Germany) and Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon

F: Tim Mathews talking to members of 26 Regt RA Sgt's Mess

G: Members of 26 Regt RA Sgt's Mess
 H: Chris Shutter, Sgt from 26 Regt RA and Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon



F

G



H



Artillery Clerks' Association Dinner
 26th Regiment Royal Artillery, Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh
 Saturday 16th October 2010



Rear Row: Mr Tim Matthews, Mr Andy Tibble MSM (Secretary), Mr Hauke Michelson
 Middle Row: Mr Mick Hutchinson, Sgt Mark Thorington, Sgt Gary Harland, Mr Chris Shutter, Mr Steve Seymour, Mr Pete Deverall
 Front Row: Maj (Retd) Richard Ancliffe BEM, WO2(BSM) Gee George (PMC 26 Regt RA), WO1(RSM) Burnie Burnett (RSM 26 Regt RA), Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon BEM (Chairman), WO2(SQMS) Ron Holmes (Germany Secretary), Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon

Artillery Clerks Association - Members list as at 6 December 2010

Sparky Allen	Alan Foot	John McDermott	Will Stirman
Alf Alvin	Foxy Fox	George McLachlan	David Stotan
Richard Ancliffe	Martin Geddes	Paul McMahon	Dave Straw
Alan Ashcroft	Ian Grant	James McNamara	Andy Sykes
Al Artley	Mick Grenham	Martin Meek	Ritchie Syme
Brian Bailey	Ian Groom	Tony Meek	John Taylor
Pip Bailey	John Haddock	Eddie Mills	Mark Testi
Derek Baldry	Colin Haine	Tam Millsip	Mark Thorington
Brian Bassett	Ted Hall	Brian Morgan	Andy Tibble
Brian Baylis	'H' Hammond	Bill Morland	Gordon Timmis
Taff Bellis	Graham Hampton	Ian Morris	Trig Tregower
Chris Berry	Gary Harland	Andy Moss	Frank Trimby
Martin Birch	Adrian Harrison	Tony Mott	Steve Truslove
Dave Boulton	Chris Harvey	Paul Mudd	Mel Turpie
Peter Bradburn	Steve Hawke	Richard Nichol	Dave Tyler
Denis Brett	Phil Hayes	Dennis Norris	Gary Tyson
Graham Brown	Phil Headford	Tony Nuttall	Pat Verdon
David Brown	Marty Hester	Andy O'Neill	Dave Vesty
Phil Buckingham	Alan Hill	Steve Paton	Freddie Viggers
Titch Buckley	Geordie Himlin	Roy Penhallurick	William Wallace
Budgie Burgess	Joe Hoggins	Nick Perkovic	Dick Walmsley
Martin Butler	Vic Holdaway	Paul Perry	Daz Ward
Steve Callaghan	Ron Holmes	Joe Phelps	Ken Ward
Iain Campbell	Paddy Hope	Dennis Phillipson	Ron Waterfield
Walter Carney	Richard Horner	Chris Piper	Tom Webb
Rob Clarke	Idris Hughes	Eddie Platts	Andy West
Lawrence Collingwood	Stu Hunt	Jim Pottle	Ronnie Whelan
Ian Constantine	Mick Hutchinson	Garry Prottey	Geoff Whitby
Paul Corker	Geoff Hyatt	Steve Prowse	Wills Williams
Stan Cornwell	Geoff Janik	Derek Ralphs	Jeff Williams
Mike Cottrell	Dick Jeavons	Steve Read	Ian Williams
Bob Cowan	Bill Johnson	John Reynolds	Mick Williams
Dennis Crawford	Mick Johnston	Howard Richardson	John Wilson
Kev Crump	Andrew Jones	Neil Ridout	Alan Witts
Peter Currie	Ted Jones	Des Riley	Chris Wood
Dave Cussell	Derek Kelsey	Jim Roast	Al Wood
Jim Cussell	Clive Knaggs	Brian Rose	Woody Woodford
Colin Davidson	Ralph Lalabalavu	Arthur Rowell	Robert Worley
Paul Davies	John Lane	Ken Russell	Den Wright
Steve Davies	Dave Larcombe	Alan Sawdon	Bill Young
Roy Deal	Brian Leadbetter	Vince Scott	
Pete Deverall	Russ Lee	Steve Seymour	Membership stands at 202
John Dewberry	Ray Lewis	Mike Shellard	
Ray Dickinson	Bob Lewney	Chris Shuter	
John Dixon	John Lindley	Sid Siddall	
Jim Doran	Alan Lowthian	Dougie Silver	
Paddy Ennis	Leon Lyall	Tony Skinner	
Rog Essex	Dave Manchester	Bob Smith	
Sid Evans	Tony Martin	Dave Smith	
Ted Fairbrass	George Martin	Brian Smith	
Joe Falzon	Tim Mathews	Snowy Snowdon	
Jim Findlay	Tresh Matthews	Phil Spencer	
Ron Flemmings	Ken May	Mark Spring	
Graham Flint	Tommy McCarthy	Trevor Spurr	

WANTED

for membership of the Association

John Adams
Ron Allen
Peter Allwright
Jimmy Anderson
Ron Anson
Dave Askham
Robbie Astick
Bob Barber
Gary Barker
Baz Barry
Ron Baynes
Benny Bennett
James Bond
Dave Boswell
Adrian Boxall
Ron Bristo
Dave Brookes
Alan Broomhead
Tom Browne
Dave Burfitt
Paul Buxton
Tom Carmichael
Stuart Carnegie
Fred Carroll
Jeff Carter
Mick Carter
Les Carton
Merv Chadwick
Chris Chamberlain
Bill Charlsworth
Dick Cliffe
M Collinge
Andy Collins
S Cornwell
Fred Cullingford
Alan Cosgrove
Sandy Cran
Keith Creswell
Harold Deacon
John DeMaria
Pat DeMaria
Jim Diamond
Derek Donovan
P Drury
Mick Dunn
Dave Dunn
Mel Durrant
Roger Escott
Karl Ezard
Steve Edgeley
Paul Evans

Paul Fairbank
TH Fairweather
Vic Ferguson
PE Field
Clif Fields
Dick Finch
Dave Fisher
Keith Garbett
Derek Gauci
Les Gillard
Chris Gluning
Paul Green
Mike Greening
John Haddow
CJ Hamley
Bob Hagen
Brian Harrington
Terry Hart
Ted Harvey
Adrian Hawker
Bill Heaven
Andy Holder
John Hopkins
Mick Hopkins
Steve Hoyle
Eric Hubbard
Pete Hubbard
Derek Hughes
Tony Hunt
Tab Hunter
Jim Hutch
Pete Hutchinson
Brian Hyland
G Jacobs
Alan Jeffery
Chris Jones
Steve Jones
Bob Kindness
Jack Knott
Steve Jukes
Kev Keast
Trevor Kemish
Dick Kibble
Alan King
Roy Kinsley
Dave Langstaff
Steve Lee
Mark Lindsay-Smith
Harry Lomax
Derick Lund
Mick Lynch

Ron Marsh
C McCusker
Steve McKenna
Alistair McKenzie
Maurice Metcalfe
Eric Miller
Ken Moore
Pete Murphy
John Nicholas
Bill Ogilvie
Gil O'Mallo
John Osman
Pete Oxley
Dave Parkinson
Bill Pattison
Ken Peacock
Jim Peggie
Duncan Pettit
Peter Petts
Clem Pooke
Nick Powell
John Pratt
Len Price
Mick Price
Richie Prior
Fred Pulfer
Mick Regan
Ron Reid
Graham Roberts
Dave Robertson
P Robinson
Tom Rooney
Jim Rostron
Dick Scatcherd
Mick Scaife
Dave Scott
Syd Simpson
Martin Smith
Alex Stelfox
Colin Stephenson
Bill Tasker
Jock Stewart
Joe Stockhill
Trevor Stokes
Dave Stoneham
Paul Stratton
Roy Swann
Bernie Swift
Derek Taylor
Tom Taylor
Graham Telford

Bob Thompson
Charlie Thompson
Harry Thompson
Frank Thorne
Jimmy Treanor
Dave Townley
John Turner
Harry Waldron
RVM Walker
Bob Walkinshaw
Nigel Waring
LS Warren
Kev Watkins
Fred Westwell
Chalky White
Chris Williams
TC Williams
Tony Wilson
Brian Wolstenholme
Malcolm Wynn

173 Potential New
Members

Plus any member of the
AGC(SPS) who served in
the Gunners as a clerk and
has subsequently been
promoted to Sgt or above.

WE NEED
YOU

A Few Memories by Steve Seymour (former WO2(QMS(AC)))

A 22 year career in the British Army had its exciting moments, be it social or at work, and I thought it might be a good idea to try and bring some of those funnier moments to the fore, as well as changes in the Army during my career.

Yes, I joined up at Woolwich in July 1971 to be a surveyor (I always liked maps and navigating like some of my old comrades here, who enjoyed running in the woods with a compass looking for those orange and white bags, such as Dave Brown, Dennis Norris and Phil Headword to recall a few.

I was from a naval background, having been born at HMS GAMECOCK (which later became JLRRA), so I suppose you could say I joined JLRRA at a young age and then left at the age of one year!

Anyway, I arrived at Woolwich as a skinny runt, and was duly given my kit. The overalls went round me twice, with a large bulge at the back not filled by my buttocks. I still have a small head and found that the No 2 Hat had the habit of slipping on parade, even if I stuffed it with paper. The evenings consisted of polishing the floor of the billets, to such an extent that the MOD would be liable under the Safety Act, and bulling boots to make them as shiny as possible, before a NCO came along and made you polish them again! It was also the days of green combat kit and blanco belts. Don't know how many times I ran around Woolwich Square with my Rifle above my head for losing my hat.

Basic training was pretty hard work, and very intense, with uniform changing parades, signal training, gunnery training, drill, PT,

and after passing out I was able to do a sit up! For me that was quite a revelation

Anyway I was thrown into a ring to do milling and was drawn against a guy, who always had something to say. I was very introvert in those days. He was bigger than me and I thought it was going to be a little physical – how wrong you can be – I spent the next 5 minutes literally chasing him around the ring, trying to hit him.

My next fight was to be as part of H Hy Battery Boxing Team shortly after marriage and going on my honeymoon. Why do I volunteer for these things. Its not what a good looking guy should do! Anyway, not wishing to get hit, I hit my opponent almost before he got out of the corner (Bob Cowan was watching), and great he drops to the deck – they always underestimated me. But low and behold he gets up after 8, which I was not too happy about, as I had broken my right hand on that first punch and was subsequently forced to fight all three rounds with a broken hand. I tried to finish him off, but unfortunately the hand was getting ever more painful and I suffered a punch on the nose which led to a black eye. My newly wed wife was not to pleased seeing me holding my right hand behind my back and my left hand covering my right eye, before going on honeymoon. That needless to say was my last fight in a ring!

I joined 39 Regiment, then a Missile Regiment with Honest John and 8 inch Towed in Sennelager, and was trained as a driver, signaller and surveyor. Having grown up on the South of England (Portsmouth) I had never seen snow before and found the winter of 1971 very harsh, and was not

too happy at crawling through cold slush and snow in (what I now know to be the Sauerland) on an orientation exercise. I had no idea where we were in those first few weeks, but it did not take long to find the local pubs, quickly learning to avoid the strip, which was the place to go, if you liked a little bit of fighting with your beer.

Wait for it – yes lads – my nickname was Spider (long legs and arms, and no body), which I have tried to improve since! How do those Para types do it. No matter how much weight I heaved, nothing happened.

They gave me a room on the third floor with the rest of the surveyors, who were generally slim, as compared to 6 foot six inch Gun No Ones (these were pretty hard guys). I was duly inaugurated by being tied to a tree, whilst a certain Bombardier threw a machete at me (suppose it was some sort of bravery test).

We had two Jocks in the Battery, one called Sinclair and the other Nelson. I was part of Jock Sinclair's Crew and naturally followed orders, even in the NAAFI! Unknown to me Jock Nelson hated onion with his NAAFI hamburger, and I realised this as I found myself pinned up against the NAAFI automat by my throat, after carrying out Jock Sinclair's wish to pass on the hamburger with onion to Jock Nelson. Suddenly it dawned on him that I was TOTALLY Innocent, and I remember Jock Sinclair making a more than fast exit from the NAAFI!

After a couple of months I was moved to the command post as a TARA (Technical Assistant RA) in Lt JAC Buzzard's Command Post. I believe he was the last

Commanding Officer at Junior Leaders. He was a good guy and trusted me with his Citroen CV 6 – the one with the funny gear change – It was embarrassing, because it broke down every 500 metres between Dempsey Barracks and Barker Barracks. Most embarrassingly at the traffic lights near Barker Barracks. I suspect he has a Volvo Estate these days.

Now I had passed my inauguration tests, including being punched by someone after my first visit to the battery bar, and was now firmly a member of the Regiment.

171 Missile Battery subsequently amalgamated with H Heavy Battery (8 Inch Towed Guns, which were put on chassis in 1973, and became known as M110). Some of the personnel were strapped to the Gun, which was extremely cold during the German Winters. Glad I was a Surveyor. Poor Gun Numbers had it hard!

In 1973 we did a tour in Northern Ireland, and were lucky enough to be the only Unit that year not to lose a man, although we were stationed in Fort George and were responsible for North Street, The Creggan, Carnhill and Shantallow. The Surveyors were chosen to produce a four man Int Team, of which I was a part.



The only casualty we had in the Regiment was after a shooting in the Shantallow. Some guys were sent up on a school roof to check it out, when the helicopter with a searchlight lit up the school roof, causing one of the guys to go for cover, subsequently breaking his arm as he went for cover. Tin City had trained us well!

There was moment when I felt most embarrassed. Some of us were trained as spotters and we were taken to the VCP (Vehicle Control Point) to spot terrorists. Anyway, on this particular day the pig, not well suspended jarred heavily causing the latch to release, and I found myself holding an SLR with a barrel for shooting round corners. I did feel a little vulnerable for the next two hours, but not as much as the day I sat in a mini (they were supposed to be undercover) with a pistol and radio, whilst the Int Officer went around the corner. I felt like a sitting target.

Unfortunately, my knees were a problem then and whilst bunny hopping (a muscle strengthening exercise during PT) I tore a cartilage, and after that was repaired I tore yet another cartilage, making a total of three, so I was forced to carry out the task of Battery Runner (in my case it was hobbling). I was not happy with just doing the running around and subsequently talked the persons in charge to give me a clerks course, and within no time at all, I was promoted to Lance Bombardier and found myself running the battery office with the support of a Gunner. The main events of the day were completing ration returns in the morning, Part One Orders in the afternoon and somewhere in between you were escort for BC's Orders, coffee maker, typist and battery hear no evil, see no evil! Battery exercises were spent driving the BSM and doing ammo party. It was no joke lifting those 200 pound shells on to

your shoulder. This type of weight training still did not work, and I remained as skinny as ever!

The BSM, of course had full trust in me, and on one particular Battery dry exercise I was the Battery Guide for the four guns for the Battery Firing Competition. We got to the Battery Firing Competition Area and he was satisfied, and said you will be able to find your way back won't you. Yes I replied with great confidence. So I drive back the way I had come, or was I? This track doesn't look quite right, and the mud is up to the door, banking on both sides and no way out, slowly coming to a stop! Oh no, battery is waiting for me (Gunner Seymour) soon, but saved the day by putting in reverse low drive. Its amazing how quick you react, when you are in the mire – literally! Half an hour later, after I found the main road, I took the Battery to the Regimental Competition Area, and kept my stripe. Please don't tell BSM McLachlan. He went on to be RSM 12 AD Regt and subsequently commissioned.

I was now well established as a Battery Clerk and well protected by the BSMs I served under. Must admit to getting out of the odd scrape.

I showed my loyalty by helping a BSM, not the one above I might add, who along with Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants went to the Reeperbahn from Soltau. Quite normal in those days. Well, Steve and three buddies also went to the Reeperbahn, where we spent most of the evening in the Bavarian Bar. At 4am the next morning, we are returning from Hamburg, when I spot this disragged figure in pouring rain walking along the hard shoulder of the motorway. Christ, it's the BSM I scream. We had better stop and pick him up. My buddies weren't too keen, but being a

loyal Battery Clerk and NCO (Creep) I talked them round and duly took him back to practice camp. Subsequently I was called into the Officers and SNCOs' Mess to explain my achievement of saving the BSM. I did do the Bombardier Crewman Course, and was promoted to Bombardier, but perhaps this assisted my promotion. Who knows!

I think he was set up, especially when I asked him what he was doing poking around in the heating duct of the Landrover. Two days leaning your head out of the window on Soltau ranges in the middle of November because of a foul egg is NO JOKE. Can still smell it now.

Paddy Verdon decided at some time that I should be his Filing Clerk, which I was not too happy about, but I was told it was to broaden my horizons. After doing a large amount of the BSM's administrative work. I discovered this years later, when attending the Warrant Officer Course. For some reason, I always had a course to achieve promotion, which my predecessors were not required to attend, be it the Bombardier Crew Commanders Course or the Sergeant's Management Course etc.

It was still the days of non automation, and I remember his trays being 10 metres high. In those days there was one typist who spent half the day reading her book. She could really type fast. Returning to the Regiment many years later in Paddy's post I had one and a half typists, automation, and the girls were fully employed!

Not sure whether Paddy had one of the typists locked up in the Security Room – he seemed to disappear into that mysterious room alone for many hours. It was Cold War days and we were informed to keep everything away

from the German Cleaner. One day as the Battery Clerk I recall the Adjutant, who was later to become my BC and CO, setting up a false SOXMIS entrance to the Camp. I almost lost my most precious part on the desk corner contacting RHQ, as they drove through an open front gate in a Lada Limousine.

The best aspect of RHQ life then was the visit of Miss UKs and Worlds, they had lovely derrieres. Paddy thought so too. (grin)

Someone eventually thought I should do a Sergeant Management Course, Joe Hoggins, I think, and my first sight of Worthy Down, it was also my last, having finished my career as a RA Clerk, and due to severe arthritis unable to take up the long service option offered to me

I was then posted to 16 AD Regt in Dortmund, which was six months exercise, and not trained in Air Defence, but expected to know all about Hidacs and Shoradez etc, and hours catching up on

the paperwork on return, whilst the others went home. Talk about fast learning curves. I could never understand why no-one was promoted and I seemed to be the permanent Mr Vice!

Tours followed with 14 Fd Regt in Larkhill, 1 RHA in Bergen-Hohne, HQ 1 (BR) Corps, 26 Fd Regt in Gütersloh, and finally the full circle 39 Regt RA in Sennelager.

There were many difficult moments, but also many humorous times, and meetings, albeit fleetingly with well known persons, which would make this article too exhaustive.

How times have changed from the days of the Honest John, 8 Inch, FH 70, 175 mm, 105 mm etc, most of which were man handled on trails, to the present times full with automation, which also includes the office environment. It was a privilege to have served the country, and if civilians wish to know what flexibility is, then they should join the Army.



Left to right: Sgt(AC) Ron Holmes, WO2(QMS(AC)) Mick Johnston and Sgt(AC) Andy Tibble taken in RHQ 50 Msl Regt RA Menden

From Artillery Clerk (WO2 1993) to Army Cadet Force (LT 2010). by Lt Steve Callaghan (former WO2(QMS(AC)))

It is amazing what wide ranging and varied courses you can find yourself travelling down once you have left the relative employment safety of the Army system and taken those first tentative steps outside in assorted civilian colours called suits and casuals etc. I must admit when I left the comfort zone that was being "The Chief" with the Project Management Team BATES and started looking at the big bad world around me, I made it my first task to have a shave, remove the mutton chops then start to scrutinise the job pages of the local papers in and around the Nuneaton area. After some 40 or so applications between Oct – Nov 93, getting the occasional interview and seeing where it took me, I interviewed extremely well for an Office Manager position in Rugby. Well I thought I had, the No Thanks letter was a shock to find that I had been unsuccessful for the Librarian position. I rang them and asked where I had gone wrong in my interview, because they really needed somebody who actually knew what was going on in the personnel department. Having pointed out their error on vacancy positions, there was a silence and suddenly even more silence broken only by a line dead tone. So needless to say I didn't find out. So I made a very conscious decision that I was going to go for broke and see where it left me. There was no job opportunity that I was not going to have a go for. After all there must have been something within my Gunner career of 25 years that I could twist slightly to fit the job specification.

So I gambled initially on getting into a paid position and seeing where I could go to from there. A

phone call later for an In House security officer saw me interviewed for a position I would not have normally entertained, but it was a wage and Christmas was coming. I later found out I was successful not because of my charm at the interview, but because I was wearing a suit, with polished shoes. Well if that was all it takes, get the applications going. The 2 weeks of nights meant that I was able to use the office facilities in my applications, I had my own ribbon, but the electric typewriters were better than hand written. Application followed application, I had this experience because I had once moved a Regiment from Germany to UK, I would be a perfect Transport Manager. Good interview, just aimed a little too high for a starter position, coordinator would have been better. Still not to be put off, I carried on. Finally an interview as an Assistant Manager looked just the ticket. There was nothing I didn't know about Warehousing, take that as you may I either knew nothing or knew everything, depends on how you read the statement. Interview went extremely well, suited and booted and speaking to an ex RMP. Just the ticket, 45 minutes later I am in front of the store manager of a major furniture and electrical store of around 120000 sq feet being offered the job and could I start Monday. Needless to say I could, leaving the Security Job wasn't too bad, I must say the add ons to the basic wages made it very worth while. But time to move on. Having been in post for 6 weeks, I became the Warehouse Manager, with Security and Maintenance added on. 2 great years followed, I even got to become there trouble shooter for other poorly run

warehouses in the Homeworld Division. The hours were a worry and so in the end I decided to test the water again. Followed the line of experienced Manager, full military background, took me to a phone call on the Monday, Interview on the Tuesday, Job offer on the Wednesday, started on the Thursday as a Contracts Manager for a London based Car Parking Company. 12 great years followed, I sat on tender submission boards, where we were successful and also failed. I helped set up several contracts and even managed to win 2 off of my own bat, purely by word of mouth from the then contracts I was holding. I even spent the last 2 years working from home, which at the start was fine, but you soon tire of being indoors all day. But I did get plenty of travelling in, getting up at 4 a.m. to be in West Suffolk by 8 a.m. for a 9 a.m. meeting and then finding it cancelled. I felt the time was right to move on again. This was a mistake at the time as I should have took the TUPE transfer to another Company and stayed employed, I didn't like the look of them and besides I had a very good name to protect and so I bailed out. Almost 4 months of treading water, job centre everyday, no allowance as I had a pension, so it was a tough old time, but we got through it. Then came the call with regards a position as an Admin Officer in the ACF. I went along and met Alec Masson (CEO) who I hadn't seen since leaving 49 Fd Regt in 1977 and before I knew it, I was offered the position on a temporary basis, but that changed almost a month in, when I was substantiated in post. I joined the ACF movement as an SMI (permanent staff) and

went on Annual Camp (in uniform) to Westdown Camp, Salisbury Plain. I was hooked; they do tend to be very clicky in the ACF Sgts Mess, which doesn't go down well. I was bored as the ACF Adjutants, we had one doing week 1 of camp and another did week 2, they kept all the work and worked all the hours, while I sat and wondered just what I was doing there. On return the Commandant and CEO read my PXR and after interview said that they would have liked me to go for Commission and then take the role of Camp Assistant Adjt 2009 before taking the post full time as the Camp Adjutant 2010. However, the rules stated under 55 and I was approaching 56. 7 weeks later the amendment to the rules came in and it was now under 57, and I was 56. So I took the plunge completed all the papers, nominated myself for a course vacancy and with just the Commandant, CEO and myself aware I went to Westbury and took the Cadet Force Commissioning Board on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 3 days to see what I could do. So once again I just went for broke, had a great laugh, introduced myself as their Grand dad or pops for short, but the investigating officer told them to ignore the remark as I was "Orange 68", for the whole course. I had a ball, I was 30 years older than almost everyone else on the course, so I had nothing to lose, I went as an SMI, I would go back as an SMI. It is very easy to say that, but in truth I must admit it is the waiting for the mail that is the hardest part. The selection board sits immediately following the conclusion of the course on the Sunday afternoon, results posted 1st class on the Monday. You are warned that if you do not get a letter on the Tuesday, it doesn't mean you failed or passed, it is down to the GPO. Needless to say I was chuffed to learn early on the Tuesday, after my Sue had opened the letter that I had passed

and was immediately promoted to 2Lt, 1 year later it would be Lt. I went on Camp 2009 to be the AAdjt, but due to the swine flu bug, I was made Adjt from day 1 of Camp, made the odd error, but all in all enjoyed the experience. I was delighted to be appointed as the County Adjutant on the 5 April 2010 with all the additional duties that holds which covers the Annual Camps as well. I must add this is far better than being the "Camp Adjutant" for obvious reasons.

It took 16 years from leaving the comfort of being "The Chief" to becoming the "County Adjutant" and an Officer. It was really a thrill to receive my invitation to the Cadet 150 Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 6 Jul 10, hosted by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, (didn't see the Association Secretary there though!). So it just goes to show you, 25 years service and not a sniff, within 3 years of ACF service and here we go tea at the Palace. I must admit the day was totally awesome and both Sue and I had the most wonderful time indeed. Plenty more surprises to come I am sure.

Rumour control has it that I am the first AC to be commissioned in the ACF, and I am extremely proud of that fact, that is unless you know better.

Artillery Clerks' Family Tree

Steve Read made a proposal at the Artillery Clerks' Association Annual General Meeting that was held at Larkhill on Saturday 24th April 2010 that the Association produces a family tree showing all those individual Artillery Headquarters, Regiments and units where members of the Association have served which would include details of Chief Clerks, Assistant Chief Clerks, etc going all the way down to Battery Clerks were possible. All members are asked to produce a breakdown of those who served in their Regiments, providing dates, Regiments/Battery's, rank and names and what positions they held.

This information should be completed on the template available on the website at www.artyclerkassn.org which should be printed off or downloaded and then filled out as appropriate. The completed forms should then be forwarded to Steve Read as soon as you possibly can at:
Mr S Read, 22 Canada Rise
Market Lavington, Devizes
Wiltshire SN10 4AD

or email: acproject@virginmedia.com

It is hoped to have the first draft of the family tree ready in time to display at the Artillery Clerks Association Reunion and Dinner at Larkhill over the weekend of Friday 6th - Sunday 8th May 2011 when, hopefully, we might be able to fill in any gaps that there may be.

Your support in providing this information to Steve as soon as possible would be gratefully appreciated.

76th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner, Larkhill
Saturday 24th April 2010



Back Row: Mr S Charlton (Guest), Mr D G Stotan, Mr E Vallis, Mr S V Read, Mr M I Grenham, Mr R H Deal MBE (Assistant Secretary), WO2(SQMS) N J Perkovic, WO2(SQMS) D J Ralphs,
Mr B Morgan, Mr I M Grant, Mr S P Callaghan, Mr H Michelson, Mr W M Wallace, Mr S A Whelan

Middle Row: Piper, Mr A J Jones (Standard Bearer), SSgt S A Snowdon, Mr M Johnston, Mr P J Deverell, Mr D Norris (Welfare Secretary), Mr J Taylor, Mr S T Truslove, Mr G Brown, Mr B J
Leadbetter, WO2(SQMS) D A Ward, Mr J Phelps, Mr J McNamara, Mr M Hester, Mr G O Hyatt, Mr S R Seymour, Mr W M Young, Mr D G Silver, Mr J M Hutchinson, Mr D A Riley,
WO2(SQMS) R J Holmes, Piper

Front Row : Maj(Retd) P J Verdon, Maj R Lee RA, Mr J Hoggins BSc, Lt Col(Retd) D P Brown OSt J BEM, WO1(RSM) N Gould (RSM 14 Regt RA), Capt I F Constantine RA (Reunion Secretary),
Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL (Honoury President), Lt Col(Retd) J F Falzon BEM (Chairman), Maj Gen A Gregory (Guest of Honour), Mr A M Tibble MSM (Secretary),
Lt Col(Retd) A N Mott, Lt Col R H Horner MBE RA, Maj J W S Haddock RA, Maj(Retd) R A Jeavons, Maj(Retd) D J Cusseil