

The Crossed Quills



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The Magazine of the
Artillery Clerks' Association

Edition 17
December 2013

Foreword by Association President Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL

I am so pleased that this year I have been given this opportunity to write a Foreword for this edition of the Crossed Quills.

This is an exciting time for the Association as it continues looking at ways of growing as well as helping members (and widows) in need – you, the Members, are at the absolute heart of what we do. It is your support and encouragement which create opportunities for the hard working Committee to deliver successful reunions in UK and Germany, as well as this excellent Magazine. They are the glue between a widely dispersed membership and work actively, on top of their busy day

jobs, to promote the Association on your behalf.

Comradeship is admirable, whatever form it takes. In an Association like ours, where two organisations, the Adjutant General's Corps and the Royal Regiment of Artillery are able to come together in friendship and mutual support, it is particularly praiseworthy.

2014 is going to be a significant year for a number of reasons – the centenary commemorations for World War 1 will get underway all over the United Kingdom. All eyes will be also be on the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the

Battle of Normandy which will be commemorated by many Allied Heads of State and hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world from June through till the end of August.

And of course the Association will be celebrating the 80th Reunion Weekend and Dinner at Larkhill on Friday 6th to Sunday 8th June 2014.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our next dinner on the 7th June. It is always great fun, and the more who come the merrier it will be.

Report by Association Chairman Lt Col Joe Falzon BEM OSJ

At this time of year I just cannot escape the clutches of Andy Tibble, our Association Secretary, who hounds me and others to come up with our annual messages to you. This edition of The Crossed Quills is only possible due to a huge effort by Andy, who is busy enough with his important day job. I am so pleased to see that Andy has been supported by a number of contributors far and wide. I give him total credit for putting together another outstanding edition, which serves to keep the Association members informed and entertained.

Looking back, this has another good year for the Association – those who attended, much enjoyed the Reunion Dinner in Larkhill earlier in the year. I was in hot and sticky Singapore when the Germany Dinner, organised once again by Ron Holmes, took place for possibly the last time. By all accounts it was an outstanding success. I was particularly

delighted that I managed to persuade The Not Forgotten Association to include Steve Seymour amongst their invitees for a 7-day tour of Malta, completed in October. Whilst both of us were in Malta we arranged to meet up with Peter Gauci, one of our Honorary Members, for lunch together. You can read about this experience in Steve's article published in this edition.

Looking forward, the process of preparing this edition of The Crossed Quills, also helps to start the annual cycle again. In early December, Lt Col Russ Lee and myself accompanied by our ladies and the Association Standard Bearer, attended the St Barbara's Day church service in Larkhill. In February, the planning for the 80th Association Weekend and Reunion Dinner starts in earnest, gradually gearing up and culminating with an intense period of activity in the four weeks leading up to the 7th June 2014. We are delighted that the

Master Gunner will be able to join us as our Principal Guest.

We are extremely fortunate in the wonderful commitment and hard work shown by our Committee. Please continue to support and encourage your Committee by helping them to deliver what you need, be it newsletters, websites, parades, reunions, comradeship, mutual support or just a friendly chat over the phone. On behalf of the entire Membership, I would like to particularly thank Andy Tibble, Ian Constantine, Paul Corker and Andrew Jones (Our Association Standard Bearer) most sincerely for all the work they undertake on behalf of us all.

Like many I was saddened to hear that Pat Verdon had passed away. The tributes on the Association Website and Facebook testify how much loved he was. My wife and I find comfort in knowing that our own lives were enriched by having shared a little bit of his. The

Association was well represented at his funeral in late November.

I look forward to catching up with you all at our Reunion Weekend in early June next year, before England move on to win the next World Cup and Scotland becomes independent!



Report by Association Secretary - Andy Tibble MSM (former WO1(SSM))

Once again this year has just passed by so quickly since the last edition of 'The Crossed Quills' was produced. This has been once again a very busy year for the Association. The Association has been actively represented by our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones at various events throughout the UK during the last 12 months. Further details can be read later on in the magazine. On behalf of the Committee and members I would like to thank Andrew for his commitment in representing the Association at so many venues throughout the year.

We had a most excellent Reunion Dinner which was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Central Mess, Larkhill on Saturday 22nd June 2013 under the auspices of Maj Ian Constantine RA. The Association was proud to welcome the Director of Personnel, Major General R E Nugee CBE as our Guest of Honour, and the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major, WO1 (RASM) Pete Armstrong as our guests. 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 and a most enjoyable weekend. WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes MSM (Germany Reunion Secretary) organised a very successful Germany Reunion weekend that took place in 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Signal Regt's WO's & Sgt's Mess in Hereford on Saturday 19th October 2013. A full report on the Dinner by our Germany Reunion Secretary can be read later in the magazine. Further details regarding the Germany Reunion in 2014 will be sent out in due course. Thank you also to Hauke Michelson (Honorary Member) and WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes MSM for supplying photographs from the Reunion weekend for this edition of 'The Crossed Quills'.

Congratulations to WO2(SQMS) Paddy Butler, WO2(SQMS) Andy Moss and WO2(SQMS) Woody Woodford have been selected for promotion to WO1 during the FY 2013/2014. There were no Honours and Awards.

Sadly I have to report of the deaths of five of our Artillery Clerks who have sadly passed away since the last report. They were:

Former SSgt (AC) Bob Lewney who died on 6th September 2013. Bob was one of the Associations oldest members. He was a true Artillery Clerk, and one of the last of his generation. Bob will be missed by all those members who know him.

Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) David (John) Wilson who died on Saturday 29th December 2012 after a long illness. John was a very popular person within 'The Artillery Clerks' Association and will be missed by all those members who knew him. The funeral was

attended by the members of the Association and our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones.

Former Captain & WO1 (SMAC) Dave Scott who died on Friday 10th May 2013 aged 66. Although not a member of the Association, Dave will be missed by those who served with him or knew of him.

Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon who died on Wednesday 13th November 2013 aged 73. Pat will be hugely missed by all those who served with him or know him. The Association will now be without one of its strongest supporters. Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman), Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Graham Brown, Mr Steve Seymour, Maj (Retd) Dave Cussell and our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones represented the Association at Pat's funeral.

A belated entry received from John Reynolds: Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) Idris Hughes who died on Monday 13th August 2012. Although not a member of the Association, Idris will be missed by those who served with him or knew of him.

The St Barbara's Day Church Service was held in the Garrison Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Larkhill on Sunday 1st December 2013. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Lt Col Russ Lee and Mr Andrews Jones (Standard Bearer) represented the Association. The 2014 St Barbara's Day Church Service will be held in the Garrison Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Larkhill on Sunday 7th December 2014. If you live within reasonable travelling distance, please can I urge you to support this event and get this date into your diary's please?

The 80th Artillery Clerks' Reunion will take place over the weekend of the 6th, 7th & 8th June 2014 at Larkhill. Further details will be forwarded to all members

by our Reunion Secretary shortly. It is confirmed that 'The Master Gunner' has accepted our invitation to be the Guest of Honour at this dinner. This is the only opportunity for all members of the Artillery Clerks' Association to meet up over a weekend in the UK and therefore, it would be good to seek the support of all members in supporting this event each year. Should any members have any concern regarding transportation to/from the reunion, this should be included on your Reunion return when sending them back to Ian, so that we can contact you directly to possibly provide any assistance where possible, such as car sharing or even arranging for a group of members to travel by mini bus to the event. I can appreciate that this might be slightly more difficult for those travelling from Germany to the UK. If you wish to attend, however, have transport issues, then you should speak to Ron Holmes, Ian Constantine or myself as soon as possible as we may be able to come up with a possible solution to ensure that you are able to attend. Our Germany Reunion Secretary, Ron Holmes organises an excellent Reunion Weekend in Germany every year and it would be really good to see those Artillery Clerks' who live in Germany supporting this event especially if you can't make it to the UK dinner each year. As Ron will be away next year, WO2 Bob Smith has kindly agreed to organise the Germany Reunion in Ron's absence. Further details will follow in due course.

Once again 'Crossed Quills' continues to grow 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 the Committee members, Andrew Jones, Vic

Holdaway, Alan Lowithan, Steve Read and Steve Seymour. Many thanks for your contribution. Issue 18 of the Crossed Quills is due to be published and by the end of November 2014. I would be most grateful if you could all look through your individual archives to see if you have something of interest, old photographs that you would like to be published in next years' edition. These articles, with photographs should reach me by no later than Monday 1st September 2014. 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 204. There are currently 172 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. I recently wrote to all Area Secretary's regarding the importance of making and keeping in contact with those members within their areas of responsibility as well as encouraging them to see if they could trace those members on the wanted list down

for possible recruitment into the Association. I have since received some feedback from some Area Secretary's in response to letters that they have sent to members in their areas. Thank you to those of you have replied. For those of you who have not come back to me, grateful if you could do so as soon as possible please.

The following former Artillery Clerks joined the Association during 2013:

Former WO2(QMS(AC)) Martin (Ben) Hedges
Former SSgt (AC) James (Jim) Peggie

Unfortunately, I have lost contact with the following members who have moved and have failed to notify me of their new forwarding addresses:

Alan Hill, Alan Witts, Brian Bayliss, Steve Paton, Phillip Buckingham, Dave Smith, Chris Wood, H Hammond, Neil Ridout, Mel Turpie, Ian Williams, G Williams, Paul Davies, Budgie Burgess, Ritchie Syme, Alan Foot, Lawrence Collingwood, Dave Larcombe and Steve Hawke

If anyone is in touch with those members listed above, grateful if you could ask them to make contact me or if you have contact details for them, grateful if you could let me have them so that I can re-establish contact with them.

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.

Mr Steve Read gave those members present at the AGM at Larkhill an update on the progress that had been made in drawing up an Artillery Clerks' Association Family Tree which showed all of 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, in time, to Battery Clerks. I am glad to say that a lot of additional information has been obtained from members. More information can be found by visiting our website at www.artyclerkassn.org. The Association are also on Facebook where a lot of daily communications goes on. Can I urge you to visit both sites on a regular basis please? On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Steve for the time that he has put into this project.

I wish you all the very best for a successful 2014.

See you at Larkhill, if not sooner. Ubique.

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

Hello fellow AC's, my intent is to continue to make my main aim of assisting Andy with the drive to recruit new members and help determine why attendance at reunions by members appears to be falling and how we can improve attendance. Andy and I are also attempting to develop our contact list with e mail details – your help is needed.

I am down to 4 ties, and have new cuff links; ties pins available @ £28.50 please contact me if you would like a set.

Another plea to all those who have joined the civil service; Do we have enough AC's out there to get together over coffee when we attend meetings etc! If you are out there and interested I am happy to be a Point of Contact and maintain a register dealr288@mod.uk drop me an e mail, it would be nice to see a familiar face when going to meetings.

Lots to do – but I need your help! I look forward to hearing from you.

Roy Deal
Assistant Secretary

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:

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



Association Committee 2013 - 2014

Honorary President	Lt Gen Sir Freddie Viggers KCB CMG MBE DL
Chairman	Lt Col Joe Falzon BEM OSJ
Secretary	Andy Tibble MSM - former WO1(SSM)
Assistant Secretary	Roy Deal MBE - former WO1(SSM)
Reunion Secretary	Maj 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	Brian Morgan – former WO2(QMS(AC))
North West	Dennis Norris – former WO2(QMS(AC))
Midlands	Steve Callaghan – former WO2(QMS(AC))
East	Capt 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	The Secretary
Northern Ireland	The Secretary
Germany	WO1(SSM) Ron Holmes MSM 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 Brian Morgan at morgan_45@hotmail.co.uk

The Midlands –

Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Contact Steve Callaghan at 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

Germany. Contact Ron Holmes at ronandkadja@aol.com

Rest of the World.

Contact the Association Secretary, Andy Tibble at andytibble@btinternet.com.

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

As I couldn't make it to the dinner this year I think I will take this opportunity to update you on what has been going on. This has been a turbulent year for me with so many things going on some good and some not so good. The high point was giving my daughter away and finally getting to do my father of the bride speech and also the birth of my grandson Leo weighing in at 9lb 4oz on the 29th July 13. The not so good was discovering I was at risk of redundancy and having to go up against other NHS colleagues' and friends for jobs. In the end and due to the shambolic way in which Human Resources tried to match members of staff for post with some very questionable decisions on who filled them I decided to take voluntary redundancy.

We have taken the decision to re-locate to North Devon on 5th Oct 13 to seek new opportunities and have purchased a static home with part of my severance pay and in the short term plan will make this home whilst Cath and I find employment. In the longer term I intend to sell my house in Bacup and purchase something in the Barnstaple area, North Devon. I then intend to rent the static home to holiday makers and hopefully generate additional income. I would be lost without easy access to the Internet so I've purchased a portable 3G Mobile WI-Fi device which is brilliant and does what it says on the tin. I remain optimistic for the future and all being well I will be able to make the next dinner and fill you in on any developments.

Anyway as expect some tips on how to protect yourself from phishing scams and a link "How to stay safe and secure online".

Having read the tips on protecting yourself from phishing scams you will now be able to check the link at the end of this article to verify it is taking you to where it says it will!

How to Protect yourself from phishing scams and stay safe and secure online

Phishing scams can happen when malicious organizations or people (cybercriminals) present themselves as an entity you can trust, then try to trick you, or lure you, into providing them with your personal information. Phishing scams normally occur via email, websites, and text messages, and sometimes, even phone calls. Cybercriminals will often pose as your bank or financial institution, your employer, or any other entity that you normally trust with your information. Below are some pointers which may indicate you are a potential victim:

- Phishing correspondence will usually ask you for sensitive information that the organisation should already have. For example, if your bank sends you an email asking you to provide them with your bank account number or sort code, it is likely to be a phishing scam! It may be written to induce panic or assume a threatening tone designed to make you panic and provide personal information.
- Review suspicious emails and text messages for spelling and punctuation errors as in most cases, phishing scams are not proof read before they are sent and often contain multiple errors. If it is coming from a major business corporation it is unlikely that spelling and punctuation errors will be evident.

- Call the organisation directly to verify the inquiry if you are suspicious. If you were left a voice mail providing you with a phone number to call you could check this against valid numbers you hold in your contacts or legitimate correspondence from them.
- Examine website links and logos in suspicious emails you receive. In some cases, links and logos are masked to look legitimate but may take you to a different website or cause you to download malicious files. Hover your cursor over the link or business logo within your email. A small pop-up bar that displays the true website address will appear below the link embedded within the email. Be cautious about clicking or visiting unfamiliar links that end with an "exe" extension. "Exe" links may cause you to download malicious software, spyware or other programs that can steal your information.
- Provide personal information only to websites that are secure. Look at the address bar of the website you and ensure it begins with Https rather than http. The "https" part of the web address indicates the website is secure. A yellow padlock icon displayed at the bottom of your web session can also help you determine a website's security. Double-click on the padlock icon to verify that a security certificate displays on the screen, as some websites will display just a graphic padlock to be malicious. How you can stay safe and secure online: <http://www.google.co.uk/goodtoknow/online-safety/>

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

I wish you all well for 2014 and hope to see you all in Larkhill in June.

General

This will be the last report from me as a serving member of the Armed Forces; although I am quite sad to be leaving after nearly 39 years of service, I am so looking forward to the next chapter of my life. On 1 Dec 13 I took up a new post as the General Manager of Hesketh Golf Club in Southport. So if, any members are visiting the NW area then please drop in for a round of golf or a cup of coffee or better still – both. There are 3 areas I wish to concentrate on and the first will be down to me to claim the 'Gift Aid Refund' from the taxman, the second is that I urge all members to change their annual subscription to £10 and the third task is the overspend to the reunion fund. The 2012 reunion made a loss of £533.95 and I will rebalance this with assistance from the GPF. I will continue to recover outstanding subscriptions and given the direction of the 2012 AGM those members who are classed as long-term debtors will be removed as full members. I continue to thank all members for their loyal support, without which my job as Treasurer would be more difficult and time consuming.

Main Action Areas

The following is highlighted for members:

Outstanding Subscriptions - £2,325:00
Mandate - 64 Members not paying by Direct Mandate
Gift Aid - 54 Members failed to completed declaration form

Statement of Account – 30th September 2013

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Current Bank Account	£209.03	Function	£0.00
Deposit Account	£ 2,258.92		
Shop Stock	£181.50		
Total Assets (A)	£ 2,649.45	Total Liabilities (B)	£ 0.00
AVAILABLE CASH (A – B)	£ 2,649.45		

Summary

As I move to new employment, I promise to provide the necessary financial awareness to the committee in order for them to provide the welfare support to all of the members of the association. That is why I am grateful to all, who lend me their timely support.

All invoices for the 2012 financial year have been settled and the fund sits at £2,649.45 in the bank. There is no need for alarm as the January subscriptions will shortly arrive before any future expenditure is expected.

I continue to enjoy supporting you the members of the Association and yet again the Taxman donated £161.25 to our cause. Should we recover some of the outstanding subscriptions, the fund will be in a stronger position to support future reunions and you the members.



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.

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

I am sure you will all have seen the details of the horrific attack on a soldier outside the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich on 22 May 2013.

The soldier killed in the attack was 25-year-old Lee Rigby, a drummer and machine-gunner in the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Lee Rigby, from Middleton, Greater Manchester, had served in Cyprus, Germany, and Afghanistan before becoming a recruiter and assisting with duties in the Tower of London. He was attacked when he was returning to barracks from working at the Tower. A post-mortem examination showed that Rigby died from "multiple incised wounds".

Lee Rigby supported a British Armed Forces charity, Help for Heroes and was wearing a hoodie supporting the charity when he was attacked. Rigby was given a military funeral at Bury Parish Church on 12 July 2013. The service was attended by several thousand people, including present and former soldiers, Prime Minister and Mayor of London. A private burial service was then held at nearby Middleton Cemetery.

For myself, I personally had a number of connections with this event; the location of the event being the home of the Royal Artillery Clerks' Dinner for so many years; the policing of the funeral was carried out by Greater Manchester Police, for whom I currently work and a member of my team was a neighbor of Lee Rigby's family and knew Lee Rigby personally.

I have therefore, selected the 'Help for Heroes' charity to be included in my report in Crossed Quills.



About Us

Everyone at H4H is passionate about helping our heroes, most of us have links to the Services; some have partners, friends or relatives who've been injured or have lost a loved one. We take the time to listen and understand what's needed and do our very best for our heroes every single day.

We have a complete open door policy and welcome all of our supporters to visit us or pick up the phone to find out just what a difference your donations are making to the lives of our heroes.

Immediate Financial Support

Our Quick Reaction Fund (QRF) helps by giving swift financial support to those with life-changing injuries, life-changing illnesses and their families. For example, funds to purchase equipment to make a home more accessible or a grant to support travel costs for a family needing to spend time by their loved ones bedside. The QRF can essentially be used for anything that alleviates the distress caused by injury or illness.



The QRF is delivered directly by us, or administered for us through the Services' own charities and aims to provide support within 72 hours in urgent cases.

"For the first time in a long while, I have been able to go outdoors and have fun with my family. I have been able to exercise and work up a sweat, which is something I have missed so much. My appreciation for this is beyond my ability to describe. I simply don't have the words to really articulate what this gift means to me, so I will just say thank you so much from us all. I feel like I have been released from confinement. My daughter is overjoyed that she can now cycle with her daddy."

If you are, or were, a member of the Armed Forces and have become wounded, injured or sick while serving our country then the Quick Reaction Fund can help you and your family.

To find out more, please contact the grants team on grants@helpforheroes.org.uk or 01725 514117.

A life-long support network for our heroes and their loved ones

The Help for Heroes Band of Brothers (BoB) offers life-long support and opportunities to those suffering from life-changing injury or illness. The Help for Heroes Band of Sisters (BoS) provides supports, recognition and fellowship to those who care for our heroes.

Members of the BoB and BoS receive the same financial and welfare support that Help for Heroes offers through the Quick Reaction Fund, but in addition have opportunities to take up offers donated to us by the very supportive public. These include:



Fundraise for our wounded heroes

We couldn't help our heroes without amazing supporters.

There are so many ways to 'do your bit', whether it's with a collection tin, organising your own event, attending someone else's or signing up to one of our challenges.

All over the country, people are organising a Bear-B-Q, baking cakes, shaving heads, volunteering for an H4H

national collection weekend, parachuting, trekking, cycling and much, much more to raise money for our wounded Servicemen and women and their families.

Whatever you do, you'll be making a real difference. Don't feel you have to lay on a massive fundraiser, every one is special to us and every penny counts.

Volunteer Your Time

Volunteering with Help for Heroes is a hugely enjoyable and rewarding experience. Our volunteers are very important – providing that personal link and support to the public in their fundraising efforts and by 'doing your bit' through volunteering, you really can make a difference.

Careers at H4H

Working with Help for Heroes is a hugely rewarding experience. See the H4H website for our current vacancies.

At Help for Heroes we recruit for a wide range of roles; from accounts to adaptive sports training, from communications to customer services, from finance to fundraising, from welfare to web development. Many of our

vacancies are in centers of military activity (Catterick, Aldershot, Colchester etc. Our current vacancies are listed on the website - please check back regularly. Important information for all applicants:

Work permits - New members of staff (including UK nationals) are required to provide evidence that they are legally able to work in the UK.

References - Help for Heroes seeks references for all new employees covering their previous 3 years employment history and validates any gaps of 3 months or greater by seeking a personal reference.

Medical - Some posts will require short listed applicants to complete a medical questionnaire prior to appointment.

Disclosure and Barring Service - A disclosure and barring service (DBS) enhanced check will be carried out for any person being offered a post at an H4H-managed Recovery Centre. This will be done after selection but before the appointment is confirmed.

VIP opportunities

- Great days out
- Tickets to events
- Holidays
- Discounts
- Employment opportunities
- Work experience
- And so much more!

Members' contact details are kept private, there is no commitment and it is all free! If you would like to donate an offer to our BoB or BoS please contact the team on the details below:

The Help for Heroes Band of Brothers – bandofbrothers@helpforheroes.org.uk 01980 844280 **get involved, do your bit and help us help our heroes**

All over the country, people are baking cakes, shaving heads, parachuting, trekking, cycling, running and much, much more to raise money for our wounded.

But there is still so much we need to do. The battles our heroes face will not disappear and we need your help to ensure there is a support network for them, for life.

There's so many ways you can get involved. Here's how you can do your bit!

Artillery Clerks Family Tree Update by Steve Read (former WO2 (QMS(AC)))

Work continues on building the Artillery Clerks family tree and as a result of a second visit to Gunner Magazine, to take copies of the Postings and Promotion pages from January 1976 to December 1980, the number of ACs registered has increased to 428. Over the next few months I will visit the archive again and copy the entries starting from December 1970, when soldier posting started to be recorded, up to 1976 and then add the ACs listed to the database.

For those that have not yet signed up for access to the Family Tree simply send me an email (ArtyClkProject@gmail.com) and I will send you details on how to gain access. If you have not yet sent me your input please do so, especially if you served as an AC before late 1976 when the Gunner Magazine entries start. However little you think you remember please send me the information as every little bit helps. If you prefer letter writing to email, my postal address is:

Stephen Read
22 Canada Rise
Market Lavington
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 4AD

A question for members: Does anyone know when the RA ceased giving LBdrs and Bdrs the appointment of Artillery Clerk? A member has indicated that he was appointed Bdr (AC) in the early 1950s. When did this practice cease?

Finally, below is a list of ACs, some very well known, others not so, who I know were promoted on certain dates but I do not know in which units. Do any members, or indeed the AC themselves, know what units they were serving in between the dates shown?

Surname	Initials	Rank	Date from	Date to
Allen	D G	Sgt (AC)	14/01/1977	01/12/1977
Anderson	J K	Sgt (AC)	12/11/1976	11/11/1979
Anderson	J K	SSgt (AC)	12/11/1979	01/01/1981
Anson	R P	WO2 (QMS(AC))	17/08/1979	01/01/1981
Bartram	P J	Sgt (AC)	21/04/1976	01/09/1978
Bedford	H	SSgt (AC)	04/04/1980	01/01/1982
Berry	C J	WO2 (QMS(AC))	15/12/1977	01/02/1979
Booth	J	WO1 (SM(AC))	20/06/1980	01/01/1982
Borthwick	C	Sgt (AC)	19/06/1978	01/11/1980
Brett	D R A	Sgt (AC)	04/06/1979	01/01/1982
Brindle	G D	Sgt (AC)	08/05/1978	01/08/1980
Burton	B	Sgt (AC)	01/01/1980	01/01/1982
Chamberlain	C	Sgt (AC)	14/08/1978	01/01/1981
Charlton	J M	WO2 (QMS(AC))	27/05/1980	01/10/1983
Collinge	M	Sgt (AC)	04/07/1978	01/01/1981
Collins	J M	Sgt (AC)	19/08/1976	18/08/1979
Collins	J M	SSgt (AC)	19/08/1979	01/01/1981
Corbett	T	SSgt (AC)	23/08/1976	01/08/1979
Crawford	D	Sgt (AC)	30/08/1978	01/01/1981
Cussell	D J	Sgt (AC)	23/08/1976	01/01/1978
Cussell	D J	SSgt (AC)	23/08/1979	01/01/1982
Dalrymple	D J	WO1 (SM(AC))	04/04/1976	01/12/1979
Dalzell	B G	Sgt (AC)	23/05/1977	24/05/1980
Dalzell	B G	SSgt (AC)	23/05/1980	01/01/1982
Dooner	F	WO2 (QMS(AC))	07/03/1976	01/09/1977
Doran	J	SSgt (AC)	01/10/1976	01/02/1978
Ennis	L J	WO1 (SM(AC))	11/12/1975	01/11/1977
Evans	S J A	SSgt (AC)	28/10/1978	01/01/1980
Fairweather	I	WO2 (QMS(AC))	01/04/1976	01/09/1977
Flint	G	Sgt (AC)	01/01/1980	01/01/1982
Gibson	W A	WO2 (QMS(AC))	05/04/1977	01/01/1979
Gluning	B C	WO2 (QMS(AC))	01/01/1978	01/12/1980
Gorman	D P	Sgt (AC)	23/10/1978	01/01/1981
Guest	A	Sgt (AC)	30/01/1978	01/01/1980
Hagen	R W M	WO2 (QMS(AC))	17/01/1978	01/10/1979
Hart	T M A	WO1 (SM(AC))	18/04/1976	01/12/1980
Hedges	M J	Sgt (AC)	17/05/1978	01/01/1980
Hickey	C L	Sgt (AC)	16/08/1978	01/01/1981
Hickey	P W	Sgt (AC)	23/04/1976	01/11/1978
Hickey	P W	SSgt (AC)	23/04/1979	01/01/1981
Hilton	R	Sgt (AC)	25/03/1977	24/03/1980
Hilton	R	SSgt (AC)	25/03/1980	01/01/1982
Hilton	T J	SSgt (AC)	26/11/1976	01/01/1978
Hopkins	M J	Sgt (AC)	26/04/1976	25/04/1978

Knights	P J	Sgt (AC)	11/01/1978	01/01/1980
Lalabalavu	R V W	SSgt (AC)	22/04/1980	01/01/1982
Lawrence	P A	Sgt (AC)	08/11/1978	01/01/1980
MacKenzie	A D	SSgt (AC)	17/01/1977	02/12/1979
Martin	D	SSgt (AC)	12/02/1977	01/01/1979
McAllister	P R	Sgt (AC)	10/01/1978	01/09/1980
McCabe	D	Sgt (AC)	04/06/1979	01/01/1982
McGilvery	G F	SSgt (AC)	22/07/1980	01/01/1982
McGinty	M	Sgt (AC)	03/08/1976	01/10/1979
McIlroy	A	WO2 (QMS(AC))	06/12/1976	01/09/1977
Mott	A N	Sgt (AC)	24/03/1979	01/01/1981
Netherwood	D J	Sgt (AC)	01/01/1977	01/01/1979
Nuttall	C	Sgt (AC)	21/08/1978	01/01/1981
Palmer	I	Sgt (AC)	17/06/1976	17/06/1979
Palmer	I	SSgt (AC)	17/06/1979	01/01/1981
Pearson	D	Sgt (AC)	07/03/1977	06/03/1980
Pearson	D	SSgt (AC)	07/03/1980	05/09/1982
Peggie	J	Sgt (AC)	20/09/1978	01/01/1981
Phelps	C W	WO1 (SM(AC))	01/01/1975	01/09/1977
Phillips	C B	Sgt (AC)	01/01/1980	20/03/1984
Phillipson	D J	Sgt (AC)	15/08/1977	01/11/1980
Pool	J L	Sgt (AC)	01/01/1980	01/01/1982
Pratt	J R	WO2 (QMS(AC))	22/11/1976	01/01/1978
Regan	M	SSgt (AC)	27/01/2976	01/04/1978
Richardson	H A	Sgt (AC)	27/10/1976	01/06/1979
Ridge	I F	Sgt (AC)	16/01/1975	15/01/1978
Ridge	I F	SSgt (AC)	16/01/1978	01/01/1980
Roast	J R	WO2 (QMS(AC))	01/04/1980	01/01/1982
Roberts	G J	Sgt (AC)	01/01/1980	01/01/1982
Robertson	D M	WO2 (QMS(AC))	01/04/1976	01/09/1977
Scaife	M	Sgt (AC)	01/01/1980	01/01/1982
Scott	D	WO2 (QMS(AC))	05/03/1979	01/01/1981
Smith	B	Sgt (AC)	21/03/1978	01/01/1980
Stokes	T D	Sgt (AC)	17/01/1977	16/01/1980
Stokes	T D	SSgt (AC)	17/01/1980	01/01/1982
Taylor	C W	Sgt (AC)	04/10/1976	01/02/1979
Timmis	G	Sgt (AC)	11/04/1977	01/01/1979
Trenfield	D T	Sgt (AC)	01/01/1980	01/01/1982
Turner	L S	SSgt (AC)	17/01/1976	30/04/1979
Turner	L S	WO2 (QMS(AC))	30/04/1979	01/01/1981
Tyler	D G	Sgt (AC)	06/09/1977	01/01/1980
Verdon	P J	WO1 (SM(AC))	04/10/1977	01/01/1980
Walker	B K	Sgt (AC)	10/08/1978	01/01/1981
Ward	K	SSgt (AC)	17/08/1979	01/01/1981
Waring	N	WO2 (QMS(AC))	11/03/1980	01/01/1982
Waterfield	R T	SSgt (AC)	30/04/1976	01/09/1978
Westwell	F	WO2 (QMS(AC))	22/03/1979	01/01/1981
Yates		Sgt (AC)	01/06/1976	01/01/1979

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.



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.

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.

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
Jim Mutch
John Nicholas
Bill Ogilvie
Gil O'Mallo
John Osman
Pete Oxley
Dave Parkinson
Bill Pattison
Ken Peacock
Duncan Pettit
Peter Petts
Clem Pooke
Nick Powell
John Pratt
Len Price
Mick Price
Richie Pryor
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

172 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

Artillery Clerks Association - Members list as at 31st December 2013

Sparky Allen	Alan Foot	John McDermott	Snowy Snowdon
Alf Alvin	Foxy Fox	George McLachlan	Phil Spencer
Richard Ancliffe	Peter Gauci	Paul McMahon	Mark Spring
Alan Ashcroft	Martin Geddes	James McNamara	Trevor Spurr
Al Artley	Ian Grant	Martin Meek	Will Stirman
Brian Bailey	Mick Grenham	Tony Meek	David Stotan
Pip Bailey	Ian Groom	Eddie Mills	Dave Straw
Derek Baldry	John Haddock	Tam Millsip	Andy Sykes
Brian Bassett	Colin Haine	Hauke Michelson	Ritchie Syme
Brian Baylis	Ted Hall	Brian Morgan	John Taylor
Taff Bellis	Graham Hampton	Bill Morland	Mark Testi
Chris Berry	Gary Harland	Ian Morris	Mark Thorington
Martin Birch	Adrian Harrison	Andy Moss	Andy Tibble
Dave Boulton	Chris Harvey	Tony Mott	Gordon Timmis
Peter Bradburn	Steve Hawke	George Mould	Trig Tregower
Denis Brett	Phil Hayes	Paul Mudd	Frank Trimby
Graham Brown	Phil Headford	Richard Nichol	Steve Truslove
David Brown	Martin Hedges	Dennis Norris	Mel Turpie
Phil Buckingham	Marty Hester	Tony Nuttall	Dave Tyler
Titch Buckley	Alan Hill	Andy O'Neill	Gary Tyson
Budgie Burgess	Geordie Himlin	Steve Paton	Dave Vesty
Martin Butler	Joe Hoggins	Jim Peggie	Freddie Viggers
Paddy Butler	Vic Holdaway	Roy Penhallurick	William Wallace
Steve Callaghan	Ron Holmes	Nick Perkovic	Dick Walmsley
Iain Campbell	Paddy Hope	Paul Perry	Daz Ward
Walter Carney	Richard Horner	Joe Phelps	Ken Ward
Rob Clarke	Stu Hunt	Alan Phillips	Ron Waterfield
Lawrence Collingwood	Mick Hutchinson	Dennis Phillipson	Tom Webb
Ian Constantine	Geoff Hyatt	Chris Piper	Andy West
Paul Corker	Geoff Janik	Eddie Platts	Ronnie Whelan
Stan Cornwell	Dick Jeavons	Jim Pottle	Geoff Whitby
Mike Cottrell	Bill Johnson	Garry Prottey	Wills Williams
Bob Cowan	Mick Johnston	Steve Prowse	Jeff Williams
Dennis Crawford	Andrew Jones	Derek Ralphs	Ian Williams
Kev Crump	Ted Jones	Steve Read	Mick Williams
Peter Currie	Derek Kelsey	John Reynolds	Alan Witts
Dave Cussell	Clive Knaggs	Howard Richardson	Chris Wood
Colin Davidson	Ralph Lalabalavu	Neil Ridout	Al Wood
Paul Davies	John Lane	Des Riley	Woody Woodford
Steve Davies	Dave Larcombe	Jim Roast	Robert Worley
Roy Deal	Russ Lee	Brian Rose	Den Wright
Pete Deverall	Ray Lewis	Arthur Rowell	Bill Young
John Dewberry	John Lindley	Ken Russell	
Ray Dickinson	Alan Lowthian	Alan Sawdon	Membership stands at 204
John Dixon	Leon Lyall	Vince Scott	
Jim Doran	Peter Lynch	Steve Seymour	
Paddy Ennis	Dave Manchester	Mike Shellard	
Roger Essex	Adam Martin	Chris Shuter	
Sid Evans	Tony Martin	Sid Siddall	
Ted Fairbrass	George Martin	Dougie Silver	
Joe Falzon	Tim Mathews	Tony Skinner	
Jim Findlay	Tresh Matthews	Bob Smith	
Ron Flemmings	Ken May	Dave Smith	
Graham Flint	Tommy McCarthy	Brian Smith	

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Central Sgts Mess Larkhill, Saturday 22nd June 2013

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the AGM by welcoming everyone present to the new venue for our Reunion Weekend. He extended a special warm welcome to the Members who travelled from overseas.

The Chairman pointed to the long Agenda, which offered an opportunity to discuss the format and preferred venue for the 80th Anniversary Reunion Weekend in 2014, as well as the decisions needed regarding the long term debtors.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were 24 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 16th June 2012

The Secretary stated that the Minutes had been circulated to all members via Crossed Quills Issue 16 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 Steve Callaghan
Seconder: Mr Mick Hutchinson
CARRIED Unanimously

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 16th June 2012

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 16th June 2012.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the reunion weekend. He said that whilst it was disappointing to see that the numbers attending, including those who have sent in apologies, are lower than last year, he was absolutely especially delighted to see Pat Verdon, Mick Johnson and Tom Webb present.

The Chairman went on to say that in addition to all the work surrounding membership, representational duties carried out by the Association Standard Bearer, welfare work and finance, the most pleasing aspect this year was the help the Association was able to offer to one of our members. This involved contributions from members from Germany and the UK, who all focused on the challenge until it was all resolved satisfactorily. It was comforting to see everyone stepping up to help a comrade in need.

The Chairman publicly thanked all the Committee Members for all the work they undertake, in addition to their busy day job and challenges, which tends to be taken for granted. He also thanked Ron Holmes for his contribution in organising the Reunion Weekends in Germany.

The Chairman said that it was important to have a constructive and meaningful discussion on future reunions. He said that the Committee has already started on some preliminary planning for the 80th Reunion weekend next year. However it was vital that the Members contribute to the debate.

The Chairman finally thanked everyone for their continued support.

6. Secretary's Report

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

Membership

The membership of The Artillery Clerks' Association currently stands at 205. Last year the total stood at 204.

Membership – Wanted List.

The Secretary explained that there are currently 170 potential members listed on "The Wanted List" who were former 'Artillery Clerks.' He urged everyone to look through the list which was published in the recent 'Crossed Quills' to see if they recognise anyone who might be living nearby, and then to try to encourage them to join the Association.

New Members

Former SSgt (AC) James (Jim) Peggie who joined us on the 31st May 2013. Jim lives in Gosport, Hampshire.

Deaths

Former WO2 (QMS(AC)) David (John) Wilson who died on -Saturday 29th December 2012

Although not a member, Former Captain & WO1 (SMAC) Dave Scott who died on Friday 10th May 2013. Aged: 66.

Honours & Awards.

Nothing to report.

Promotions.

Nothing to report.

St Barbara's Day Service

St Barbara's Day Service will be held at Larkhill in the Church of St Alban the Martyr on Sunday 1st December 2013. The Service will be followed by lunch in the Sgts' Mess. Further details will follow in due course, however, all members, especially those living close to Larkhill were encouraged to attend.

Change in personal details

The Secretary asked to be kept informed of any changes of rank, address, telephone numbers, email addresses, awards etc, etc. All members present were asked to send their current email addresses to the Secretary.

Crossed Quills

Items for Crossed Quills Issue No 17 are to be forwarded to the Secretary by Friday 6th September 2013.

Recruitment

Attention of all Members was drawn to the importance of recruiting new members.

Standard Bearer

The Secretary informed those present that our Standards Bearer, Andrew Jones had been very busy over the past 12 months represented the Association at the following events:

2nd December 2012 – St Barbara's Day Service
17th January 2013 – Attended Funeral of David (John) Wilson at Aldershot
17th February 2013 – Royal Artillery Parade at Esher
28th April 2013 – Gunner Sunday (Royal Hospital Chelsea)

Due to attend:

6th July 2013 – Royal Artillery Association (RAA) Service of Remembrance, National Memorial Arboretum
10th November 2013 – RA

Service of Remembrance at Hyde Park Corner
1st December 2013 – St Barbara's Day Service, Larkhill

Area Secretary's

The Secretary mentioned to those present that he had recently written to all Area Secretary's asking them to engage with all members of the Association who currently live within their areas of responsibility. The aim of this exercise is to re-engage with our members and also to encourage them to attend future dinners or at least to get some

feedback from them as to why they are no longer participating, so that we can address any issues that may be the cause of the poor attendance.

7. Assistant Secretary's Report

The Assistant Secretary, Mr Roy Deal MBE, informed those present that:

Artillery Clerks' Association ties and cuff links were available to purchase over the reunion weekend.

Any member wishing to place an order for ties or cuff links should contact him direct on either: roydeal@hotmail.co.uk or Roy.deal288@mod.uk

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Major Paul Corker AGC (SPS) made the following comments:

LIQUIDITY STATE AS AT SAT 22 JUNE 2013

ASSETS	
Cash	£10.45
Current Bank Balance	£2383.06
Deposit Bank Balance	£2258.64
Shop Stock	£267.00
Total Assets (A)	£4919.15

LIABILITIES

Function	£1770.00
Total Liabilities (B)	£1770.00
Available Cash (A-B)	£3149.15

He particularly emphasises that:

Subscriptions. Up to 2012 there is £1685.00 owed in outstanding subscriptions. For the current year there are 109 who paid £5 and 68 members who have failed to pay any subscription. Therefore debtors total £2910.00.

Mandate. 65 members are not paying by the Standing Order Mandate. Members are continuously encouraged to subscribe by this method.

Gift Aid. A total of £2,374.81 has been received from the Inland Revenue. There are 54 members who are yet to join the gift aid scheme. Annual income is approx £150.00. The 2013 return has been submitted and totals £205.00.

Treasurer's Updates. All members are reminded of their subscriptions within the Crossed Quills and at the AGM. They are also invited to join the mandate system and gift aid.

Standard Bearer Costs. 2012 expenses amounting to £71.43 are being recovered from RA Central Funds.

Insurance. The insurance for the fund is valid until 31 Mar 14. It is with the firm Towergate Wilsons. The cost this year was £315.09. This includes personal accident cover for the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Reunion Secretary, Standard Bearer and Regional Secretaries when they are deemed to be on duty for the Association.

Shop Stock. Ties cost £13.-00 and there are 3 in stock. There are 8 sets of cuff links and lapel pins @ £28.50 each. Total shop stock =£267.00.

RAA Draw Tickets. Annually we support the RAA Draw by purchasing tickets. This year we purchased £100.00 worth. Each member has been allocated a ticket with the remainder held by the Association.

Debtors. The sum of £2910.00 is too big for the fund to continue. This has been discussed in great detail by the Committee and will be discussed later during the AGM. Some of the debtors go back to the year 1999.

Lt Col (Retd) Richard Horner proposed and Mr Marty Hester seconded that the `Treasurer's Report is accepted. This proposal was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously.

9. Welfare Secretary's Report.

The Welfare Secretary, Mr Dennis Norris sent his apologies. In his absence, the Secretary asked members to inform the Welfare Secretary as soon as they become aware of any individual in need of support from the Association.

10. Historical Secretary's Report.

In the absence of the Historical Secretary, Mr Joe Hoggins, the Secretary passed on Joe's thanks to those who had sent him information and photographs. He went on to make a further request for Association members to send in any photographs from the past, so that they can be included in the Association's History.

11. Artillery Clerks' Association Family Tree update by Steve Reid

Stephen Read (ex WO1 (SMAC) reported that his efforts to record

the genealogy of the Artillery Clerks continues and has now reached a total of 410 ACs. Whilst his efforts have slowed this year due to family circumstances he recorded his thanks to those, such as Mick Hutchinson, who had provided him with copies of documents, such as the Artillery Clerks location lists, from the late 1980s.

Stephen invited those members holding any old documents detailing Artillery Clerks to get in touch with him.

Stephen added that he had visited the offices of Gunner Magazine to copy the postings and promotions lists from 1975 to 1981. He is now updating the database with this information. Whilst this source is very useful and has provided the details of many previously unrecorded ACs, it did not give details of the units of those ACs who were promoted in post e.g. Bdrs promoted to Sgt (AC). Stephen stated that he would attempt to get a list of such people published in both the AC Project document archive and the AC web site with the hope that it would trigger the memory of members.

Stephen reminded members that he had published the AC Project documents archive to Google Drive and that all that was needed to gain access to it was a GMail email account and an email to him at ArtyClkProject@gmail.com

12. Germany Secretary's Report.

The Germany Secretary, WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes MSM informed those present that the 2013 Germany Artillery Clerks' Association Reunion would take place at Herford over the weekend of 18th – 20th October 2013. He also mentioned that the calling letter for the forthcoming Reunion had been sent out and asked that those members wishing to attend submit their

returns back to him as soon as possible.

13. Reunion Secretary's Report

The Reunion Secretary, Maj Ian Constantine RA gave a comprehensive briefing on the format of the Reunion Dinner and the evening.

14. Future Format of Reunion Dinners

The Chairman informed those present that the Committee had been looking into the format and possible location for the 80th Reunion weekend next year. A few possible options that both the Chairman and Secretary had looked into were raised and discussed. The Chairman then opened up the floor for other ideas. These ideas were noted and will now be discussed in greater detail by the Committee with a venue and date being promulgated in due course.

15. Election or re-election of Committee

The Secretary stated that the present Committee wished to remain in office as follows:

Chairman
Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon OSJ BEM
Secretary
Mr Andy Tibble MSM
Assistant Secretary
Mr Roy Deal MBE
Treasurer
Maj Paul Corker AGC (SPS)
Reunion Secretary
Maj Ian Constantine RA
Welfare Secretary
Mr Dennis Norris
Historical Secretary
Mr Joe Hoggins
Webmaster
Mr David Stotan

WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes MSM proposed and Mr Brian Morgan seconded this proposal. The

proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

The Secretary also stated that the position of Area Secretary North had become vacant due to Mr Vince Scott stepping down after many years in this position and that Mr Brian Morgan had agreed to join the Committee as Area Secretary North

Lt Col (Retd) Richard Horner proposed and Maj Ian Constantine RA seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

16 Any other Business

a. **Outstanding Debtors.** During the Treasurers Report it was raised that debtors currently owed to the Association the sum of £2910.00. This was discussed and it was agreed that in the interest of the Association the continuation of this outstanding debt needs to be addressed as a matter of some urgency. It was therefore, discussed by the Committee and those members present where a proposal was made to the effect that all those members of the Association who currently have outstanding subscriptions for 3 years or more will be written to by the Treasurer, informing them that their membership of the Association will be suspended with effect from 31st December 2013 until either their outstanding subscriptions are paid in full or in a hardship case, a figure agreed by the Committee.

Mr Roy Deal MBE proposed and WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes MSM seconded this proposal. The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED unanimously.

b. **Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon** recorded a vote of thanks on behalf of the Artillery Clerks'

Association to all members of the Committee who had done a sterling job over the past year looking after the interests of the Association.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will take place at Larkhill on a date to be decided.

Andy Tibble
Secretary

Bob Lewney

Former SSgt (AC) Bob Lewney who died on 6th September 2013. Bob was one of the Associations oldest members. Unfortunately, over the past few years Bob has been unable to attend the Reunions. He was a true Artillery Clerk, and one of the last of his generation. Bob will be missed by all those members who know him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Rest in peace Bob.

Dave Scott

Former Captain & WO1 (SMAC) Dave Scott who died on Friday 10th May 2013 aged 66. Although not a member of the Association, Dave will be missed by those who served with him or knew of him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Rest in peace Dave.

Pat Verdon

Maj (Retd) Pat Verdon who died on Wednesday 13th November 2013 aged 73. Pat will be hugely missed by all those who served with him or know him. The Association will now be without one of its strongest supporters. Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon (Chairman), Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Dennis Norris, Mr Graham Brown, Mr Steve Seymour, Maj (Redt) Dave Cussell and our Standard Bearer, Andrew Jones represented the Association at Pat's funeral. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Rest in peace Pat.

79th Artillery Clerk's Reunion and Association Dinner, Larkhill Saturday 22nd June 2013

The 79th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner took place over the weekend of 21 – 23 June 2013. This year was our first gathering in the newly opened Central Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and the venue was certainly fit for purpose. The refurbishment of Larkhill Garrison has provided an outstanding Mess facility in addition to excellent accommodation.

The Friday night saw the usual suspects arrive for a few quiet drinks. In total there were 15 hardened individuals gathered to take advantage of the hospitality available from the Mess Bar as well as to sample the gifts bought by Hauke Michelsen and Ron Holmes – no one left sober that night.

Following the AGM the assembled Members gathered for the traditional photograph accompanied by the Guest of Honour, Major General R E Nugee CBE, Director General Personnel and the RASM, WO1(RASM) Pete Armstrong. With this first serial out of the way the bar opened for pre-dinner drinks and a chance for everyone to catch up with old friends; attendance of note was that of Mr Mark Testi all the way from Australia. The Dinner call followed too soon and the formal part of the evening began. An excellent meal was enjoyed by all with musical accompaniment from the Brass Routes Quintet and an outstanding rendition of the Post Horn Gallop from Mr Neil Armstrong. Major General Richard Nugee then earned his dinner with an amusing and particularly apt speech.

Following dinner it was time to retire the Main Bar for the serious

Reunion to begin. Our Guest of Honour appeared to enjoy himself immensely (if the photographic evidence is to be believed) and was well looked after by his old Chief Clerk from his days as Adjutant of 3 RHA. The RASM also proved to be a popular guest, particularly when he offered further assistance for our 80th Reunion. The reminiscing continued into the early hours of the morning, with the familiar faces being present for the Bar Staff pulling down the shutters.

Whilst numbers were low this year, those in attendance enjoyed an excellent evening. Our thanks, as ever, go to the RASM and 14 Regiment for their continued support and of course to the Sergeants Mess Staff who continue to look after us so well each year.

2014 will be our 80th Reunion and as ever I encourage all Association Members to attend.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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

Please convey my warm thanks to the Members of the Artillery Clerks' Association for their kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their Seventy-Ninth Reunion and Association Dinner which is being held tonight at the Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Larkhill.

As your Captain-General, I appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and send my best wishes to all those who are present for a most enjoyable evening.

ELIZABETH R.

22nd June, 2013.

Friday Evening



A



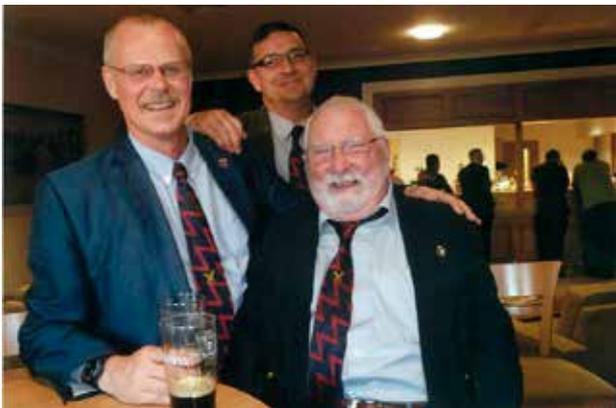
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C



D



E



F

- a. Mr Steve Callaghan, Mr Mick Hutchinson, Mr Peter Gauci, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Mr Roy Brooman
- b. Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary), WO2 (SQMS) Paddy Butler & Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer)
- c. Mr Hauke Michelson, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary) & WO2 (SQMS) Paddy Butler
- d. Mr Peter Gauci, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Mr Roy Brooman
- e. Mr Hauke Michelson, WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary) & Mr Tom Webb
- f. Mr Steve Seymour, WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary) & Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman)

Saturday Evening



G



H



I



J

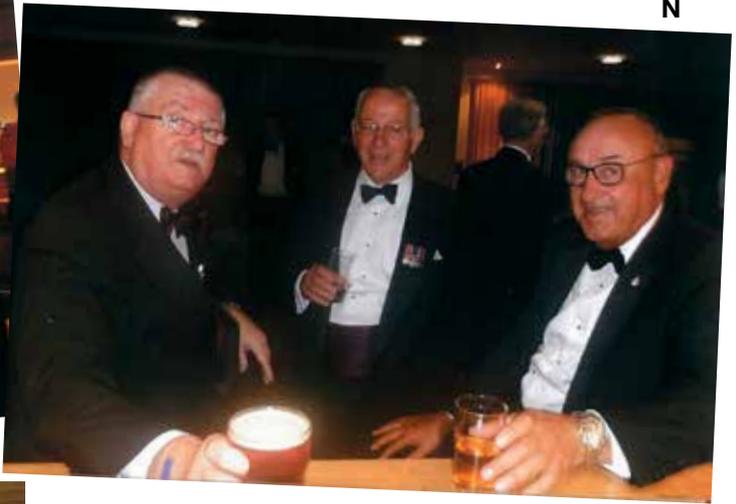


K



L

- g. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), WO1 (RASM) P Armstrong & Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary)
- h. Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary), Maj Gen Richard Nugee (Guest of Honour), Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), Lt Col Russ Lee, Maj Dick Jeavons & Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer)
- i. Mr Steve Seymour, Mr Roy Deal (Assistant Secretary) & WO2 (SQMS) Paddy Butler
- j. Mr Des Riley, Mr Mark Testi & Mr Brain Morgan
- k. Mr Tom Webb, Mr Graham Brown, Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer), Mr Peter Gauci, Mr Mick Johnston & Mr Steve Read
- l. Mr John Lindley, Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer), Mr Bill Young, Maj Dave Cussell, Lt Col Richard Horner, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), WO1 (RASM) Pete Armstrong, Mr Mick Grenham & Mr Steve Seymour

M**N****O****P****Q****R**

- m. Maj Dave Cussell, Mr Marty Hester & Mr Mick Johnston
- n. Mr Mick Hutchinson, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Mr Peter Gauci
- o. Mr Steve Seymour, Mr Steve Callaghan, Mr Mark Testi & Mr Brian Morgan
- p. Maj Gen Richard Nugee (Guest of Honour), WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary) & Maj Pat Verdon
- q. Mr Steve Read, Mr Roy Deal (Assistant Secretary), Maj Pat Verdon, Mr Hauke Michelson & WO2 (SQMS) Paddy Butler
- r. Mr Brian Morgan & Maj Gen Richard Nugee (Guest of Honour)



U



S



T



V



W



X



Y



Z

- s. Maj Gen Richard Nugee (Guest of Honour), Lt Col Richard Horner, Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman) & Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer)
- t. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & WO1 (RASM) Pete Armstrong (Guest)
- u. Lt Col Joe Falzon (Chairman), WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary) & Maj Pat Verdon
- v. Maj Paul Corker (Treasurer), Mr Bill Young & Maj Dave Cussell
- w. Mr Steve Callaghan, Mr Peter Gauci & Mr Dave Manchester
- x. Mr Bill Young, Mr Peter Gauci & Mr Mick Grenham
- y. Mr Hauke Michelson, WO1 (RASM) Pete Armstrong (Guest) & WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary)
- z. Mr Tom Webb, Mr Roy Brooman & Mr Graham Brown

Artillery Clerks Dinner, Harewood Bks, Herford Saturday 19th October 2013

The Royal Artillery Clerks Germany weekend took place with the kind permission of WO1 (RSM) Dave Mears, of 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, mess in Herford, the former home of HQ 4 Div. Uncle Tom (Webb) arrived on Friday thanks to the able assistance of Roy Brooman, without whom, Tom could not have attended. Six of us then met up with the local members in the Mess Cellar bar and had a nice start to the evening. We then went to the local 'Mythos' Greek restaurant for a spot of bowling and platters of food with countless rounds of ouzo chasers. We had a bowling competition but I honestly cannot remember who won. The evening ended up being morning in the local pub that remembers the Artillery Clerks from last year and so the weekend party merrily continued .

After brunch the following midday, we set off down to the local market square in glorious golden October weather which some of us could just about appreciate. We sat out side a nice German bar watching the world go bye over a cool glasses of Herforder Pils and Weizen Bier. On the way back to barracks, we stopped off at the famous Herford chip shop "Schalks", for currywurst and chips as per last year's routine.

'The Dinner'

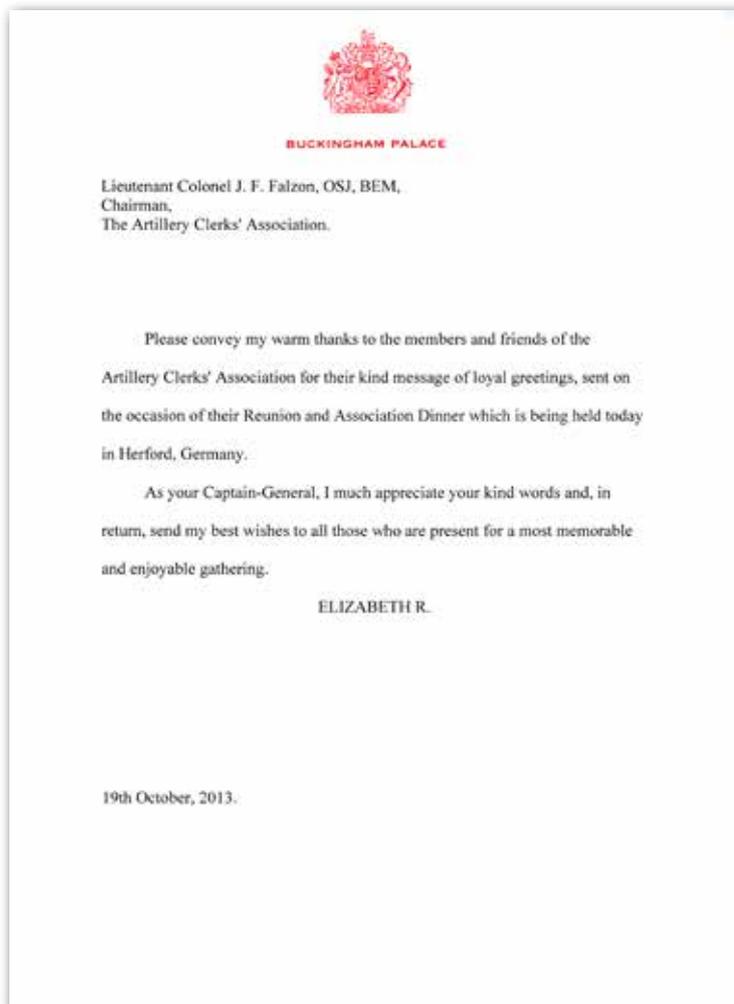
Eleven ACs and two guests sat down to a superb dinner in the warm and congenial atmosphere of the Sgts' Mess. Mess Manager, Sgt McArthur and Dinner Manager, Karen and her staff did us proud. Tom Webb our Mr Vice gave the loyal toast and Andy Tibble (Secretary) read out the "Loyal

Message" from Her Majesty the Queen. The apologies and messages received had been carefully filed in a folder for all to read and peruse at their leisure after the dinner. As we did last year, we toasted our absent friends with 'Artilerie Feuer', with compliments from Hauke.

Despite being a small dinner by comparison with the past, we had a super evening followed by live musical entertainment in the cellar bar. Those that were not preparing for a long trip back home went to the local October fest held not far from the barracks. The photographs tell the story. Nevertheless, we all made it for Sunday brunch.

A special mention of thanks must go to Roy Brooman for escorting and assisting Tom Webb. At least we managed to get Tom a ground floor flat this time and did not let him fall on anyone. This dinner was meant to be the last hoorah on my retirement, but fortune shines upon us. WO2 Bob Smith has just been posted to Bielefeld and has kindly volunteered to fix another AC dinner in October 2014 before going in final resettlement. So hopefully we will see us getting our band of ACs together in Germany again. Ubique

Ron Holmes
Reunion Secretary Germany



Friday Evening



A



B

Saturday Evening



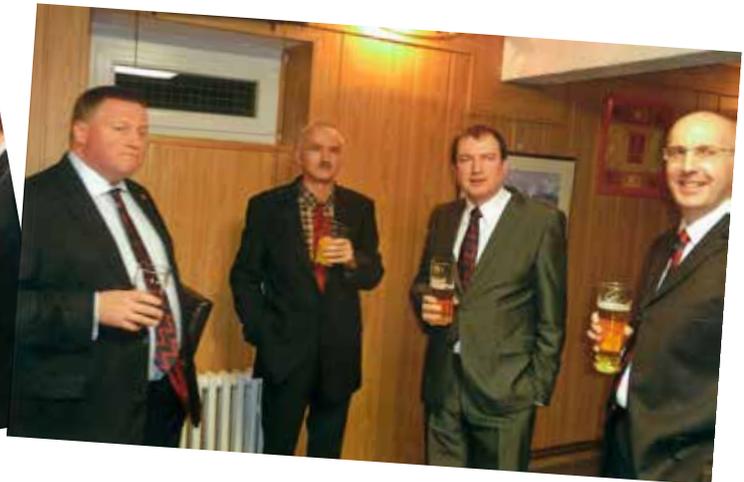
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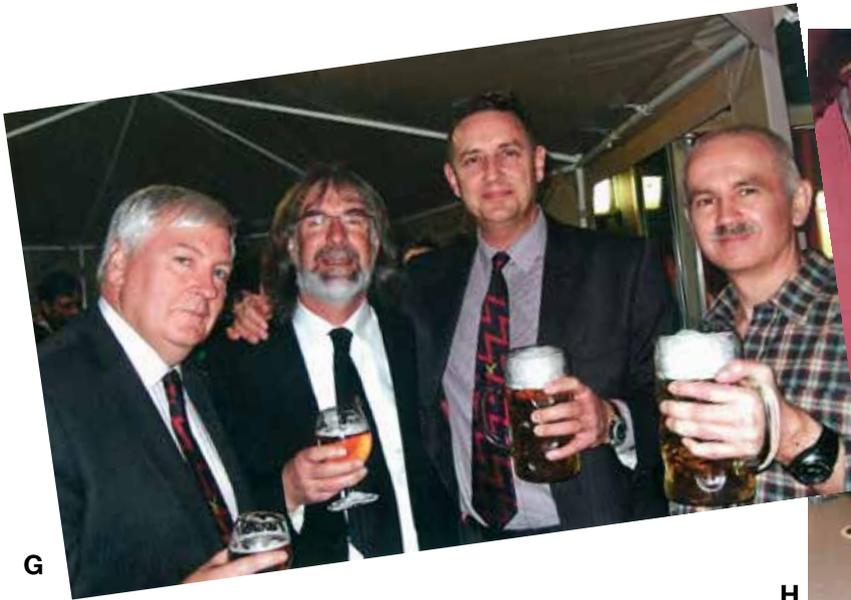


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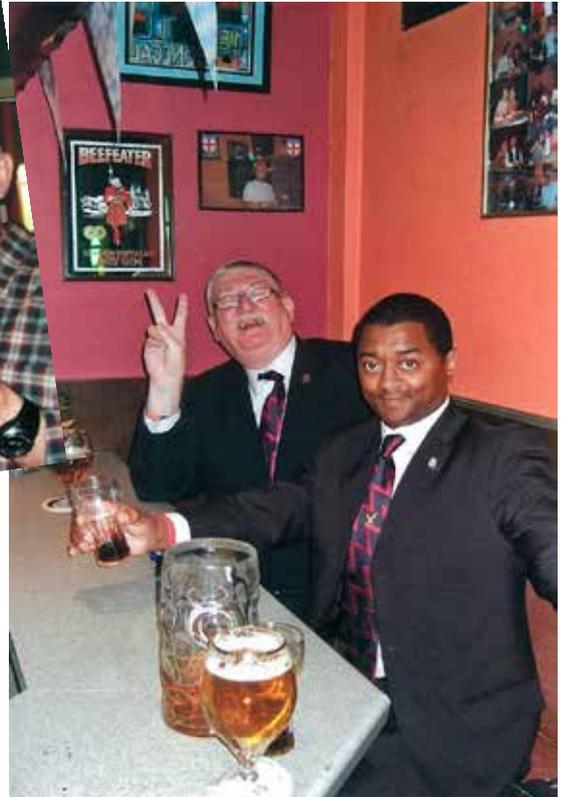


F

- a. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary), Mr Hauke Michelson, Mr Roy Brooman and Mr Tom Webb
- b. Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary), WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary), Mr Roy Brooman, WO2 Steve Beard and Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary)
- c. Mr Pete Deverall, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), Mr Rob Clarke, Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary) & Mr Tim Matthews
- d. Mr Rob Clarke & Mr Hauke Michelson
- e. Mr Pete Deverall, Mr Tim Matthews, Mr Rob Clarke, SSgt Martin Brittan & WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary)
- f. Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary), WO2 Steve Beard, Mr Clive Knaggs & SSgt Martin Brittan



G



H

g. Mr Tim Matthews, Mr Pete Deverall, WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary) & WO2 Steve Beard
 h. Mr Mick Hutchinson & Mr Rob Clarke



Front Row: Mr Pete Deverall, Mr Tom Webb & Mr Tim Matthews
Middle Row: Mr Clive Knaggs, Mr Roy Brooman, Mr Andy Tibble (Secretary) & Mr Rob Clarke
Rear Row: Mr Mick Hutchinson, Maj Ian Constantine (Reunion Secretary), SSgt Martin Brittan,
 WO1 (SSM) Ron Holmes (Germany Reunion Secretary), WO2 Steve Beard & Mr Hauke Michelson

Artillery Clerks' Association Standard Bearer – Andrew Jones (former Sgt (AC))

During this year Andrew has represented the Artillery Clerks' Association at the following events:
Represented the Association at the funeral of John Wilson at Aldershot on 17th January 2013
Royal Artillery Parade, Esher (15th February 2013)
Gunner Sunday RHC, Royal Chelsea Hospital (26th April 2013)
Royal Regiment of Artillery Service of Remembrance, National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas (6th July 2013)
Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance, Hyde Park Corner (9th November 2013)
St Barbara's Day, Larkhill (1st December 2013)



Remembrance, Hyde Park Corner (9th November 2013)

The National Remembrance Parade in Malta, 9th November 2013

National Arboretium



(Right) Mr Andrew Jones (Standard Bearer),
Mr Marty Hester and Mr Brian Morgan (Area
Secretary North)

(Below) Mr Brian Morgan (Area Secretary
North)

(Below right) Mr Andrew Jones (Standard
Bearer) and Mr Brian Morgan (Area Secretary
North)



26 Field Regiment RA Strategic Reserve (1955 – 1960) by Lt Col (Retd) Vic Holdaway BEM

Having arrived back in the UK on 19th February 1955 the regiment moved into Ross Barracks, Shorncliffe Camp, Kent. The bulk of the regiment went on disembarkation leave on 21st February, but RHQ spent a few days informing everyone from HM The Queen to the chain of command and respective Record Offices and Regimental Paymasters that we returned. We then went on three weeks leave, rather than the 47 days to which I was entitled.



Regimental Office, Shorncliffe, Aug 1955

Ross Barracks was of Victorian vintage but had been renovated and modernised with innovative features, such as central heating. Two gun batteries occupied the original Victorian blocks. The third battery was luckier and had a late 1930s Sandhurst block. RHQ and Royal Signals Troops drew the short straw and occupied wooden huts between Ross Barracks and Moore Barracks. The Pay Office also ended up here. RHQ was located in another Victorian block, sandwiched between the NAAFI and the training/education wing. The whole block faced Military

Road. This was a public road that came up a steep hill from Sandgate with a sharp left turn at the top. Within RHQ the Officers were on the first floor and the RSM regimental office and post room on the ground floor.

Married quarters were a lottery, varying from the original Victorian single storey terraces and a 1930s tenement block with Ross Barracks to a Garrison post-war build still under construction. The Victorian terrace houses, initially

occupied by some families, were promptly condemned as unfit for human habitation!

The only other occupants of Shorncliffe Camp were HQ 44 (Home Countries) Division TA/ HQ South East District, a Military Hospital, a RASC unit and a Gunner regiment (15 Medium) in transit from BAOR to the Far East. Two other barracks were undergoing modernisation.

On return from leave we had a period of administration during which boxes were unpacked, guns

recovered from the docks and a variety of brand new vehicles extracted from Ordnance. We then swung into individual training with progression to troop and battery training. RHQ was not immune from this process. Apart from myself all the regiment's clerks were still National Servicemen. No sooner did you have a smoothly running office than one clerk got demob happy. The battery offices had even bigger problems but they usually co-opted TARA's to help out. In the normal scheme of things the Adjutant changed at regular intervals and Capt DG Hopkins took over in March 1955 followed by a new CO in July in the shape of Lt Col Frank Weldon. He was a member of the GB Equestrian Team and disappeared for long periods. The gun batteries spent the summer months running TA and Cadet Camps at St Martin's Plain and Dibgate camps. These were tented camps with permanent ablution/toilet blocks and there was a fortnightly turnover of occupants from May to late August.

The normal training cycle resumed in the autumn and Practice Camp loomed on Salisbury Plain. It was then that my non-existent knowledge of road movement planning came to the fore. The theory, provided by Q Mov South East District, involved selecting a proposed route, with detailed running times, mandatory halts, order of march, first aid and recovery. This was submitted to Q Mov, who if they thought it feasible, would clear it with five different police forces and the RMP.

Moving a field regiment of 18 gun tractors, limbers and guns, plus all the other vehicles, was a nightmare before motorways

came on the scene. The police often insisted on diversions, which meant re-writing the plan. Even worse were the diversions encountered en route, courtesy of local authorities, gas or water boards. It is still a mystery to me how we ever got to Westdown Camp, let alone back to Shorncliffe (another route plan). Once Practice Camp was over it was into Administrative Inspection season. The Documents Team from RA Records descended on us and pointed out the error of our ways. HQRA 1 Division our higher formation paid us a visit. The SMAC, whose name escapes me, took exception to my being addressed as "Chief". He pointed out that I was neither in the Royal Navy nor a Red Indian. The formal inspection was carried out later by the CRA and all went well on the day.

In late 1955/early 1956 1st Guards Brigade withdrew from Egypt and moved into Shorncliffe Camp, less for one Battalion at Lydd. We again had a brigade to support.



Shorncliffe, June 1956

Thus far I have covered the doings of the 26 Field Regiment but in 1955 major changes were occurring within the Gunners as a whole. AA Command, together with a swathe of Coast, HAA and LAA regiments were

disbanded. Redundancy was in force, particularly for officers, WOs and NCAs. Field Regiment establishments were re-written. RHQ Troop became HG Battery with a major in command; a second QM appeared, initially as MTO but later to become Tech QM. The Royal Signals Troop dwindled from 42 all ranks to six men, who operated the Rear Links. RA personnel took over the internal communications, line-laying and dispatch rider duties. The rank of the Chief Clerk changed from Sgt (AC) to Sgt (AC)/SSgt (AC). By December 1955 I was a SSgt.

In early 1956, for reasons unknown, HQ 1 Division based in Colchester, swapped roles with HQ 3 Division based at Bulford. We therefore changed our formation signs from the white to red triangle and carried on as normal. The normal peacetime routine continued, with added problems of rehearsals for a parade at Woolwich on 23rd May 1956 to commemorate the 240th Anniversary of the Royal Regiment.

HQRA 3 Division decreed there would be a Divisional Practice Camp at Otterburn. Brilliant. Fortunately they had the problem of devising the movement plan. It came to pass that on an August Bank holiday, which then was at the beginning of the month, three field regiments based at Shorncliffe, Woolwich and Colchester were destined to head up the Great North road (still no motorways and very little dual carriageway). 26 Field Regiment's main body started moving out of Shorncliffe at 1800 hours on the Friday. We motored up the A20 to Swanley where packets were closed into larger groups, nose to tail by the police. We then motored non-stop with police escorts through London, over Tower Bridge, and out on the A1. This worked well but, unfortunately, 20 Field Regiment from Woolwich

were ahead of us and 49 Field Regiment from Colchester were converging on us. We staged, for what was a short night, at The Dukeries Training Area in the Midlands. On the Saturday we continued northwards, only to discover it was Doncaster Races. Any semblance of a movement plan rapidly disappeared into single vehicle running. The Regimental command post spent two hours sandwiched between a large horse box and a coach of increasingly irate race goers. The next staging post was Catterick Camp. Vehicles of all three regiments arrived hours late and inter-mixed. Only the sterling work of the RMP managed to get everyone to their correct harbour area. The next day, Sunday, we continued northwards, more or less as per plan, to Otterburn. The regiment's LAD REME arrived two days later with assorted non-runners in tow. We then settled in for a predictable Practice Camp. Wrong. What was the major event in 1956? SUEZ.

Practice Camp was cancelled and regiments were ordered to return to barracks and prepare to mobilise. I'm glad I didn't have to sort that movement plan out. The mobilisation plans were, obviously, in secure storage at Shorncliffe. The Adjutant was ordered to return to barracks post-haste, using one Rear-link vehicle and taking an extra passenger, me. It was an eye-watering journey, with only comfort and refuelling stops. Remember, no motorways. Fortunately the A1 was well blessed with transport cafes. The regiment arrived back three days later.

The mobilisation plan increased the regiment from 18 to 24 guns, with the resultant increase in vehicles, equipment and manpower. We held a roll of nominated reservists, including Officers, RA, RAMC and REME. Recall was made by Record Offices. Regular release was suspended but NS men

were released on their due date. Reservists started to trickle in but, being August, a number were on holiday and recall was spread out. There then followed a frantic period of documentation checks, medicals, inoculations and kit checks. Missing reservists were reported to Record Offices and the RMP. The QM and QM (T) were also having their problems. Guns had to be collected from one Mobilisation Store, vehicles from another and equipment from a third. These of course were not co-located or even near each other.

Individual training/refresher training to integrate the new arrivals then



Regimental Office - 26 Field Regiment, Shorncliffe, August 1955

followed. In September Practice Camp was revamped, this time at Larkhill. At least we knew our way there and each field regiment had a different route to get there. Four weeks later we returned to Shorncliffe with guns calibrated and a lot of ammunition expended. The emphasis then switched to small arms training, first aid and aircraft identification. RHQ continued with the paper war in between shooting holes in paper enemies and applying first field dressing to the wrong leg. In November the Suez crisis fizzled out. Reservists and retained regulars were released and mobilisation equipment returned to Ordnance. Strangely, the mobilisation stocks of stationary failed to re-appear. We then turned out attention to Christmas festivities and block leave.

With hindsight 1957 was a relatively quiet year. It started with an overdue documents inspection by RA Records and individual training. Troop training was carried out locally but Batteries were allowed to go further afield. More movement plans, with Stanford PTA, Oakhampton and a private estate in Hampshire as destinations. In the meantime there had been another reorganisation up the chain of command. The regiment came under command HQ 1st Guards Brigade, with HQRA 3 Division responsible for technical training and regimental matters. The CRA was not amused. Practice Camp as at

Sennybridge, before a Severn Bridge was built. Now that was an interesting movement plan. Fortunately it was just 26 Field Regiment. The gun tractors and limbers had been replaced with modified 3 ton trucks with winches, which reduced the amount of road space a troop of guns occupied. The Annual Admin Inspection was

carried out by Commander 1st Guard Brigade. He was not best pleased to discover the whole regiment on the parade ground at detachments front with the LAD REME Scammel recovery vehicle at the rear, blocking the only exit point. After battling his way round guns, tractors and every other vehicle in the regiment and LAD, he was taken to the Officers' Mess in shock whilst the RSM unscramble the parade. He was invited to take the salute at a drive past that involved some intricate manoeuvres. Something like the Queen's Birthday Parade but with more noise and lots of exhaust fumes. To finish the morning the CO took him to the stables to pat a couple of The Queen Mother's horses that happened to be there. He was then taken to the Officers' Mess for a long lunch. The

afternoon part of the programme did not happen. The next week 1st Battalion Welsh Guards were inspected and torn to shreds. We were not popular.

The year ended with the usual Christmas festivities and block leave.

1958 saw a change of CO, Lt Col R Gordon-Finlayson took over. RHQ continued to fight the paper war with NS clerks, Imperial typewriters, Roneo rotary and Ellams flat-bed duplicators, wax stencils and ink. The regiment settled in to the usual training programme for what looked to be a predictable year. Wrong. Trouble was brewing in Jordan. 16 Parachute Brigade was put on standby and they requested artillery support of a calibre higher than their 75mm pack howitzers. 29 Field Regiment in Cyprus had 25 Pounder Guns but they were fully committed to IS duties and could not be released. 26 Field Regiment was ordered to support the Parachute Brigade, using the guns of 29 Regiment. Not a popular move. In the event in early June we moved by train to Ogbourne St George Transit Camp for a couple of days whilst RAF movements decided how to move us with 1 x Comet, 14 x Shackleton Coastal Command aircraft and a heavy lift Beverley.

The Comet was used for two trips to move advance parties and key personnel. Shackletons were not designed to move people. Kit bags were stored in the bomb bays with troops sitting or laying on them with two blankets for comfort. The Beverley, carrying the bulk of the equipment and a baggage party took the pretty route via France, Malta and El Adem to Nicosia. I arrived by Comet in Cyprus on 18th June. Our destination was Karaloas Camp, Famagusta. The Garrison consisted of 29 Field Regiment,

1st Bn Royal Ulster Rifles, the Middle East School of PT and a Royal Navy Boom Defence Station. We had been allotted a piece of bare ground behind the Boom Defence Station and next to the PT School. On arrival we found the Sappers busy putting up a barbed wire perimeter fence, digging latrine pits, laying water pipes and building rudimentary structures for the cookhouse, showers and latrines. Electricity was to come later for the favoured few. Shades of Egypt! Lorryloads of tentage arrived and the first arrivals began erecting marquees – RHQ, QM, Officers' and Sgts' Messes and a R and F Dining tent. As more men arrived they had the task of erecting 160lb ridge tents as living accommodation. Royal Signals arrived with a 20 line magneto switch board and gave as a single line connection to the Garrison switchboard. With some semblance of a camp in place, guns were collected from 20 Field Regiment and vehicles drawn from the Middle East stockpile. All of this involved drivers, escorts and vehicle mechanics plus MT Sgts. A local Indian contractor appeared and negotiated with the 2IC. The local District NAAFI Manager appeared and offered to provide a canteen service, providing we supplied a marquee.

RHQ had been allowed "light scales" to set up the office. This consisted of 1 x Boxes Stationery, 1 x 25 pdr ammo box and an Ellams flat bed duplicator. The ammo box contained a 14inch Imperial typewriter, packed around with typing and duplicator paper and anything else that would fit in. The boxes stationery contained MML, QRs Staff Duties in the Field and as much paper, message pads and general office items as could be crammed in. At this point, I must point out that the Battery's had nothing, so everyone depended on what I had packed. The main stores on the Beverley

took 3 days to arrive and then had to be collected from RAF Nicosia.

Having got to the stage where the Regiment had guns, vehicles and equipment efforts were turned to making the camp more comfortable. The QM visited the Return Stores Depot where items for disposal were held pending auction. He discovered enough beds, mattresses and sheets to equip the whole camp, plus extra tables and chairs for the messes and dining tent. The NAAFI staff appeared and being Greek Cypriot males were immediately ejected. The NAAFI then agreed to supply cigarettes and beer to the PRI for sale to JNCOs and men, whilst the messes had their own NAAFI accounts. The Indian contractor then provided what was in effect a canteen service, less beer and fags.

In July 17(Corunna) Field Battery embarked at Famagusta on a LST for an unknown destination. The fact that the District paymaster changed their currency into Jordanian cash might have been a clue. As they departed the remainder of the Regiment came under command of 51 Infantry Brigade and were available for IS duties. We operated in the rural areas to the East of Famagusta, mainly patrols, check points and cordon and search. Tasking was such that even the Chief Clerk was needed to make the numbers up on occasions. At the same time the paper war hotted up. Our one telephone line to the outside world was hopeless. We became more dependent on a Rear Link radio net to Brigade HQ and signals sent through the Garrison Signal Detachment. The written word became more popular.

Food was an interesting diversion. Because so many troops were in Cyprus fresh rations were virtually non-existent. Having been on compo rations for the first two

weeks we were then put on 'tinned equivalent'. Tinned potatoes, tinned beans, tinned fruit etc. When it came to meat it became difficult. Bully beef was substituted for bacon, beef, lamb, fish, and chicken. After 6 weeks of trying to camouflage bully beef at every meal the WO2 ACC chef was a nervous wreck and was shipped out to BMH Nicosia, never to be seen again. On the other hand the contractor did a roaring trade in curried chicken.

In October, Brigade HQ ordered the camp to be winterised. Not a good sign. Two foot deep trenches were dug around each tent. The spoil was used to fill sandbags to weight down tent walls and as bases for duckboards inside tents. The trenches then connected to deeper trenches that took the water away to an unknown destination, presumably the sea. A combination of trenches and guy ropes made movement a hazardous operation, particularly at night. Then the rains came and dust turned to sticky mud.

In early November, 17 Battery, who had been living on the fat of the land in Jordan, rejoined the regiment. Shortly after we were relieved of IS duties prior to returning to UK. Guns were returned to 29 Field Regiment, vehicles were gradually returned to Ordnance, kit purloined from the Returned Stores Depot was returned, boxes packed and delivered to RAF Nicosia and finally tents were struck, trenches filled in and we moves to Wayne's Keep Transit Camp in Nicosia. RHQ arrived back in UK on 24 November. After a long weekend we returned to camp. Everyone from HM The Queen down the chain of command to Record Offices and Regimental Paymasters were informed of our return. We unpacked, carried out kit checks of all equipment and stores and then went into

Christmas mode with Regimental, Battery and Mess functions, prior to going on three weeks block leave.

1959 began with stock-taking boards, equipment inspections and a general blitz of offices, stores and living accommodation before individual training started. In April or May the regiment was warned of an Arms Plot move to Malaya in 1960, with one battery going into suspended animation prior to the move. Troop and battery training was based locally, with annual range classification on Hythe ranges and anti-tank shooting at Lydd. Practice Camp was on Salisbury Plain, based in Rolleston Camp. The annual Admin Inspection was carried out by CRA 3 Division at the invitation of Commander 1st Guards Brigade.

In November Lt Col JF Willcocks assumed command and our future became a little clearer. We would move to Malaya in June 1960. The majority of families needed passports, as did the Advance Party who would be flying out. The nightmare began. Who was on the Advance Party? No idea. 159 (Colenso) Battery was to go into

suspended animation on 1 April 1960. What was to happen to all their personnel? Regimental rolls were prepared showing those with more than 6 months service as at 30 June 1960, those who would have been released before 30 June and those who didn't fit either category. The CO and Adjutant commuted between HQ DRA, AG6 and RA Records to resolve the futures of surplus Officers, WOs and NCOs. Natural wastage resolved the ACC and REME surplus. The Regiment then went on block leave.

1960 started with 159 Battery running down their equipment and stores. Those going to Malaya were interposted to other Battery's. Surplus officers, WOs, NCOs and men with sufficient residual service were posted out and the remainder a pool of labour, assembling packing cases and distributing them throughout the regiment and families. RHQ was inundated with passport application forms which had, in theory, been checked by Battery offices but had to be double checked and errors sent back for amendment. Monthly returns to Q Mov confirming numbers by category of those going by sea i.e. 1st Class-Officers

and their families, 2nd Class WOs/SSgt's and their families, 3rd Class - all other wives and children and married accompanied Sgt's. Troop Deck-Single Sgt's, Bdr's and below. Numbers constantly fluctuated due to marriages, births, separations and compassionate cases.

In April a posting order arrived for me to go to RA Range Hebrides. An irate CO rang OIC RA records to remind him he had been assured I would accompany the regiment to Malaya. The posting order was cancelled. Who replaced me? We then carried on preparing for the move. We were destined for what then was St George's Camp, Malacca, a new build cantonment which would eventually house 28 Commonwealth Brigade. The Advance Party, with families, flew out in May. Guns were delivered to Tilbury. All equipment, less vehicles, was boxed and banded and stored in vacant garages. MFO was collected from quarters and hiring's and stored centrally before being loaded into rail wagons and moved to Southampton. On 21st June we entrained at Cheriton for Southampton and HMT Oxfordshire. Farewell Blighty!.

Visit by "The Not Forgotten Association" to Malta by Steve Seymour (former WO2(QMS(AC)))

As an ex-serviceman, suffering with chronic health problems, The Not Forgotten Association invited me (through the auspices of The Artillery Clerks' Association) to visit Malta for an official tour to commemorate the part played by the Maltese, both as a nation and also for the role played in the British Armed Forces prior to 1974. The Not Forgotten Association is a tri-service charity founded in 1920 by

Marta Cunningham, an American soprano residing in London, with the object of providing entertainment and recreation for the war crippled that would alleviate the tedium of their lives and give them something to which they could look forward. This was my first visit to Malta, as most of my service had been spent in Germany. Unfortunately, Malta was no longer a possible posting during my service.

The group of 30 consisted of current servicemen from 2 and 3 Para, Gren Gds and RM Commandos, as well as veterans, both male and female from WWII, and other hostilities since then. This included four former members of the Royal Artillery, Joe Falzon, Jack Dixon, Don Kay and myself. The Tour had a doctor, and was led by Col Piers Storie-Pugh OBE DL, Chief Executive of The Not Forgotten



The Gunner Contingent out for lunch with Peter Gauci, new resident in Malta

Association, assisted by Rosie Thompson (Head of Events).

We assembled at the Union Jack Club for the first night, where we were welcomed and briefed, before getting acquainted with each other, at the buffet provided. On Wednesday 9th October we caught an Air Malta flight from Heathrow and on arrival at Malta International Airport we were met by our tour guide Lt Col (Retd) Joe Falzon.

That evening we were briefed on the tour programme – here we learnt that the first day proper would commence with a meeting with the President of Malta, Dr George Abela.

It is interesting to note that 1 RMA (1st Regiment Maltese Artillery) served in Germany during the 60s and early 70s, both at Moore Barracks, Dortmund, where I was stationed with 16 AD Regt between 1980 – 1982, and at Mulheim. The Maltese Artillery was formed in 1881, and indeed all of the current Armed Forces of Malta, including the Maritime Division and The Air Wing, are referred to by Artillery Rank.

The weather needless to say was sunny and the heat pleasant for October. With this inviting ambient, we started the tour with a visit to The Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial and National War Memorial, where our respects were paid. This was followed with a visit to Upper Barracca Gardens which is the home of 0000000the old saluting battery overlooking a panoramic view of the harbour. A few streets away we were treated to a 5D show recounting the history of Malta and depicting war scenes from both the Great Siege in 1565 and WWII - the 5D effects, made you feel a part of the action.

Later that day we were received by the President of Malta, Dr George Abela at his summer Presidential Palace. He received us courteously, and impressed upon us the close bonds cemented during British rule, especially during the WWII, when Malta, as a nation received the George Cross, which is now ever present in its national flag.

In the evening we were received by The British High Commissioner, Mr Rob Luke, at his residence, which

was also attended by ex pats, many having served in the British Forces, and now residing in Malta. It was a most memorable evening, enjoyed by all. Those of us that had experienced Malta under siege during WWII passed on their memories to attentive listeners.

On Friday morning, the services of the Maritime Division of The Armed Forces of Malta were enlisted to convey the party on one of their patrol craft to the Grand Harbour in Valetta, in order to carry out a moving commemorative ceremony. A prayer was said, and a wreath placed in the sea in remembrance of all those who perished at sea in the defence of Malta.

Later that morning, the party visited The Maritime Museum, which displayed artefacts from the Phoenician period to modern day. Most of the emphasis was placed on the wish of Maltese people to be ruled by the British, after the French had been forced to leave the island in at the end of the 18th century. Admiral Lord Nelson, although initially against the use of Malta as a base, changed his mind, and due to his, and other lobbyists' efforts at that time, Malta came under the rule of the British Crown. Its geographical position came to play an important role in the protection of the trade routes through the Mediterranean to the Suez Canal, and subsequently on to Far East.

The Grand Harbour thus, became the main maritime base for refitting Royal Navy ships, and indeed, during the 19th century could boast that more Naval officers were based there than at bases in the UK. The maritime base became an important employer for the craftsmen of Malta, utilising their ingenuity, skills and aptitude for hard work.

The programme included a visit to Rinella Battery, a restored



The impressive and well presented Armstrong 100 ton gun

Armstrong 100 ton gun assembled in 1880 in its own fortifications, which was of special interest to those that had served with The Royal Artillery. The gun could traverse 180 degrees, and had a maximum range of 8 miles, the shell weighing a ton in weight! The shells were transported to the gun from an underground magazine either side of the gun by means of a hydraulic system, which was the state of the art at that period of time. The gun was traversed so that the breech was facing the shell, which had been hydraulically raised, for loading, and after firing, would swivel to the opposite magazine for re-loading. Rate of fire was one round every six minutes. The gun was situated at place, which guarded the straits, between Malta and Sicily, but the gun was never fired in anger!

That afternoon, we visited the Capuccini Naval Cemetery, viewing selected graves from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Merchant Navy. The graves included not only British personnel, but those of our Allies, including Canada, Poland, The Netherlands, as well as burial of Japanese soldiers.

After a wreath laying ceremony with prayers said for those who had made the ultimate sacrifice during WWII, Col Piers outlined the importance of some graves he had specifically selected, including one of Lt Cdre William Ewart Hiscock GC, DSC, RN who had been awarded his George Cross whilst serving in Malta in WWII.

On Saturday, the group visited Lascaris War Rooms (Ops HQ for Op Husky, the Allied invasion of Sicily). All personnel working at this location were sworn to secrecy. We were given a very informative

briefing by our Maltese guide, outlining the G3 organisation. We saw the original plotting tables used to control and plot friendly aircraft operations, as well as radar positions – vital to the defence of Malta. The rooms also contained typewriters and plug telephone exchanges. Personally, I found the visit highly interesting; learning first hand about the experiences of the members of the group, who took part in the invasion of Sicily Association, further enhanced it. That same morning we visited the famous Memorial Bell, which rang at midday.

During the afternoon we visited Fort St Elmo, which is undergoing extensive refurbishment due to be completed by 2015 at the latest. Joseph, the Maltese project manager told me of his schooldays in Dortmund, where his father served with 1st Royal Maltese Artillery during the 1960s.

A wreath was laid by Don Kay and myself at the Royal Malta Artillery memorial with an epitaph to the five fallen Maltese artillerymen:

- 10129 Philip BUSUTTIL, Boy RMA, aged 16 (son of Bandmaster Busuttill, RMA)
- 10069 Carmel CORDINA, Gnr, RMA
- 10127 Paul DEBONO, Gnr, RMA



The Gunner Contingent with the President of Malta, Dr George Abela

3570 Joseph GALEA, Bdr, RMA
4345 Richard MICALLEF, Gnr,
RMA
3084 Michael Angelo SALIBA, Gnr
1 Hy Regt RMA
the first to lose their lives in the
defence of their homeland.

The Fort of St Elmo is very
extensive, including barracks for
a full Regiment. The architecture,
according to Mr Kay, was similar to
the old RA Barracks at Woolwich,
before being rebuilt at the end of
the 1960s.

Of further interest is a plaque
defining the position, where the
then, Princess Elizabeth reviewed
the Mediterranean fleet, in which
her future husband, Philip, an
officer with the Royal Navy, was
serving.

On Sunday, many of the group
attended Thanksgiving Sunday
Service at St Paul's Pro-Cathedral
(Anglican), at Valetta. This included
perusal of the list of units of all
Services (including the Merchant
Navy) that aided Malta in its
defence during WWII.

This was of special interest to a 90
year old ex RN, who had served
with one of the ships that was
sunk during siege of Malta.

That evening we attended the
Malta Military Tattoo, which
included bands from the Armed
Forces of Malta, Malta Police,
Austria, Army Cadet Force UK,
Maltese and Scottish pipes and
drums, as well as dancers from
Ireland. The Maltese Bands also
accompanied three sopranos, and
a male singer. It was a marvellous
evening enjoyed by all.

Monday was an all day excursion
of Gozo, the second largest
island, and included visits to The
Citadel, Xlendi Bay, a megalithic
temple (World Heritage site) and
the famous Azure Window. The
highlight was a Gozo Pizza, Wine
and Beer picnic at a beautiful spot
near Marsalforn

On Tuesday, the group visited Ta
Qali (WWII Airfield). An aviation
museum, exhibiting restored
aircraft, which included a Hurricane
and Spitfire (both in
excellent condition) and a Bomber,
used to break the Berlin Blockade
in 1947. Unusual exhibits were two
of the first rotor built aircraft, plus
antique cars from the 30s era.
We then paid a visit to the
Mtarfa War Cemetery to pay our
respects to those that had given
their lives, and were buried here.
A wreath laying ceremony was

carried out, and readings given by
former members of each Service.
Especially moving was a ceremony
by three parachutists, who
had suffered injuries during the
Afghanistan conflict. The ceremony
was concluded with the National
Anthem.

We were grateful for the presence
of Mr Fitzgerald, a member of
the Commonwealth War Graves
Commission, who also gave us
a briefing on the work of this
institution.

The tour was completed on
Wednesday with a visit to The
Royal British Legion Club in
Valetta, where we were given a
warm welcome.

Sadly, it was time to leave with
many memories etched in our
brains. It was an interesting group,
because of the variety of services,
sex, and ages (from 20 year olds
to those, who had personally
experienced the siege of Malta,
in their 90s). It was extremely
gratifying to see how the younger
members of the group, assisted
those that were not so mobile.

The tour was well organised by
Col Piers Storie-Pugh and our
tour guide Lt Col (Retd) Falzon, of
which we were highly appreciative.

Is there life after Artillery Clerk(ing)? What did you do after the Army Dad? by Alan Lowthian (former WO2 (QMS(AC)))

*There is a word you often see,
pronounce it as you may –
'you bike', 'you bykwee', ;ubbikwe'
--- alluding to RA.
It serves 'Orse, Field an Garrison
as motto for a crest;
An' when you've found out all it
means I'll tell you 'alf the rest.*

Rudyard Kipling

Now that my Ubique days were
over and I had moved to the street

called 'civvy', what to do? All I
knew about was shuffling papers
in an orderly fashion and being
directed by MML and QRs- those
volumes with many amendments
and obscure meanings, not
forgetting those other pieces of
paper with more amendments
filling cupboards called DCIs
So whilst looking out of the
windows of Government House
on Woolwich Common, (don't look

out all morning 'cos you'll have
nought to do in the afternoon.
(Civil Service saying)), I pondered
this problem and decided to use
the Resettlement system to my
advantage. Which I did. Over the
remaining 2 years of taking the
Queen's shilling I took in all that I
could honestly do and prepared for
the day when I was just plain 'Mr'
again. After a resettlement course
at Catterick I achieved the letters

AlnstAM after my name to replace QMS)AC)), eventually.

I had polished up my CV to reflect my employability and started the application process First interview for a position at Northallerton in N Yorkshire, must have impressed (!) as they offered me a job! But on reflection and discussing it with family decided not to venture that far north.

Applied for a post at SSAFA HQ in London and had a speedy interview with the Secretary who I had met in Armagh 4 years earlier when he was WO1 Supt clerk Scots Guards and I was with the UDR so no contest really except I met Ted Hall coming out of the building as I was going in, 'Not enough money', was his muttered aside.

Sailors and Soldiers Families Association

I started as the Executive Officer Nursing and Social Work Department. I took over from an ex Navy Fleet Chief writer who had run a tight ship(no pun intended!), so the handover was relatively easy and ended in The Ship.

The job was admin and recruitment of SSAFA nurses and social workers who were then despatched wherever they were needed over the then Service establishments worldwide. I used contacts in MOD Mov to acquire MFO facilities and save money. I was also responsible for kitting them out with uniforms and advising on what to expect in a service environment – ranks, life in the Offrs Mess, traditions, procedures etc. After two years in the post I was asked to take over as the Head office Services Supervisor(HOSS).

I wanted reorganising to better handle the increased workloads of SSAFA, better filing, copying, magazine distribution and catering

for in-house courses. It was at this time that wet rot was discovered in the building and after a detailed investigation the recommendation was to sell the property and move out. For those who don't know wet rot is a fungus spread by damp conditions and is so invasive and destructive that it can split brickwork, travel through walls and cause untold damage. The only solution is to cut it out and destroy the affected material by burning. And so it was that we moved – just round the corner from Queen Anne's Gate opposite The Home Office into Old Queen Street overlooking St James's Park and Birdcage Walk. I was tasked with the move. Problem was extricating an organisation the had been there for over 100 years! The only way was to run it like a military operation which we did. I banned all staff from being there on the day of the move so myself and small team could get on unhindered by management. The appointed removals company staff duly arrived early on a Saturday morning and started loading. We even had a high lift crane to remove a safe and a large computer from the top floor via a window. Things were going well until a Westminster council 'jobs worth' arrived and said we had to stop as we had not permission to have vehicles and a crane blocking the street. I took him aside and pleaded ignorance. The bossman of the removal firm saw what was happening and swiftly got his vehicles out of the way and round the corner. When the council guy left there was no vehicles in sight – even the crane had gone! He left with a perplexed look shaking his head.

All was deposited in the new location and the remainder of the job was completed on the Sunday, so that when staff arrived for work on Monday their desks and boxes of files etc were in the right place. It took a few days to iron out the

wrinkles including installation of a new phone system, but all in all a painless move. I had had the pick of offices so I chose one in the basement overlooking the park and Birdcage Walk – even had a resident squirrel, Sammy, who appeared first thing in the morning when he saw the lights come on and tapped on the window for his breakfast! It was at this time that I was becoming involved more with the repairs and maintenance of the property which I enjoyed. After 4 years I felt it was time to see about a move – either within SSAFA or elsewhere. Bill Stewart, the Secretary, had a friend who wanted to move from his post with a firm over the river. The money was twice I was currently paid and was a basic admin task, with expenses and car to boot!

Defence Systems Limited

That was the beginning of a my term with Defence Systems Limited(DSL). It was a wrong move for me as I soon found out. I had reorganised the library of weapons and surveillance catalogues, convinced them they needed a LAN computer system and taken on a secretary for the MD. Apart from taking minutes at the monthly ops meetings and distributing them there was little else to do except for the odd occasion collecting staff from the airport and debriefing them, keeping in touch with field operatives by telex and arranging medevacs – 'nuff said. The MD was the SAS guy who stormed the Lufthansa plane at Mogadishu airport for those of us who remember. But a charming man for all that.

I left there by mutual agreement six months after I started, and went on the dole for a few days until I started temping as an agency driver on HGVs. That was different – I hear you say. I needed an income to pay the mortgage etc so needs must. Jumping in

and out of trucks kept me fairly fit – I lost weight! I was still scouring the pages of the Telegraph on a Thursday for appointments.

It was there I saw an advert for a senior and assistant premises managers posts in a London property. I duly sent off the updated CV – with photo. Surprise, surprise!, I was invited for an interview at the Head Office of Drivers Jonas, a large chartered surveying practice in central London. After what was a fairly easy interview I was invited back for a second chat two days later. It was then that I learnt they had decided to offer me the post of Senior Premises manager at The Tate Gallery.



Mike Jones, me and my assistant John Jackson

Gulp!! What did I know about Picture Galleries? I asked a few questions and enquired why me? The senior partner told me I had impressed with my matter of fact style and my photo on the CV! The others on the panel also aired their reasons and one guy who was an ex Major RE and the firms senior Facilities Manager said he recognised a ‘bulls...r and knew nobody would ‘bulls....t me.

The Tate Gallery Millbank

On the 1 April 1988 I was installed, with an assistant, as the Senior Premises Manager at The Tate Gallery. WOW. Priceless paintings and works of art my responsibility.

Well not really. I was responsible for a large team of engineers, maintenance contracts, and also ensuring works were delivered on time and within budget to ensure the Gallery and its displays were kept up to an acceptable standard. I also had a working budget of some £3 million annually! So began an enjoyable four year tour. I can now talk confidently about air conditioning, humidity levels, asbestos and its management, Grade 1* listed building repair and maintenance, plus a host of other topics relating to operations in a Gallery and in particular the Tate Millbank with its history. Did you know The Tate is built on top of the old Millbank Prison constructed at the time of the wars with France to house French soldiers? Many old clay pipes and other artefacts have been retrieved from under the floors in the olde part of the Tate. There is also a tunnel going from under the front steps of the building out in to the river where prisoners were taken to be put on ships to transport them to the colonies – I have seen it – the tunnel that is.

The Gallery had also taken over what was the Princess Alexandra Military Hospital next door where we had our offices. Condition surveys were carried out on the whole site and we identified an awful lot of asbestos – everywhere. Removal was recommended and so a long programme started. Some could not be safely removed without destroying the fabric so it had to be either sealed in or treated with aluminium paint and marked. I also learnt to appreciate the differing paintings and other artworks on display. We received hard copies of catalogues before exhibitions – I have a library of books showing the major artists works, Stubbs, Constable, Dadd, Picasso, David Hockney, Degas, and of course Turner. There are as many works of art in storage at

the gallery as on public display, as well as a large storage facility full of artworks at Acton. Going to do some name dropping here. Met the then PM Mrs Thatcher early one morning as she was having a private viewing, also Geoffrey Howe who lived next door in the old RAMC Offrs Mess. Met Lord Melvyn Bragg and David Hockney when they did the TV interview for the South Bank Show. Was also on first name terms with the Director of the Gallery, Sir Nick Serota – before he was a ‘sir’.

There were many episodes and light moments – too many to mention here which happened in the four years I was there. I may write a separate book/article about them.

Certainly gave me a different perspective on art in its many forms.

There are two particular incidents which happened early on in my tenure. The first took place before I had started and I was being shown round the gallery by the senior premises manager of the firm when I saw a large pile of old furniture in the middle of a gallery. My immediate reaction was ‘Who put that there?’. Before I could say any more I was sharply reminded that this was an art gallery and that was an important work on display!

Another incident took place about a week after I had taken over from the Property Services Agency(PSA –MPBW). I was called at home one evening by the Gallery security staff to inform me that water was cascading down the wall of a gallery and was just missing a painting. It took me half an hour to get there by car and was shown the area. The painting was a Matisse consisting of a collage of tissue type paper. Luckily the staff had removed the large picture to safety. The water was indeed coming in at the top of the wall

and running down what would have been the area where the work was. I had to go out on to the roof to ascertain what was the cause. It was blowing a gale up there and dark. I located the area which was between two galleries where a valley was formed. There was a gully but it was full of water and obviously blocked so allowing the water to pour over the edge and in to the gallery. I had to find the source of the blockage so letting the water away. By now I was very wet and cursing. But as luck would have it I found the culprit. Some maintenance work had been carried out on the adjacent wall and some large pieces of debris had been allowed to fall down in to the downspout thus blocking it up. Problem solved, remove the obstruction and get down. But the internal clean up took a bit longer. The recriminations I was planning did not happen as the contractor who had done the work had been

employed by the PSA who had signed off the work and they had long gone.

After four year I was getting itchy feet again and was looking for another challenge. I had heard on the Facilities Managers grapevine that the firm were bidding for another government property management contract. I knew that I was looked on as a bit of a loose cannon by some of the management but not the senior partner heading up this bid so I gave his secretary a call and asked her to put in a good word for me. At this time I was also responsible for ensuring the many Facilities Managers in the firm had a set career path now with goals and recognition. They were all now Members of the British Institute of Facilities Management by virtue of having attended relevant courses and had management approval. I was invited to become a Fellow of

the Institute (FBIFM) and became a Member of the Institute of Building Management(MIBM).

To be continued in the next edition

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency - SPVA

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/>

79th Artillery Clerks' Reunion and Association Dinner
Royal Artillery Warrant & Officers' & Sergeant's Mess, Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill
Saturday 22nd June 2013



3rd Row – WO1 (SSM) RJ Holmes MSM, Mr H Michelson, WO2 (SQMS) PG Butler, Mr B Morgan, Mr RM Testi MSM, Mr SP Callaghan, Mr P Gauci, Mr J Lindley,
Mr R Brooman, Mr SV Read

2nd Row – Mr AJ Jones (Standard Bearer), Maj (Retd) DJ Cussell, Mr DC Manchester, Mr DA Riley, Maj (Retd) PJ Verdon, Mr G Brown, Mr MI Grenham, Mr SR Seymour,
Mr WN Young, Mr M Hester, Mr RH Deal MBE, Mr TE Webb, Mr M Johnston, Mr JM Hutchinson

Front Row – Maj P Corker AGC(SPS) (Treasurer), Maj (Retd) RA Jeavons, WO1 (RASM) P Armstrong (Guest), Lt Col (Retd) JF Falzon BEM OSJ (Chairman),
Maj Gen RE Nugee CBE (Guest of Honour), Maj IF Constantine RA (Reunion Secretary), Mr AM Tibble MSM (Secretary), Lt Col R Lee MBE RA, Lt Col (Retd) RH Horner MBE